

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

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October-November-December 2020



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



TO THOSE WHO
COURAGEOUSLY
GAVE THEIR LIVES...

AND THOSE WHO
BRAVELY FIGHT
TODAY...

THANK YOU

November 11, 2020

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

HONORING
ALL WHO
SERVED



WWW.VA.GOV



*God Bless you and
Thank you for your service*

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The Officers and Directors of the American Ex-Prisoners of War wish you all a very happy holiday season. Beginning with Veterans Day and ending with a brand new year, we wish you the very best.

Publisher

PNC Milton M Moore Jr
 2965 Sierra Bermeja
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
 (520) 459-7295
 tombstone490@gmail.com

Editor

Cheryl Cerbone
 23 Cove View Drive
 South Yarmouth, MA 02664
 (508) 394-5250
 axpoweditor@comcast.net

Deadline for the Jan-March 2021 issue is Dec. 1, 2020.

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

I had the nicest conversation the other day with Mrs. Rachel Wade of Ocala, FL – wife of Ex-POW Wallace. Wally served with the 106th Inf., 423rd BN. He was held in 4B for the duration of the war. What prompted the call was her concern about “solicitors”. She had received donation requests from organizations using professional fundraisers, and the last one who called her was rather rude when she asked questions. What she wanted to know was if her letters from AXPOW were from a solicitor. Or when she called the Headquarters phone – she was reaching a solicitor.

I had the pleasure of telling her no. She was hearing from one of us “kids”...children of Ex-POWs.

And any time she heard from us asking for a donation, she could rest easy knowing her money was going to help.

~Fondly, Cheryl

Inside front cover: Veterans Day Poster 2020
 Inside back cover: The Ride Home poster 2020

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axpow board of directors

National Headquarters
PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445
(817) 649-2979 HQ@axpow.org

National Commander ~ Robert Certain
5100 John D Ryan Blvd, Apt 1801, San Antonio, TX 78245
(770) 639-3313 rgccertain@icloud.com

operations

Chief Executive Officer

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508)394-5250 - Home
(508) 360-4090 - Cell
axpoweditor@comcast.net

Chief Operations Officer

Clydie J Morgan
PO Box 3445
Arlington TX 76007-3445
(817) 300-2840 - Cell
hq@axpow.org

Chief Financial Officer

Marsha M Coke
2710 Charon Court
Grand Prairie TX 75052
(817) 649-2979 – Office
(817) 723-3996 – Cell
axpow76010@yahoo.com

board of directors

Edward "Ted" Cadwallader
Elk Grove, CA
(916) 685-5369
DCadwall@aol.com

David Eberly
Williamsburg, VA
(757) 508-8453
eberlydsl@verizon.net

Pam Warner Eslinger
Hammon, OK
(580) 821-1526
eslingerpam@gmail.com

Ben Garrido
Tulsa, OK
(951) 313-9838
bgarrido24@aol.com

Alan Marsh
Lizella, GA
(478) 951-9247
alanmarsh@bellsouth.net

Milton 'Skip' Moore
Sierra Vista, AZ
(520) 249-7122
tombstone490@gmail.com

Sally Morgan
Grand Prairie, TX
(972) 896-7252
sbmorgan@aol.com

Jim 'Moe' Moyer
Lake Wales, FL
(407) 448-1181
moehog@verizon.net

Mary Schantag
Branson, MO
(417) 336-4232
info@pownetwork.org

Charles A. Susino
Piscataway, NJ
(732)221-0073
charles.susino@gmail.com

Jan Williams
Guthrie, OK
(580) 821-2376
williamsjj72@ymail.com

national commander



Preamble to the Constitution:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

It is obvious that the Constitution expects our citizens to eschew racism, sexism, ageism, nationalism and any other "-ism" that excludes any one from justice, peace, and dignity in our constant effort to form that more perfect Union. Former POWs in particular, and Americans in general should tread very lightly when it comes to painting entire groups of people with broad brushes of exclusion or condemnation. We should also turn away from the societal tendency to break relations with people whose politics or social standing differ from our own.

In recent years, political and societal rhetoric have tended to sow the seeds of dissension and discord, then fertilized and watered

those seeds with hate speech, blanket condemnations of political parties, character assassination, and violence. Justice, domestic tranquility and the common good have been lost as one side or the other claim that their way is the only way, their conclusions are the only conclusions, their reading of history and of current events are the only interpretations.

The source documents of the USA and its notable achievements, while written or accomplished by people who had both noble and dark sides, have called this nation to live this vow, no matter their religion or affiliation. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Kennedy's inaugural address, King's "I have a dream" speech all call us to seek a "more perfect" society.

Veterans organizations, their leaders and members, can be sources of healing during this time of pandemic of the viruses of political extremism, racial discord, international enmity, and inflammatory rhetoric. We who have stood "between our loved home and the war's desolation" know better than most the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. In order to be a shining example for the world around us, we must work for reconciliation within our own numbers, remembering that we are responsible for our actions, and dedicated to the principles which made our country free.

Bob

appointment

I am pleased to appoint The Rev. Keith Lewis as the National Chaplain of American Ex-POWs. I have known Keith since we were prisoner of war together in Hanoi, North Vietnam. At the time we were both aviators who had been shot down and captured during that conflict. We were repatriated during Operation Homecoming in 1973.

Upon repatriation, he attended seminary while continuing on active duty, and was reassigned to the USAF Chaplaincy when he was ordained in 1976. He completed his career in the Air Force in this new role. Upon retirement, Keith accepted a position in Jasper, AL where he has lived for more than twenty-five years.

SERVICE BEFORE SELF has always been a core value of the United States Air Force and Keith continues to live up to that value, serving his congregation in Jasper as well as in various veterans' organizations.

Please join me in welcoming Keith.

Chaplain's column is on page 31.



from the CEO

As I'm writing this article, it's September. Summer is nearly over here on Cape Cod. We're in month six of the global pandemic. And my gardens have never looked better!

I imagine my hard work caring for my herbs and vegetables – and their hard work growing – is much like the Victory Gardens of World War II. I still have my mother's old Better Homes & Gardens cookbook...with my grandmother's hand-written recipes stuck between the pages.

I hope you all are making the best of a strange and frightening situation. While it's hard to believe while we're in it, there will be an end and we will be back to whatever "normal" is going to be.

Adding to the strangeness of this year, we're smack in the middle of an election. Congress is doing its biennial turnover. Bills that haven't made it into law by now probably are doomed to start from scratch next year with a new Congress. In an ideal world, we would be able to move them forward, but we can't. So Charles Anthony Susino will be asking for your help again in the next issue to strongly support the bills that help our members and all

veterans. An increase in DIC is a decade overdue and doesn't look like it will happen this term. But as long as organizations like Gold Star Wives and Gold Star Mothers and AXPOW exist, we won't stop fighting to ensure the most vulnerable are not left destitute after the death of their spouse. It is just wrong. When we testified in March before ONE member of the House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, we asked the question: "Could YOUR mother live on this stipend?" We never got an answer. But we'll be back again next year asking the same question.

Our annual meeting was canceled for April; rescheduled for September and canceled again; now re-rescheduled for April 2021. Fortunately, with so much business curtailed – including our National POW Museum at Andersonville, we haven't lost momentum. Alan Marsh is working with the site on projects we can support in 2021. And while donations have slowed we are still in a position to provide material assistance. If you can help, your contribution would be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Veterans Day is coming up. So is Christmas, Hanukkah, and all the other wonderful holidays of the season. Michael and I wish you good health and caring family. Please feel free to reach out to me if you feel a need. This organization has been my family for nearly 40 years and I am here for you.

Fondly,

Cheryl

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Marsha M. Coke, CFO
(817) 649-2979
Headquarters: PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445
Publisher: Milton M. Moore, Jr., 2965 Sierra Bermeja, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
Editor: Cheryl Cerbone, 23 Cove View Drive, South Yarmouth, MA 02664
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Tinnitus



Tinnitus is often described as a ringing in the ears. It also can sound like roaring, clicking, hissing, or buzzing. It may be soft or loud, high pitched or low pitched. You might hear it in either one or both ears.

Millions of Americans have tinnitus. People with severe tinnitus may have trouble hearing, working or even sleeping.

Causes of tinnitus include

- Hearing loss in older people
- Exposure to loud noises
- Ear and sinus infections
- Heart or blood vessel problems
- Meniere's disease
- Brain tumors
- Hormonal changes in women
- Thyroid problems
- Certain medicines

Treatment depends on the cause. Treatments may include hearing aids, sound-masking devices, medicines, and ways to learn how to cope with the noise.

What Causes Tinnitus?

Most tinnitus is primary tinnitus, where no cause can be identified aside from hearing loss. Secondary

tinnitus is associated with a specific underlying cause that may be treatable. Your ENT specialist will help you distinguish whether your tinnitus is primary or secondary.

Tinnitus may be caused by different parts of the hearing system. The outer ear (pinna and ear canal) may be involved. Excessive ear wax, especially if the wax touches the ear drum, causing pressure and changing how the ear drum vibrates, can result in tinnitus.

Middle ear problems can also cause tinnitus, including middle ear infection (common) and otosclerosis (uncommon), which hardens the tiny ear bones or ossicles. Another rare cause of tinnitus from the middle ear that does not result in hearing loss is muscle spasms in one of the two tiny muscles in the ear. In this case, the tinnitus can be intermittent and sometimes your examiner may also be able to hear the sounds.

Most subjective tinnitus associated with the hearing system originates in the inner ear. Damage and loss of the tiny sensory hair cells in the inner ear (that can be caused by different factors such as noise damage, medications, and age)

may also be associated with tinnitus.

One of the preventable causes of tinnitus is excessive noise exposure. In some instances of noise exposure, tinnitus can be noticed even before hearing loss develops, so be careful to take special precautions to protect your ears and hearing in noisy environments.

Medications can also damage inner ear hair cells and cause tinnitus. These include both non-prescription medications such as aspirin and acetaminophen, when taken in high doses, and prescription medication including certain diuretics and antibiotics. As we age, the incidence of tinnitus increases.

Tinnitus may also originate from an abnormality in, or near, the hearing portion of the brain. These include a variety of uncommon disorders such as damage from head trauma, or a benign tumor called "vestibular schwannoma" (acoustic neuroma).

Tinnitus that sounds like your pulse or heartbeat is known as "pulsatile tinnitus." Infrequently, pulsatile tinnitus may signal the presence of cardiovascular disease, narrowed

medsearch, cont'd...

arteries, or a vascular tumor in your head and neck, or ear. If you are experiencing this type of tinnitus, you should consult a physician as soon as possible for evaluation.

Finally, non-auditory conditions and lifestyle factors can exacerbate tinnitus. Medical conditions such as temporomandibular joint arthralgia (TMJ), depression, anxiety, insomnia, and muscular stress and fatigue may lead to, or exacerbate, tinnitus.

What Are the Treatment Options?

