

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

Volume 76

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October/November/December 2019



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Christmas in Camp

NEVER FORGOTTEN

★ THEIR SACRIFICE ★ OUR MISSION ★

— — — — —
EVER ONWARD
— — — — —



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



— — — — —
SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
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Please send all materials to the editor at the above address.

October-December 2019



Inside front cover: National POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster 2019.

Inside back cover: Veterans Day Poster 2019

To commemorate the ending of the "Great War" (World War I), an "unknown soldier" was buried in highest place of honor in both England and France (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These ceremonies took place on November 11th, celebrating the ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). This day became known internationally as "Armistice Day". In 1921, the United States of America followed France and England by laying to rest the remains of a World War I American soldier — his name "known but to God" — on a Virginia hillside overlooking the city of Washington DC and the Potomac River. This site became known as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," and today is called the "Tomb of the Unknowns." Located in Arlington National Cemetery, the tomb symbolizes dignity and reverence for the American veteran. In America, November 11th officially became known as Armistice Day through an act of Congress in 1926. It wasn't until 12 years later, through a similar act that Armistice Day became a national holiday.

Renewal Notice! Annual Members!

The Jan/Feb/Mar, 2020 issue will be the last one you receive if you don't renew. Take a minute and send your 2020 dues to National Headquarters.

Don't miss out on all the benefits membership in AXPOW offers!

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from the CEO

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We're in the final quarter of 2019, and a lot is going on with AXPOW. Our Education Committee is providing input to both our budget and fundraising committees for the money needed next year to best present YOUR stories to as wide an audience as possible, both at Andersonville and in classrooms throughout the country.

Every Veterans Day, I go to Arlington Cemetery. When I was younger, my parents took me to see those they felt it was important that I honor. In my thirties, I began going to the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Amphitheatre, listening to presidents speak of the trials and hardships that were taken by all veterans – heroes unsung and known. The American Ex-Prisoners of War began their long involvement with the National Veterans Day Committee. Our Commanders sat on the dais

behind the president, placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and marked the day solemnly and with great respect. We carried the Colors and marched into the Amphitheatre bowl. In 1997, we even hosted the ceremonies with a reception for all the participating VSOs.

Forty years after my first involvement, I still attend, but also take time to visit my parents who are both buried at Arlington. When my dad died, he was interred on Eisenhower Drive, about halfway up the hill, near a small tree. A couple years later, all the places between my dad and the street were filled with others who had passed away. By the time my mother died in 2011, the sapling had become a large tree, providing shade to both visitors and those beneath it. And last year, paying respects at the funeral of PNC and National Commander Charlie Susino, Jr., a whole new section had been opened up. Our heroes may have passed away, but at Arlington and other cemeteries, their stones provide a reminder of who we are as a country and who we should be as people. The Bible says in John 15:13, "There is no greater love than to *lay down one's life* for one's friends." At Arlington alone, there are more than 400,000 who have done just that.

This Veterans Day, if you are able, visit a National Cemetery and honor those who have gone before.

The Board of Directors and I wish each of you a healthy and happy holiday season.

Cheryl

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Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (Lupus)



What is Lupus?

Systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) is a disease that can damage many parts of the body, such as the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, and brain. You can't catch lupus from another person.

If you have lupus you will have periods of illness (flares) and periods of wellness (remission).

What happens in Lupus?

Lupus occurs when the immune system, which normally helps protect the body from infection and disease, attacks different parts of the body.

Who Gets Systemic Lupus?

We know that many more women than men have systemic lupus

erythematosus (lupus). Lupus is more common in African American women than in white women and is also more common in women of Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent. African American and Hispanic women are also more likely to have active disease and serious organ system involvement. In addition, lupus can run in families, but the risk that a child or a brother or sister of a patient will also have lupus is still quite low.

Although lupus usually first affects people between the ages of 15 and 45 years, it can occur in childhood or later in life as well.

Symptoms of Systemic Lupus

Each person with systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) has slightly different symptoms that can range from mild to severe. You may have symptoms in only one or in many

parts of your body. Symptoms may also come and go over time.

Some of the most common symptoms of lupus include:

- Painful or swollen joints (arthritis).
- Unexplained fever.
- Extreme fatigue.
- Red rashes, most often on the face.
- Chest pain upon deep breathing.
- Hair loss.
- Sensitivity to the sun.
- Mouth sores.
- Pale or purple fingers and toes from cold and stress.
- Swollen glands.
- Swelling in the legs or around the eyes.

Other symptoms could include:

- Anemia (a decrease in red blood cells).
- Kidney inflammation, which typically requires drug treatment to prevent permanent damage.

- Headaches, dizziness, depression, confusion, or seizures if the disease affects the central nervous system.
- Inflammation of the blood vessels.
- Decreased number of white blood cells or platelets.
- Increased risk of blood clots.
- Inflammation of the heart or the lining that surrounds it.
- Heart valve damage.

Causes of Systemic Lupus

No one completely understands what causes systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus). Studies suggest that a number of different genes may determine your risk for developing the disease.

Some environmental factors also appear to play a role in lupus. In particular, scientists are studying the effects of sunlight, stress, hormones, cigarette smoke, certain drugs, and viruses.

Diagnosis of Systemic Lupus

Diagnosing systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) can be difficult and may take months or even years. Although there is no single test for lupus, your doctor may do the following to diagnosis you with the condition:

- Ask you about your medical history.
- Give you a physical exam.
- Take samples of blood, skin, kidney, or urine for laboratory tests. The most useful tests look for certain antibodies in the blood.

Treatment of Systemic Lupus

Treatments for systemic lupus have improved dramatically in recent decades, giving doctors more choices in how to manage the disease. Because some treatments may cause harmful side effects, you should immediately report any new symptoms to your doctor. You should also talk to your doctor before stopping or changing treatments.

Treatments for Lupus include:

Medications:

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are used to treat joint or chest pain or fever. Ibuprofen and naproxen sodium are available over the counter, whereas other NSAIDs are available by prescription only.

Antimalarials prevent and treat malaria, but doctors have found that they also are useful for treating fatigue, joint pain, skin rashes, and inflammation of the lungs caused by lupus. These drugs may also prevent flares from recurring.

Corticosteroids, which are strong inflammation-fighting drugs, may be taken by mouth, in creams applied to the skin, by injection, or by intravenous (IV) infusion (dripping the drug into the vein through a small tube). Because they are potent drugs, your doctor will seek the lowest dose required to achieve the desired benefit.

Immunosuppressives restrain an overactive immune system and may be prescribed if your kidneys or central nervous systems are affected by lupus. These drugs may be given by mouth or by IV

infusion. The risk for side effects increases with the length of treatment.

B-lymphocyte stimulator (BlyS)-specific inhibitors reduce the number of abnormal B cells thought to be a problem in lupus.

Alternative and complementary therapies may improve symptoms, although research has not shown whether they help treat the disease. Examples include:

- Special diets.
- Nutritional supplements.
- Fish oils.
- Ointments and creams.
- Chiropractic treatment.
- Homeopathy.

In many cases you may need to take medications to treat problems related to lupus, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or infection.

Who Treats Systemic Lupus?

Most people will see a rheumatologist for their systemic lupus treatment. A rheumatologist is a doctor who specializes in rheumatic diseases (arthritis and other inflammatory disorders, often involving the immune system). Clinical immunologists (doctors specializing in immune system disorders) may also treat people with lupus.

As treatment progresses, other professionals often help, including:

- Primary care doctors, such as a family physician or internal medicine specialist, who coordinates care between the different health providers and treats other problems as they arise.
- Mental health professionals, who help people cope with difficulties in the home and

workplace that may result from their medical conditions.

- Nephrologists, who treat kidney disease.
- Cardiologists, who specialize in the heart and blood vessels.
- Hematologists, who specialize in blood disorders.
- Endocrinologists, who treat problems related to the glands and hormones.
- Dermatologists, who treat skin problems.

Living With Systemic Lupus

Dealing with a long-lasting disease like systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) can be hard on the emotions. You might think that your friends, family, and coworkers do not understand how you feel. Sadness and anger are common reactions.

Besides working with your doctor to determine a treatment plan, there are a few things you can do to help you live with lupus:

Learn to recognize the warning signs of a flare so that you and your doctor might reduce or prevent them. These warning signs include:

- Increased tiredness.
- Pain.
- Rash.
- Fever.
- abdominal pain
- Headache.
- Dizziness.

Eat a proper diet, exercise, and learn relaxation techniques to help cope with stress. A healthy lifestyle, as well as quitting smoking, will also reduce your risk for heart disease associated with lupus. Talk to your doctor before starting an exercise program.

Develop and maintain a good support system of family, friends, medical professionals, community organizations, and support groups.

