

EX-POW BULLETIN

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American Ex-Prisoners of War

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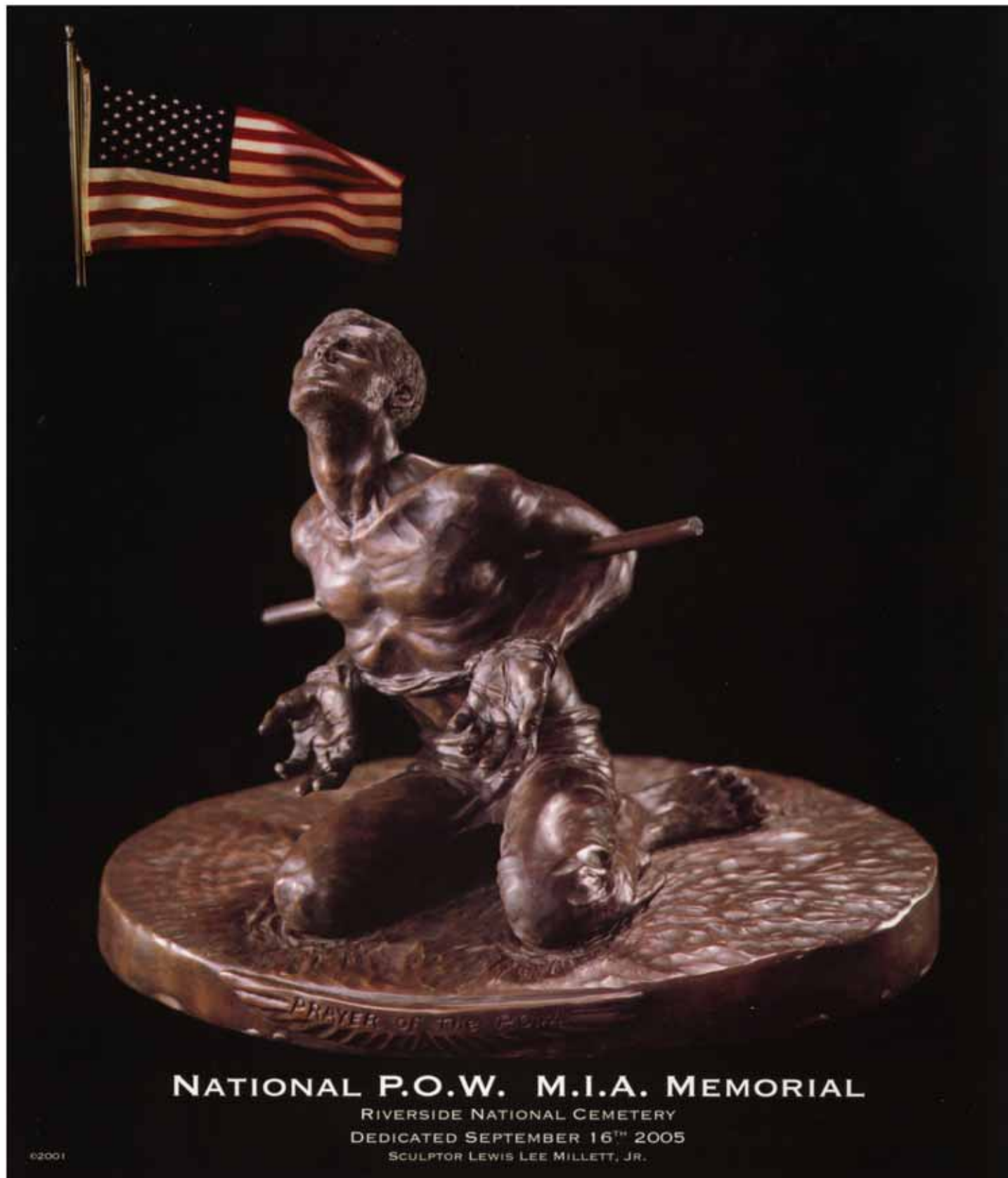


We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Springfield, IL ~ site of the 2007 National Convention

Inside...Convention info...News, Outreach, Events...NSO success stories...Data Theft information...and more



NATIONAL P.O.W. M.I.A. MEMORIAL

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY
DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 16TH 2005
SCULPTOR LEWIS LEE MILLETT, JR.

©2001

*Second anniversary of the dedication of the
National POW/MIA Memorial*

national commander



Robert W. Fletcher

Fellow Former POWs, Family Members, and Friends,

This is the last column I will be writing to you as your Commander, and it is also the most difficult, not

because I will be leaving the office, but because there is so much unfinished business that I cannot yet share with you. Because of the lead-time required for me to write this column, I am writing it at the end of August but you will not read the column until October.

Since I last wrote the Budget Committee held its annual meeting to prepare a budget for the coming fiscal year. SVC Charlie Hill, who chairs the committee, presented a balanced budget, but in order to have a balanced budget personnel costs were reduced. As I stated in my previous column, the Board of Directors will make the ultimate decisions regarding personnel when it meets at the convention. The difficult reality is that personnel account for the largest percentage of our costs, a cost that has not

been reduced as our membership declines.

On a different note, I have continued to travel and meet AXPOW members face to face. I have recently attended the Department of Wisconsin and Department of Ohio conventions and am pleased to report I had a rewarding dialogue with members at both places regarding the future of AXPOW. I will be speaking in Indianapolis next month for POW-MIA Day. I also attended the program at the Korean War Monument in Washington DC in commemoration of the armistice that ended the Korean War as well as the Korean War Ex-POWs convention. Unfortunately I have to report that although individual Korean War former POWs support AXPOW, the Korean War Ex-POWs Association has shown little interest in forming a stronger alliance with AXPOW.

I want to close by saying that, despite the many challenges, it has been my pleasure to serve as your National Commander this year. I have had a chance to meet many fine people and to set the actions in motion that have the potential to keep AXPOW on course and preserve the organization as long as possible.

I also want to assure you that I will still be an active member on the Congressional Advisory Board for Former POWs, which provides me with the opportunity to get some of the more difficult claims cases settled satisfactorily. If you or someone you know is denied the compensation due to them in the future, please do not hesitate to let me know.

And as always, whether I am your Commander or not, please contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Ex-POW Bulletin
October 2007

Happy Birthday!

For many returning POWs, the sight of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor officially signaled "I'm home."

The Statue of Liberty National Monument will officially celebrate her 121st birthday on Oct. 28, 2007. The people of France gave the Statue to the people of the United States over one hundred years ago in recognition of the friendship established during the American Revolution. Over the years, the Statue of Liberty's symbolism has grown to include freedom and democracy as well as this international friendship.

The story of the Statue of Liberty and her island has been one of change. The Statue was placed upon a granite pedestal inside the courtyard of the star-shaped walls of Fort Wood (which had been completed for the War of 1812.) The United States Lighthouse Board had responsibility for the operation of the Statue of Liberty until 1901. After 1901, the care and operation of the Statue was placed under the War Department. A Presidential Proclamation declared Fort Wood (and the Statue of Liberty within it) a National Monument on October 15th, 1924 and the monument's boundary was set at the outer edge of Fort Wood. In 1933, the care and administration of the National Monument was transferred to the National Park Service. On September 7, 1937, jurisdiction was enlarged to encompass all of Bedloe's Island and in 1956, the island's name was changed to Liberty Island. On May 11, 1965, Ellis Island was also transferred to the National Park Service and became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. In May of 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Lee Iacocca to head up a private sector effort to restore the Statue of Liberty. Fundraising began for the \$87 million restoration under a public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., to date the most successful public-private partnership in American history. In 1984, at the start of the Statue's restoration, the United Nations designated the Statue of Liberty as a World Heritage Site. On July 5, 1986 the newly restored Statue re-opened to the public during Liberty Weekend, which celebrated her centennial.



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with their columns

October 2007

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October dates:

10~1845	The US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD opened
12~	Columbus Day
13~1775	US Navy established
16-20~2007	National Convention, Springfield, ILL
21~1926	PNC John Edwards born
22~1962	Cuban Missile Crisis
25~1917	PNC Ralph Rodriguez born
28~1886	Statue of Liberty dedicated
31~	Hallow'een

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### From Vietnam Veterans of America:

Saturday, November 10, 2007, marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC. To commemorate this event, perhaps the only event of its kind with widespread significance to an entire generation of veterans and their families, Vietnam Veterans of America ("VVA") is hosting a parade befitting the generation of veterans who served.

This parade will be the "welcome home" that many of the 9 million plus men and women who served on active duty during this era, never had. We expect a minimum of 50,000 plus veterans and their families to come to Washington and join us. The parade is open to all veterans' organizations, posts, etc., to proudly march with the affiliation of their choice:

- Military unit or veterans' service organization
- Contingent of a state or city
- Fellow uniformed services who served (i.e. Police, Fire Departments)
- Veteran motorcycle groups
- Teachers, City, and Federal workers who served
- Veterans from all walks of life

We invite you to be part of this historic event.

Please pass the word along to all groups who deserve to participate in this wonderful event. For more information, visit [http://vva.org/25thEvent/event\\_info.htm](http://vva.org/25thEvent/event_info.htm), or call toll free at 1-877-727-2333.

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An updated listing of candidates for national office appear on pages 21-22. This is to accommodate those candidates who did not get their information in to the Nominations Chairman in time for the traditional Election Issue in July.

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

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on capitol hill



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We moved. June and I are trying to get used to our new life in a retirement home. The hardest job in the transition is the downsizing. We had a house full of "stuff" because we had the space to keep it. We were "pack rats". On a regular trash day last winter, I asked them not to stop at our house because we already had enough; we didn't need any more!

In the middle of all this housecleaning, my son-in-law approached me holding a nondescript object saying, "Do you want to keep this?" After further questioning, I said, "Joe, I have the "Depression Syndrome". Add that to the "Stalag Syndrome" and I have a double whammy. I don't discard anything I may need some day. My views on life were molded by the Depression in the 1930s. If I ever have to wear second-hand clothes, it won't be the first time. When I was processed into the military, I felt like a kid in the candy store. They threw all these new clothes at me and a box to send my civies home. I put my civies in the box and threw the box in the trash. When I was "processed" into Stalag 17-B, they took my clothes and my hair and gave me back my underwear, but not that nice warm flight equipment. That was confiscated because it had "Property of the US Army Air Corps" on each piece. They were not as "giving" as the US Army; I got second-hand clothes again. The seat of the pants looked like a shredded wheat biscuit. Living below the poverty level skewed my psyche to the extent I wouldn't throw away anything. Unfortunately, from time to time you have to bite the bullet and get rid of it.

When the Russians were closing in on Vienna, we were evacuated 200-300 miles west. You could take anything you wanted, but you had to carry it. After several hours in the march (straggle), the road became littered with "stuff". That was when I realized we were all "pack rats". I am getting over this affliction. It is necessary if I want to continue living with June in our new retirement home. How about you? I bet you can relate to this story and to the fact that while you and I are different, we are similar in many more ways. The bond of the captive experience is very strong.