When you are evaluated for tinnitus, the first thing the doctor will do is obtain a complete history and perform a thorough, targeted physical examination. If your tinnitus is one-sided (unilateral), associated with hearing loss, or persistent, a hearing test, or audiogram, should be ordered. There is typically no need for radiologic testing (X-ray, CT scan or MRI scan) unless your tinnitus is pulsatile or associated with uneven, asymmetric hearing loss or neurological abnormalities. Your doctor will determine how bothersome your tinnitus is by asking you certain questions or having you complete a self-assessment questionnaire.

Although there is no one "cure" for tinnitus, there are several options available that can help patients with tinnitus. Because tinnitus is relatively common and not always worrisome, not all patients need an evaluation. If your ENT specialist finds a specific cause for your tinnitus, they may be able to offer specific treatment to eliminate the noise. This may include removing wax or hair from your ear canal, treating middle ear fluid, treating

arthritis in the jaw joint, etc. For many patients who have experienced tinnitus for less than six months, its natural course is to improve over time, and most people do not go on to have persistent, bothersome tinnitus.

Some patients with hearing loss and tinnitus have improvement with the use of hearing aids, with or without built-in ear-level maskers. Sound therapies that involve simple things like background music or noise or specialized ear-level maskers may be a reasonable treatment option. The effects of tinnitus on quality of life may also be improved by cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) counseling, which usually involves a series of weekly sessions led by a trained professional.

Tinnitus can be so bothersome in some patients that it causes depression or anxiety; additionally, in a patient with depression and/or anxiety, it may be very difficult to tolerate tinnitus. Consultation with a psychiatrist or psychologist with treatment directed to the underlying condition can be beneficial.

Routine prescription of medications including antidepressants, anticonvulsants, anxiolytics, or intratympanic injection of medications is not recommended for treating tinnitus without an underlying or associated medical problem that may benefit from such treatment.

Dietary supplements for tinnitus treatment are frequently advertised on the internet, television, and radio, but there is no evidence that supplements such as ginkgo biloba, melatonin, zinc, Lipoflavonoid, and vitamin supplements are beneficial for tinnitus.

Acupuncture may or may not be help your tinnitus; there are not enough quality studies of this type

of treatment to make a recommendation. Transcranial magnetic stimulation is a new modality, or therapeutic agent, but its long-term benefits are unproven and cannot be recommended for treating tinnitus at this time.

Summary

Meniere's disease is a disorder of the inner ear. It can cause severe dizziness, a roaring sound in your ears called tinnitus, hearing loss that comes and goes and the feeling of ear pressure or pain. It usually affects just one ear. It is a common cause of hearing loss.

Attacks of dizziness may come on suddenly or after a short period of tinnitus or muffled hearing. Some people have single attacks of dizziness once in a while. Others may have many attacks close together over several days. Some people with Meniere's disease have "drop attacks" during which the dizziness is so bad they lose their balance and fall.

Scientists don't yet know the cause. They think that it has to do with the fluid levels or the mixing of fluids in the canals of your inner ear. Doctors diagnose it based on a physical exam and your symptoms. A hearing test can check to see how it has affected your hearing.

There is no cure. Treatments include medicines to control dizziness, limiting salt in your diet, and taking water pills. A device that fits into the outer ear and delivers air pulses to the middle ear can help. Severe cases may require surgery.

National Institutes of Health
NIDCD Information
Clearinghouse
1 Communication Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20892-3456
Toll-free voice: (800) 241-1044

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



Charles Anthony Susino
951 Gates Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
(732)463-8355
(732)221-0073-Cell
charles.susino@gmail.com

We live in such uncertain times. We hope that your reading of this Bulletin finds you and your family safe and healthy. So many of us are finding quarantining or “quaranteaming” with immediate family and friends a new way of life to stay close to our loved ones and provide support when necessary.

On our latest Bulletin, I reported on an issue which continues to be on the forefront of our members minds, namely increases to DIC (dependency and indemnity compensation). The proposed Bill, HR 6933, was introduced into committee in May, 2020 and has not yet been passed on the House for discussion. Without hearing from their constituents, members of Congress are less likely to push this Bill forward so again I ask for your support by contacting your member of Congress. Please refer to the last Bulletin for further details or “HR 6933- 116th Congress: Caring for Survivors Act of 2020” for detailed content and the latest status of the Bill.

Laws that address service related illnesses and diseases are near and dear to all of our member’s hearts.

For our World War II members the presumptive for imprisonment were not approved by Congress and the President until the 1980s yet sadly our Vietnam Veterans are still fighting for the complete list of presumptive due to exposure to Agent Orange. Senate Bill 4049, National Defense Authorization Act for 2021 includes a provision to add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. This provision has been approved by the Senate and awaits further action. We stand in full support of our fellow veterans in receiving their just due.

The pandemic has impacted our country as a whole. It has impacted many ways of life for all of us. Importantly and sadly, it has impacted our veteran’s employment after having served our country. Unemployed veterans throughout our country has become a sad reality. A bipartisan Bill, Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020 has been introduced to help curb veteran unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This too will need members of Congress to hear from the veteran community to push it along.

In August, President Trump signed into law H.R. 3504, the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019. The law enhances the VA’s Specially Adapted Housing program by increasing the number of grants awarded, raising the dollar amount of the individual grants, and expanding the number of times qualified veterans can use a housing grant. As a disabled veteran, as your needs change please keep this program in mind. It provides grant money to modify your home to help with your specific disabilities.

For loved ones of veterans that have passed, please note H.R.5639 - Chuck Osier Burial Benefits Act. This Bill has been introduced to provide additional benefits to the veteran during their family’s time of need.

After the election, there will likely be a rush to pass legislation that has little economic impact. There will also be little hurry to act on legislation that has a hefty price tag. It’s called a “Lame Duck” Congress for good reason. You will be hearing from us in 2021 for help in enacting legislation that didn’t make it in the 116th Congress, but is likely to be reintroduced in the 117th. The wheels move ponderously slow. If it is frustrating for me, I imagine it is more so for you. You are the ones who are impacted – positively or negatively – by veterans legislation. Since the vast majority of our membership is made up of WWII POWs and Surviving Spouses, time is of the essence. We all need to pull together and make change happen.

Contacting Congress

There are 535 members of Congress. On November 3, 2020, all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 1/3 of the Senate will be running for office. Your voice and your vote can make a difference.

House Veterans Affairs
Committee
B234 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(P) 202-225-9756

Senate Committee on
Veterans' Affairs
Russell Senate Building
Room 412
Washington, D.C. 20510

Andersonville



Andersonville National
Historic Site
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Superintendent,
Gia Wagner

Greetings
from Andersonville



It's hard to believe I have been in my role here for a whole month. It's an interesting time to make a major move but I could not be more honored to be here. The staff are dedicated to honoring our veterans and caring for the cemetery, sharing the important stories of POWs both

at Andersonville and all other wars, and maintaining the prison site and the monuments. I am committed to making sure we continue that good work. I am also very much looking forward to meeting members of AXPOW when we can do so safely. I am in awe at AXPOW's continued commitment to preserving and sharing the important stories of POWs from all wars. Thank you for all that you have done to establish the POW Museum and support its continued mission. I will provide a more detailed article for the next magazine when I have had a chance to learn more and forge plans for the upcoming year but for now, here are some highlights.

In the National Cemetery, we are functioning mostly as usual despite the pandemic conditions, but we are unable to set headstones and maintain safe social distancing at this time. Headstones will be set this fall when we will have a youth crew from American Conservation Experience (ACE) at the park who are able to work closely together. We hope to have all the backlog of headstones set by mid-December.

In the National POW Museum, we are hoping to open the museum on a limited basis very soon. We are exploring how we might allow access and keep both the public and staff safe. We will post this information on our website.

Due to the pandemic conditions, we were forced to cancel our normal on-site event for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. But we are looking forward to a live, online event featuring a video about the Sack of Cement Cross, a World War II POW artifact which was brought to the National POW museum from

Camp O'Donnell. This special web event will also include interviews moderated by Randy Olson, filmmaker and son of Col. John Olson. The event will feature a panel discussion with Chris Schaeffer, filmmaker and historian; historian Fred Baldassarre; Dan Crowley, former POW and veteran of Bataan; and John Eakin, a specialist in identification of MIA/KIA remains.

Again, thank you to all the members of AXPOW for all you do to support the POW Museum and your efforts to educate the public about American POWs and share your incredible experiences.

Superintendent, Gia Wagner

A Special Message from the Entire Staff of Andersonville National Historic Site

On October 16, 1970, the United States Congress created Andersonville National Historic Site to preserve and memorialize not only the POWs who died at the infamous Civil War prison, but to preserve and memorialize all American prisoners of war throughout our nation's history. That mission was brought to the forefront in 1998 when the National Prisoner of War Museum was dedicated in the park. Through the museum, everyone who visits this national park hears about the service and sacrifice of American POWs.

For many years now, the park has partnered with The Ride Home, the Friends of Andersonville, and Georgia Southwestern University to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day each

andersonville, cont'd...

September through a series of special programs and ceremonies. Unfortunately, the global Coronavirus pandemic that has so dramatically impacted our nation has forced the cancellation of this year's event. We are deeply saddened that we won't have the opportunity to welcome and personally pay tribute to the many former POWs and their families, MIA families, veterans, and supporters who attend this event.

For every member of our staff, including interns and volunteers, working at Andersonville National Historic Site is more than just a job. We have the privilege of meeting and speaking with living heroes – people who stepped forward to defend our freedom, who endured torture and other privations for our country, and who still demonstrate the indomitable American spirit. We are humbled by the strength and determination of the families of those heroes who never came home and who continue to be listed as missing in action. We are keenly aware of our responsibility to protect and preserve the items donated and housed in the museum collection in perpetuity, for future generations of Americans. We feel a deep sense of duty to maintain the dignity and beauty of the hallowed grounds where thousands of POWs suffered and died and where other military service members also rest in honor. And we are steadfast and dedicated in our commitment to ensure that the stories of American POWs are shared with the public today and for generations to come.

Since we will not have the opportunity to express our gratitude to you in person this year, we want to thank you for all you have done for our country and the price you have paid for our freedom. Time and again we are inspired by your resilience, patriotism, and continuing example of the best of our nation. From maintenance workers mowing the national cemetery, to administrative staff handling funds for improvement projects, to resource management staff caring for artifacts, to park rangers telling visitors about American POWs – each of us, every day, remember and take pride in our mission to ensure that your service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

From all of us at Andersonville National Historic Site, thank you.



Virtual Learning Journey: Andersonville



With the Andersonville virtual field trip, students can explore a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp and the harsh conditions that Union soldiers endured while imprisoned at Camp Sumter.

Learning Objectives

Explore the harsh conditions at Andersonville Prison through videos, photo galleries, 360-degree experiences, and primary source documents.

Analyze Andersonville's primary function during the Civil War.

Examine the living conditions at Andersonville through first-hand accounts of soldiers who were imprisoned there.

Engage in critical thinking with discussion questions that probe understanding in social studies.

For more information:
<https://www.gpb.org/education/virtual/andersonville#support-materials>



Paul E Galanti
(804) 389-1668
paulgalanti@mac.com

Americans have much to be thankful for

By Paul Galanti
(First printed in 1989)

Although Thanksgiving is only one day, I am here to tell you that every day in the United States ought to be a day of Thanksgiving.