Research Progress Related to Systemic Lupus

Recent research on systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) has focused on:

- Genetics: A number of genes associated with lupus risk and severity have been discovered.
- Sex differences: Researchers are trying to understand the biological bases for sex differences in immune and inflammatory systems to better understand why are women more likely than men to have the disease.
- Biomarkers such as certain proteins or genes could help doctors predict flares in lupus.
- Disease processes: researchers are exploring possible triggers for lupus. Examples include:
 - Biofilms, or protective coatings that surround some bacteria.
 - TREML4, a protein found on certain immune cells.
 - Viruses.
 - Hormones.
- Treatment: Scientists are exploring how lupus develops and how therapies impact the course of the disease. They are also exploring drugs to prevent or delay kidney failure, one of the most serious and life-threatening complications of lupus.

Experts are also collaborating to develop registries and working groups, such as:

- Lupus Registry and Repository, which gathers medical information, as well as blood and tissue samples from patients and their relatives. This will help

identify genes that make someone more at risk for the disease.

- A registry to collect information and blood samples from children affected by neonatal lupus, as well as their mothers. This will help improve diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of lupus.
- Lupus Federal Working Group, which gathers experts across various public health agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and professional organizations.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Accelerating Medicines Partnership, which aims to reduce the time and cost of developing new diagnostics and therapies for diseases, including lupus.

Points To Remember About Systemic Lupus

- Lupus can affect many body parts, including the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, or brain.
- You will have periods of illness (flares) and wellness.
- Anyone can get lupus, but it most often affects women. Lupus is also more common among African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American women.
- Genes play an important role in lupus, but other factors are also involved.
- Most people will see a rheumatologist for their lupus treatment. Treatment generally consists of a team approach.
- Learning to recognize the warning signs of a flare can help with reducing or preventing the flares.

Source:

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892-3675

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37

by William Paul Skelton, III, MD F.A.C.P.

All ex-POWs should keep these. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your own story as it relates to your problem.....

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma.

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration.

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human.

7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition.

8. PELLAGRA

It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet.

9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects.

10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities.

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress.

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

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

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes.

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord.

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gas, bloating, and changes in bowel habits.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

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

20. CIRRHOSIS

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

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension).

23. OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break.

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined by VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected. To be eligible for compensation, the Veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of eligible dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation (SMC). Disability compensation benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

Legislative



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Despite the many international issues facing Washington, Congress and the President have spent some of their limited time examining the challenges facing our Nation's veterans. This article provides the status of recent events and upcoming issues believed to be of interest to you.

Previously reported was the continued ongoing struggle for the veterans exposed to herbicide agents in south Asia. Those agents have impacted the veteran and their families. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 has been passed and signed by the President. It treats those veterans who have served from 1962 to 1975 on land, air or sea to have been exposed as a presumptive for the purposes of disability to them and their children suffering from spina bifida. These benefits were taken away from the veterans back in 2002 and as EX-POWs, our members know what a dramatic change this presumptive provides as opposed to proving your individual case one by one. This Bill has been long overdue and encourages those remaining

veterans who have not filed to do so prior to the deadline of January 1, 2020.

On an item relative to spending, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to allow the Trump Administration to reassign \$6.1 billion in Department of Defense (DOD) funding to expand the barrier (Border Wall) that divides the U.S. and Mexico. The bulk of the funding will be taken from military construction, overseas contingency operations, drug interdiction, and military personnel funds from service member pay and compensation, retirement benefits, food, and moving expenses which were lower than originally budgeted. While there are little details regarding which military construction projects will be impacted it is concerning this quantity of funds can be redirected from our defense budget.

Regarding pending legislation, we offer the following for your support: H.R. 485, Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act would decouple ambulance reimbursement from payment for emergency room health care services. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) emergency transportation reimbursement process is cumbersome and tends to take unreasonably long. Veterans who believe they are experiencing an emergency must not be delayed or deterred from contacting 9/11 for emergency assistance because they are concerned VA will refuse to cover the cost of emergency transportation.

Specially Adapted Housing (S 2022). This draft legislation is in its early stages however it is designed to expand the VA Specially Adaptive Housing Grant Programs (SAH), which help veterans with service-connected disabilities to live independently in a barrier-free

environment by providing critical housing adaptations. This draft bill expands eligibility and dollar amounts for each grant.

As we do each year, we ask for your support for surviving spouses with an increase in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The flat rate DIC has not been increased since 1993. Compared to other Federal survivor programs, DIC lags behind almost 12%. The current DIC flat rate is 43% of the compensation of a fully disabled single veteran. Other Federal survivor programs provide a survivor annuity of 50-55% of retirement pay to the surviving spouse. We propose a 12% increase once or a "Sunset Provision" of 3% each for 10 years for DIC to become equitable with other Federal survivor programs.

National Defense Budget- both the Senate and the House have passed their own versions of Bills for the National Defense. The Senate passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act S1790 (how money is spent) for Fiscal Year 2020 and the appropriations by a vote of 86-8. The bill, which must still be conferenced with the House of Representatives, provides \$750 billion in total defense spending, a 3.1 percent military pay raise, and reforms the Military Housing Privatization Initiative for military families, among many other enhancements. It is important to note the Senate version does not contain the amendment that would end a dollar-for-dollar offset that continues to financially penalize some 65,000 military widows and widowers from simultaneously receiving Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) payments from the Defense Department and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Andersonville



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Park Superintendent Charles Sellars accepted a position at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in August. He devoted 5 years of service to Andersonville National Historic Site, beginning in 2014. Superintendent Sellars guided the park through the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War and the Funeral for 13,000; passage of legislation to



Superintendent Sellars with AXPOW member Sy Lichtenfeld

provide liners for veterans buried in Andersonville National Cemetery; the 20th Anniversary of the National Prisoner of War Museum; a dramatic increase from 3,000 wreaths to 15,000 wreaths sponsored for Wreaths Across America; and many other challenges and achievements. While he expressed his sorrow in leaving a park and mission to which he felt a deep personal connection and commitment, an unexpected opportunity to move closer to family drove his departure. He also asked me to express his regret in not being able to personally thank the American Ex-Prisoners of War for their wonderful partnership and support of the park during his tenure. We wish him well in his new position as Superintendent of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

It will take anywhere from 5 to 12 months for a new permanent Superintendent to be selected and start on duty. During that interim, two or more individuals will serve as Acting Superintendent. I have the privilege of being Acting Superintendent until October, when another individual is scheduled to be detailed into that position. The next months will be a time of transition for the park, but we have an outstanding team of employees, interns, volunteers, and partners who will help me and following Acting Superintendents maintain and continue the successful work and projects begun by Superintendent Sellars.

In 2020, the park will celebrate its 50th anniversary. On October 16, 1970, Andersonville National Cemetery and Andersonville Prison Park combined to form Andersonville National Historic Site. In passing H.R. 140, the Act that authorized creation of the park, Congress declared that the park was to be established "in order to

provide an understanding of the overall prisoner-of-war story of the Civil War, to interpret the role of prisoner-of-war camps in history, to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps, and to preserve the monuments located therein". That mission was reinforced and summarized in the park's 2014 Foundation Document, which states "The purpose of Andersonville National Historic Site is to preserve the resources and stories that illustrate the experiences of American prisoners of war throughout U.S. history and to educate the public about the deadliest ground of the Civil War."

The park will recognize this milestone with special programming, both in the park and in area communities, throughout 2020. The first Saturday of each month we will offer a special program, such as a ranger-led cemetery tour or a special guest speaker. Other planned activities and programs include a Junior Ranger "Escape Room" youth activity; a "Civilian Staff Ride" conducted by Fort Rucker; "Appreciation Sunday" inviting visitors to write thank you cards to active duty military personnel deployed overseas; a special night showing of the TNT movie "Andersonville" projected onto the stockade wall in the prison site; and much more.

The park's 50th anniversary in 2020 coincides with the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1945; the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War in 1950; the ongoing 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; and the 30th anniversary of the start of the Persian Gulf War in 1990. We would like to invite one or more former POWs from each of those wars to come to the National Prisoner of War Museum and talk

to visitors about their experiences as a prisoner of war. Share your stories and help us ensure that your sacrifice and legacy is remembered and shared with today's young adults and children. If you are interested please contact Jennifer Hopkins, Lead Park Ranger, at 229-924-0343 extension 201.

This month the park will commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day in partnership with Robins Riders, The Ride Home, and Georgia Southwestern University. Robins Riders will help the park raise the Avenue of Flags on Friday,

September 6th. At 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18th, at Georgia Southwestern University's annual Convocation, your very own AXPOW National Commander, Colonel Robert Certain, will speak to university students and the general public about his experiences as a prisoner of war and about AXPOW. On Friday, September 20th, The Ride Home will escort former Prisoners of War (POWs) from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts to the National Prisoner of War Museum for a special ceremony at 9:30 a.m. Featured speakers will include National AXPOW Commander and former Vietnam POW Colonel Robert Certain, former WWII POW Bill Grafton, and Sharon Streetman Ray, whose brother went MIA during the Korean War. Bagpiper Dan Gillean will provide music for the ceremony.