It is natural that we as former POWs care about the welfare of others because we were combatants; part of a military combat unit that respected and depended on each other. A Band of Brothers as it were. That caring respect does not seem to be prevalent today. The many ways in which we are so much alike are much more important than the few ways in which we are different. We all have stuff that is best left on the roadside as we march toward the sunset as a band of brothers.

Les

As of Sept. 6, our bills H. R. 1197 & S.848, Osteoporosis & Diabetes are still being discussed among the Committee Members; however, at this writing "money cost and priorities" come into play. As I reported in my September column, S.1315 new Senate bill does include "Osteoporosis if the Secretary determines that the veteran was diagnosed with PTSD". We do not know yet when the Senate & House Veterans Affairs Committees will submit the legislation to the Congress for final voting. Also, H.R. 1197 became H.R. 760. I cannot find out exactly why the "diabetes" was omitted...but I'm trying.

Please know we are trying to work with both committees to secure these last two presumptives. However, you members should continue talking to your Elected Representatives about this legislation. **You are the constituents** - remember who elected them!

Now for some good news - Rep. Bob Filner's bill H.R. 2369, Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War, to present a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of POWs who had been overlooked has been approved for implementation by the U.S. Department of Defense. The bill was included as a section in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, which passed in Oct 06 and directed the President and the DoD to review the criteria used to determine eligibility for the award of the Purple Heart for POWs. The review was completed and the report was released on Aug. 30th. Rep. Filner says, "the report changing the eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart has merit for POWs who die while in captivity and who are eligible for the Prisoners of War Medal which includes virtually all POWs". Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced the companion bill in the Senate. The inspiration for the bill came from a Shorty Estabrook of Selma, Texas who was imprisoned during the Korean War for over three years and Rick and Brenda Tavares of Campo, CA. Brenda's uncle, Corp. Melvin Morgan, died of starvation and beatings in 1950 at the age of 20 in Korea. The task for the DoD to implement this will be monumental but this is great news for the families of POWs who died in captivity. Let us all say thank you to Rep. Bob Filner (CA) by whatever means you can. I know he would love to hear from you!

Mary

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

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OUTREACH

TEAMWORK

Here's looking for You!

Already the Outreach Orientation Seminar on June 7th at the AXPOW State Department meeting in San Antonio is bearing fruit.

An essential part of this team effort is AXPOW Headquarters' Marsha Coke, who is sending out up-to-date membership lists to these members who will be making calls.

TEXAS: Leander & Josephine Pflughaupt, Edna Ames, Shirley Fontes, Jorge Guerra, Sina Chandler, W.T. Jones, Bill Leonard, Betty Harlan, Mary Boyett, Dottie Vaughn, Howard Ray and Puett Willcox.

LOUISIANA: Charles & Stella Webb
MICHIGAN: Ed "Kaz" Kazmierczak & Robert Fletcher

OREGON: Richard Crow

IOWA: Betty Grinstead

ILLINOIS: Marianne & Robert Roenna

MISSOURI: Marion Rippee

RHODE ISLAND: Cheryl Cerbone

NORTH CAROLINA: Paul & Doris Dallas

SOUTH CAROLINA: Lawrence King

OHIO: Maynard "Doc" Unger

INDIANA: Guy Stephens

NEW YORK/VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE/MAINE/CONNECTI-

CUT: Melanie Bussel

PENNSYLVANIA: Frank Kravetz and Don Lewis

KENTUCKY: Dudley Riley

FLORIDA/ALABAMA/GEORGIA: Doris Jenks, Jo-Ann Kannapinn, Ann Still, Rose Mary Meredith, Ray & Janet Van Duzer

MASSACHUSETTS: Kay Arnold

MARYLAND/DC/DELAWARE: Les Jackson

VIRGINIA/WEST VIRGINIA: Mary Rolan

NEVADA: Alan Dunbar

ARIZONA: Jeanne Copeland

TENNESSEE: Charles & Frances Heffron

WASHINGTON: Jack & Lucille Jones, Gwen Warren

NEW JERSEY: Karnig Thomasian

CALIFORNIA: Ralph Kling

IDAHO: Bud Hinckley

MONTANA: Rudy Collins

WISCONSIN: Walter Peterson

KANSAS: William Stahl

NEW MEXICO/COLORADO/UTAH/
OKLAHOMA/ARKANSAS: Fred Campbell

If you are willing to help survey AXPOW members, please call the Outreach Chairman and make his day.

No doubt most AXPOW chapters are out of close contact with a lot of their members, and many of them don't realize what benefits they may be due.

EXAMPLE: In one hour, using up-to-date print-out Marsha Coke sent, I called three widows in Texas Golden Triangle of southeast Texas.

First call: Lady said something like ZCXQS!! And hung up on me; I just hope she has her DIC.

Second call: Lady in Groves, had no VA benefits; husband died in 1987. "What did he die of?" "HEART disease!". She had no idea she was eligible due to Oct. 7, 2004 ruling; claim is in for VA widow's benefit, ChampVA later.

Third call: Lady in Nederland, no VA benefit. "What did husband die of in 2003?" "Massive Cerebral Hemorrhage!" With Oct. 2004 ruling on STROKE, she's eligible for DIC, ChampVA's free medicare supplement also; VA claim is in. We cannot leave any eligible widow with zero VA benefits.

"We exist to help those who cannot help themselves".

SUCCESS

For NSOs Paul & Doris Dallas, working former POW and surviving spouses' VA claims is a daily volunteer task. Non has been more gratifying than this one Paul has sent...a real success!

"During the first week of July 2004, I received a call from May, who lives in Smalltown, Alabama. She said her husband had died on May 25, 2004. Her small Social Security check did not go far. After house payment, she had \$317 left to pay utilities, food, monthly expenses, etc. She requested help and direction from another veterans' organization, but nothing came of it.

I knew this man. He was in a forced labor camp with me in Germany, and I knew what a terrible ordeal he went through and how bad his health - physically and mentally - had been since WWII. We kept in touch and had visited them ten years before.

Mary said her husband was rated 60% service connected disability when he died. When I had talked with him in 2002, the American Legion was getting his 60% raised to 100%; that never happened. I had stayed in touch with him since WWII and knew he had spent a lot of time in VA hospitals in six dif-

outreach cont...

ferent states. He never could hold a job because of his health conditions.

I told Mary that Doris and I would go to her house in Alabama on July 18, 2004, and for her to get copies of all his VA hospital and other records, and have them for me to pick up when we visited her. She had over 400 pages of records for me. After we arrived home, I reviewed all of them and couldn't believe some of the things I read. Studying those records, I found four different unmistakable errors that were made by the VA in rating decisions in his case. I pointed this out to the VA. No response.

Also in the fall of 2004, I sent those records to Dr. Jo Harbour, POW Physician Coordinator, DVA Medical Center, Jackson, MS and asked her to review them and give her opinion in the case. She said this POW should have been rated 100% long ago.

The last letter I received, over a year ago, from the VA in Alabama said it was in the appeals section. I called them several times; the Veterans Service Center Manager was always busy; and never returned my calls.

But Lo! A new manager! Doris called, spoke with the new manager about the case. Three days later, she received a call stating that Mary's DIC had been approved effective the date of husband's death, AND his 100% was approved effective February 2000. She received two checks within ten days — \$36,000 for her DIC and \$86,850 for his 100% Total \$123,450 with \$1067 monthly, plus ChampVA to come! Grateful Mary: 'I can finally have me some good food!'

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October 2007

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nso



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Ann Still is a National Service Officer who works on Wednesdays at the VARO in St. Petersburg, Fl. One day in April, a box, damaged in transit, appeared in the Ex-POW mail slot at the Regional Office. Inside the box were several military medals, which she recognized as World War II medals.

The only identification as to who they were for was the name Walter E. G. in Florida.

She went back to the office and checked for Walter E. G. in the VA files. No such person. She asked our contact upstairs at the VA, she checked her computer. No record.

Ann printed out each Walter G. listed in Florida from an internet website and spent most of the day calling each one.

Ann finally talked to a young man who said he thought she was looking for his grandfather. So she waited for him to call her back, which he did that evening.

Mr. G. was hard of hearing and had difficulty talking on the telephone. So Ann talked to his wife. His wife said those were indeed her husband's medals, and they had wondered why it was taking so long for him to receive them. Once the proper recipient was identified, the VARO mailed the medals.

Mrs. G. went on to tell Ann that her husband had been denied a POW Medal and benefits from the VA. He had been a POW for 23 days and had filed when the law required that he be held for 30 days or longer. They were delighted to find out about the law change. So Ann filed another claim in April.

On July 24th, our excellent Regional Office staff in St. Petersburg granted him 100% for heart and hypertension — retroactive to May 2006.

Another widow, that I helped, wrote me to inform me she had been granted her DIC benefit. She said she was living in an old farm house (over 200 yrs. old). When her husband was alive, they did a lot of improvements, but after he died she had to get a new well, new septic system, new windows and had to have insulation blown in. She had to take out a \$30,000 loan to do this. Now, she says "I will be able to pay my loan off a lot sooner".

I am glad the NSOs are keeping up the good work in helping Fred Campbell find those who need this help.

Doris Jenks

NSO Committee Beth Brooks - Assistant

Fred Campbell

Walter Peterson

Larry Dwyer

Eugene Inman

Leon Horowitz, MD -
Medical Advisor

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

Health Quackery: Spotting Health Scams

You see the ads everywhere these days — “Smart Drugs for Long Life” or “Arthritis Aches and Pains Disappear Like Magic!” or even testimonials claiming, “This treatment cured my cancer in one week.” It’s easy to understand the appeal of these promises. But there is still plenty of truth to the old saying, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!”

Quacks — people who sell unproven remedies — have been around for years. Today they have more ways than ever to peddle their wares. In addition to TV, radio, magazines, newspapers, infomercials, mail, and even word-of-mouth, they now can use the internet — websites offer miracle cures; emails tell stories of overnight magic. Sadly, older people are often the target for such scams. In fact, a government study found that most victims of health care fraud are over age 65.

The problem is serious. Unproven remedies may be harmful. They may also waste money. And, sometimes, using these remedies keeps people from getting the medical treatment they need.

What Do Quacks Promise?

Unproven remedies promise false hope. Often they offer cures that are painless or quick. Why do people fall for these sales pitches? After all, at best these treatments are worthless. At worst, they are dangerous. One reason health care

scams work is that they prey on people who are frightened or in pain. Living with a chronic health problem is hard. It’s easy to see why people might fall for a false promise of a quick and painless cure.

You may see unproven remedies in products for:

Anti-Aging

Claims for pills or treatments that lead to eternal youth play on the great value our culture places on staying young. But, aging is normal. A product may smooth your wrinkles, but no treatments have yet been proven to slow the aging process. Eating a healthy diet, getting regular exercise, and not smoking are your best bets to help prevent some of the diseases that occur more often with age. In other words, making healthy lifestyle choices can increase your chances of aging well.