We have very much to be thankful for — and yet many Americans take our many blessings for granted. I'd like to tell you about one small group of Americans that doesn't.

In North Vietnam, about 500 Americans learned first-hand about our many blessings. For the most part, we were Air Force and Navy pilots although our group consisted of all branches of the armed forces, many U.S. government agencies and several civilians who were contractors and relief workers for United Nations-sponsored relief agencies. There's an old joke about hitting a mule on the head with a 2 x 4 to get his attention, and the lessons learned by that mule apply to all of us. This group of military pilots — each convinced he was absolutely the best pilot in the world — learned first-hand about communism. My story is typical. It started in November 1965.

My squadron left for Vietnam that November, and our combat operations started on Dec. 17. For the next seven months, we flew close air-support missions in South Vietnam. We also flew many missions against hard targets in North Vietnam in an attempt to stem the flow of military supplies to the south.

There were many irritations for us combat pilots — not the least of which was that we didn't feel the targets we were risking our lives for were worth the cost of our squadron mates' lives. We, of course, knew that it was always the other guy who was going to get shot down.

The pattern was always the same: Washington would release the names of the targets we were going to hit, allowing the North Vietnamese to move all their anti-aircraft forces into place. And then we'd hit the targets — with a report going back to Washington immediately after the mission was completed. Losses obviously were higher than they would have been had not our State Department been so generous, but we weren't overly concerned about that — it was always the other guy it happened to.

My equivalent of the mule's 2 x 4 came on June 17, 1966, on my 97th mission — and it got my attention. My aircraft was hit at the bottom of a dive-bombing run and almost immediately went out of control. I ejected, parachuted to the ground — getting shot in the process, and was almost immediately captured by a group of militiamen.

They tied me to a tree and formed a firing squad in what was obviously an execution attempt. A regular army officer forced them to stop, took control of me and got me away. For the next 12 days as we journeyed, blindfolded and on foot, the 100 miles north to Hanoi, North

Vietnam's capital, I was privileged to observe first-hand the dynamism of communism in action. Paraded, although badly wounded, in my underwear in front of village after village, I observed the very tight control that the communists exercised over their population. I saw the political cadres fire up the crowds — similar to cheerleaders at American football games. The most frightening part was how the crowds responded. It was absolutely chilling to see how the cadres could fire up the crowds — turning them into a raving mobs — and then turn them off just as quickly with only a few harshly shouted words.

Arriving in Hanoi, I was held in confinement without food or water for three days and then spent the next four in a blood-spattered torture room. The evening air was filled with screams of Americans being tortured for the sole purpose, as my interrogator stated, of having their "thinking corrected." This was an expression I would hear many times over the next seven years.

I learned during the next four days that one resists torture by remaining silent only in the movies. At the conclusion of those four days, the 2 x 4 had grown to a 4 x 8 driven by a diesel pile-driver and the North Vietnamese had my undivided attention.

The next three years — about two in solitary — were spent in 7'x7' cells with stocks at the foot of the concrete bed. The windows were boarded over, and rats, huge spiders and snakes ran freely. We had two meals a day of pumpkin soup and rice and were treated to the Radio Hanoi propaganda broadcast at 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. There were no other diversions except for the interrogations about twice a week.

There was virtually no news of any kind, save for the reports of the glorious victories of the People's

Thanksgiving, cont'd...

Liberation Armed Forces over the capitalistic, war-mongering U.S. aggressors. For the first time in my life I had time to pause and reflect. I went over my entire life and made resolutions which I have kept until today — the most important of which was that I would never again take for granted the beautiful liberties we have in the United States.

It was absolutely inconceivable to my interrogators that, when they confronted us POWs with anti-U.S. statements made by American politicians, movie actresses, or baby doctors (Dr. Spock's books never graced our home after our boys were born and they still turned out OK), we would say: "If they feel like that, it is their right to say it — as long as they don't infringe on the rights of others by destroying property or breaking the law. That's the American way. I don't agree with them, but I'm here fighting for their right to say it." The interrogators would simply shake their heads, knowing they had captured what was certainly the dumbest U.S. aggressor of them all.

After Ho Chi Minh died in 1969, our treatment improved substantially. Very few were kept in solitary confinement, but communication between cells was still prohibited under pain of torture and 30 days in irons and stocks.

We were constantly shifted from camp to camp, which enabled us to keep track of other prisoners. Following the special forces raid on the Son Tay POW camp 20 miles west of Hanoi in November, 1970, we were moved to Hanoi and kept in the massive Hoa Lo prison in large rooms with 48 to 57 men in each room. Interrogations were non-existent and the North Vietnamese begrudgingly permitted us to teach each other courses in which we were "experts." Classes were taught in Spanish, French, German and Russian. Courses were taught in math, physics, and chemistry. There were classes in history, philosophy and

religion. We were very apt students. Three Mormons and two Baptists in the room had reconstructed the Bible from memory with considerable editing of their version of the Old Testament by our resident Jewish POW. Their efforts were rewarded by our organized ecumenical religious services — the source of our last harassment by the Vietnamese. They thought our "preachers" were a Pentagon version of political cadres!

But our attempts to teach, learn and worship enabled us to retain our sanity and civilization in spite of the best efforts of the enemy to reduce us to an animal state. We were probably the best-educated group of prisoners of war in history. In my 48-man room, we had three master's degrees, one lawyer and 41 of us had undergraduate degrees in every field known to man. Only three had never been to college — enlisted aircrewmembers of rescue helicopters. From what they learned in our Hanoi classroom, they each validated 120 semester hours of college credit upon their return to the U.S.

We were released in early 1973, after having been out of touch with the world since 1968 when the peace talks started. And what did we return to? After the initial euphoria, it became apparent to most of us that we were decidedly the happiest people here. We, who would never again complain about anything in the U.S., discovered that many Americans think we live in total tyranny. From indignant letters to editors about perceived injustices, to editorials themselves, to hearing the squeals of those who claim to have been left out of the Great American Dream, to self-serving politicians offering to fund the most crackpot endeavors to stay in office, our 500 anachronistic "Rip Van Winkles" were enraged by what we perceived as ingratitude to this country for whose principles we had spent so many years in Communist prison camps. We, who demanded and received the highest standards of behavior for ourselves and our cellmates, were treated on our return to a valueless society where standards had either

vanished or had been reduced to the lowest common denominator. We observed religious leaders sanctimoniously trying through political pressure to dictate U.S. foreign policy which would help the vicious Communists and their stooge allies under the misconceived notion of helping the cause of peace.

We observed an incredible feeling of mea culpa on the part of many Americans at the same time they were applauding a Soviet leader personally responsible for the deaths of millions of people and the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews. It's all our fault, these people say, and, after all, look how open the Soviets are becoming. Gorbachev smiles a lot and his wife even dresses well.

So what is my cause for Thanksgiving? Simply that we live in a country where even the misguided can have their say. Where, despite the biases of our commercial media, Americans, for the most part, join me in being thankful for the privilege of being Americans. Where refugees from communist countries can stand up, unashamedly, at naturalization ceremonies and state their belief that they are extremely fortunate to be living in America where the secret police won't take them to jail for dissent.

And, finally, to be able to live in a country where men and women of all political persuasions and religious beliefs can worship and give thanks together for their many real and tangible blessings.

That is the great cause for Thanksgiving. The fact that we can do all those things is the reason I spent so many years in North Vietnam and have no regrets. The freedoms we have in America make it all worthwhile.



pow/mia

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

Lest We Forget

While work remains slow due to COVID at DPAA labs or overseas exhumations/ investigation sites, not all in captivity have a combat story with their loss.

On April 14, 1986, in response to acts of terrorism sponsored by Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi the United States launched a surprise attack on targets in Libya.

United States Air Force Captain Lorence, the F-111 Weapons Systems Officer and his pilot Maj. Fernando L. Ribas-Dominicci, were the only U.S. casualties in the bombing raid.

On December 25, 1988, Gaddafi offered to release the body of Capt. Lorence to his family through Pope John Paul II. But the body that was handed over was identified by dental records as that of Capt. Ribas-Dominicci. Libya denies holding Lorence's remains.

On November 17, 2006, the federal government finally declassified and released details of Operation El Dorado Canyon in response to a lawsuit.

"Bob Levinson has been missing for 4932 days 20 hours 39 minutes 23 seconds. Bob is a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle,

friend and retired FBI Agent " [09/01/2020] per the family website.

"Robert (Bob) Levinson is a retired FBI Agent who was kidnapped in Kish Island, Iran on March 9, 2007. He has not been publicly seen or heard from since then. Our family received a video in November 2010 and pictures in April 2011."

Statement from the Levinson Family, March 25, 2020:

"Today, with aching hearts, we are sharing devastating news about Robert Levinson, the head of our family.

We recently received information from U.S. officials that has led both them and us to conclude that our wonderful husband and father died while in Iranian custody. We don't know when or how he died, only that it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic..."

Levinson is not the only American held by Iran.

Siamuk Namazi is an Iranian-American businessman. He has been detained in Iran since early 2016, when Iranian authorities also arrested his father, Baquer Namazi.

On October 16, 2016, Mizan News Agency, a website linked to Iran's judiciary reported that Siamak and his father Baquer were each sentenced to 10 years in prison convicted of "cooperating with the hostile government of America."

In February, Newsweek ran a story about a kidnapping in Afghanistan.

"*Mark R. Frerichs* of Lombard, Illinois, was kidnapped last Friday in Khost, ..."

Connecting Vets updated that story the end of April with a headline reading, "SEAL Team Six attempts to rescue American contractor in Afghanistan."

"SEAL Team Six commandos raided a village looking for former Navy diver turned contractor Mark R. Frerichs who was kidnapped in Afghanistan back in early February, the Associated Press reports.... From the perspective of the U.S. government, Frerichs appears to have vanished without a trace. If he was kidnapped by the Haqqanis, it is possible he was smuggled from Khost into Pakistan, according to an analyst that Connecting Vets spoke to. This would likely be the same underground railroad used to transport Bowe Bergdahl, the captured U.S. soldier who was freed in 2014 after extended negotiations."

In Mid June, Daily Mail UK headlines read, "Ex-US marine Paul Whelan is jailed for 16 years by a Russian court for stealing state secrets - as he holds up a sign saying 'sham trial' and 'Paul's life matters.' "

"A Russian court found ex-U.S. marine Paul Whelan guilty of spying for the United States on Monday and sentenced him to 16 years. He was arrested in December 2018 by Russian agents...."

Then June 26, CNN Hong Kong headlined a story, "How this Long Island man ended up in a Chinese prison on espionage charges."

"Driving from their home in New York to Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harrison Li had no idea it would be the last time he saw his father for more than a decade....."

pow/mia cont'd...

Kai Li was born in Shanghai, and he was returning to the city for a ceremony to mark the one-year anniversary of his mother's death. However when his plane landed, he was met not by his family, but state security agents -- beginning a years-long ordeal that resulted, in July 2018, in him being sentenced to 10 years in prison for espionage...."

And in July, Agence France Presse broke the news: "Russia Jails US Marine Veteran for 9 Years over Police Assault"

A Russian court sentenced former U.S. Marine Trevor Reed to nine years in prison for assaulting police officers while drunk. Reed has been held in a Moscow prison in pre-trial detention since August 2019."