On Friday November 8th, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the park will offer visitors the opportunity to experience the museum and historic prison site after dark during our annual Night Museum event. Exploring the museum and prison site at night is a completely different experience, and we invite anyone in the area to participate.

Planning for December's Wreaths Across America event at Andersonville National Cemetery is moving along at a steady pace. So far we have 5,396 Wreaths for our Cemetery. Our goal for 2019 is 15,000 Wreaths, and we still have until the end of November to reach that. Hopefully with everyone's continued support we can honor a record number of veterans buried in the cemetery with a wreath. Our Cemetery Administrator and Education Technician will be attending a special event in September with our Wreaths partner group Bennett Motors to try and help us reach our goal of placing at least 15,000 wreaths on graves in Andersonville National Cemetery on December 14th.

Please join us for one or more of these commemorative events:

The "Victory From Within" traveling exhibit is now on display at Heroes Hall in Costa Mesa, California, but will soon move to the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Anyone in those areas is invited to stop by and see this mobile exhibit telling the stories of American POWs.

Roads in the park have been resurfaced and are now in great condition, making for a more positive and enjoyable experience for visitors. The park is also working to install new lighting controls that will improve lighting conditions in the museum. We are hoping that the end result will be better directed lighting to help visitors view exhibits and also more focused and possibly even motion-activated lighting that will help preserve the museum's artifacts.

Volunteers and interns continue to give critical support to the park. A youth volunteer from Michigan State University, Erika Cardinal, completed a university internship

at the park this past summer. She split her time between helping our Museum Curator manage the park's museum collection and greeting visitors at the museum's front desk. She also helped develop a new park brochure focused on female POWs. This new brochure will be distributed next year in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 1920 amendment that gave women the right to vote. Local volunteers Teri Surber and Jerri Shack have been terrific help at the museum. Local college student Jessica Lane and resident volunteers Jerry and Rosemary Higgs and Karen Robert will also be helping out this fall.

The park's museum collection continues to grow. All objects donated to the park's collection are preserved and cared for in perpetuity. They will help preserve and share the stories and legacy of American POWs for future generations. But with thousands of objects and not enough space to display them all, the park is working on multiple fronts to share these objects and their stories with the public. We take photos of objects and share them and the information about them through social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to reach younger audiences. We provide access to researchers who write about them. We display objects in the museum through temporary exhibits. We are working to create a virtual exhibit of objects on the park's website, where they could be viewed by anyone around the world. And we are planning to remodel the museum so that we can rotate exhibits and display different artifacts in our permanent display cases. If you are interested in donating an item to the National Prisoner of War Museum for permanent preservation, please contact our Museum Curator at 229-924-0343 ext. 113.

namPOW news



Richard A. Stratton
Atlantic Beach, FL
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liturgy of the Mass – at the beginning - but not corrupting the core.

By the time that I deployed for my war – the Vietnam War – on the USS Ticonderoga, Carrier Air Wing Nineteen, Attack Squadron One Ninety Two (CVA-14; CAW 19; VA-192) there were not too many noticeable changes. My best friend, Michael Estocin (MOH) and I attended Mass every day we were not on the flight schedule on the forecandle of the Ticonderoga.



*USS Ticonderoga
CVA-14
Lcdr. Mike Estocin
(MOH)*

Seated on folding chairs scattered between the two anchor chains, we followed along with the new order under the guidance of our Priest chaplain figuring that he would not lead us astray.

Circumstances reached a confluence where I had the opportunity to shoot myself down in January 1967. Mike had the opportunity to Martyr himself, taking the mission of a new kid the day before they were to come home, and never returning in July 1967. Mike had volunteered for his hop and strangely enough, I had volunteered to take Mike's hop when I was shot down. He had a critical shipboard meeting to attend the morning I took his hop. We did not get to attend Mass that day.

The North Vietnamese communists were a brutal, inhumane, power hungry group of misanthropes. Americans captured by them in Southeast Asia were tortured, beaten, starved, isolated, denied medical care and humiliated beyond belief except when it served the interests of the communist propagandist machine. It was not a racial thing. They meted out the same treatment to their own people who dared to dissent as well as the Republic of Vietnam patriots who dared oppose them. They inflicted and continue to inflict the same punishment on Chinese-Vietnamese, native populations and those of mixed race.

At the urging of American peace groups, the communists decided they needed some favorable propaganda around Easter time of 1967. One spring evening they dressed me up in their "mess dress" striped pajama prisoner uniform (the uniform of the day was black boxer shorts and T shirt) and at bayonet point marched me off to the interrogation room. This timing was not unusual as the most feared interrogations occurred after dark. They sat me down on an interrogation stool and told me that I was to meet a priest and make my "Easter Duty".



In the Old Catholic Church the "Easter Duty" referred to the law of the church that required each practicing Catholic to go to communion once a year. To do so normally meant that one also had to go to confession unless he was free of mortal sin. The practice in my day was that everyone went to confession and communion at Easter time no matter what. In retrospect, the communists had in mind that I would confess my "war crimes" and receive communion as a visible sign of my repentance.



Last Mass, Continued...

The interrogation room was decorated for Easter as only an atheist could imagine – with a bunny rabbit. The guards trotted an elderly Vietnamese gentleman dressed in priestly garb into the interrogation cell.

I asked him: “Ubi est domus tui?” [Where do you live?] He replied: “Hanoi”. At that point the interrogators burst into the room obviously telling him to “shut mouth”. His reflexive response to my crummy Latin convinced me that he was a Catholic Priest.

The Priest appeared to be startled at the intrusion of the interrogator and aghast at the follow-on film crew. The Priest via sign language offered me the opportunity to receive Communion. I accepted the invitation and dropped to my knees. He placed a host on my tongue; the cameras rolled; the lights went out; the Priest got the hook; I was marched back to my cell. At least I received the host on my tongue – the last time as a normal protocol.



The propaganda war was heating up in respect to the Communist mistreatment of prisoners in North Vietnam. The Red Cross was denied entrance to the prisons; Amnesty International never even tried. The

internal and international communist position was that American fighting men were “The Blackest of Criminals”, “Air Pirates” and not entitled to any protections under international law. However, the Hanoi government recognized that the war was going to be won by turning the American people against their own government. As a result the communists had to put on a propaganda front acceptable to the American dissidents.

Christmas 1967 was the next opportunity. Sometime in December, well after dark, I was told to suit up in my “Mess Dress” striped pajama prison garb. Nothing good ever happened after dark.



At bayonet point I was marched off into a weapons carrier sized vehicle. I was very nervous. The last time a night time trip like this happened, Doug Hegdahl and I were similarly mounted up, driven to a soccer stadium, exposed to a howling, out of control crowd,

assaulted in the vehicle and driven off to the Plantation Prison.

This time I disembarked, as I found out later, at the Hanoi Catholic Cathedral.



I was marched into a side door at the rear. They placed me half way down the nave on the Gospel side isolated from anyone else. The place looked like it could hold about 800 to 1,000 congregants. There were maybe 100 people in the church. There were perhaps 10 other POWs all in their Mess Dress garb scattered about. The cameras were there.



This was obviously a Roman Catholic house of worship. [One could never expect to find such an automatic identification in this day and age except by accident.] Jesus, Mary and Joseph were in their appointed places. The tabernacle

Last Mass, Continued...

was centrally located with the burning red candle clearly visible indicating the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. There was a crucifix. It was where it belonged, centrally located above and behind the altar. Various and sundry Saints (Peter, Paul, Teresa, Francis Xavier, etc.) were all visible and identifiable. The sanctuary exuded the tradition and magisterium of over 400 years. I was in a spiritual refuge. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

An interrogator barked at me: "Go visit the barn!" I was initially non-pulsed, then I realized he meant the crèche at the altar rail [remember that?]. I had no desire to contribute to the success of their propaganda effort. However, since I was in a losing situation, I should try to get some benefit out of it. I saw one of our guys approaching the altar rail so I took off to join him. The VC were trying to keep us separated; but they could not over react in front of the cameras. The other guy was Jim Mulligan.



We knelt there side by side and swapped information as to where we thought we were located, who was our SRO (Senior Ranking Officer), who were in our prisons and when we thought the war would be over. This is where I found out that a small group of



super resistors were under the shadow of the walls of the Ministry of Defense opposite our jail, the Plantation Prison main gate (17 Ly Nam Dai). Jim reaffirmed the resistance posture advanced by these leaders.