Arthritis Remedies

Unproven arthritis remedies can be easy to fall for because symptoms of arthritis tend to come and go. You may believe the remedy you are using is making you feel better when, in fact, it is just the normal ebb and flow of your symptoms. You may see claims that so-called treatments with herbs, oils, chemicals, special diets, radiation, and other products cured arthritis. This is highly unlikely. Individual testimonials alone do not guarantee that a product is effective. Instead, scientific studies proving that a treatment works are needed. While these products may not hurt you, they are costly and aren’t likely to help much either. There is no cure for most forms of arthritis, but

rest, exercise, heat, and drugs can help many people control their symptoms. If you are thinking about a new treatment, talk with your doctor first.

Cancer Cures

Quacks prey on people’s fear of cancer. They promote treatments with no proven value — for example, a diet dangerously low in protein or drugs such as Laetrile. By using unproven methods, people with cancer may lose valuable time and the chance to receive a proven, effective treatment. This delay may lessen the chance for controlling or curing the disease.

Memory Aids

Many people worry about losing their memory as they age. They may wrongly believe false promises that unproven treatments can help them keep or improve their memory. So-called smart pills, removal of amalgam dental fillings, and brain retraining exercises are all examples of untested approaches that claim to help memory.

How Can You Protect Yourself From Health Scams?

Be wary. Question what you see or hear in ads or on the internet. Newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV stations do not always check to make sure the claims in their ads are true. Find out about a product before you buy. Don’t let a sales person force you to make a snap decision. Check with your doctor first.

Ex-POW Bulletin
October 2007

medsearch continued...

Remember stories about the old snake oil salesman who traveled from town to town making claims for his fabulous product? Well, chances are today's quack is using the same sales tricks. Look for red flags in ads or promotional material that:

- Promise a quick or painless cure,
- Claim to be made from a special, secret, or ancient formula — often only available by mail or from one sponsor,
- Use testimonials or undocumented case histories from satisfied patients,
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For More Information

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For more information on health and aging, contact:

National Institute on Aging Information Center

P.O. Box 8057

Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8057

1-800-222-2225

The National Institute on Aging website is www.nia.nih.gov.

National Institute on Aging
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

Ex-POW Bulletin

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Fred Boyles, Superintendent
fred_boyles@nps.gov

Anniversaries Mark Important Milestones

By: Fred Boyles

With 2008 just around the corner, the park is planning several activities to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the National Prisoner of War Museum. It is hard to believe it has been 10 years since that great day back in 1998 when former POW's from all over the Nation came to Andersonville to celebrate the opening of the Museum. In those 10 years much has happened in events and special visits of dignitaries. In those 10 years over three million visitors have come to our Museum.

The mission and purpose of our museum stays the same. The National Prisoner of War Museum serves as an educational institution to tell the story of what POW's have sacrificed for all our freedoms throughout America's history. Day after day the museum hosts visitors from all over who have heard of our story and want to learn for themselves about it. Just this week a new employee told me that she had seen many people who after visiting the exhibits and films are deeply moved from the experience of seeing the museum.

During 2008 every event planned for the public will mark the 10th anniversary of the museum's opening. In March the park will hold another luminary event with nearly 13,000 candles displayed in the Camp Sumter prison site to commemorate those who died at Andersonville. The park's annual Memorial Day event will also highlight the 10 year anniversary of the museum. Finally, the 2008 POW/MIA Recognition Day will be dedicated to the same anniversary. Plans are already being made for that event.

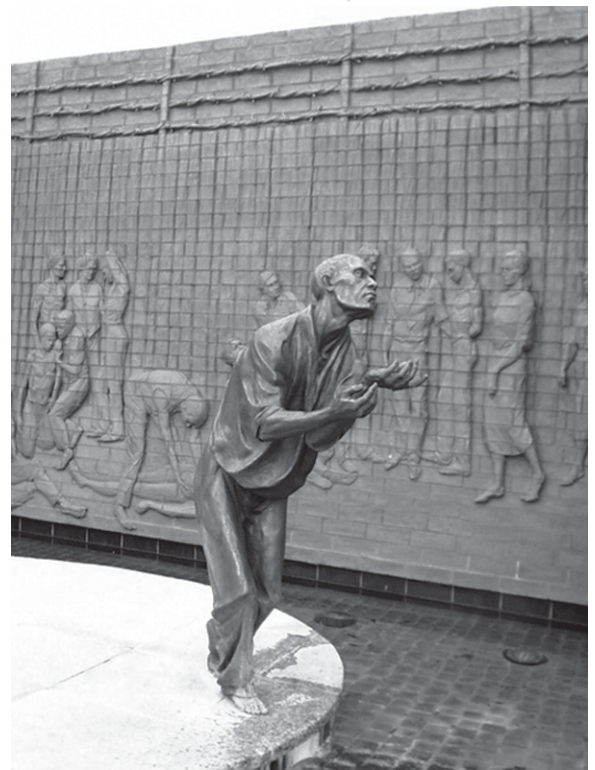
Another anniversary is looming on the horizon. The 150th anniversary of the Civil War will soon be upon us. Just as the Centennial of the Civil War was marked in the early 1960's and was the occasion of many events and focus on that war, this commemoration will also bring attention on this conflict. Already in 2007 there are events in St Louis to mark the 150th commemoration of the Dread Scott decision.

In the Civil War time line we are fortunate that Andersonville is late in the war, which gives us ample time to plan for our role in that struggle. There are many various plans about what should be done to mark this milestone. Personally, I hope this will be an opportunity for the American people to reexamine what the Civil War means to us today. There are others who are hoping this will be a chance to look at an infusion of public and private funds into our parks to repair monuments, preserve earthworks, purchase much needed lands and other preservation projects. My concern is that as time moves us further away from the Civil War that it is not forgotten and that its significance is understood.

These anniversaries are important. It is another opportunity to catch people's attention and say, "Hey - wait a minute, don't forget what happened here!" We were fortunate to take advantage of those commemorations in the past to bring attention on to Andersonville and the National POW Museum.

There have been the events associated with the 60th anniversary of WWII and the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. We look for every opportunity to get positive publicity that will focus more attention on the park and our wonderful museum. Our overriding goal is to get more visitors to come to the museum. Commemorative anniversaries are a good way to help promote the park story and entice visitors to come to the park.

Picture below: The commemorative courtyard at the National Prisoner of War Museum, ANHS



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Where do we get such women?

Admiral Tarrant (played by Fredric March) ended the 1954 movie, "Bridges at Toko-Ri" with the immortal line, "Where do we get such men"? He was referring to the characters shot down Navy pilot LT Brubaker (William Holden) and his rescuing helicopter crew Mike Forney, pilot (Mickey Rooney), and his crewman who had just died at the hands of the Korean enemy. Admiral Tarrant was referring to those who'd been asked to serve and who did so despite the risks and unpleasant circumstances in which they might find themselves. They'd done their duty, selflessly, and earned the gratitude of their country.

The poem "On His Blindness," by John Milton, contains the phrase, "They also serve who only stand and wait." That can apply as well to individuals and families waiting for loved ones to return, often suffering, a worse fate - that of not knowing - than their loved ones. We in the community of former prisoners of war from all conflicts can identify with Brubaker or Forney. There are many who worried about us. And there are many

who agonize over us even today - often decades after our unfortunate captivity experience.

At the Richmond, Virginia Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Medical Center, we just retired one of the women who most epitomizes what Admiral Tarrant meant in his tribute to the service of Brubaker and Forney. Kathy Walsh, despite her youthful appearance, just retired from federal government service after many years. It is a tremendous loss for our Ex-POW community as Kathy's selfless service as our POW Administrative Coordinator has kept our Denny Landrum Chapter functioning smoothly for nearly 14 years watching many of us slip into various forms of disability and some die. Yet Kathy was never too busy for *her* POWs. Often greasing the skids for appointments, Kathy had learned all the inner workings and secrets to navigating the bureaucratic shoals of the VA's establishment.

Always with a pleasant demeanor, a "No problem" and smile. Kathy had worked with several branches of the military in the Pentagon starting in June 1966, followed by stints in federal courts, congressional staffs in both the House of Representatives and Senate. She moved to Richmond with the Treasury Department and, ultimately joined the Veterans' Administration at McGuire VAMC.

Kathy started as a staff assistant in the nursing department and

soon became the administrative officer for the chief of nursing services. In 1989 she became the Administrative Officer for Primary Care Services at McGuire and five years later - after helping with POW events for years - became our POW Administrative Coordinator. On her own time she became qualified to process claims so she could advise her new "charges" properly. Kathy attended every meeting of the local Denny Landrum chapter, most state meetings and, occasionally, the AXPOW National Convention.

At a recent meeting of the Denny Landrum Chapter, Kathy was made an honorary member of our group. She's pledged to stay active and to help the new coordinator at McGuire ;earn the ropes. Our Richmond-area former POWs have lost a valuable asset in this fine woman but the good news is that she'll stay in touch. She'll be working at a local Sheraton hotel that probably doesn't realize yet what a jewel they have hired.

So, Admiral Tarrant, you were only partially right. In Kathy's case the question should be, "Where do we get such women?" And the answer is that we're fortunate to have had this wonderful woman helping us in our dealings with the VA's often rigid bureaucracy. So Kathy Walsh, on behalf of a grateful nation and on behalf of "your guys" in the Denny Landrum Chapter, thank you. May you always have fair winds and following seas.



Photo: James Schmidt, MD, POW Coordinator; Denny Williams (AXPOW), the Honorable Kathy Walsh, Russell Scott (AXPOW), Paul Galanti

pow-mia



**PNC John Edwards,
Chairman**

889 Randall Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4815
(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

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

Americans Announced as Accounted For

There are now 1,772 US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The names of seven US personnel were announced as accounted for.

They are Lt. Col. James H. Ayres, of Pampa, Texas, and Lt. Col. Charles W. Stratton, of Dallas, Texas, both U.S. Air Force.

On Jan. 3, 1971, these men crewed an F-4E Phantom II aircraft departing Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base on a nighttime strike mission of enemy targets in Savannakhet Province, Laos. Shortly after Ayres initiated a target run, the crew of other aircraft in the flight observed a large explosion. No one wit-

nessed an ejection or heard beeper signals, and communication was lost with the aircraft. Hostile activity in the area prevented search and rescue attempts.

In 2001, a joint U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), traveled to Savannakhet Province and interviewed Laotian citizens about their knowledge of aircraft crash sites. One of the men led the team to what was believed to be the Ayres and Stratton crash site.

Later that year, another U.S./L.P.D.R. team began excavating the site. The team recovered human remains and aircrew-related items. Between 2002 and 2005, joint teams visited the site six more times to complete the excavation, recovering more human remains and crew-related items.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA in the identification of the remains.

In addition the names of five Army personnel involved in a UH-1D helicopter incident in Laos on January 5, 1968 were also announced.

They are Chief Warrant Officer Dennis C. Hamilton, of Barnes City, Iowa; Chief Warrant Officer Sheldon D. Schultz, of Altoona, Pa.; Sgt. 1st Class Ernest F. Briggs Jr., of San Antonio, Texas; Sgt. 1st Class John T. Gallagher, of Hamden, Conn.; and Sgt. 1st Class James D. Williamson, of Olympia, Wash.; all U.S. Army.