And in August, Connecting Vets had an article: "Marine, journalist Austin Tice still a captive after 8 years, family hopes POTUS can bring him home.

"It's been more than 2,922 days since Austin Tice, Marine, journalist, son and brother, was captured in Syria. His family has worked tirelessly for eight years to bring their son safely home. Now, they hope with a recent public commitment from President Donald Trump, they may be one step closer to..."

Let's find a way to bring Americans home.

Help Signal the World...

Accounting for America's POW/MIAs Matters!

The President delivered his nomination acceptance speech from the South Lawn of the White House. Last June 14th, Flag Day, our POW/MIA flag was quietly removed from atop the White House. Why this was done, and precisely who made that decision is still a mystery despite repeated requests.

It defies common sense that the President Trump would authorized this action. Election day is November 3rd, and this shortsighted action runs counter to his established strong support for US Armed Forces - active duty and veterans - and their families. More likely it was ordered by uninformed mid-level staff with little if any knowledge of history, existing law or facts.

Our POW/MIA flag was moved in a formal, unadvertised ceremony to a new flag pole, off to the side and below the second floor Truman Balcony of the White House on Flag Day, this past June 14th. This action was taken during an unprecedented national and international turmoil - the COVID-19 pandemic, racial protest, civil disorder and increased crime. Officials may have decided it unwise for any flag other than Old Glory to be displayed visibly at the White House.

The time is NOW to ask for VISIBLE DISPLAY of our POW/MIA flag at the White House as called for in PL 116-67 and defined in 36 U.S. Code, S 902. National League of Families POW/MIA flag. The President signed PL 116-67 on November 7, 2019, less than a year ago. I urge you to read the law and its U.S. Code instructions.

Better yet, use them. Use SOCIAL MEDIA to seek support for accounting mission. If not you, who? If not now, when? THIS CANNOT WAIT!

The League's elected Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly to support this effort! PLEASE HELP, LAND SEND THIS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS, FAMILY, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, VETERAN SUPPORT GROUPS, STUDENTS AND CHURCHES.

Use Facebook Instagram, Twitter, etc., to urge restoring our POW/MIA flag to its visible location atop the White House. Also appeal for bipartisan support for our shared humanitarian mission of achieving the fullest possible accounting for America's UNRETURNED VETERANS, our POW/MIAs and others still missing from the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and WWII.

Thank you in advance, and PLEASE START NOW! TIME IS SHORT!

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org

civilian

75 Years Since VJ-Day A Journey of Nostalgia

By Angus Lorenzen

I vividly remember May 8, 1945, the day that Germany surrendered during WWII. We had been repatriated from Manila to Los Angeles and were making our way by train to New York to embark on a ship to England where my mother's parents lived. My father was still in China serving with the OSS, and our family would not be together again until 1947.

On our transcontinental train trip, we had to change trains in Chicago. When we left the train, everyone was wildly celebrating VE Day – the end of the war in Europe. Since we had several hours to wait for our train to New York, we went to downtown Chicago, which was packed with excited and celebrating crowds. My brother was in his Army uniform after returning from China after 3 years, and he was so embarrassed because all of the girls were grabbing him and kissing him. It was a celebration that was hard to forget.

We settled into my grandparent's home and became used to England's continued wartime austerity as the war in the Pacific was expected to last at least another 2 years before Japan could be vanquished. Unlike America, rationing was extreme and included meat, sugar, clothing, bread, electricity and many other commodities. But that summer, we knew what freedom meant – visiting friends, bicycling, and taking the bus to many places of interest.

As summer peaked and the chilly rains warmed in the north of

England, I began to hear of something called an atomic bomb that had devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Speculation was rampant – would Japan now surrender and save the need to invade the home islands at the cost of enormous Allied casualties? Then late on August 14 (August 15 in Japan), an excited news reporter announced that Japan had surrendered. Though my grandparents' home was in a tiny village, that night the local pub was the scene of a massive celebration with songs and cheering that lasted all night.

Today, many people consider that the use of the Atomic bomb is a black mark on American history. But they can't understand the contemporaneous joy that it brought to a world weary of war, the suffering of millions of casualties, and anticipating prolongation to defeat Japan. Briefly, the World was free of war and could now start to consider the enormous cost and sacrifice it would take to recover from the wreckage of six continuous years of brutal warfare. We were so optimistic that peace would heal all wounds.

Our optimism only lasted a short time when we began to realize that the war had only masked a simmering discontent throughout the World which the Soviet Union was prepared to exploit to spread Communism. When the U.S. dropped the atomic bombs, the Soviet Union promptly declared war against Japan two days later to share in the spoils of victory.

Less than a week after Japan's surrender, the Soviets moved into Manchuria, confiscating the weapons from the surrendering Japanese Army and giving them to the Chinese Communist revolutionaries, tipping the balance against the Nationalist government. They then helped to

instigate Communist insurgencies throughout East Asia including in Korea, French Indo China, Malaya, and elsewhere. The Soviets already occupied Eastern Europe and now made it clear that they intended to stay to exploit these countries resources. Looking at the new World order, Britain's wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill commented, "We slaughtered the wrong pig".

But the long war was ended, the troops were coming home, and the U.S. government was providing benefits to assist them with jobs, housing, and education. With the Communist revolution now advancing in China, my father departed from his lifelong home and the family settled in California, giving me a new and happy home. It seemed to me a period of peace and tranquility though struggles continued throughout the World, the Communism scare festered in America, and we learned to duck and cover in A-bomb drills. And then in June of 1950, North Korea invaded the south and America was at war again. How short was our brief period of euphoria!

THE WAR'S END

TODAY THE GUNS ARE SILENT. A GREAT TRAGEDY HAS ENDED. A GREAT VICTORY HAS BEEN WON. THE SKIES NO LONGER RAIN DEATH – THE SEAS BEAR ONLY COMMERCE – MEN EVERYWHERE WALK UPRIGHT IN THE SUNLIGHT. THE ENTIRE WORLD IS QUIETLY AT PEACE.