The Mass started and progressed according to rubric of the Roman Ritual (Pre-Vatican II). After the Priest read the gospel of the day and gave a brief homily in Vietnamese, one of our more malicious interrogators, The Rabbit, took the pulpit, and gave his English "Communist Christmas Sermon". The essence of the sermon was that baby Jesus, a good communist of a working class family, being born into poverty, was persecuted by the capitalists. He and his family were forced to flee Bethlehem for their lives in their Jeep into Egypt to avoid the American Imperialists and the Yankee Air Pirates. It indeed was a most inspiring sermon; it made one weep with laughter.

The rest of the Mass went as it had according to the Church of my youth, my seminary days (six years) and until Vatican II. It was invigorating, reinforcing, inspiring, reassuring, encouraging and inspirational. I was not required to sing, shake hands, swap germs,

jiggle, dance, listen to guitar based protest songs, watch pagan dances on the altar, listen to the priest play the flute, raise my arms in an "alleluia", stomp my feet, clap my hands, or listen to the latest bloviation of the Bishops' regarding their personal version of current fads in political correctness or all inclusiveness.

When Mass was over, the POWs were held in their places to be removed in such a way that they could not come in contact with each other. We had had one more shot to communicate at the Communion Rail after "the barn" visit but then we were on our own. I was marched back up the center aisle towards the back doors and the pushed off to the left to exit a side door. There were a group of Vietnamese crowded into the inside main entrance.

A woman pushed a ten-year-old child towards me as I turned left. He came over and held my hand as I walked towards the left exit. My guard backhanded the youngster away from me. I went off by myself into the darkness not realizing that I had just attended my last traditional Roman Catholic Latin Mass – December 1967.

Last Mass, Continued...

Fast forward to March 1973. Among the reception team of Operation Homecoming at Clark Air Force Base was a selection of a Chaplain of your choice. I don't remember the name of the guy I was talking to except that he was a Jesuit. He was playing the role of the "good ole boy", using his first name and wearing sports clothes. I made a general confession, received Communion and was left with a great deal of confusion in respect to the lack of specifics provided in response to my expressed interest in the state of the Catholic Church as of that date.

It took only six months after my return to figure out that the Catholic Church of my youth had gone the way of the world and was no more. The Episcopal High Church and Lutheran liturgies were more traditional than the

succession of the prevailing Catholic entertainment fads and circuses in the round being passed off as "The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass". My Church had either left me in my absence or had been high jacked.

I had in fact, at bayonet point, attended my last Catholic Mass of the "Old Dispensation" in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, December 1967.

How about those sour apples! I guess this marks me as a traditionalist.

Richard A. Stratton
October 14, 2005
Atlantic Beach FL

In Honor of:
Rev. Charles Costello OMI, Novice
Master

Post Script:

In 2007, I finally discovered a traditional Tridentine Mass, 0800 at the Immaculate Conception Church, downtown Jacksonville, Florida and have been attending with great appreciation most Sundays of the year. (It only took forty years!)



RAS...December 25, 2009



Mike Christian's Flag~Vietnam

pow/mia

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

So many questions

"DPAA recently updated the approximate number of recoverable individuals from 34,000 to 38,000 unaccounted-for. We use a case categorization system and an ongoing review process to manage case progress and keep track of the recoverable cases. Each individual's file is updated and maintained by assigned DPAA analysts. Cases are reviewed and sorted in one of the following categories: under review, active pursuit, deferred, or non-recoverable. These analytical reviews are updated so family members and other stakeholders are kept informed of the status." DPAA, 07/2019

These numbers do not include many "non-combat" casualty losses.

We truly understand the financial costs to bring our missing home. At this point in time, while DPAA MAY meet the required ability to "identify 200 remains per year," how long must we wait for accurate identifications, with all remains returned to family members?

The co-chair of Honor, Release, Return, Inc. Jim "moe" Moyer, has the numbers. With possible I.D.s of 200 per year, looking at more than 82,000 on the official lists, will we ever know what happened to loved one? WHEN? In 2419? At what cost? The budget for DPAA is \$140 million per year. At \$140 million a year, another 400 years, that comes to \$56 BILLION dollars. Right now the approx. cost per identification is \$700,000.

Have you noticed how many "remains identifications" are "repeats?" Remains buried years ago, are announced again in DPAA press releases for services many years

later. How many times do they go back to the same site for more bones? Do they not return all of what is found the first time? How many funerals can one family be asked to hold?

If POW/MIA files were finally declassified (a fight going on for decades) would answers be contained within to give families peace?

We all know this effort is running out of time. Many of those missing in SE Asia are lost where they fell or crashed. Acidic soil is destroying evidence, and remains.

DPAA has so far this yr concluded 21 Joint Field Activities in Vietnam, and 6 in Laos. No information is yet available to know if any remains were located, some 40 years later, out of the 1500 still officially missing.

Meanwhile, exhumations continue at the Punchbowl, Manila, and the Philippines for WWII and Korea War losses. USS Oklahoma exhumations continue, with less than half the project completed after 4 years.

Due to family pressure, DPAA is now disinterring all Korean War losses buried in Hawaii – but the timeframe shared allows for nine years to identify the almost 800 unidentified remains.

A private researcher and Korean War family member, John Zimmerlee, has already matched those "unidentified remains in Hawaii with the logical candidates and eventual identifications."

Families still wait, like that of Medal of Honor recipient Alexander R. "Sandy" Nininger Jr., killed in action in the Philippines, and officially noted as Missing In Action. He is believed to be buried as an unknown in the Manila American Cemetery Grave J-7-20 according to relatives. The family sued the US Government in 2017 for refusing to exhume and DNA test the remains.

Only 7 of the remains received from North Korea in 2018 have so far been

identified. At least 5300 are known to be missing in North Korea. Most Korean War families have DNA on file for identification efforts.

We do fund two labs. How many remains are on lab shelves waiting for identification?

Will 5 or 6 generations from now understand the cost our generations paid for their freedom? Will they care enough to continue the mission to "leave no man behind?" Will they remember any of those that fought and died on foreign soil before they were born?

Maybe the question should be "Can this effort be privatized?"

Can universities, non-profits, and private foundations, do it faster and less expensively than DPAA?

Can the enormous amount of private research, private databases and information, be a useful information source?

In light of all this, it doesn't take much effort to find and appreciate success like those of History Flight, Inc.

In 2017, History Flight turned over 24 sets of remains from the Battle of Tarawa This 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" according to a PRNewswire story on July 26, 2017.

To date, History Flight, with a private data base, and a private effort, has brought home 272 individuals from the battle fields of Tarawa, since 2015.

If they can do it – does it not stand to reason that either the United States Government needs to do it too – or turn it over to those who can?

civilian

Curtis Brooks
Curtbrooks@aol.com

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces invaded all of Southeast Asia, including the Philippines. Manila was occupied on January 2, 1942. Nearly 4000 American and Allied civilians were rounded up and imprisoned at the internment camp established at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. Of the two main buildings in the camp, the smaller, the Education Building (commonly, the Ed Building) faced directly the front grounds.

ONE WAY A WAR IS WON

After American air raids on Manila began in September, 1944, the Japanese began dispersing material and supplies away from possible target areas. Santo Tomas was not exempt from these efforts. From time to time trucks brought in many items, including weapons on occasion. The internees protested but were told, in effect, to mind our own business. One day, from my perch in our room in the camp Education Building, Ed building for short, a truck with a large wooden crate in its back, pulled up in front of us and then moved off the road onto the portion of the front grounds and parked. They were there to unload, but how?

A group of Japanese soldiers who had accompanied the truck set about putting up a large A-frame over the truck and crate. It took time. Eventually the apparatus was sufficiently in place so the soldiers could start raising what the truck had brought. Heave and ho. In

time, the crate was slowly raised a small way off the truck bed.

The area of the front grounds where this little exercise was taking place looked solid but definitely was not. Particularly after the Philippine rainy season. As the efforts to raise the crate were going on, the truck had gradually sunk axel-deep in the unstable muck. Once lifted the problem now became that of getting the truck out from under the crate. As I watched, the soldiers pushing, and the wheels spinning, only mired the truck further in the ground. A pause. Soon another truck appeared to rescue the first. A rope was attached but the ground under the second truck was no more stable than that under the first. Tugging and pulling, once again with wheels spinning, it, too, dug itself axel deep in mush.

Meal time came and I had to leave the spectacle. Later, in time for roll-call, both trucks were gone, apparently somehow freed, and the crate had been lowered to the ground. I thought if it took that much time and effort and equipment to unload the truck, loading one would be a real challenge. So, there it sat and sat, awaiting redemption. Didn't happen.