The group remains of this crew were buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Gallagher's remains were individually identified, and his burial date is being set by his family.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

On Jan. 5, 1968, these men crewed a UH-1D helicopter that was inserting a patrol into Savannakhet Province, Laos. As the aircraft approached the landing zone, it was struck by enemy ground fire, causing it to nose over and crash. There were no survivors. All attempts to reach the site over the next several days were repulsed by enemy fire.

Between 1995 and 2006, numerous U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic/Socialist Republic of Vietnam teams, all led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted more than five investigations, including interviews with Vietnamese citizens who said they witnessed the crash.

Between 2002 and 2006, JPAC led three excavations of the site, recovering remains and other material evidence including identification tags for Schultz, Hamilton and Briggs.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC also used dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

The identification of the remains of these seven Americans, plus three previously missing and unaccounted for, but not yet announced brings to 811 the number of US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of 1,772 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

civilians

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Repatriation

Catherine Cotterman Hoskins

This story of repatriation happened to my Mom, my Dad, and to me. It is the way I remember our five-week sea voyage across the Pacific Ocean out of a war zone to our native land of safety and freedom.

In early March 1945, Civilian prison camps had been liberated by U.S. Forces and the Japanese Garrison in Manila was just about destroyed, ending a fierce battle for that city. It was time to put into place the plans for repatriating over 5,000 American and Allied Civilians who had been held captive by the Japanese military in the Philippines for three years.

Young families and those individuals who were not too ill or injured were the first to be flown out of Manila to Tacloban on the island of Leyte. There they waited for the ships that would carry them to the United States.

Mom, Dad, and I were classified as an older family with disabilities. Dad was an invalid with Parkinson's disease and malnutrition. Mom suffered severe malnutrition. I weighed only 90 lbs. but was able to get about and take care of myself. We lived in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp until Manila Bay was cleared of mines and a convoy of ships could be brought safely into harbor. Camp life wasn't bad. The Army fed us well

and the Commandant was an American Army Colonel who had been a family friend before the war started.

On the 9th of April, Army trucks and ambulances entered Santo Tomas grounds and those of us on passenger lists were helped onto the trucks and into the ambulances.

As the vehicles drove slowly down the road to the front gate, it was with mixed emotions I said my goodbyes to this place that had given me harsh shelter for the duration of captivity.

The ride to the Bay was a dreadful experience. Our beautiful city of Manila lay in black ruins—the Pearl of the Orient struck down by fire and cannon.



At the beach we were put on an LCT waiting to take us out to our ship. Mom and I made the long climb up the rope ladder gangway to the top deck. Mom was escorted to Women's Sick Bay in the bow of the ship. I joined the group of 85 women and children who were led to the ladder down into the huge hold. In a few minutes we were asked to step back so that the non-ambulatory male patients could be

lowered into the hold and carried through the head into Men's Sick Bay in the stern. As Dad came down, I let him know I was nearby.

When our belongings were brought down and sorted out, it was time for us in the hold to find a bunk and claim our space. My first choice was a dumb one. The bunks were four high and I chose the top one. That first night it rained. There was a leak in the canvas covering over the hatch and I was soaked. I quickly climbed to the lowest bunk, which had not been taken, and there I stayed.

We were told that our ship was the S.S. Torrens—a Norwegian freighter loaned to the United States before WWII. It had been converted into a troop transport/hospital ship. The Captain and crew were Norwegian. The Captain was in command of the ship and an American Army Major was in command of all GIs, sailors, and civilians. We were issued life jackets and ordered to wear them all the time we were out of our bunks. Sentries were posted to be sure the order was obeyed.

On the 10th of April, the 12 ships and three destroyer escorts left Manila Bay. I was sad to watch my birthplace fade from view. I wondered if I would ever see it again. We had lost everything but our lives. We would have to start over when we reached the end of our journey on the S.S. Torrens.

There was a "now hear this" announcement on the public address. We heard the Army Major call our attention to the rules we would live by onboard ship. Everything seemed straightforward until we heard him say there would be no fraternization between civilians and military personnel or crew members. A roar of disapproval went up all over the ship. The Major could not go on.

Fortunately, there was a man onboard who had been our Chief

civilian column continued

of Police in Santo Tomas. Gordon came to the rescue by going to the Major and explaining to him how wrong such a rule would be for us civilians who had to live under severe Japanese order that allowed no normalcy in our lives. It would be so much better for us all to be able to reach out and interact. We needed to get along in a real world. The Major withdrew the order and happy cheers replaced the angry moans. From that moment on, Gordon became our civilian leader for all causes.

On the third day we arrived at Tacloban, Leyte. The folks who had been flown there in March could now board assigned ships in the convoy. I saw my first aircraft carrier and was amazed at the size of that beautiful ship.

When we sailed away from Tacloban, it was obvious to us on the *Torrens* that our ship was leaving the convoy and heading in another direction. A “now hear this” call explained the situation. The *Torrens* was the lightest ship in the convoy and had been chosen to proceed to several islands above and below the equator where military personnel waited for a ride home after serving three years in the Pacific. One destroyer escort went with us for protection against any Japanese submarines lurking about. Little did we know how grateful we would be to have that escort nearby.

My life aboard ship fell into a busy routine including morale boosting recreation. My Dad’s medic woke me up every morning at six on his way into sickbay with breakfast. I helped Dad with all meals. Mom did not need me for meals, so I visited her midmornings and afternoons. I made sure I made it on time to my meals. No one wanted

to miss the delicious fare our U.S. Navy cooks provided.

Every night, many of the passengers assembled in the Mess. Those two hours before bedtime were filled with music, fun, and laughter. Several GIs played piano and guitar. Some of the civilians could sing and dance—even do the Hula. One night, the Special Services Officer asked if anyone would like to put together a show. The response was overwhelming! And so we did! It was a lot of work but worth every minute of it. Opening night was such a success that we were asked to put it on again one more time. We were thrilled to oblige.

We were enjoying a calm journey. There was one day of grief when we learned that President Roosevelt died on the 12th of April. When the day came that we would be going down under the equator, word went round to the crew that we civilians were not to be hazed in typical manner. We had gone through too many ordeals. Instead, there was music and dancing on deck and everyone received a special card and certificate of the new experience.

After the *Torrens* picked up military persons on several islands, the ship headed back over the equator. Then came a night of fright! It was about 8 o’clock when our ship began to shudder and shake. It felt as though we were scraping bottom. There were three explosive sounds. A submarine had been spotted! The “get ready to abandon ship” alarm then sounded. Everyone went as directed to their places at the rail on top deck. We were told that when we heard the Abandon Ship signal, we must jump into the water. We were assured help would be on the way. I asked about my parents’ safety and was told the patients would be carried to the lifeboats. It seemed like an eternity but it was not long until the all clear sounded and we could collapse and relax! Thanks

to our destroyer escort, we were out of harm’s way!

On the 8th of May, the Captain announced the glorious news that the war in Europe was finished! V-E Day!! The Norwegian crew knew this meant they would be going home to Norway at the end of this trip. Out came the accordions and there was dancing and singing that day on deck. More happy news came when the passengers were notified that their destination was San Francisco. Until that moment, we really did not know for sure.

One week later at midnight, the *Torrens* sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge with whistles blowing and passengers whooping and yelling!! It was very cold and I can remember one of the Navy cooks putting a warm blanket around me. It was an unforgettable moment in time.

The next morning, the FBI and Immigration Officers came onboard. After much questioning, I was allowed to go down on the dock. A band was playing patriotic tunes, the Red Cross was serving coffee and doughnuts, people were hollering. It was chaotic and wonderful. Social Services were there to assist with money and information. Then I spotted familiar faces. Mom came down to join me and Dad was carried down and put on an ambulance to be taken to a hospital. Now it was time to collect our stuff and go home with my college classmate and her mother who had offered us a place to stay.

I said my tearful goodbyes to all my shipboard friends. Then I blew a kiss to the *S.S. Torrens*—that gallant ship which had brought us safely to our new home in America.

Photo: Santo Tomas Internment Camp at liberation

events and information



October 11-14, 2007. The Oflag 64 POW Annual Reunion will be held in Tulsa Oklahoma this year. We have an exciting schedule of meetings, activities and entertainment for the men and their families. For further information please contact Jay Wagner at 940-577-1487 or e-mail Jay at jcw@earthlink.net.

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

looking
for



REWARD for your DELAWARE POW LICENSE PLATE. Please help me as I am collecting a POW License plate from every state and this is my last one that I don't have. I would like to have the full run of plates photographed for folks and school kids to see and learn about what POWs went through for our country. For those of you that sent me your plates I would like to thank you again. Please contact me: Dana Finn, 29 Lancaster Lane,

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Bedford, NH, 03110, Tel: 603-472-4443 or dfinnn@comcast.net.

My uncle **James K. Davis** was with the 506th PIR on D Day and was captured the next day by the Germans. He was assigned to either E Company or HQ Company on D Day. I have found his name on documents from Oflag 64 in Poland. He is quoted as having said that he escaped from the camp when the Russians were getting close and made his way to their lines where he was then sent to the Black Sea for transport home. I would like to communicate with any one who knew my Uncle during both the time just before D Day and the POW camp days. Thanks for your help. Dave Boylan, 500 Sharondale, Tullahoma, TN 37388; 931 455 4130; dboylan5540@charter.net.

I am looking for information about my father, **Charles Robert Weldon**, a private in WWII. My father, now deceased, was a POW at Stalag VIIA. The Military archives had a fire that left only a record of my father's enlistment and discharge dates. A number of websites state that the camp had a roster of inmates. By finding such a roster, with my Father's name, we could add the information to our family's history and ensure that he was, posthumously, awarded the missing items; CIB, POW Medal, Purple Heart, etc. Here is part of his story: " Back in World War II, friends who went to school together could sign up together and be together all through their enlistment. One of your dad's good friends and he signed up together and were in the "war" together. One morning they were out in the field, and your dad yelled "down, incoming", to his friend who was ahead of him, and then he hit the dust. When he looked up the only thing left of his friend was a single leg standing there in mute testimony that he was gone forever. Your dad was left

with shrapnel in his leg, mute testimony to his friend's loss. I know how your dad felt - his world collapsed, but the war continued. He spent no time in the hospital, as he was captured the next day. He was put in the encampment (wooden building up on pillars). He made friends almost at once. And days later when his leg became encased in blue, his 'friends' put on an oval pot to boil, knowing that the only way to save his life was to stop the gangrene that was in his leg. As your dad was so tall, it took several men to carry him to the boiling pot and immerse his leg in the boiling water. He carried scars from this to his death. He forever was grateful that they did this awful task to save his life. When he returned to the states and we were billeted at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Barbara, they operated and took out most of the shrapnel, they also operated on his feet to remove the harm done by the freezing." Michael Weldon, SFC US Army, retired; Udon Thani, Thailand; dighambara@hotmail.com.