General Douglas MacArthur

~~~~~

CPOW (Civilian Ex-POWS) Membership is open to all former prisoners of the Japanese, their families, and friends.

There is an active descendents group.

# News & Information

## VA National Cemeteries Resume Committal and Memorial Services Discontinued by COVID-19 Pandemic

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries resumed committal services in all but two national cemeteries on June 9, 2020. VA national cemeteries began contacting families who were unable to hold a committal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic to arrange memorial services for their loved ones beginning in July.

"VA national cemeteries were able to continue performing our essential mission – to inter Veterans and eligible family members over the last weeks," said Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves. "We have been eager to resume normal operations and provide committal services and military honors that families have come to expect. We believe we have a robust set of measures in place that will allow us to conduct committal and memorial services while protecting the health and safety of Veterans, their families and our team members who serve them."

VA national cemeteries have remained open for interments and visitation throughout the pandemic. However, as a matter of health and safety, committal services and

military funeral honors were deferred on March 23, 2020.

Families with interments scheduled on or after June 9, 2020, were offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. At Calverton and Long Island national cemeteries, that option was available starting June 22, 2020, provided state and local guidance permit. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

VA national cemeteries will continue adherence to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus by limiting the number of individuals attending committal services, practicing physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensuring all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encouraging frequent use of hand sanitizer, and asking sick individuals to stay home. The number of permitted attendees will vary based on state and local guidelines for gathering sizes provided the facility can accommodate larger groups while maintaining physical distancing. Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at later date when restrictions have been lifted.

Memorial services for Veterans and eligible family members who were interred without a committal service between March 23, 2020 and June 8, 2020 resumed in July.

For more information, visit the NCA's website, <https://www.cem.va.gov>. To make burial arrangements at any VA national cemetery, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.

## On 75th anniversary of VJ Day, remembering a generation's sacrifice

Aug. 14, 2020, 9:02 PM EDT  
By Cindy Sui  
For NBC News  
[cindysui@hotmail.com](mailto:cindysui@hotmail.com)

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Robert Rosendahl was just 19 — too young in those days to drink a beer or cast a vote — when he was sent to Pacific theater in World War II. There, in that deadliest of the war's arenas, he would see things that no man, let alone a boy, should ever see.

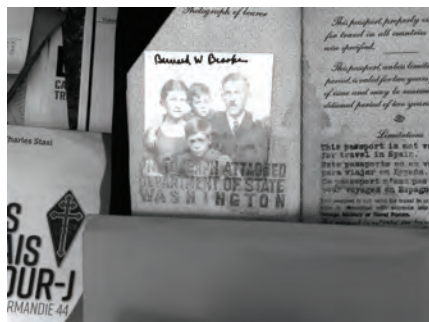
He had just graduated from high school in a small town in Minnesota. His parents couldn't afford to send him to college, so in 1941, he joined the army.

Soon after arriving in the Philippines, he was sent to the front during the Battle of Bataan. In that bloody struggle, American and Philippine forces tried to hold fast against the Japanese invasion of the Philippines — and failed.

More than 30 million soldiers and civilians were killed in the Pacific theater during the course of the war, compared with the 15 million to 20 million killed in Europe.

But remarkably, as the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Asia approaches, on Saturday, Aug. 15, few remembrance ceremonies are planned, and it's not because of COVID-19.

## anniversary, cont'd...



*Curtis Brooks, front, with his parents and twin brother. Courtesy Curtis Brooks*

On each anniversary, there's no return of veterans to the battlefields, as with D-Day celebrations in France. No gathering of national leaders. No bugles sounding taps above freshly manicured graveyards.

VJ Day, as the anniversary of the allied victory over Japan is called, receives far less attention than Victory in Europe, or VE Day, on May 8.

For one thing, the U.S. and China — allies then — are today increasingly bitter rivals for global economic primacy. And for its part, Japan, unlike Germany, has been reluctant to confront its wartime history.

But the 140,000 captured Allied military personnel, according to U.K.-based independent website [Forces War Records](#) — as well as the tens of thousands of civilians who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese military — suffered some of the worst atrocities of the war.

Many did not survive the war or have died since. But the testimony of the remaining survivors, along with oral histories recorded by others before they died, remind us today both of man's capacity for cruelty and for boundless courage.

## 'People were dying left and right'

One of those taken prisoner was the Minnesota schoolboy Rosendahl.

He and tens of thousands of Americans and Filipinos were captured by the Japanese in the Battle of Bataan. They were forced to march more than 60 miles to prison camps in the Bataan Death March.

Thousands of Filipinos and hundreds of Americans died.

"If you didn't march, they would shoot you," Rosendahl said in an interview conducted before his death in February. The interview is part of the [National World War II Museum's digital oral history collection](#).

Eventually, Rosendahl reached a prison camp that was full of feces and so crowded that it lacked space for the prisoners to lie down.

"We had people who lost their mind and went hysteric," he said. "It was a hellhole; people were dying left and right. The only duty was to bury 100 men a day."

Later, he was sent to Japanese-occupied Manchuria, in northern China, to work as "a slave laborer," he said, assembling machines in temperatures that dropped to 25 degrees below zero.

"The hardest part was getting over that winter of 1942 and '43. I developed beriberi and my legs were all swelled up ... like a pair of rubber gloves full of water. It just kept creeping up on you, and if it got above your waistline, you couldn't breathe."

Beriberi, caused by a deficiency of vitamin B-1, affects the circulatory system and ultimately the heart.

## 'Lost the will to live'

Such conditions were typical for POWs captured by Japan, according to Michael Hurst, a Taiwan-based Canadian historian and the founder and director of the [Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society](#). He has spent two decades finding all 16 of the POW camps in Taiwan — then a Japanese colony — and interviewing survivors about the conditions.

Hard labor was the rule, he said. The 4,300-plus POWs imprisoned in Taiwan worked in a copper mine, removed stones from a valley to make way for sugar cane, or dug a man-made lake.

Working in the mine was particularly damaging to their health.

"It was so hot that temperatures were well over 40 degrees (104 Fahrenheit) most of the time in some of the places, and other holes were very cold and the men got diphtheria and died," Hurst said. "They had to slave away to extract copper out of this mine, and they were given so many cars of ore to fill in a day and so many holes to drill in a day. If they didn't do that, they were beaten with mining hammers after work."

The men were fed rice gruel or sweet potato tops. Their body weight usually dropped to half of what it had been before their capture.

## anniversary, cont'd...

In their diaries, the POWs wrote that they had to work even when they suffered from beriberi, which made their testicles swell to the size of soccer balls. Those deemed to be dying were denied medicine.

According to the National World War II Museum, 40 percent of the American military personnel held in Japanese camps died, compared to 1.2 percent in Europe.

Of the 27,465 Americans captured by the Japanese, 11,107 died.

"The men told me: 'It's easy to die; living day-to-day was the hard part,'" Hurst said. "Some men went into the sick hut and gave up. They would die in their sleep. They just had enough, lost the will to live."

But even at risk of their lives, some of the prisoners worked to sabotage Japan's war effort.

"When the two Japanese guards had a tea break, they would take the gears out of the machines and throw them in the concrete," Rosendahl said, chuckling in referring to the prisoners. "The machines were just holes when we got through; they couldn't be used."

"They didn't catch anybody, but they were awful mad about it, and they picked out 150 guys they thought had something to do with it and shipped them to Japan to work in a lead mine," he added.

### Civilians interned

Besides POWs, Japan interned about 14,000 American civilians who lived in areas that became combat zones. Although the civilians were not treated as badly as the soldiers, their experiences still haunt them.

"I have had dreams that are stressful and disturbing," said Curtis Brooks, now 91, in a phone interview from his home in Las Vegas. He was 13 in 1942 when he, his parents and his twin brother were put into the Santo Tomas internment camp outside Manila, which housed nearly 4,000 foreign expatriates.



*Curtis Brooks, far right, with his family in Las Vegas. Many years after his internment in a Japanese camp in the Philippines, he still remembers the suffering, including losing both of his parents there and becoming an orphan. Curtis Brooks / Courtesy Curtis Brooks*

"You woke up hungry, you spent all day hungry, you went to bed hungry," Brooks said. Those who were sick received no treatment, he said, adding, "Those who tried to escape were executed."

His father died from malnutrition, and later his mother was killed by artillery fired by the Japanese after the camp had been liberated and was run by Americans; the internees were still living there because it was not immediately safe for them to leave.

### Japan's surrender

Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 100,000 to 200,000 people.

"When word came that the Allies had won the war, the prisoners dropped to their knees and wept," Hurst said. But not everyone survived the war's final days.

Fourteen American airmen who'd been taken prisoner after their planes went down as they bombed Japanese bases in Taiwan were executed in the last days of the war. One was in his teens.

And Rosendahl said he and his fellow inmates narrowly escaped being massacred; they were rescued by six American soldiers who parachuted from a plane and told the Japanese the war was over. "The next day, they had a loudspeaker and played music for us, new music we hadn't heard for three



## anniversary, cont'd...

and a half years," Rosendahl said. "I and another guy went downtown and shot the lock off a Kirin Beer Brewery and ... loaded up all the Kirin beer we could find and bought them back to camp."

### Bittersweet homecoming

On returning home, many former POWs received little help in coping with the trauma they had experienced. They didn't tell their loved ones, and their governments told them not to speak about their experience, to avoid questions about military strategies that resulted in the soldiers' capture, Hurst said.



*Michael Hurst, center back, with former POWs revisiting a former Japanese camp in Taiwan. Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society / Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society*

When the men tried to tell their families, their loved ones could not believe the horror stories they told them. Some former soldiers ended up in mental institutions, and some died by suicide, Hurst said. For others, the trauma ruined their marriages.

But many had the strength to return to their normal lives and raise families.

"They were the heroes of our lifetime," Hurst said.

## How VJ Day should be remembered

In Taiwan, Hurst's POW Camps Memorial Society plans to hold a memorial ceremony on Saturday. But no government ceremony is planned for that day, even though the Republic of China (ROC), which is Taiwan's official name, fought Japan for years, preventing it from invading more countries. A small concert is organized by Taiwan's army on Aug. 26 in commemoration of the 75th anniversary, but few tickets are available to the public.

WWII is a sensitive topic here because of the island's history as a Japanese colony before the ROC's government relocated to the island after defeating Japan and losing mainland China to the communists four years later. Taiwan's current government is keen to have strong ties with the Japanese and would rather not highlight the uncomfortable truth that many Taiwanese fought on the side of Japan.

For other Asian countries, many were colonies at the time, and it was mainly the colonizers leading the war effort. Most also now want good ties with Japan.

But Hurst, former POWs and internees say VJ Day should still be celebrated because it liberated Taiwan and other parts of Asia.

They say it's important to learn history so to not repeat it.

"History has got a tremendous way of repeating itself," Rosendahl said. "They said we won't have any more wars since the atomic bomb, but how many wars have we had since the Second World War? We've had quite a few of them."