In the grinding months in the last of our internment, with hunger and illness stalking all our waking hours, there, unmoved and seemingly forgotten, the crate waited along with other dispersed supplies. On the night of February 3rd, 1945, of always fresh and fervent memory, troops of the 1st Cavalry Division, spearheaded by tanks of the 44th Tank Battalion, liberated Santo Tomas and freed its nearly 4,000 American and other Allied civilian prisoners. (except for

a group of us, hostages, in the Ed building, another story).

And there, amidst all the near chaos that followed, sat, unmoved, the hero of our story. One large Japanese soldier-deposited wooden crate. About a week or so after liberation curiosity prompted me to try to find out what was in that crate that had sat all these months in front of our building. There were cracks in the crate's wooden sides and I could peer through. Inside was a large, radial, aircraft engine. One might presume that somewhere on some Japanese airfield an airplane sat waiting for a replacement engine that never came. It couldn't fly its missions against the Americans because of the mushy grounds of Santo Tomas

BACEPOW
Bay Area Civilian
Ex-Prisoners of War.

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

There is an active
descendents group.

www.bacepow.net

Cmdr, Angus Lorenzen

Diamond Jubilee of Liberation

75 Years of Freedom from Japan's Domination

BACEPOW is Planning a Gala Celebration
We encourage you to join us for this very special reunion

Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento Riverfront Promenade
Thursday February 6 to Sunday February 9, 2020

Preliminary Program

Thursday

Reunion Registration 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM Embassy Suites main lobby

Friday

Reunion Registration 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Embassy Suites main lobby

Morning session 9:00 AM — 12:15 PM

Lunch break 12:15 PM — 1:30 PM

Afternoon session 1:30 PM — 4:30 PM

Saturday

Reunion Registration 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Embassy Suites main lobby

Morning session 9:00 AM — 12:00 N Panel discussion of liberation at each camp and the impact of the Battle of Manila

Jim Zobel of the MacArthur Memorial and Jim Scott author of Rampage about the Battle of Manila will participate with ex-prisoners from the internment camps, and audience participation will be encouraged.

Lunch break 12:00 N — 1:30 PM

Afternoon session to include tours to various historical museums and for descendants there will be a special meeting for planning the future of BACEPOW and how the descendants will take a leadership role.

Sunday

Authors' book discussions 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM Main Lobby

Board of Directors' meeting – 9:00 AM

Authors' work in progress meeting chaired by MaryBeth Klee –10:30 AM

Banquet – 12:00 N

Keynote speaker — William Paris—1st Cavalry

Adjourn – 3PM

Reservations at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Sacramento Hotel should be made early to obtain the special BACEPOW rate of \$189. Reservations can be made on the Internet at www.sacramento.embassysuites.com using our group code **BCE**. Or call (916) 326-5000 or toll-free 1-800-EMBASSY and ask for the Bay Area Civilian Ex-POW's code **BCE** rate. Your reservation includes a complimentary hot cooked breakfast and the managers cocktail party. Valet parking is available at a discount rate of \$25 or use self-parking nearby. Free airport pickup call (916) 326-5000. The deadline for reservations is January 16, 2020.



News & Information

Bob Levine at National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, on June 6, 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day. (Department of Defense photo by Lisa Ferdinando)

Nov. 9, 2019. Ensuring our injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery. The DAV 5K Cincinnati is a walk, roll, run, and ride that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day. This year's 5K Cincinnati will start at The Banks, Downtown.

March 6-7, 2020. USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION & NEXT GENERATIONS 77th Anniversary USS Houston CA-30 Day of Remembrance will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel & Suites Houston by the Galleria 5353 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77056; 713-961-9000.

June 22-27, 2020. Madison Wisconsin. The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The VA Challenges and encourages senior Veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle, thus achieving the NVGAG "Fitness for Life" motto. The Games are open to Veterans, ages 55 or older, who receive health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

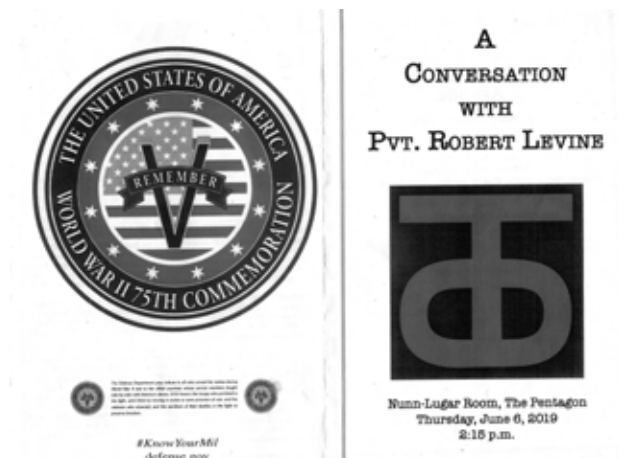


Veteran Bob Levine Honored 75 Years After D-Day

Two days after Bob Levine's 94th birthday on June 4 this year, he and his family were in Washington, DC, where he was honored at the World War II Memorial in the morning and at the Pentagon in the afternoon. The occasion was the 75th anniversary of D-Day, when U.S. and Allied forces landed at Normandy in German-occupied France.

During the D-Day honors, Bob and family were welcomed by an assistant Secretary of Defense and the vice-chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, as Bob represented veterans of Operation Overlord, the code name for the invasion, which ultimately led to the liberation of Europe from the Nazis. Bob's story is remarkable partly because of the what happened to him shortly after



News, continued...

his 19th birthday in 1944 and partly because of how he and Ede, his wife of 68 years, have responded to the events of that long-ago day.

By June 10, 1944, when Bob and the rest of his infantry division landed at Normandy, the beach had been secured. They moved inland. The following month, while overtaking Hill 122 in a fierce fight with German forces, an exploding grenade injured Bob's right leg and he was taken prisoner. In a German field hospital at a nearby farmhouse, a German doctor preparing to operate on Bob's leg asked him about the H (for Hebrew) on his dog tags. Silently, Bob "said goodbye to any hope of a 20th birthday," he recalled.

When he woke up in the barn—the recovery room—his dog tags and the bottom half of his leg were gone, his surgeon's efforts to save his life. There was a note in his pocket, in German, signed by the doctor, Edgar Woll, explaining why he had had to amputate part of Bob's leg.

After re-visiting Normandy in the 1980s, Bob tried to contact the doctor to thank him. The surgeon had died but his widow and children were glad to meet Bob and Ede. "Now, we are like extended family," said Bob, who has hosted Woll family members in his home and been a guest in theirs. Two months ago, on POW Recognition Day, the surgeon's granddaughter, Daniela, who was temporarily in New York, visited Bob's POW group in North Jersey "and made a beautiful speech," Bob said. Daniella's husband visited Bob and Ede in Teaneck earlier this month.

"My favorite word is *perspective*," Bob said, a positive attitude he also shared during a videotaped interview at the Pentagon during the D-Day anniversary events.

Bob's joy, and the honors bestowed on him, were not limited to his experiences in Washington, D.C. As he was traveling there on June 5, he and Ede received word that their first great grandson had arrived at Lenox Hill Hospital in the Bronx. His name? Robert.



As Bob's namesake learns the story of his great-grandfather's honors on the day after his birth, he will have an important memento of the day. Before they left Washington, Bob and Ede were given a U.S. flag and a document reading in part: "This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the Pentagon on June 5, 2019, for Robert M. Levine in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day."

Joining Bob and Ede in Washington were their daughter Nancy Harney of Seattle, daughter and son-in-law Jane and David Powers of Ithaca, NY, and grandchildren Sarah and Andy.

*Theresa Forsman
Ethical Cultural Society of
Bergen County (NJ)*

U.S. Naval Undersea Museum Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Allen Lee, Navy Public Affairs Support Element, Det. Northwest

For 25 years, the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum (USNUM) in Keyport, WA has strived to connect veterans, Sailors and the local community with the history, technology and operations of the undersea Navy.

The Undersea Museum opened as a preview center in 1991, and proceeded to open as a fully operational museum in 1994, with the goal of keeping the community connected and educated with its undersea Navy.

"The undersea Navy is something the majority of people in our country are not familiar with," said Olivia Wilson, operations manager for the USNUM. "We want to provide the community with a basic understanding of what the Navy does undersea through exhibits and educational opportunities, free of charge."

Some of the museum's biggest attractions include the acquisition of the attack submarine USS Sturgeon's (SSN 673) sail, located in front of the museum, and the Greenling control room that was constructed with real equipment from the Cold War-era fast attack

News, continued...

submarine USS Greenling (SSN 614).

The museum also offers hands-on learning opportunities for children in the local community through the museum's educational programs.

"Over the life of the museum, we've grown our educational offerings to weekly and monthly science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs," said Valerie Johnson, a USNUM educator.

"We've partnered with regional schools and community organizations to enhance K-12 experiences, both onsite with Navy STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) days and offsite with Camp Create. We've expanded our outreach capabilities throughout Puget Sound and are serving roughly 10,000 learners a year."