I am looking for information about my grandfather who was a POW in Germany during WWII. He was a paratrooper and I think he would have been a POW around 1943 - 1945. I am not sure when because he refuses to talk about it due to PTSD. His name is **Jesse Littleton Young**. He was born in 1919 and is still living. Cindy Johnson, 12963 Walsh Lane, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-1911.

My name William Scoggin. I had a grandfather who served in WWII and I'm looking for a list that might have his signature on it. His name was **Lesley R. Scoggin #282275 T42o USMC** (That is on his dog tags). If you have anything, please send them to me at P.O. Box 931 Esparto CA 95627 or e-mail me at wscoggin_2003@hotmail.com Thank you.

Members' forum



Dear Cheryl,

Many of our retirees do not know that when they put in for Social Security, they should have also submitted their DD214. Their time in the service is credited to the amount they receive when retiring. It's also retroactive if at first their DD214 was not registered. To the wives, when they retire and if the DD214 was not submitted, an adjustment should be made to their Social Security check.

Charles Susino
136 Jefferson St.
Metuchen, NJ 08340
732-549-5775

Dear Members of the AXPOW:

I have been a member longer that I like to talk about (I joined in 1954). My wife June and I have been Life-members for a long time. We waited to get the numbers we wanted. I was an Officer elected or appointed for over 20 years.

All of this talk about civilians in this organization, some of you should know that this organization was started by two Mother's in the state of New Mexico, that had sons over there, and maybe some of you should look in the Webster Dictionary for the meaning of POW. I quote Mr. Webster "POW or P.O.W means a prisoner of war".

When D.C. Wimbery was Commander, I was his Judge Advocate, and Dusty Evashavik was the Treasurer, and when Dusty passed away his family sued the AXPOW Organization. D.C., Joe and Glenda Sesser, and I flew to Pittsburg, PA, for 3 nights and 4 days, and we talked Pauline Brown into taking the Adj. and Treasurer, which at that time

paid \$75.00 a month for both jobs. I think she did a good job at both. This trip was done at no cost to the organization, we paid our own way. D.C. asked Sally Morgan to take the job when Pauline Brown wanted to take care of her husband. Sally said she would try if they would pay her \$100.00 a month, and Sally's husband Bill was Sgt at Arms for many years. I think you should also know that Sally Morgan was a POW in the Philippine Islands.

There is talk of moving the Headquarters to Washington, DC, and I think that would be a BIG mistake. June and I were in Washington, DC, in May '07 for my 4th Marine Reunion, and the hotel rooms, meals and travel was about a third more than here in the Midwest. Also, look at the expense of the move that it will cost the organization.

I served on the Board of Directors with Frances Richter, Betty Rodrigus, and Mary Wheat. I think they did a good job. I think you could do a lot worse. I here a lot of rumors of changing the name, that is a no, no in my book. You have a lot of NOK members, that would like to have some of these jobs, and would do every bit as good if not better, than some of them have done in the past as officers. My daughter and granddaughter are Life Members. My daughter grew up going to the National Conventions, she considered it her second family. Our family vacation was centered around the convention, and she knew most of the people that went. She has made some of the convention since she has grown up, and says it sure isn't the same as it used to be, because you have 2 sides instead of one Great group together. She says we have to many Commanders and not enough workers. Everyone wants to be in charge, and so many don't want to work for what the organization was established for.

I took a 7 year period and came up with some BAD news. The deficits are listed below:

1999	119,000.00
2000	96,764.00
2001	11,837.00
2002	21,349.00
2003	33,663.00
2004	113,491.00
2005	106,445.00

If you add up these deficits for these 7 years you could print a lot of bulletins and other expenses.

No one can run a railroad long with Boards like this. It seems like we have been electing the wrong Boards. It looks to me like some are running and playing at some one else's expense.

Now to the AXPOW Service Foundation should not have been organized. It was voted in San Antonio, TX, by the board of directors and later from the floor of the convention in 1963, that no one could use our name or logo on anything. We had a company to raise funds in 1962, that gave us about 1% and they had a formula to get the rest for expenses, so I think somebody did not check past records before doing some things.

The last time I was on the Finance Committee there was a lot of money in Life Membership Fund. The way I read it that fund was started in 1962-1963 for funding the bulletin, and nothing else. It was suppose to be a locked box to be used for only the printing of bulletins. When Paul Richter took the Adj/Treasurer we were broke and owed for printing the bulletins. He took the job and did not take any pay, and I took the Commander and though the San Antonio Chapter Paul and I got it on its feet, and ones that followed us kept up the good work till lately. Seems like they just want to spend and tear it down. By the way George Coates and Gary Anloft made the Bulletin into a magazine smaller that at present, up till then it was a newspaper 1962-1963.

At the 2006 National Convention the new National Commander Robert W. Fletcher, if I remember what they said he would have \$98.00 surplus. That would be a plus to what it has been.

I hope I didn't hurt anyone's feelings, but this is the way I feel.

Sincerely,

The 13th National Commander
Jack D. Warner

P.S. In all my years I didn't take one penny from the treasury. I did it for my BUDDIES Past and Present.

Check the records. JDW

59th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
 Oct. 17-21, 2007
 Springfield, IL
 "Land of Lincoln"
 Convention Registration

Registrant's Name _____ Nickname _____

Spouse's Name (if attending) _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) _____

Unit When Captured _____

Theatre _____

Camps _____

REGISTRATION (per person)

\$70

Payable to:

2007 Convention Fund

Mail to: Marylou Andersen

1244 Red Oak Ct

Elgin, Illinois 60120

847-717-0343

**American Ex-Prisoners of War
 60th National Convention
 October 17-21, 2007**

AGENDA

Tues. Oct. 16

National Service Officer Training
 Tours

Wed. Oct. 17

National Board of Directors
 Meeting

Thurs. Oct. 18

Opening Ceremonies
 National Legislation Program
 Medsearch Seminar
 Commander's Reception

Fri. Oct. 19

Men and Women's Workshops
 Education Seminar
 Ladies/PNCs Luncheons
 National Convention Call to
 Order
 Reunion Night

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Sat. Oct. 20

Continuation of General Assem-
 bly
 Banquet & Installation of Offic-
 ers

Sun. Oct. 21

National Board of Directors
 Meeting

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

There will be entertainment each
 night of the convention, including
 the Springfield Capitol Area Band,
 The Springfield Municipal Band
 and the St. Andrews society Pipes
 and Drums.

The PNC Luncheon is scheduled for
 Friday, Oct. 19th.

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct.
 19th.

Saturday Night Banquet

The "Airmen of Swing" will be our
 entertainment for the Banquet.
 They are a full swing orchestra
 who perform for veterans' groups.
 They come from Milwaukee, WI.
 Diane Ayers, our very helpful NOK
 fundraiser suggested them and
 they accepted. Danceable music,
 etc.

Choice:

Boneless Breast of Chicken _____

Traditional London Broil _____

(Choose One)

Registration Total: \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon, Friday Oct. 19th

"Hats off to the Ladies"

40s and 50s fashion show

Bring your vintage chapeau!

\$25.00pp \$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

60th National Convention
October 17-21, 2007
HOST HOTEL ~ Springfield Hilton
700 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701
217-789-1530

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of Beds in Room 1 2 Smoking Non-Smoking
Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club
Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____
Special Needs _____

Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon
complimentary breakfast, airport shuttle.
Valet parking \$10.00 per day

Things to do while you're in Springfield

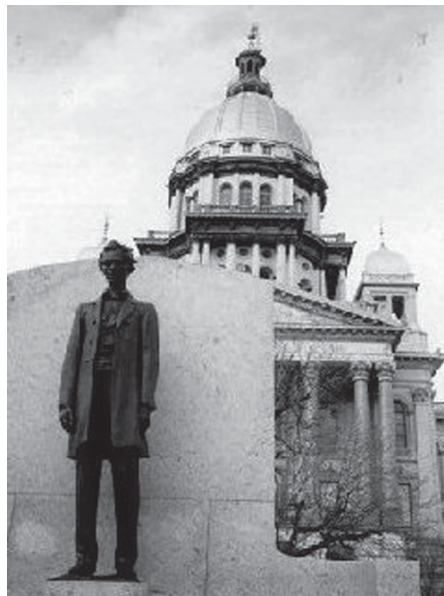
Sightseeing

Over one million visitors a year come to see Springfield's historic Lincoln sites, which include the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, the Lincoln Home and Neighborhood, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, Lincoln Tomb, Lincoln's New Salem, and more.

Other attractions include the Dana-Thomas House, the Old State Capitol, the Illinois State Capitol and the Executive Mansion.

Year-Round Festivals

Springfield offers hundreds of exciting events throughout the year, including: the Old Capitol Art Fair in May, the International Carillon Festival in June, the Illinois State



Fair in August and First Night Springfield on New Year's Eve, just to name a few.

Shopping

From charming, one-of-kind boutiques to nationally recognized, big city department stores, Springfield offers something for everyone.

The city's westside offers White Oaks Mall, (the largest central Illinois indoor shopping facility), national discount shopping centers, home improvement stores, state-of-the-art computer and home entertainment stores, fashion boutiques and more.

The historical downtown area is brimming with specialty shops, antique stores, bakeries, art galleries and much more.

The legacy of America's greatest statesman, Abraham Lincoln, can be traced to Springfield, Illinois...the city he loved and proudly called his home. As you walk through the streets of historic Springfield, you'll feel as though you've stepped back in time...and are experiencing Springfield as Lincoln knew it.

News Briefs

When Your Information has been Compromised

Steps to Take From the Federal Trade Commission

The FTC is the federal clearinghouse for identity theft complaints. The complaints we receive from victims are available to other federal, state and local law enforcement officials nationwide.

The FTC estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year.

The crime takes many forms. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make—or until you're contacted by a debt collector.

Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record. Some consumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities, or be denied loans for education, housing or cars because of negative information on their credit reports. In rare cases, they may even be arrested for crimes they did not commit.

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Having your information lost or stolen can be a frightening experience, because you may worry about how the information may be misused if it falls into the wrong hands. Fortunately, since your data may have been accessed without authorization, there are steps you can take to detect misuse that has already occurred and to help prevent potential future misuse.

As a first step, consider placing a fraud alert on your credit reports. Also, consider filing a complaint with the FTC.

Many states have laws that govern how businesses should respond to data breaches, and what notice or assistance they are required to provide to affected consumers. Texas is one of those states. **Notices were placed in the Ex-POW Bulletin in September and October issues. A notice was also placed on the AX-POW Website – www.axpow.org.**

What information should I monitor regularly?

Early detection of a potential identity theft can make a big difference. Keep an eye out for any suspicious activity by routinely monitoring:

Your financial statements. Monitor your financial accounts and billing statements regularly, looking closely for charges you did not make.

Your credit reports. Credit reports contain information about you, including what accounts you have and how you pay your bills. The law requires each of the major nationwide consumer reporting agencies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. If an identity thief is opening credit accounts in your name, these accounts are likely to show up on your credit report. To find out, order a copy of your credit reports.