Brooks, the 91-year-old survivor, still hopes against hope. "Never let this happen again," he said.

## Bipartisan Pair of U.S. Senators Introduce Legislation to Establish Medal of Honor Monument in Nation's Capital

*Along with National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, will serve as central place for all Americans to reflect on the values the Medal represents*

WASHINGTON, DC – (August 5, 2020) – U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) yesterday introduced bipartisan legislation that will pave the way for building a monument in Washington, DC, in recognition of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor in combat.

The National Medal of Honor Monument Act – S. 4433 – establishes the creation of a monument that honors the unparalleled bravery demonstrated by those who earned the Medal and the values it represents – courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity and commitment. A version of the bill – H.R. 5173 – was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives this past fall.

"The United States is forever indebted to our courageous women and men in uniform. Thanks to their service, our nation has overcome monumental challenges. Establishing a National Medal of Honor Monument will help allow all Americans to reflect on the sacrifices servicemembers have made in defense of our freedom," said Sen. Kaine.

"It is our responsibility as Americans to honor in a central place the extraordinary acts of courage that have safeguarded our way of life for generations," said Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX), cosponsor

news, continued...



of the House version of the bill. "It is past time to build a monument in recognition of the heroic patriotism and sacrifice the Medal of Honor represents, and I look forward to seeing this bill pass both chambers of Congress."

Of the more than 3,500 individuals to have received the Medal of Honor, only 69 are still living today.

"I cannot think of a better way to bring Americans together than to build this monument in our nation's capital," said National Medal of Honor Museum President and CEO Joe Daniels.

Along with the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, it will allow Americans from every corner of the country to pay homage to the Medal and the amazing courage and patriotism it stands for."

No federal funds will be used to create the monument. Instead, the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation will be responsible for raising funds to cover the expenses associated with the project.

In February of this year, representatives of the Foundation testified in front of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission in favor of a monument in Washington, DC. The Senate will now consider this newly introduced legislation while deliberations continue in the House.

## Missouri POW/MIA Museum Receives USS Arizona Artifact

We are proud to announce that the Museum has received an artifact for display from the USS Arizona (BB39). This was a surprise to us. Late last year one of our advisory board members received an email from an old Air Force buddy about obtaining an artifact. Initial contact was made and we received this reply. "Today, relics of the Arizona reside within the



confines of a protected reservation within the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex. In accordance with federal law, and out of respect for the USS Arizona as a national memorial and the organizations closely associated with the memorial the Navy has been authorized to donate pieces of the Arizona to organizations such as veterans groups, historical organizations and educational institutions for display and memorial purposes." Shortly after that we received a reply that we had been approved. Plans are in effect to display this historic artifact at the museum in a place of honor for those Sailors and Marines laid in rest in the ship. For his Eagle Scout project, Boy Scout Chase Hatch, Troop 419, is building a display with the help of a master carpenter

board member. There will also be a model of the USS Arizona. This artifact will add greatly to our museum.

Remodeling of our museum building (a 1800s cavalry officer duplex at historic Jefferson Barracks) was put on hold in March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We recently received consent to begin remodeling again and we hope to have an opening ceremony sometime in 2021. Home Depot has started the replacement of our porches.

We are still looking for artifacts to display. If anyone has anything they would like to donate, please email Paul Dillon at [rpdclw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpdclw@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 314-609-9037. Monetary donations are also being accepted.



Please review our website at <https://jbpow-mia.org/> and our Facebook page [pow mia museum in jefferson barracks](#).

THE ARTIFACT

Everybody knows Sally Morgan, but some may not know her story.

Sally Bateman Morgan was born 1930, in Tientsin, China, of a Chinese mother and an American father from Spray, North Carolina. He was with the 15th Infantry, stationed in Tientsin after the Boxer Rebellion. A short time after Sally was born, her father died of tuberculosis.

After the war started between China and Japan (1937), Sally and her two brothers were cared for by American missionaries. Due to the faltering relationship between China and Japan, late in 1941, a Baptist missionary asked permission of her mother to bring the three children to the United States and safety. Sally was 11.

The first part of the journey brought them to Manila, Philippines, arriving there in November 1941. After the fall of Pearl Harbor, Manila was declared an open city and the Japanese took over. Their days of freedom were interrupted.

Sally, her brothers and the missionary were first taken to Rizal Memorial Stadium for interrogation, then to the University of Santo Tomas. They spent two years there, and then were transferred to Los Banos, outside Manila, where they spent another year.

Held prisoner for three years and two months, Sally was fourteen when liberated by the 11th Airborne, 511th Regiment, a group of men to whom she is still very grateful.

Sally has been a member of American Ex-Prisoners of War since 1973. In 1982, she was elected to serve as National Adjutant/Treasurer. In 1984, she was elected as National Treasurer. After retiring in 1992, she volunteered as National Quartermaster, a position she held until 2016.

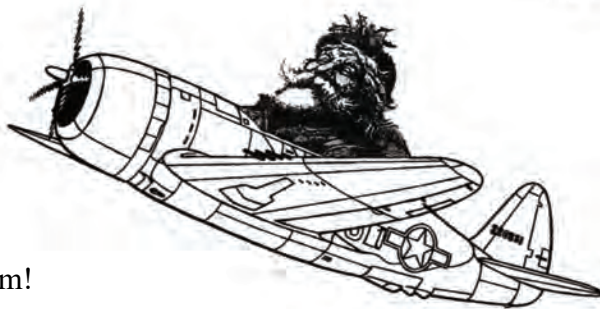
Here is the Christmas poem she wrote after nearly one year in camp...

To the best of my knowledge, Sally doesn't know that this exists. Mabuhay, Derwin Davis, 6904 Monticello Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95621, PH: (916)721-6781.

## Spirit of Christmas 1942

If Santa should make all his rounds this year,  
As they say he does now in a plane,  
He would never reach Santo Tomas I fear,  
For this war that's on island and main;  
But the Spirit of Santa Claus nothing can stop  
While children their carols can sing,  
And mothers and fathers in shanty and shop  
Are making the toys he would bring.

- Sally Bateman



Happy 90<sup>th</sup>! We love you, Mom!





James jeffersonLong  
 Andover KS  
 Great-Great-Grandson of Edward  
 John Long, Civil War

Alan Chancler  
 Lynn Center IL  
 Son of Leland Chandler, ETO

Cynthia Ann Smith Radway  
 Paris TX  
 Daughter of Byron A Smith, ETO

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 76007-3445 (817) 649-2979  
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 Sandy Spring TX  
 Daughter of Daniel Krizan, PAC

Donald J Page  
 Montclair CA  
 Son of Donald Page, PAC

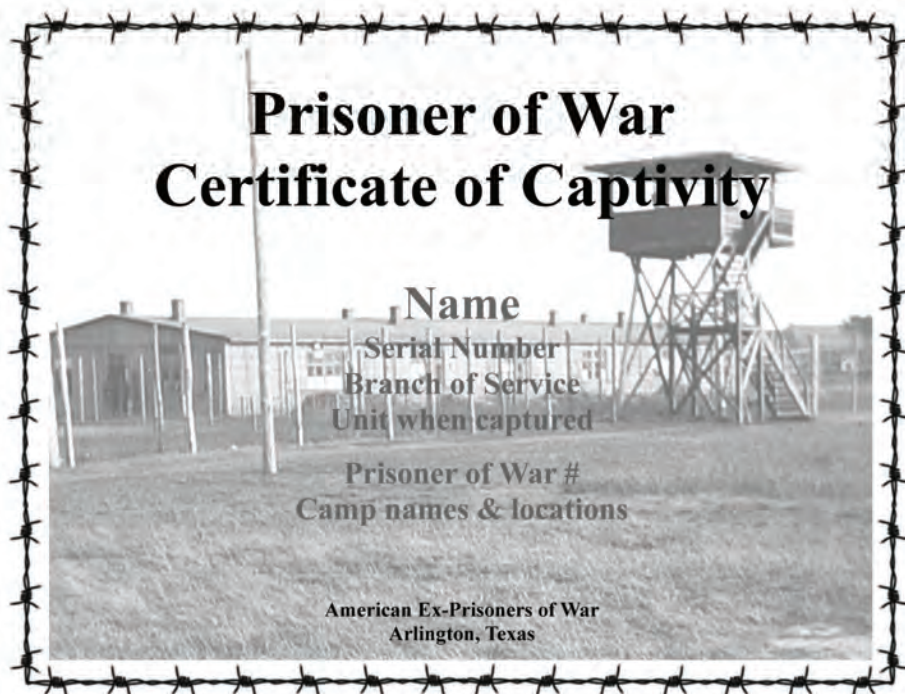


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# Contributions



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In memory of Ruth Everding, Danny Gotti  
In memory of Ruth Everding, Ronnie Gotti  
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## **BULLETIN**

In memory of Ethel Bearisto, by granddaughters Teresa, Christine, Kathleen and Stephanie

## **VOLUNTARY FUNDING**

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Sybil Garver, Evergreen Park IL  
Therese Lloyd, Babylon NY

# 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](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com), or CEO Cheryl Carbone at [axpowceo@comcast.net](mailto:axpowceo@comcast.net). Phone #817-649-2979.

## Thank You!

# The True Story of The Patton Prayer

by Msgr. James H. O'Neill (BG, RET)  
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M. Province; The Patton Society;  
[www.pattonhq.com](http://www.pattonhq.com)

*This article first appeared as a  
government document in 1950*

Many conflicting and some untrue stories have been printed about General George S. Patton and the Third Army Prayer. Some have had the tinge of blasphemy and disrespect for the Deity. Even in "War As I Knew It" by General Patton, the footnote on the Prayer by Colonel Paul D. Harkins, Patton's Deputy Chief of Staff, while containing the elements of a funny story about the General and his Chaplain, is not the true account of the prayer Incident or its sequence.

As the Chief Chaplain of the Third Army throughout the five campaigns on the Staff of General Patton, I should have some knowledge of the event because at the direction of General Patton I composed the now world famous Prayer, and wrote Training Letter No. 5, which constitutes an integral, but untold part, of the prayer story. These Incidents, narrated in sequence, should serve to enhance the memory of the man himself, and cause him to be enshrined by generations to come as one of the greatest of our soldiers. He had all the traits of military leadership, fortified by genuine trust in God, intense love of country, and high faith In the American soldier.

He had no use for half-measures. He wrote this line a few days before his death: "Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition." He was true to the principles of his religion, Episcopalian, and was regular in Church attendance and practices, unless duty made his presence Impossible.

The incident of the now famous Patton Prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army Chaplain on the morning of December 8, 1944, when the Third Army Headquarters were located in the Caserne Molifor in Nancy, France: "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war." My reply was that I know where to look for such a prayer, that I would locate, and report within the hour. As I hung up the telephone receiver, about eleven in the morning, I looked out on the steadily falling rain, "immoderate" I would call it -- the same rain that had plagued Patton's Army throughout the Moselle and Saar Campaigns from September until now, December 8. The few prayer books at hand contained no formal prayer on weather that might prove acceptable to the Army Commander. Keeping his immediate objective in mind, I typed an original and an improved copy on a 5" x 3" filing card:

*Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy  
great goodness, to restrain these  
immoderate rains with which we  
have had to contend. Grant us fair  
weather for Battle. Graciously  
hearken to us as soldiers who call  
upon Thee that, armed with Thy  
power, we may advance from  
victory to victory, and crush the  
oppression and wickedness of our  
enemies and establish Thy justice  
among men and nations.*

I pondered the question, What use would General Patton make of the prayer? Surely not for private devotion. If he intended it for circulation to chaplains or others, with Christmas not far removed, it might be proper to type the Army Commander's Christmas Greetings on the reverse side. This would please the recipient, and anything that pleased the men I knew would please him:

*To each officer and soldier in the  
Third United States Army, I Wish a*

*Merry Christmas. I have full  
confidence in your courage,  
devotion to duty, and skill in battle.  
We march in our might to complete  
victory. May God's blessings rest  
upon each of you on this Christmas  
Day. G.S. Patton, Jr, Lieutenant  
General, Commanding, Third United  
States Army.*

This done, I donned my heavy trench coat, crossed the quadrangle of the old French military barracks, and reported to General Patton. He read the prayer copy, returned it to me with a very casual directive, "Have 250,000 copies printed and see to it that every man in the Third Army gets one." The size of the order amazed me; this was certainly doing something about the weather in a big way. But I said nothing but the usual, "Very well, Sir!" Recovering, I invited his attention to the reverse side containing the Christmas Greeting, with his name and rank typed. "Very good," he said, with a smile of approval. "If the General would sign the card, it would add a personal touch that I am sure the men would like." He took his place at his desk, signed the card, returned it to me and then Said: "Chaplain, sit down for a moment; I want to talk to you about this business of prayer." He rubbed his face in his hands, was silent for a moment, then rose and walked over to the high window, and stood there with his back toward me as he looked out on the falling rain. As usual, he was dressed stunningly, and his six-foot-two powerfully built physique made an unforgettable silhouette against the great window. The General Patton I saw there was the Army Commander to whom the welfare of the men under him was a matter of Personal responsibility . Even in the heat of combat he could take time out to direct new methods to prevent trench feet, to see to it that dry socks went forward daily with the rations to troops on the line, to kneel in the mud administering morphine and caring for a wounded soldier until the ambulance Came. What was coming now?