Since 1999, the museum has been the venue for more than 7,000 retirements, changes of command, meetings, trainings, field trips and other education programs.

"We're more than just a museum," said Wilson. "We provide an auditorium for local, state and federal entities to rent out for whatever events they have going on. We have about 20,000 people a year using our facility spaces." The museum will host an event Aug. 10, 2019 to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The Naval Undersea Museum is one of the largest maritime museums on the West Coast and holds the country's most comprehensive collection of undersea-related artifacts and documents. Through education programs and an 18,000-square foot exhibit hall, the

museum connects visitors to more than 150 years of naval undersea history and technology.

The Naval History and Heritage Command, located at the Washington Navy Yard, is responsible for the preservation, analysis, and dissemination of U.S. naval history and heritage. It provides the knowledge foundation for the Navy by maintaining historically relevant resources and products that reflect the Navy's unique and enduring contributions through our nation's history, and supports the fleet by assisting with and delivering professional research, analysis, and interpretive services. NHHHC is composed of many activities including the Navy Department Library, the Navy Operational Archives, the Navy art and artifact collections, underwater archaeology, Navy histories, ten museums (including USNUM), USS Constitution repair facility, and the historic ship Nautilus.

For more about the Naval History and Heritage Command, visit www.history.navy.mil.

SVAC Chair Resigns

Sen. Johnny Isakson, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a longtime voice for veterans and servicemembers in the halls of Congress, announced his plan to resign his Senate seat at the end of the year, citing health concerns.

The Georgia Republican has served on the key committee he now chairs since entering the Senate in 2005.

"Blue Water Navy" Update

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process

Agent Orange exposure claims for "Blue Water Navy" Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

"VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and

News, continued...

may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

VA to award more than \$30 million in new grants to support formerly homeless Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will award \$30 million under the new Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program Oct. 1, to 128 organizations to provide wraparound supportive services to Veterans who were previously homeless or at-risk of losing their housing.

The GPD case management grants improve housing retention among formerly homeless Veterans by providing an array of individualized services that promote housing stability.

"When Veterans transition from homelessness to permanent housing, some may need help readjusting to the routines and responsibilities of managing their household affairs," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The case management grants announced today will help ensure that formerly homeless Veterans have the tools to remain in stable housing and successfully reintegrate back into their communities."

The GPD case management grant program funds community organizations that provide these Veterans with resources, referrals and services, such as home visits to monitor their tenant responsibilities. This can include help with managing finances, using public transportation, planning meals and more. The grants were open to applications from organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

DAV Department of Massachusetts named Champion in Action for Veterans & Military Families

Citizens Bank and necn provide \$35,000 in funding, public relations and volunteer support

Disabled American Veterans Department of Massachusetts, a nonprofit operating a fleet of 26 vehicles transporting veterans at no charge to and from medical appointments at VA Medical Center facilities, has been named a 2019 Champion in Action® in the category of Veterans & Military Families. The award, announced jointly by Citizens Bank and necn, includes \$35,000 in unrestricted funding, as well as promotional and

volunteer support for the organization's outstanding work.

In addition to transportation, DAV provides free professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining VA benefits, and advocates for the rights of ill and injured veterans on Capitol Hill.

Champions in Action is part of Citizens Helping Citizens, the bank's initiative designed to help local communities prosper. It provides support for nonprofit organizations to recognize their contributions to communities throughout Massachusetts.

"By providing free transportation and professional assistance, DAV ensures veterans have access to services they need and deserve," said Jerry Sargent, President, Citizens Bank, Massachusetts. "The work that DAV does to help veterans lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity makes them our Champion in Action for Veterans & Military Families."

"The Champions in Action award will support our Transportation Program, which ensures that veterans do not have to choose between essentials like paying a bill or purchasing food and covering the cost of a ride to medical appointments. This gift will help DAV continue its mission to fulfill our promises to those who served," said Daniel P. Stack, DAV Department Adjutant/CEO.



Special Red Cross
parcel received at
Christmas in
Stalag Luft I

CHRISTMAS PARCEL



- 1 CAN TURKEY, 12 OZ.
- 1 CAN BUTTER, 3 ¾ OZ.
- 1 CAN CHEESE, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN DEVILED HAM, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN VIENNA SAUSAGE, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN CHERRIES, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN JAM, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN NUTS, 4 OZ.
- 1 CAN CANDY, 12 OZ.
- 1 CAN PLUM PUDDING, 12 OZ.
- 1 PACK DATES, 1 LB.
- 1 PACK TEA, 1 3/8 OZ
- 1 BOX BOUILLON CUBES, 12 CUBES
- 2 FRUIT BARS, 2 OZ. EA.
- 1 WASH RAG
- 1 PIPE
- 1 PACK PIPE TOBACCO
- 3 PACKS CIGARETTES
- 4 PACKS GUM
- 1 DECK CARDS
- 1 GAME, 2 PICTURES



A Small Enemy Gesture

I don't believe this was the best Christmas gift I've ever received, but this one left an impression that has lasted a lifetime. I was given a cooked (though cold when brought to me) drumstick from a bird. Not a turkey, a bird. Now why?

I had been shot down over North Korea and captured in 1952. On Christmas Day, after being kept for six months by myself in a hole and grass lean-to, talking or seeing no one and losing much weight, my captors brought this couple of bites and a dish of rice.

I had not tasted meat for six months. The weeks before Christmas, the food was particularly bad, only wormy rice. I'm sure the Chinese guards were fed the same thing, as they had become impatient as they stood behind a tree to ward off the wind as they guarded me. A few days later an interrogator informed me that the Christians in the Peoples Liberation Army did that for their Christian prisoners.

It had snowed October 6th, and from then on the ground was covered with snow or frozen solid, so everything was miserably cold through Christmas. It was not much, but being so hungry and then the effort some "enemy soldiers" had put out to share, left a lasting impression.

After eight additional months alone, I saw two other Americans and was eventually returned to the American forces.

Gene Evers
39439 NW Osterman Rd
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Christmas in Hanoi (x7)

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

It was bitter cold and damp. I'd been a POW for a little more than six months with much of it in a sweltering solitary confinement.

Fifty of us had been paraded through Hanoi's city streets as thousands of Vietnamese chanted obscenities and threw various objects at us at the urging of their communist political commissars. I'd had severe, brutal interrogation sessions that had left my emaciated body screaming in pain. Our daily meals of watery pumpkin gruel and rice had recently changed to sewer greens and rice twice a day.

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

To digress slightly, and for purposes of total disclosure, I am and have always been an optimist. Totally,

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

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

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

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

In the Son Tay prison camp, I remember hearing the Christmas story according to Marx and Lenin on the camp P.A. system. Summarized here with apologies for a 50+ year-old memory:

Jesus was a poor working man who was being exploited by the capitalistic foreign invader Pontius Pilate, but Jesus rallied the masses against the imperialist colonialists and for that he was

martyred by the criminal invaders. Moral. We are all the same. Only the U.S. government exploiting its lackeys in South Vietnam, like the Roman imperialists, are attempting to enslave the heroic "Vietnamese people."

A long diatribe against "Johnson, McNamara and Dean Rusk" would follow, followed by exhortations to "side with the Vietnamese people" as opposed to following blindly "The U.S. Government."

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

This is really a good sign." I thought, for the thousandth time, "We should be out of here in six months to a year." I was wrong. We were home in less than two months. The next Christmas was much better!

Paul Galanti
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paulgalanti@mac.com





Clinton County's last P.O.W.

Photo provided by the Breese Journal
 Brig. General Harold E. Keistler, Commander of the 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base, shakes hands with Vince Rolves, Clinton County's only resident ex-prisoner of war.



LEFT, Vince Rolves listens during the Veterans Day assembly. Rolves is a World War II veteran. He is the last living POW for that war in Clinton and Washington counties. RIGHT, Abby Brandt listens as Carlyle Junior High School Principal Dustin Bilbruck reads her Veterans Day essay. Brandt won the school's Veterans Day essay contest. Madison Szczeblewski was second and Ashlyn Weh was third.

Wilbert Vince Rolves. Carlyle, Illinois. 45th Infantry, Company C ... held in 13D, 2B. Vince tells his story in schools, historic societies and colleges. A true patriot!

34 GOVT
 WMQ WASHINGTON D C 913 AM 12
 4-13-44

MRS. ANNA ROLVES,
 ALBERS, ILLS.

REPORT JUST RECIEVED THRU THE INTERNATIONAL
 RED CROSS STATES YOUR SON PRIVATE WILBERT V
 ROLVES IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN
 GOVERNMENT. LETTER OF DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

DUNLOP, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

805 AM



new members



Keith H Lewis
Jasper AL
USAF
Hilton, Zoo 10/5/72 to 3/29/73

Gail Russell
Fort Myers FL
Daughter of William J Russell,
ETO

Jeanne Cooper -
Associate Member
Branson MO

Mike Maloney -
Associate Member
Kendall Park NJ

National Headquarters
PO Box 3445
Arlington, TX 76007-3445
(817)-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com

Request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name:
Address:
City:
State/Zip:

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

DO NOT send dues with this request for an application.