Once you get your reports, review them carefully. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain. Check that information, like your Social Security number, address(es), name or initials, and employers are correct. If you find fraudulent or inaccurate information, get it removed. Continue to check your credit reports periodically, especially for the first year after the identity theft is discovered, to make sure no new fraudulent activity has occurred.

What are the signs of identity theft?

Stay alert for the signs of identity theft, like:

- accounts you didn't open and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.
- fraudulent or inaccurate information on your credit reports, including accounts and personal information, like your Social Security number, address(es), name or initials, and employers.
- failing to receive bills or other mail. Follow up with creditors if your bills don't arrive on time. A missing bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your account and changed your billing address to cover his tracks.
- receiving credit cards that you didn't apply for.
- being denied credit, or being offered less favorable credit terms, like a high interest rate, for no apparent reason.
- getting calls or letters from debt collectors or businesses about merchandise or services you didn't buy.

For more information,

Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20580
202-326-2222

Candidates for National Office



For National Commander
Charles M. Hill

I am proud to offer my name to you as candidate for National Commander. We have come a long way together. Our organization has accomplished great things, and I will continue to work for the good of all former POWs. I pledge to you my very best efforts to keep us focused on our mission of service, to keep us solvent, and to hear every suggestion and recommendation you have to offer for the good of American Ex-Prisoners of War. I look forward to the chance to serve.



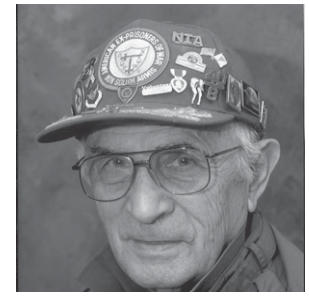
For Sr. Vice Commander
Kenny Hanson

Serving with the Army, 14th Inf. Reg., 25th Inf. Div. Co. "I", Kenny was captured on the east slope of Heartbreak Ridge, Korea. Kenny has been a life member of AXPOW since 1988. He served as Dept. JVC, SVC and Commander; and has served as State Treasurer for 7 years. He is an AXPOW VAVS Representative at the Minneapolis, MN VAMC and has been an active National Director, North Central Region for eight years; JVC for the past year. He also serves as Convention Chairman.



For Sr. Vice Commander
Warren King

Warren has been a member of AXPOW since 1990. He served two terms as National Director and is serving his first year as Jr. Vice Commander. He has been actively involved in Tennessee AXPOW organizations as Alvin C. York Chapter Commander since its formation and Dept. Commander for one year. Warren was a member of the 4th Inf. Div. Utah Beach Army replacement, Combat Medical. He was captured on Dec. 3, 1944 and held in 3 POW camps until liberation.



For Jr. Vice Commander
East~Charles Susino

Charlie served the membership as National Director for the Northeast Region. He has been commander of his local chapter and has been State Dept. Commander for 8 years. He has served on the Lyons VAMC as a stakeholder since 1999 and received their "Golden Eagles" award. He speaks to schoolchildren - educating them on the POW experience. Charlie is also a NSO - working to ensure his fellow POWs and their widows receive the benefits they so richly deserve.



For Jr. Vice Commander
Central~Morris Barker

While serving with the 15th AF - 451st BG, 726th BS - Morris was shot down over Hungary and held in Stalag Luft IV. He has been an active member of AXPOW, serving as Chapter and Texas Department Commander. For the past two years, Morris has worked hard trying to keep AXPOW financially solvent. He developed a plan, which he presented to the membership in 2006, and again in the Bulletin in Jan. 2007. He is looking forward to implementing it as a member of the Budget Committee.



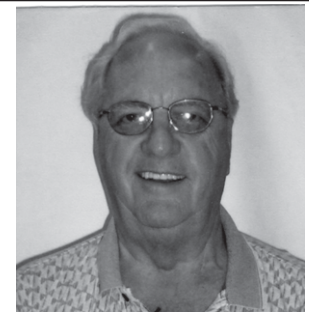
For Jr. Vice Commander
West~Frank Burger

Frank was a National Director for AXPOW in the mid-1990s. He was Commander of the San Diego Chapter and SVC for the Dept. of CA. He participates weekly in POW support group meetings and many local veterans affairs. He was named San Diego County Veteran of the Year in 2001. He has also been a NSO for many years. He is currently Jr. Vice Commander-West. During WWII, Frank was assigned to the 451st BG, 425th BS, 15th AF. He was captured over Hungary and held in Luft IV and Luft I.



For National Director
NE~Laura McIntyre

Laura has been National Director since 1999. She served two terms as Chapter Commander of the Western MA Chapter, and is past State Dept. Commander for Massachusetts, past Adjutant and Treasurer. She is also a life member of DAVA and VFW Auxiliary. She has spent 26 years VAVS Northampton VAMC; 16 years Council on Aging, Hardwick, MA, Chairman COA for 10 years. On the AXPOW National level, she serves as Chairman, Awards and member, Bylaws committees.



For National Director
SE~Ray VanDuzer

While serving in the Army with the 28th Inf. Div., Ray was captured in Germany; he was held in Stalags XIII, IIIB, IIIA, XIA. In civilian life, he spent 40 years as CEO of not-for-profit corporations. He is an active member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He is also an active NSO, working with the St. Petersburg VAMC. Ray is currently National Director for the Southeast Region.

Candidates for National Office



For National Director SE~Lloyd Pate

Pate was assigned to the 24th ID, then Co. K, 19th Regt. He was captured on Jan. 1st, 1951 and remained a POW for 31 months and 19 days. Pate was instrumental in forming the Dept. of Georgia and chartering another 8 Chapters. He has served in numerous positions within the Department including three terms as Commander. He is a life member of the VFW, AL, MOPH, VUMS and the KWVA plus several Division Associations



For National Director NC~Carroll Bogard

Carroll served with the 8th AF, 466th BG, 785th BS. He was captured in August, 1944; held in Stalag Luft VI and Luft IV. He joined AXPOW in 1986 and quickly became an active member. He has been Chapter Adjutant, Vice Commander and Commander; at the Dept. level, he worked the chairs, culminating with a three-year stint as Commander when they hosted the 1995 National Convention. He has been a National Director for the past three years.



For National Director MC~Ed Kazmierczak

Kaz is currently serving as National Director. He replaced the deceased Leonard Rose. He was wounded and captured on January 21, 1945 in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in XIIA and XIB. He was liberated on April 16, 1945 in Germany. Kaz belongs to the Wolverine Chapter #1 in Dearborn, Michigan. He served two terms as commander of the chapter.



For National Director SC~James L. Lollar

Jim, a B-52 Tail-Gunner, became a member of the 4th Allied POW Wing at the infamous Hoa Lo Prison (the Hanoi Hilton) after his aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam during Operation Linebacker II. He has been an active Life Member of AXPOW and other veterans service organizations. Jim is currently serving his 3rd term as AXPOW's National Sergeant-at-Arms and is JVC for the Dallas Metroplex Chapter. He is also editor of the Chapter newsletter.



For National Director NW~ Bonnie Sharp

Bonnie has served 5 years as a National Director and was appointed to a term as National Jr. Vice Commander, Western Zone in 2006. She has been active member on the National Board of Directors' *Outreach, Membership, and Ways & Means* Committees. In Washington State, she was Chapter Commander for 3 years and is presently serving her third year as Chapter Adjutant.



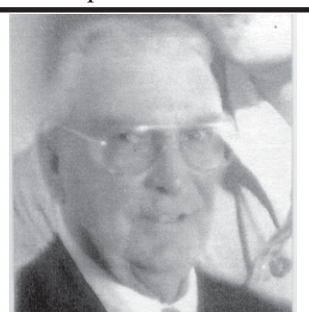
For National Director NW~Gwen D. Warren

Gwen has been a longtime member of the Seattle Chapter, AXPOW. She was adjutant for the chapter for six years (after volunteering to computerize the membership list) and was event planner for the Dept's. 2007 State Convention in Everett, Washington. Gwen also served as president of the Pacific Northwest Rainbow Auxiliary of the Army 42nd Division. In Dec. of 2006, she was appointed to fill the remaining term of Northwest National Director, Jim Wells.



For National Director SW~Milton M. Moore, Jr.

Skip has been a long-time active member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. His father, Milton M. Moore Sr., was elected as the National Commander of AXPOW in 1989. Skip served as National Sgt at Arms for 6 years. He spent 22 years in the Army and had two tours of duty in Viet Nam, retiring as a SSG (E6) in August of 1989. Currently, Skip is the Commander of the Cochise Chapter AXPOW and the Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Arizona, AXPOW.



For National Director SW~Ralph Kling

Ralph flew P-47s during WWII, while serving with the Army Air Corps. He was captured after being shot down over Luxembourg. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III and Stalag VIIA (Moosberg). He was liberated on April 29, 1945. Ralph is currently Jr. Vice Commander of the San Diego Chapter #1, Commander~Department of California and National Director for the Southwest Region.

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



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

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

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

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

We purchased rehabilitation equipment, televisions and more

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

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

THANK YOU!



American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography

www.axpow.org

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



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Where were you captured?

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Medals received

Job in the military

After the war

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

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

Telephone

Unit

Date captured

Date liberated

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

Please include your check for \$65.

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

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



Power. Prestige. Flexibility.

There is a card that truly deserves to be the only card in your wallet. We couldn't be more proud to offer you the American Ex-Prisoners of War Platinum Plus[®] MasterCard[®] credit card at competitive rates.

Exceptional Benefits

- No Annual Fee
- Low introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR)*
- Generous credit lines as high as \$100,000
- Emergency card replacement
- Cash access at thousands of ATMs worldwide

World-Class Service

- 24-hour Customer service
- Billing dispute advocates
- Complete online account access and bill pay features
- Instant credit line decisions
- Travel planning services

Complete Security

- Around-the-clock fraud protection
- Zero liability for fraudulent charges
- Secure access to your account online, all the time
- Common Carrier Travel Accident Insurance coverage

What's more, each time you make a purchase with your credit card, a contribution is made to the American Ex-Prisoners of War - at no additional cost to you.

Learn more—call toll-free 1-866-438-6262. TTY users, call 1-800-833-6262. Please refer to priority code **FAAP4F** when speaking with a representative to apply.

*For information about the rates, fees, other costs, and benefits associated with the use of the card; or to apply, please call the above toll-free numbers.