## patton, cont'd...

"Chaplain, how much praying is being done in the Third Army?" was his question. I parried: "Does the General mean by chaplains, or by the men?" "By everybody," he replied. To this I countered: "I am afraid to admit it, but I do not believe that much praying is going on. When there is fighting, everyone prays, but now with this constant rain -- when things are quiet, dangerously quiet, men just sit and wait for things to happen. Prayer out here is difficult. Both chaplains and men are removed from a special building with a steeple. Prayer to most of them is a formal, ritualized affair, involving special posture and a liturgical setting. I do not believe that much praying is being done."

The General left the window, and again seated himself at his desk, leaned back in his swivel chair, toying with a long lead pencil between his index fingers.

Chaplain, I am a strong believer in Prayer. There are three ways that men get what they want; by planning, by working, and by Praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning, or thinking. Then you must have well-trained troops to carry it out: that's working. But between the plan and the operation there is always an unknown. That unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure. It is the reaction of the actors to the ordeal when it actually comes. Some people call that getting the breaks; I call it God. God has His part, or margin in everything, That's where prayer comes in. Up to now, in the Third Army, God has been very good to us. We have never retreated; we have suffered no defeats, no famine, no epidemics. This is because a lot of people back home are praying for us. We were lucky in Africa, in Sicily, and in Italy. Simply because people prayed. But we have to pray for ourselves, too. A good soldier is not made merely

by making him think and work. There is something in every soldier that goes deeper than thinking or working--it's his "guts." It is something that he has built in there: it is a world of truth and power that is higher than himself. Great living is not all output of thought and work. A man has to have intake as well. I don't know what you call it, but I call it Religion, Prayer, or God.

He talked about Gideon in the Bible, said that men should pray no matter where they were, in church or out of it, that if they did not pray, sooner or later they would "crack up." To all this I commented agreement, that one of the major training objectives of my office was to help soldiers recover and make their lives effective in this third realm, prayer. It would do no harm to re-impress this training on chaplains. We had about 486 chaplains in the Third Army at that time, representing 32 denominations. Once the Third Army had become operational, my mode of contact with the chaplains had been chiefly through Training Letters issued from time to time to the Chaplains in the four corps and the 22 to 26 divisions comprising the Third Army. Each treated of a variety of subjects of corrective or training value to a chaplain working with troops in the field. [Patton continued:]

I wish you would put out a Training Letter on this subject of Prayer to all the chaplains; write about nothing else, just the importance of prayer. Let me see it before you send it. We've got to get not only the chaplains but every man in the Third Army to pray. We must ask God to stop these rains. These rains are that margin that hold defeat or victory. If we all pray, it will be like what Dr. Carrel said [the allusion was to a press quote some days previously when Dr. Alexis Carrel, one of the foremost scientists, described prayer "as one of the most powerful forms of energy man can generate"], it will be like plugging in on a current whose source is in Heaven. I believe that

prayer completes that circuit. It is power.

With that the General arose from his chair, a sign that the interview was ended. I returned to my field desk, typed Training Letter No. 5 while the "copy" was "hot," touching on some or all of the General's reverie on Prayer, and after staff processing, presented it to General Patton on the next day. The General read it and without change directed that it be circulated not only to the 486 chaplains, but to every organization commander down to and including the regimental level. Three thousand two hundred copies were distributed to every unit in the Third Army over my signature as Third Army Chaplain. Strictly speaking, it was the Army Commander's letter, not mine. Due to the fact that the order came directly from General Patton, distribution was completed on December 11 and 12 in advance of its date line, December 14, 1944. Titled "Training Letter No. 5," with the salutary "Chaplains of the Third Army," the letter continued: "At this stage of the operations I would call upon the chaplains and the men of the Third United States Army to focus their attention on the importance of prayer.

"Our glorious march from the Normandy Beach across France to where we stand, before and beyond the Siegfried Line, with the wreckage of the German Army behind us should convince the most skeptical soldier that God has ridden with our banner. Pestilence and famine have not touched us. We have continued in unity of purpose. We have had no quitters; and our leadership has been masterful. The Third Army has no roster of Retreats. None of Defeats. We have no memory of a lost battle to hand on to our children from this great campaign.

"But we are not stopping at the Siegfried Line. Tough days may be ahead of us before we eat our rations in the Chancellery of the Deutsches Reich.

## patton, cont'd...

"As chaplains it is our business to pray. We preach its importance. We urge its practice. But the time is now to intensify our faith in prayer, not alone with ourselves, but with every believing man, Protestant, Catholic, Jew, or Christian in the ranks of the Third United States Army.

"Those who pray do more for the world than those who fight; and if the world goes from bad to worse, it is because there are more battles than prayers. 'Hands lifted up,' said Bosuet, 'smash more battalions than hands that strike.' Gideon of Bible fame was least in his father's house. He came from Israel's smallest tribe. But he was a mighty man of valor. His strength lay not in his military might, but in his recognition of God's proper claims upon his life. He reduced his Army from thirty-two thousand to three hundred men lest the people of Israel would think that their valor had saved them. We have no intention to reduce our vast striking force. But we must urge, instruct, and indoctrinate every fighting man to pray as well as fight. In Gideon's day, and in our own, spiritually alert minorities carry the burdens and bring the victories.

"Urge all of your men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere. Pray when driving. Pray when fighting. Pray alone. Pray with others. Pray by night and pray by day. Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for Battle. Pray for the defeat of our wicked enemy whose banner is injustice and whose good is oppression. Pray for victory. Pray for our Army, and Pray for Peace.

"We must march together, all out for God. The soldier who 'cracks up' does not need sympathy or comfort as much as he needs strength. We are not trying to make the best of these days. It is our job to make the most of them. Now is not the time to follow God from 'afar off.' This Army needs the assurance and the faith that God

is with us. With prayer, we cannot fail.

"Be assured that this message on prayer has the approval, the encouragement, and the enthusiastic support of the Third United States Army Commander.

"With every good wish to each of you for a very Happy Christmas, and my personal congratulations for your splendid and courageous work since landing on the beach, I am," etc., etc., signed The Third Army Commander.

The timing of the Prayer story is important: let us rearrange the dates: the "Prayer Conference" with General Patton was 8 December; the 664th Engineer Topographical Company, at the order of Colonel David H. Tulley, C.E., Assistant to the Third Army Engineer, working night and day reproduced 250,000 copies of the Prayer Card; the Adjutant General, Colonel Robert S. Cummings, supervised the distribution of both the Prayer Cards and Training Letter No. 5 to reach the troops by December 12-14.

The breakthrough was on December 16 in the First Army Zone when the Germans crept out of the Schnee Eifel Forest in the midst of heavy rains, thick fogs, and swirling ground mists that muffled sound, blotted out the sun, and reduced visibility to a few yards. The few divisions on the Luxembourg frontier were surprised and brushed aside. They found it hard to fight an enemy they could neither see nor hear. For three days it looked to the jubilant Nazis as if their desperate gamble would succeed. They had achieved complete surprise. Their Sixth Panzer Army, rejuvenated in secret after its debacle in France, seared through the Ardennes like a hot knife through butter. The First Army's VIII Corps was holding this area with three infantry divisions (one of them new and in the line only a few days) thinly disposed over an 88-mile front and with one armored division far to the rear, in reserve. The VIII Corps had been in the sector for months. It was

considered a semi-rest area and outside of a little patrolling was wholly an inactive position.

When the blow struck the VIII Corps fought with imperishable heroism. The Germans were slowed down but the Corps was too shattered to stop them with its remnants. Meanwhile, to the north, the Fifth Panzer Army was slugging through another powerful prong along the vulnerable boundary between the VIII and VI Corps. Had the bad weather continued there is no telling how far the Germans might have advanced.

On the 19th of December, the Third Army turned from East to North to meet the attack. As General Patton rushed his divisions north from the Saar Valley to the relief of the beleaguered Bastogne, the prayer was answered. On December 20, to the consternation of the Germans and the delight of the American forecasters who were equally surprised at the turn-about-the rains and the fogs ceased. For the better part of a week came bright clear skies and perfect flying weather. Our planes came over by tens, hundreds, and thousands. They knocked out hundreds of tanks, killed thousands of enemy troops in the Bastogne salient, and harried the enemy as he valiantly tried to bring up reinforcements. The 101st Airborne, with the 4th, 9th, and 10th Armored Divisions, which saved Bastogne, and other divisions which assisted so valiantly in driving the Germans home, will testify to the great support rendered by our air forces. General Patton prayed for fair weather for Battle. He got it.

It was late in January of 1945 when I saw the Army Commander again. This was in the city of Luxembourg.

He stood directly in front of me, smiled: "Well, Padre, our prayers worked. I knew they would." Then he cracked me on the side of my steel helmet with his riding crop. That was his way of saying, "Well done."





# taps



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

BOISVERT, MARCEL P., of Reading, MA and Waterville Valley, NH died June 5, 2020. During WWII, he served with the Army Air Corps; he was shot down over Germany and held until liberation. His beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara, survives him; he also leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

BRICK, HAROLD J., of Roseville, MN passed away May 20, 2020 at the age of 95. While serving with the 70th Inf. Div., B275-60 BAR MM, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag XB, then moved to work camps. Harold and his wife of 66 years were life members of AXPOW. Additionally, he is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

COLLINS, VIRGIL L., 98, of Nelsonville, OH and Nokomis, FL died Oct. 2, 2019. He served in the Army with the 106th Inf. Div., 423rd Reg., HQ Co., was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Gulf Coast Chapter. He is survived by 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

CRONIN, MICHAEL PAUL, 79, passed away June 17, 2020. After graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1963, he served aboard the USS Midway and the USS Coral Sea as a member of the VA-23 "Black Nights" squadron. He was shot down over North Vietnam,

captured and held 2,243 days as a POW. Michael and his late wife, Alice, enjoyed their summers on Cape Cod. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, 3 children, 1 granddaughter, 2 sisters, 1 brother and their families.

CSEH, LETTIE, age 95, of Dunedin, FL passed away June 20, 2020. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Joseph; she leaves 1 brother, 1 daughter, numerous nieces, nephews and their families. Lettie was an active member of AXPOW and the Department of Florida. With good friends Ester Carbone and Ann Still, both now gone, she took part in chapter meetings, conventions and other social events. She will be missed.