Mail to: American Ex-Prisoners of War PO Box 3445 Arlington, TX 76007-3445 (817) 649-2979
email: HQ@axpow.org

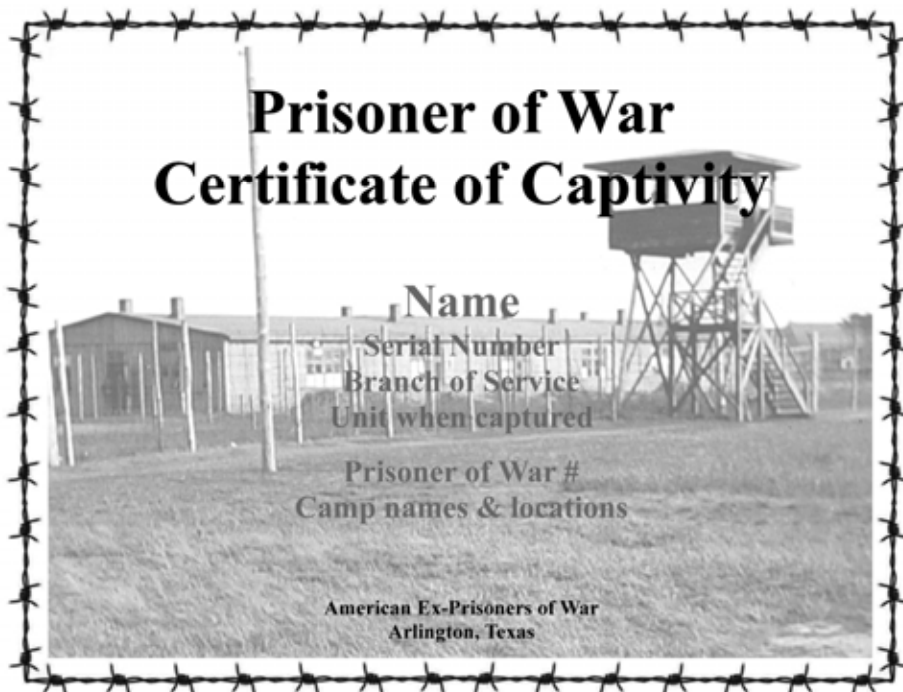


Certificate of Captivity

\$25.00

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 theatre of operation. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You may also include a picture with your order. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters by calling 817-649-2979 or email: axpow76010@yahoo.com.



Contributions



please send donations to:

National Headquarters, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445. Checks must be made payable to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War.

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Gene Keck, by Marge Milbrodt
In memory of Jesse Bier, by Edward Bier
In memory of John 'Jack' Shortt, by the Shortt Family
In memory of John H Schick, by Harry A Merlo
Foundation
In memory of John H Schick, by Kathy & John Campbell
In memory of John H Schick, by Mary L Schick
In memory of my beloved husband, Robert, by Margaret
Zimmerman
In memory of my husband, Irving, by Dorothy Bailey
In memory of William 'Bill' Ungemach, by Rich & Janice
Ungemach
In memory of William A Chittick, Jr., by Mary Chittick
Gardner

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Irving Lautman, Norristown PA
Maumee Valley Chapter, Ohio
Robert R Smith, Tomahawk WI

The Meaningful Gift

A number of years ago, one of our members made the decision to establish a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly that he truly cared about our future and wanted to leave a legacy to us. He and his wife are now gone, but their generous gift enabled them to demonstrate in a very meaningful way their commitment to AXPOW. More recently others have done the same. Support for our programs became the beneficiary of their generosity.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War remains through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we continue our transition to a true legacy organization.

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

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445, the sum of \$_____ or _____(named investment) or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. Please take a few minutes of your time to help ensure our future. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at axpow76010@yahoo.com, or CEO Cheryl Cerbone at axpowceo@comcast.net. Phone #817-649-2979.

Thank You!



taps



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

PNC James Renrick Cooper II



JAMES R. COOPER, age 103, a long-time resident of Douglas Arizona died May 20, 2019. He was born in Hubbell Michigan on May 18, 1916 to Claudius and Francieska Cooper. His father, grandfather, great grandfather, and several generations more were copper, iron, and tin miners; first in New York in the early 1800's before moving to Michigan's upper peninsula in the 1840's. Hubbell is a small township located in what once was Michigan's copper country – an area that was the first major copper mining region in the United States. His grandfather, James Renrick Cooper I, was general manager of the Calumet and Hecla Mine.

After earning a degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1939, he moved to Arizona where he obtained work from the American Smelting and Refining Company. He was hired by ASARCO in Douglas, AZ that summer and went to work at one of their mines near Morenci, AZ. It was there he met

his wife of 58 years, Alice Elizabeth Cooper.

Jim worked in the mining industry for almost 50 years in Arizona, Mexico, and Nevada. He was highly regarded for his metallurgical skills, and published numerous technical papers, and held several patents. During World War II he served as a navigator in a B-24. He was assigned to the 712th squadron, 448th BG, 8th AF, and his airplane was damaged on a bombing run over Magdeburg, Germany on June 29, 1944. The plane crash landed in Holland and he and the others in the crew were captured. They were liberated on April 29, 1945 after 304 days as POW's.

He is pre-deceased by his first wife Alice, his eldest son James R. Cooper, III, and his brother Philip B. Cooper. He is survived by his second wife Consolación Hernandez Cooper, son Jerry P. Cooper of Houston, Texas, daughter-in-law Corinne E. Cooper, son William C. Cooper of Littleton, Colorado, daughter-in-law Jane Brown, his daughter Maria Victoria Armendariz of Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico, and two step-daughters. He is also survived by an extended family that includes six grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

Jim was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Association, a past National Commander, a 76-year member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a member of the American Legion for more than 70

years, and a number of other service organizations.

PNC Fred Pauldee "Paul" Dallas



PAUL DALLAS, of Fayetteville, NC passed away June 18, 2019. He was born on July 2, 1924 in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife, Doris Cole Dallas; four sons, Dudley Dallas, Gerald (Debi) Dallas, David Dallas, and Joe (Vicki) Dumas; one daughter, Anne Plutt; nine grandchildren; nine great grandchildren, and three siblings.

He was an active member of Trinity Methodist Church and the 71st Ruritan Club in Fayetteville. Paul was a loving husband, doting father and grandfather and enjoyed spending time with his family. He had a passion for helping others and his integrity is the legacy he left behind. Paul was loved by many and will be missed by all whose lives he touched..

The following Autobiographical Military Sketch was written by Paul on August 28, 2008:

Paul served in the United States Army during World War II, from November 1943 through November 1945. He was sent to Italy when he joined 45th Infantry Division, which was one of the three Army Divisions that made the invasion of Southern France on Aug. 15, 1944.

On November 28, 1944, after more than three months in combat as a rifleman and squad leader, Paul was captured near Mulhouse, France. He was held in POW Camps in Germany for six months. Four-and one-half months was spent in a forced labor camp. He was liberated by the Russian Army and was sent to Russia for a brief period of time and then was returned to Germany. He was repatriated to the US Army on May 20, 1945. He then spent 6 ½ months in the U.S. Army Hospitals before being discharged.

Dallas received several awards for his military service including the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Good Conduct Medal and the POW Medal.

After his discharge from the Army he entered school at Mississippi State University where he received a BS in Business Administration. He relocated to Fayetteville, North Carolina where he held the position of Assistant Manager for the Public Works Commission of the City of Fayetteville until April 1975, when he accepted a position with Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation as District Manager.

Paul has been an active member of the American-Ex-Prisoners of War Organization for more than 25 years. He served in the following offices:

- Four years as Commander of the Greater Fayetteville Chapter # 1.

- Four years as Commander of the Department of North Carolina American Ex-Prisoners of War.

- Four years on the North Carolina Governor's Advisory Committee for Veterans Affairs.

- Two years as National Director, one year as National Junior Vice Commander, one year as National Senior Vice Commander and was elected National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization on October 2, 2003 and served one year as National Commander.

- He then served one year as Senior Director on the National Board of Directors of AXPOW.

In 1998, Paul was accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., as a National Service Officer. He presented several hundred successful claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs for benefits for veterans and widows.

BROWN, CHARLES H., 94, of Kingwood, WV died June 6, 2019. He served with the US Navy during WWII, Airgroup 12, VB12, Divebomber Squadron. He was shot down, captured and held in Ofuna, Omori, Honshu POW camps in Japan until the end of the war. Charles' wife of 70 years, Betty, predeceased him; he leaves 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, 1 brother, and their families, and a host of friends.