This credit card program is issued and administered by FIA Card Services, N.A. Any account opened in response to this application shall be governed by the laws of the state of Delaware. Travel planning services are provided to Bank of America Customers by an independently owned and operated travel agency registered to do business in California (Reg. No. 2036509-50); Ohio (Reg. No. 87890286) Washington (Reg. No. 6011237430) and other states, as required. MasterCard is a federally registered service mark of MasterCard International, Inc., and is used by the issuer pursuant to license. Bank of America is a registered trademark of Bank of America Corporation.

contributions



Please send donations to:
National Headquarters, 3201 East
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,
Arlington, TX 76010. You can also
make a donation with a credit
card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call
817-6492979. Thank you!
Contributions are not tax deductible

GENERAL FUND

Robert Rivers, Orcutt CA
Thomas Foy, Bayard NM
In memory of Allen 'Al' Seamans, by
the Rocky Mountain Chapter, CO
In memory of Anthony Kolich, by David
Berg, Rodrigo Gomez, Janet Snell-

Kelly, Sharon Uhl, Joshua Muntain, Li-
At Friedman, Dave Mills and Cristy
Pauley
In memory of Bob Suvada, by Sam
Moreland
In memory of Cleo Jackson, by Harry
Hammers
In memory of Dario Gerola, by George
Fasciano
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Carolyn Chavez
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Connie Pace
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Daniel Ormrod
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
friends and neighbors of Howard
Bromberg
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Georgetta Painter
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Geraldine Rose

In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Kathleen Thompson
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Kerry Kelley
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Lorie Lamb
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Lorinda Hite
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Marcia Scott
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Patricia Milgram
In memory of Emanuel Bromberg, by
Richard Macklin
In memory of Leroy Brown, by Harold
Knapp
In memory of Milford Beldt, by Wanda
Byrne
In memory of Stewart Livingston, by
Anna Roberts
In memory of Stewart Livingston, by
Harriet Berne

chaplain's corner



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

As I went out this morning to get the newspaper, I glanced up and thought, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." I would like for all the very special friends and even those who have not been friends to understand where this humble servant of the Lord has been coming from for over 50 years. I hope you will give some thought to what I am trying to say; what I have written and said have not really been my thoughts. I do not have any special abilities, but working in the Lord's vineyard, I have been provided everything I

need to prepare sermons, devotions, funerals, etc. I am so thankful that the Lord has taken care and given me proper words and thoughts that seemed to mostly fit the situation. So although we might not understand His plan for us at the time He proposes it, I promise to do the Lord's will and honor Him. Please remember that this is the day the Lord has made. May we use it to glorify His Holy and Blessed Name.

Let us Pray: Almighty God, grant that we, as a God-fearing people and nation, find a way to overcome our differing opinions. Please forgive us when we fail to be more like Thee, who loves peace more than turmoil. To want unity instead of division. O Lord, our God, we do pray for peace on earth and good will toward all people and nations and let there be an accounting of our POW/MIAs and in all things may we be more like Thee in whose name we pray. AMEN.

Thought for the month: The highest reward for what we do is not what we get from it, but what we become by it.

Top 10 signs from God...

- 1) Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before the Game - God
- 2) C'mon Over And Bring The Kids - God
- 3) What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand? - God
- 4) We Need To Talk - God
- 5) Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer! - God
- 6) Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage - God
- 7) That "Love Thy Neighbour" Thing, I Meant It. - God
- 8) I Love You...I Love You...I Love You... - God
- 9) Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place? - God
- 10) Follow Me. - God



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taps



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

BERGMAN, Herman Arthur, 90, of Portland, OR passed away July 8, 2007. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII; he spent 20 months in Luft 3 before liberation. Herman is survived by two sons, one brother, one sister and two grandsons.

CACERES, Catalina passed away on July 11, 2007 at the age of 83. She was born in Corregidor, Philippines. Catalina was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Florencio Caceres. She is survived by many children and grandchildren. She was a member of the Tacoma, WA chapter and a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

CHENEY, Guy P., 88, of Windsor, CT passed away July 6, 2007. He served with the 93rd BG, 328th BS, 8th AF. He was imprisoned at Stalag 17B after his plane was shot down over Germany. He leaves his wife, Doris, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Both Guy and Doris were life members of CT Chapter, AXPOW.

CHAMBERLAIN, Dorothy, beloved wife of Henry 'Hank', of Edmonds, Washington, died August 8, 2007. Dorothy served in the US Army as a Sergeant during WW II. She was a surgical technician. She met her husband, Henry, while serving at Ft George Wright, WA. They were married nearly 60 years.

CORE, Orville, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died August 15, 2007. Orville served with the 8th Air Force, 398 Bomb Group, and was a POW in Luft 4 and 1. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Polly Anna.

DARGON, Harry R, life member since 1988 and a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter, died June 21, 2007. He was captured

in Belgium and spent time in Camps 8 and 7.

DEOCAMPO, Salvador passed away August 13, 2007 in Lakewood, Washington. He was 84. Salvador is survived by his five children, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was born in Corregidor Island, Philippines and was an ex-prisoner of war during WWII and the Korean War. Salvador was a long time member of the Tacoma, WA Chapter and a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

DONOHUE, Robert G., 85, of Wethersfield, CT died July 4, 2007. He served with the 493rd BG, 8th AF and was a POW at Luft 1, Barth. He was a life member of CT Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Wanda, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

DUMAQUIT, Geoffrey, member of the Luzuiminda Chapter in San Francisco passed away August 29, 2007. He was 87 years old. Geoffrey was a former Filipino Scout during WWII. He was a life member of AXPOW. He will be missed by his wife, Alice. He was on the Bataan Death March and also a retired US Army soldier.

FABER, Melvin L., "Sam", 88, of Greenfield, IA passed away May 2, 2007. He served with the 168th Inf., 34th Div. during WWII. He was captured at Faid Pass, North Africa and held for 26 months. He leaves his wife, Alice, 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

FINOT, Paul, a member of the Vista Group with the San Diego POW Chapter 1 passed away August 1, 2007. He was a B-17 crew member of the 8th Air Force, 490th BG, 848th BS; he was a POW in Stalag Luft 4.

HOLMBERG, Margret E., 78, of West Hartford, CT died July 6, 2007. She was a life member of CT Chapter, AXPOW and was the widow of Alfred Holmberg (393rd Inf., 99th DIV., POW

at Stalag IIB). She leaves one son, one daughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

HOWELL, Willie W., 84, passed away Aug. 9, 2007. He was a life member of AXPOW and the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter, Hampton, VA. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 72nd Armored Div. His wife of 65 years, Mary, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 1 brother and numerous nieces and nephews survive him.

HOWLETT, Oshlar C., of Radford, VA passed away Dec. 6, 2006 at the age of 87. He was captured at Faid Pass while serving with the 34th Div., 168th Inf. He was flown to Italy before being shipped by boxcar to Stalag IIB. He was a POW for 26 months before managing to escape in April 1945. Oshlar was a member of the Roanoke Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth, 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

HURD, Robert Dale "Bob" died September 3, 2007. During WWII, he was in the European Theater, serving in the 8th Air Force, 94th Bomb Group, 331st Bomb Squad. He was captured by the Germans, was in Stalag Luft IV and then marched to Hallie, Germany. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of American Ex-POWs. He is survived by Mabel, his wife of 66 years, 2 sons, 2 sisters, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

JACOBSEN, Gene Samuel, of St. George, UT passed away May 25, 2007. He was 85. Gene was captured while serving in the Philippines with the 20th Pursuit Squadron. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of imprisonment in the Philippines and Japan. He is missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Barbara (a gunnery instructor in the US Navy WAVES), 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

taps continued...

JOHNSON, Chalmer D., of Milwaukee, WI passed away April 2, 2007 at the age of 88. Chal served with the 9th AF during WWII; he was captured and held POW for one year. He was a member of the Milwaukee Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his loving wife of 58 years, Lucille, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren and 1 sister.

KALINOWSKI, Helen L., 83, of West Boylston, MA died August 25, 2007. Helen, along with her husband, Stephen, was an active member of AXPOW - both at the local and national levels. She served as treasurer of the Central Massachusetts Chapter for 14 years. In addition to her beloved husband, Helen is survived by one son, one sister and many nieces and nephews. She will be missed by her many friends.

KALLAL, Howard, 83, died August 4 in Palm Harbor, FL. He was born in Cicero, Ill, and moved here in 1980. He served in the ETO, 8th AF, 305th BG, 366th BS, during World War II. He was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV. He is survived by Irene, his wife of 60 years, 4 sons, a daughter, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

KANTOR, Dwain Stanley, of San Diego, CA died July 5, 2007. He was shot down on his seventh mission, returning from Hanover while serving with the 8th AF. Dwain is survived by two sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

KEARNEY, Matthew J., of Greendale, WI died July 2, 2007 at the age of 82. Matthew was an Ex-POW in WWII and was a member of the Milwaukee Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his special friend, Delores Roecker, 2 brothers, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

KENNEDY, Walbert H., of Parson, TN passed away July 15, 2007. He was 84. During WWII, he served with the 2nd Inf. Div. "Indianhead", 2nd Recon. Troop, entering battle in the invasion of Normandy. He was captured in the mountains of Germany and held at

Stalag 12A until he escaped in April, 1945. He was a life member of AX-POW. He leaves 1 sister, 3 sons, 2 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and his long-time friend and comrade-in-arms, Jordan Baker.

KLINGINSMITH, Irl J., of St. Joseph, MO died June 9, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 101st Airborne. Irl was shot down over Belgium and held in Lufts 1 and IV for 16 months. He was a member of the Pony Express Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, 7 children, 3 sisters, 1 brother, 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

LAKNER, Fred, of Hollidaysburg, PA passed away Aug. 16, 2007. He served with the 8th AF, 93rd BG, flying out of England. He was captured and held in Germany until liberation. Fred was a member of the Southern Alleghenies Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Betty, 1 son, 1 granddaughter, 2 stepsons and 1 sister.

LIVINGSTON, Stewart B., of Edina, MN died May 25, 2007. Stew was serving with the 8th AF, 452nd BG, 728th BS on the "Little Judy" when he was shot down and captured. He was held in a succession of POW camps until liberation. Both Stew and his wife Lorna were life members of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to his wife, he is survived by five children and five grandchildren.

MADDUX, Jim "Bud" age 84, of Cookeville, TN passed away June 10, 2007. During WWII, he served in the Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne Div. He was captured in France and spent 11 months in POW camps in Germany. Bud was a founding member of the Dearborn, MI Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Mary, 1 daughter, 2 stepsons, 2 brothers, 5 grandchildren and numerous family and friends.

MARTIN, Horace "Al" passed away on June 4, 2007 at the age of 84 in Wasilla, Alaska. Al served in the European Theatre and was a prisoner of war in Italy. He is survived by his wife Jane, 2 sons and 6 grand-

children. Al was an active member of the Tacoma, Washington Chapter and a lifemember of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

MARTINEZ, Lorraine D., of Ft. Garland, CO died June 22, 2007. She was a life member of AXPOW and the Mile High Chapter. Lorraine was the widow of EX-POW Joe F., who was captured while serving with the 200th Coast Artillery; held in O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Hirohata/Himiji. Lorraine is survived by 3 sons, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

McCRILLIS, Carl Patton, 84, of Dewey, AZ died July 16, 2007. During WWII he was seriously wounded in the air raid on Cavite; he was sent to a hospital in Manila. It was there he was captured and sent to various POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. After 3 ½ years, he returned home. Carl is survived by his wife, Marlene, 2 children, 2 stepsons, 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

MIDDLEBROOKS, Ralph W., of San Diego, CA passed away July 6, 2007. He was 84. Ralph was captured on Corregidor and held in Cabanatuan, then Mukden, Manchuria. He was a member of ADBC. He leaves one son, one daughter, three grandchildren, one niece and one brother.