DARROW, PAUL ROBERT, member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW, passed away July 4, 2020. Paul served in the Marines during the Korean War. His brother, who predeceased him, was a POW. Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Sharon, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandsons and 3 great-granddaughters.

EGRESITZ, CHARLES MICHAEL, of Harrisburg, PA died Aug. 3, 2020 at the age of 92. Charlie was captured in Korea while serving in the Army – 160th Reg., 40th Div.; he was held 14 months until liberated. He was a member of AXPOW and an active participant in The Ride Home. He was a devoted husband and is survived by the love of his life and wife of 39 years, Judy, 2 daughters, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-

grandchildren, 1 sister and their families, plus a host of beloved family and friends.

FERGUSON, CHARLES E SR., of Crossville, TN passed away May 27, 2020. He was 87. Serving with B Battery, 39th FA Bn, 7th Inf., he was captured at Hoengsong, North Korea. He was released at The Freedom Bridge at the DMZ. Charles leaves his wife of 43 years, Patricia, 3 sons, 14 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, their families and many friends.

HANLEY, FISKE, of Ft. Worth, TX passed away Aug. 9, 2020. He was 100. He was captured toward the end of WWII, assigned to the 504th BG, bombing Japan. He was liberated on Aug. 29, 1945. Fisk is survived by 2 daughters, 1 son and 5 grandchildren and their families.

IRVINE, ELIZABETH LAUTZENHISER, 93, of Nacogdoches, TX died July 16, 2020. Liz was born in the Philippine Islands. She and her family were interned by the Japanese in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp during WW II. Liz and her husband Walter were life members of AXPOW, and active in the San Antonio, TX Chapter. Liz and Walt were also members of the Bay Area Civilian Ex-Internees (AXPOW), now called Civilian Ex-POWs (CPOW). Her husband Walter and one grandson predeceased her. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, extended family and many friends. Liz was an intelligent,

## taps, cont'd...

friendly, and gracious woman. She is missed.

JEFFERBAUM, HARVEY J., of Tamarac, FL died April 5, 2020 at the age of 95. He was captured while serving with the 101st Inf., 26th Div. F Co. and held in 12A, 4B, 4C. Harvey is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marlene, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

JOSSI, FRED A., of Milwaukee, OR passed away June 25, 2020. He was captured while serving in the Army on Feb. 17, 1943 at Faid Pass, Africa. He was held in Stalags 3B, 7A and Camp #1. Fred was an active member of AXPOW and the Willamette Valley Chapter.

KOOB, ELDON F., 95 of Sacramento, CA passed away Nov. 22, 2019. In WWII, Eldon served with the 28th Inf. Div. He was captured and held until liberation. Both Eldon and his wife, Beverly, were members of AXPOW and the 49ers Chapter. In addition to his wife, he is survived by 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and several stepchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and others who knew him for his warm hospitality.

LARSON, DOROTHY ROMINES BRYANT, of Framingham, MA died July 29, 2020. In 1947 Dotty married Robert Bryant of Medfield. They had one son. Robert passed away in 1953. Dotty married ex-POW Ted Larson in 1976. She became the step mother to 5 kids. This was the large family she always wanted and together they moved into a large historic home on Warren Place. Dotty and Ted were active in the Central

Massachusetts Chapter, AXPOW, with Ted serving as Commander and Dotty as Adjutant. She leaves 6 children/step-children, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

LEDBETTER, ORBY COLUMBUS JR. 99, of Victoria, TX passed away Aug. 9, 2020. During WWII, he served in the 36th Inf. Div, USArmy. He was captured and held for 19 months in Germany.

Orby was a life member of AXPOW and founding member of the Victoria Chapter. His wife, Alta Mae, predeceased him; survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

MORBETO, ANTHONY C., of Garfield Heights, OH passed away Feb. 7, 2019. He was 95. He was captured while serving with the 452nd BG, 728, BS flying out of England. He was a life member of AXPOW. Anthony leaves Sally, his wife of 72 years, 3 daughters, 1 son, 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. A hero of WWII and of our country. An inspiration for our family.

ONG, HENRY JR. of Phoenix, AZ, passed away at age 98. He flew 30 missions during WW2 as a radioman/gunner on B-24's and B-17s. On what was to be his last mission before returning home, he was shot down and captured and sent to Stalag Luft IV in Poland. He survived the "forced march" of thousands of Allied prisoners before being liberated by the British 8th Army in May of 1945. He remains the only Chinese-American POW in the State of Arizona. Henry was married to his late wife, Priscilla (Pat) for 71 years. They had 4 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

PARISOT, MARTIN L., 99, of Moline, IL died July 24, 2020. He served in the AAC during WWII; his plane was shot down over Germany and he was held in Stalag 17B until liberation. Martin was an active life member of AXPOW and the Western IL Chapter. His wife, Evelyn, survives him; he also leaves 5 daughters, 2 sons, 15 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and their families.

PROMNITZ, HELEN A., of St. Louis, MO died April 29, 2020 at the age of 94. Helen was the widow of Ex-POW Frank (USMC, Bilibid, Cabanatuan, Camp 1&3, Japan). Survivors include 1 daughter, 2 sons, 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren. Both Helen and Frank are interred in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

SANT, JOHN MATTHEW, of Danville, IL passed away July 20, 2020, at the age of 97. He enlisted in May 1942 and was assigned to the 15th AAC, 5th BW, 463rd BG, 774th BS. He was shot down over Czechoslovakia, captured and held in Luft 1, Barth. John was Commander of the Illiana Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Wanda, preceded him in death. He is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

SMITH, HOMER J., affectionately called "Dude" since childhood by family and friends, died Feb. 1, 2020 in Dothan, AL. He was 93. During WWII, he served in the Army with the 275th Inf., CO B. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured and held until he was liberated. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Catherine, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

TAYLOR, CLAYTON, of Inman, SC died Aug 3, 2020. He was 92.

## taps, cont'd...

During the Korean War, he served in the Army; he was captured and spent 28 months as a POW. Survivors include 1 daughter, 2 brothers, 3 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

WAGNER, HAROLD J., of Columbus, OH died Dec. 30, 2019. He was 96. Harold served in the 99th Infantry Division, 393rd regiment during the Battle of the Bulge. He was captured on December 17, 1944, assigned to Stalag 4-B and performed forced labor near Chemnitz where he witnessed the destruction of the city in March 1945. Harold generously shared his story with many school/civic groups and contributed to Robert E.

Humphrey's "Once Upon A Time in War". Harold is survived by his wife Leonora, and 2 sons and their families.

WICHSER, JOHN HENRY JR., of the Villages, FL passed away July 22, 2020 at the age of 99, just 10 days before his 100th birthday. He was captured while serving with the 15th AAC, 455th and 456th BGs. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft I, Barth. He was a life member of AXPO charter member of the East Florida Chapter, SVC of the East Tennessee Chapter, Commander of the Denny Landrum Chapter and SVC of the Dept. of Virginia. His wife, Eileen, predeceased him; he leaves his wife, Margrete, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

WILLIAMSON, LEROY MELVIN SR., 99, died Aug. 29, 2020 in Denton, TX. During WWII he served with the AAC; his plane was shot down over Germany and he was captured and held for 14 months. Leroy was an active life member of AXPOW, serving on the National Board of Directors and as committee chairman. His wife, Maxie, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, twin sister, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

*Your life was a blessing  
Your memory a treasure*

## chaplain



Keith H Lewis  
2205 Overbrook Drive  
Jasper, AL 35504  
(205) 275-9035

*A veteran – whether active duty, retired, or national guard, or reserve, - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to the "United States of America," for an amount "up to and including THEIR LIFE."  
Author Unknown:*

As Repatriated Prisoners of War, we are closer, than most, into knowing the stark reality of that quote - being incarcerated, not knowing when our next meal/water would come and if we would ever be released to go home. We were always threatened with not being released or being executed. But we always had faith in the United States of America, our comrade in arms, and our cell mates to have our backs. The commitment to always bring our troops home, also helped. There are still many that have not made it home. We must continue to demand a full accounting from our government.

Times have changed but our memories and physical limitations still linger. Our organization is a great way to help our fellow members deal with the trials of life. Whether Air Force, Army, Marine Corps or Navy – officer or enlisted we are all part of a way to help each other. No one is better or worse than the other.

A borrowed story that I have used in sermons. - "A realtor relates a surprising sale he made and a lesson he learned. He and his boss were in the realtor office when a roughly dressed person came in and inquired about a rather expensive property their firm was offering. Right behind him came a prosperous looking couple wanting the same property. The senior officer ignored the first customer and took the couple into his office. The junior realtor took his time getting to the first customer hoping to satisfy him quickly.

As it turned out the couple could not qualify to purchase the property, but the first person could! In fact, he had brought all the cash in a cardboard box to purchase the property."

We may never know who needs a helping hand, but we know better than others what we went through, thus knowing how to be a gentle, careful and listening heart.



ROBERT E. CLARK, 104 YEARS OLD, passed away Sept. 9, 2020. He was the oldest living ex-POW in Iowa and much loved by everyone who knew him.

Below is part of a happy birthday wish from his friends.\ At Park Center Senior Living. It was to appear in this issue of the EX-POW Bulletin.

Robert E. Clark, was born August 14, 1916 in Colfax, Iowa He graduated from Colfax High School May of 1935. While in High School Bob was captain of his basketball team, and lettered in both basketball, and football. After graduation Bob worked for the Monroe Company located in Colfax, Iowa. He worked in the Finishing Department.

During this time, Bob also found the time to organize an orchestra,

called the Nite Owls. This band featured 8 members. Bob himself was a proficient piano player, as well as being a trumpet player. Bob hired a fellow high school classmate, Royal Cross, to work for the band. He would, at times, chauffeur the band around to their many gigs. However, it was not uncommon for the band to take a taxi to their performances. One night they were paid \$2.50, ironically the taxi cost was \$3.00..The Nite Owls played at such venues as the Val Air Ballroom in Des Moines, Mineral Springs Day in Colfax, Ia., the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, and in and around Missouri, etc.

Bob enlisted in the Army at Camp Dodge. His specialty while in the service was Medium Tank Crewman, and expert M1 Rifleman. He was with the Company C- 43rd Tank Battalion, 12th Armored

Division, (known as the Hellcats). He left the United States on Sept. 20, 1944, headed for France. While overseas Bob was involved in a number of battles in Rhineland, Central Europe.

Bobs tank was captured, and destroyed in France on Jan. 17th, 1945. Bob and many others were forced to walk by the Germans in the historical "Black March". That year was named one of the harshest winters in Germanys history! He was held prisoner at Stalag 5A. The camp was liberated on May 16, 1945. Bob arrived back in the United States on May 20, 1945. He was honorably discharged November 17, 1945 from Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

His beloved wife, Rose, predeceased him. But he leaves a legacy of good friends and family who miss him very much.



### The National 4th (IVY) Division Association

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

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units.

Check our website at [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org) for membership and reunion information.

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**



### The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active since  
1946

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

**The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946.  
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856  
973-663-2410  
E-mail: [jsc164@aol.com](mailto:jsc164@aol.com)





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# AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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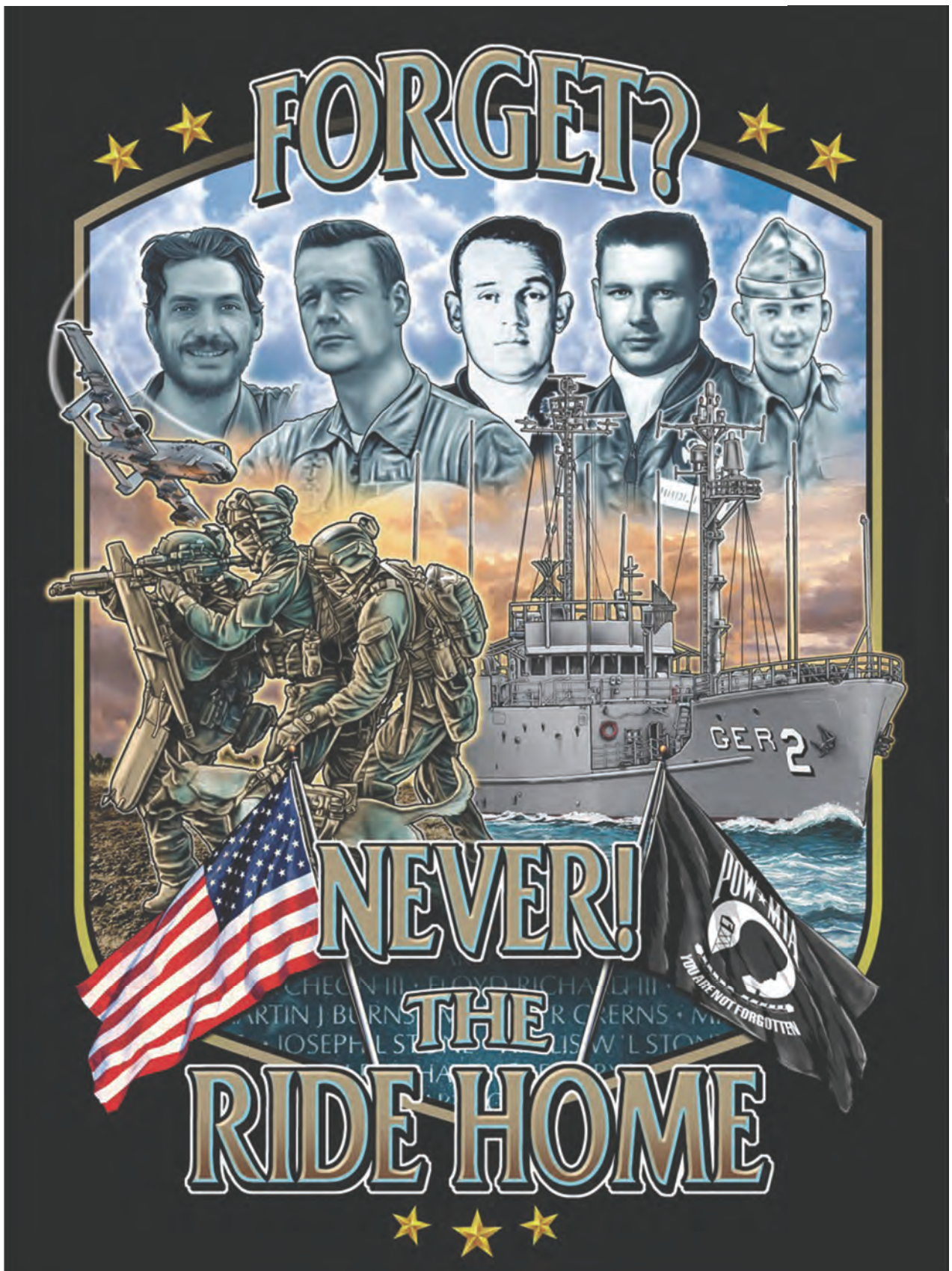
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