CASCIO, PHILIP THOMAS Sr., of Greenville, MS passed away Nov. 2, 2018 at the age of 99. He served with the 8th AF, 303rd BG, 358th BS during WWII. He was captured after being shot down off the coast of France and held for 2 ½ years. His wife, Cherry, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

COCHRAN, RAYMOND W., of Panama City Beach, FL died April 4, 2019 at the age of 94. He was captured while serving with the US Army – 3rd Div., 7th Inf. Reg. – and marched across Europe during the winter of 1945. Ray leaves his wife of 74 years, Ruth, 1 son, and a large extended family.

COON, HARLEY J., of Beavercreek, OH died August 12, 2019, at the age of 88. He was preceded in death by his wife Sylvia. Surviving are 2 daughters, a son and, their families of 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He was captured in Korea on November 27, 1950 while a member of "B" Co., 35th Inf. Reg., 25th Inf. Div., and repatriated August 31, 1953. In 1994 he was inducted to the "Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame". He held various positions in AXPOW, and was a Past President of the Korean War Ex-POW Association.

KECK, GENE, of Washta IA, died July 8, 2019. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1944, and served as a B-24 nose gunner, 15th AF, in Italy. His plane was shot down March 22, 1945 and he was held in Yugoslavia.

MERRILL, JOHN W. 95, of Manchester, NH passed away December 19, 2018. He joined the Army Air Corp and served as a B-24 pilot in England. On a bombing mission over Magdeburg, Germany, he was shot down, captured and held in Luft 9C until liberation. Family includes his beloved wife of 72 years, Genevieve, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MOHRMANN, PATRICIA A. died Monday, June 3, 2019; widow of the late Walter Mohrmann, former POW (4th Inf. Div. and D-Day Veteran - Utah Beach). Pat was the longtime Treasurer of the St. Louis Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners

of War, as well as a longtime Member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and Disabled American at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. She leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends.

PETERSEN, DONALD W., of Des Moines, IA passed away August 14, 2019. He was 89. Don was a truck driver in the 24th Quartermaster Company, 24th Infantry Division when he was captured April 25, 1951 in Korea. until repatriated in August 18, 1953. He was preceded in death by his wife Bonnie, his parents, two brothers, a sister, a

daughter and two sons. He is survived by 1 sister, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. He was a gifted craftsman who could make anything, and a proud member of the Korean War Ex-Pow Association.

RUSSELL, WILLIAM J., 96 of Zephyrhills, FL passed away August 3rd 2019. He was an aerial gunner with 726 Squadron, 454th Bomb Group in Italy and was shot down July 3rd 1944. He was held as a POW in Stalag Luft IV and survived the "Black March" - 86 days and 600 miles - until liberated by the British 8th Army on May 2nd 1945.

predeceased by his wife, Marian. Both were AXPOW life members since 1982. He is survived by his son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

SCHICK, JOHN HENRY, 94 passed away June 23, 2019 in Seattle. He was captured while serving in the US Army, fighting for the liberation of France. He was held in Luft 1, Barth. John is survived by his wife of 70 years, Lois, 4 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. As part of the Greatest Generation he loved his family, Church, country and friends. He never forgot a face and made friends easily.

Remembrance of a hero...by the family and friends of Raymond J. Merritt

Raymond J. Merritt, age 89, Colonel (Ret.), USAF, died July 8, 2019 in Washington state, surrounded by family. Raymond had an extraordinary and distinguished military career spanning 32 years, followed by many years of service on the local, state, and national levels in AXPOW during his retirement.

Raymond enlisted in the US Naval Reserve in July 1947, and was honorably discharged to enter the Aviation Cadet Program in August 1950. He was awarded his pilot wings at Williams AFB, Arizona, in March 1952. Raymond flew 100 combat missions as an F-84 pilot in the Korean

War and upon returning to the U.S., he became an instructor in fighter-weapons training, and later in aerial refueling "Boomer" training. He completed his bachelor's degree in 1961 at the Air Force Institute of Technology in Texas. In September 1965, while on his 39th combat mission over North Vietnam, his F-105 was hit by ground fire and disabled. Raymond was forced to eject and was immediately captured by armed North Vietnamese civilians and was taken as a prisoner of war. After 7 ½ years in captivity, Raymond was released during Operation Homecoming on February 12, 1973. Soon after his return to the U.S. he completed F-4 Phantom II Combat Crew Training, then served as Assistant Director of Operations for the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing at Bitburg AB, West Germany, from 1974 to 1976. This was followed by service as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations with Headquarters 17th Air Force at Sembach AB, West Germany from 1976 to 1978. His final assignment was with the A-10 Thunderbolt II Program Office, Air Force Material Command, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from 1978 until his retirement from the Air Force in October 1979. During his remarkable career, Raymond received numerous military awards, including the Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

During retirement, Raymond and his wife Dorothy were long-time members of AXPOW and Raymond served as chapter commander in Washington and California. He served as state commander in California for two terms, leading the organization out of a serious financial crisis, developed thorough state bylaws, and worked to pass legislation for free license plates/registration for California POWs. Raymond was also a member of NAMPOW, an organization of those held as prisoners in Vietnam and other veterans organizations.

Raymond is survived by his wife Dorothy, as well as 4 of his 6 children: Dana, Diana, Judy and Barbara. His son, David, preceded him in death, and his son, Jim, died a few weeks after Raymond. Raymond also leaves behind 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and many friends. He was a true hero and a gentleman, and will be missed by all who loved him.

chaplain



Benny
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1111
Highway
29
Wiggins,
MS
39577

beanrayborn@gmail.com

You and I live in what is called a "fallen world". Simply said, where we live is less than perfect...sometimes it is a lot less than perfect. Our Ex-Prisoners of War can vouch for the fact that many places are less than perfect. The situations they faced were worse than any had dreamed. In fact, many did not survive. Many of those who did are scarred both physically and mentally.

Ex-POW or not, it is inevitable that you are going to hurt. Your feelings will be hurt. Some "hurts" are so deep that literally your heart will ache. Unfortunately, it is not if...it's when and to what extent. An amazing thing (to me) is that some of our emotional and physical hurts are caused by ourselves, not someone else. Some of these actions are what we call "sin". To define "sin" it is an action or word against the will of God. Some are actions or words against us, individually. A sin against you or me.



However, if you are a worshiper of God, I have some good news for you: Exodus 23: 25 "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." God is a healer of our sicknesses, our bodies.

God is concerned about people who are physically ill or injured, including those who need the basics of life such as food, and He is concerned about our emotional feelings. God feels very

close to the broken-hearted, those "down in the dumps", the emotionally distressed, even the worried...Psalm 34:18 says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Do you feel you are at "the bottom of the barrel"? God is there with you. He is "nigh", meaning right there. No matter your mental state, God wants to help you. You can seek Him and receive God's healing power.

I am closing with a special prayer just for you, in the blank line, insert your name:

Heavenly Father, You are the Healer. I pray for someone who needs that healing, whether physical or emotional or mental. I ask You to heal _____, Father. I ask that his or her faith in you deepens so that he or she may know as I know, you are able to do this because you are the Creator and Preserver of the universe and all things and people in it. You deserve our worship and our praise. AMEN

 <p>The National 4th (IVY) Division Association</p> <p>Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.</p> <p>Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units.</p> <p>Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.</p> <p>"Steadfast and Loyal"</p>	 <p>The 106th Infantry Division Association</p> <p>Organized at Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active since 1946</p> <p>If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.</p> <p>The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946. Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.</p> <p>Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman 121 McGregor Ave. Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856 973-663-2410 E-mail: jsc164@aol.com</p>
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American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

To honor a loved one or a former member
(Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law)



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

IN MEMORY OF:

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To be contributed to the _____ Fund

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Contributions should be sent to:
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PO Box 3445
Arlington, Texas 76007-3445

All Checks must be made payable to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Voluntary Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute. All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each issue.

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

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

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
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Please make checks payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding
Mail contributions to: National Headquarters, American Ex-Prisoners of War
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JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM
JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM

N is for Never Forget is a child -friendly book that takes readers on a compelling journey through wartime history. Poignant illustrations and stories capture key people, concepts, and memorials to help readers understand and honor the sacrifices endured by men and women prisoners of war and missing in action on behalf of freedom .

Proceeds from books purchased through JBPM, Inc. (501c3) go directly to restoring \ renovating the former 1896 Officers Quarters Building into the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum. \$21.95 including S/H. Contact Paul Dillon at rpdcw@sbcglobal.net; 314-609-9037.

Veterans Day

November 11, 2019



Honoring All Who Served

va.gov





Challenge Coins

\$13.00 includes S/H/I



Bronze Grave Medallions

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