MITCHELL, Charles R., of Chelsea, MI died March 25, 2007. He was a member of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the Army Air Corps. Survivors include his loving wife of 65 years, Louise, 4 daughters, 3 sons, 21 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

MOCORRO, Dometela (Domi) passed away on July 12, 2007 in Puyallup, WA at the age of 85. She was born in the Philippines, became a military wife, traveled to the United States and resided in Lakewood, WA for over 50 years. Domi was preceded in death by her beloved husband Mark Mocerro. She is sur-

taps continued...

vived by her six children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Domi was an active member of the Tacoma, WA chapter and a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

MONTEITH, Joseph F. "Monty", 84, of Philadelphia, PA died April 22, 2007. His plane was shot down over Germany; he was captured and held for 16 months in Luft IV. He was a devoted contributor and life member of AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife of 61 years, Rita, 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters.

MORRIS, Donald W., of Huntsville, AL died recently. He served in the Army during WWII and was a POW in Germany. He was a member of the North Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include one daughter, four grandsons, three great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

OVIS, Harold W., of Delray Beach, FL (formerly of N. Woodmere, NY) passed away May 6, 2007. During WWII he served with the 559th BS, 387th BG. He was shot down over Germany and held in Stalag I, Stein, Germany until liberation. He leaves his wife, Estelle, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

RATZMAN, Betty Louise, member of the Fresno Chapter #1, passed away Aug. 19, 2007. She was the wife of Ex-POW Earl Ratzman, who preceded her in death in 1991. Betty is survived by one son.

RODGERS, Joseph L., 86, of New Market, AL passed away Nov. 28, 2006. He was a member of the North Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Virginia, 2 sons, 1 granddaughter, nieces and nephews and friends.

REIGERT, Dwight, age 82, of Gresham, OR died Aug. 17, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF, 99th BG, 346th BS. He was shot down over Germany and spent most

of the remaining days of the war on a forced march. His wife of 57 years, Arlene, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

ROBINSON, James F., 83, of Mechanicsburg, PA died Aug 1, 2007. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII; he was captured and held prisoner of war. James leaves 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

RUSSELL, Robert B., of River Hills, SC passed away Aug. 1, 2007. He was 82. Bob was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 99th Inf. Div. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Muriel, 1 son and 3 daughters.

RUSSELL, Roy D., of Little Rock, AR died in November, 2006. He leaves one son, one daughter, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. The family writes that "the camaraderie Dad felt from your organization was very important to him."

SILVA, Agapito "Gap" passed away June 17, 2007. He was 87 and a resident of Albuquerque, NM. Gap was captured after the fall of Bataan and spent 3 ½ years in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. He was a member of BVO, the parent of AXPOW. He was also National Commander of ADABC. Gap is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Socorro, 7 children, 12 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, numerous nieces and nephews.

SMYTH, Hugh, 98, of Lakewood, WI died March 14, 2007. He was with the 36th Division at the invasion of Italy; he was captured in 1943 and held until liberation. He leaves four sisters, one brother, nieces and nephews.

TARPLEY, Willis B. of Anderson, AL died June 28, 2007 at the age of 85. During WWII, he served with the 80th Div., 317th Inf., Co. L. He was captured and held in Stalag 7A. Willis was a member of the Northwest Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Pauline, 1 daugh-

ter, 1 granddaughter, 1 sister and several special nieces and nephews.

TRONE, Donald, of Lewistown, IL passed away June 27, 2007. He was 88. Donald was a member of the Heart of Illinois Chapter, AXPOW.

TUCKER, Johnsie G., 85, of Statesville, NC died Feb. 17, 2007. She was the widow of Ex-POW Floyd Tucker (captured in North Africa with the US Army Btry 17 FA). Both Johnsie and Floyd were life members of AXPOW. Survivors include one daughter, Judy.

WHETSTONE, Charles L., 82, of Bartlett, TN passed away May 13, 2007. He was a member of the Mid-South Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he was captured while serving in the AAF; he was held at Lufts 4 and 6. He is survived by his wife of more than 63 years, Rosalie, 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WILKINS, Joy E. "Jack", member of the North Central Texas Chapter, AXPOW, died July 1, 2007. He was serving in the Army when he was captured on Bataan and held for 3 ½ years in Philippine and Japanese POW camps. Jack leaves his wife Wanda, one daughter, two sons, three grandchildren and good friend and fellow ex-POW "Doc" Masoomian.

WILLIAMS, Duncan J., of Rutland, VT passed away March 26, 2007. He was 84. He leaves his wife, Ruth, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

YODER, Oard passed away in Tacoma, Washington on April 10, 2007 at the age of 93. At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife Beverly and one son. **YODER, Beverly** passed away in Tacoma, Washington on May 1, 2007 at the age of 91. She was preceded in death by her husband Oard Yoder only 20 days prior to her own death. Beverly were both active and devoted members of the Tacoma, WA Chapter and life members of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

taps continued...

An Angel Gets Her Wings...

by Alice A. Booher

BLACK, Earlyn Marie, known by all as “Blackie”, was born in rural TX on 8 September 1918. She lived on a farm and went to school during the Depression, earning her R.N. from Baylor University School of Nursing in 1938. For 2 years, she was a civilian staff nurse at Ft. Worth’s Cook Memorial Hospital. Fifteen months before Pearl Harbor, Blackie joined the regular Army Nurse Corps. After a stint at Ft. Sam Houston, TX, she volunteered for “paradise”, and in June 1941, arrived on the rocky island fortress of Corregidor in the Philippines. Early-on there was free time for sports, shopping and nights of dancing, but this did not last long. As violence escalated, supplies began to run short, medicine became sparse to nonexistent, scalpels were dulled by use, and injuries increased. Blackie and the other nurses discarded their starched white uniforms for overalls of the Army Air Corps, size 42.



When Gen. MacArthur headed for Australia on Mar. 12, 1942, he left Gen. Jonathan “Skinny” Wainwright in command of all Luzon troops which included the nurses.

When Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942, and American forces surrendered to the Japanese, Wainwright and the others became POWs. Blackie and other POWs/internees at Santo Tomas Internment Camp would be liberated by the 1st Cavalry.

Before the surrender, Blackie had met a young Army soldier, Harry J. Harding, USA, with the 63rd Infan-

try (PA), Ilio, Panay. Then a Major, he, too, was captured on Corregidor on May 7, 1942, and would be held in POW Camps there as well as Osaka, Zentsuji POW camps in Japan. He would be liberated from Rokuroshi Camp, Honshu, Japan on Sept. 8, 1945, which was Blackie’s 27th birthday.

[Wainwright would later say that the nurses were, and had been called “Angels” while on Bataan although Dr. Beth Norman reports the name did not appear in print until 1945. However one views the title, the phrase “stuck”, from Norman’s definitive book *We Band of Angels* to atop Mount Sumat Bataan memorial dedicated to the women on April 9, 1980. These women forged a collective persona, although individually a very diverse group. Universally, they were grateful to continue nursing during captivity. When Col. Ruby Bradley, on behalf of 16 other former POWs present gave out a plaque to a friend in Washington in 1992, it read in the name of the “Angels of Bataan and Corregidor”.

On Blackie’s return, she was Chief Nurse, Randolph Field Flight Nurse School, and then at Lowry Field, CO with the AAC. 1st Lt. Black resigned in November 1946 to marry Harry Harding. Blackie remained in the nursing Reserves until 1950.

After the war, the Hardings lived in several areas of the Southwest and had two children, Jac and Sandra. Blackie had always been fascinated with Native culture of North, Central and later South America, and would perfect American and then Mayan weaving techniques in Guatemala. She became an expert, teaching weaving in Santa Fe and Los Alamos, NM. In 1998 she wrote that she was busy with genealogy; starting a small local Weavers Guild for special projects; and enjoying a local youth orchestra and a Sentimental Journeys Band, a group playing ‘40’s tunes in WWII uniforms.

Blackie never forgot kindnesses, and was generous with her encouragements. In late 2006, she wrote that she was just home from 30 days of

rehabilitation that had caused a significant loss of weight and weakness, but nonetheless required about others and shared information on mutual friends. She was a resilient and entertaining correspondent. POW diaries were banned by the Japanese, but after her husband death, the family learned that both she and her husband had kept POW journals, which family retain.



More worker than “joiner”, Blackie nonetheless supported AXPOW, ROA and MOAA; and the DAR. Having visited the site in 1992, she became a solid WIMSA supporter, (she, HR Brantley and Sally Blaine Millett were photographed in TX for its calendar, registering, donating, always using the note cards and stickers; and when ill-health meant she could not attend the 1997 Dedication, she wrote that she had read everything she could in the *Courier Journal* and stayed glued to CNBC to watch it. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry J. Harding and is survived by her children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Blackie Harding died Aug. 16, 2007 at age 88. A graveside service was at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on August 24, 2007 and a memorial service held in Kerrville in September. Blackie, her strength, warmth, talents and generosity will be sorely missed. As Clarence (the almost angel) told Jimmy Stewart’s character in the 1947 *It’s a Wonderful Life*, a bell has rung, and another angel has got her wings.

Blackie’s death leaves only two remaining WWII POW women from the PTO, Millie Dalton Manning in NJ and Mary Jo Oberst in KY.



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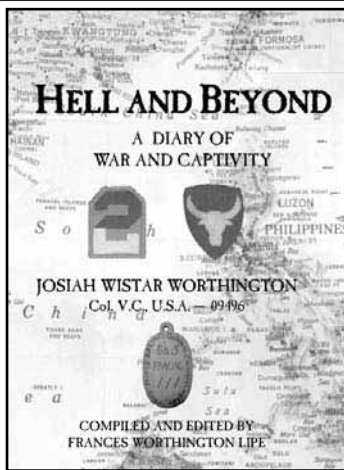
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**Ex-POW Bulletin
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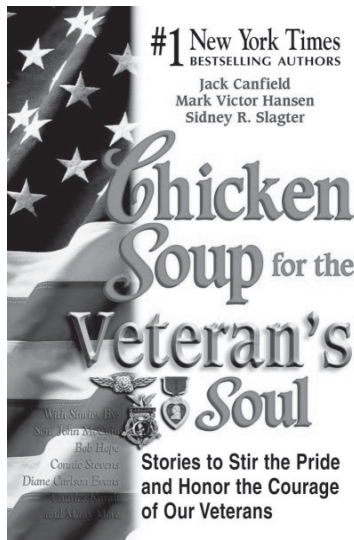
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Clockwise, From top left to right:
National Commander Fletcher speaking at ceremonies marking the end of the Korean War at Arlington Cemetery, Washington, DC; with VA Secretary Jim Nicholson at ceremonies; Fletch with former Korean War POWs Elliott Sortillo and Jim Delong.



The Ohio State Convention Highlights...“Doc” Unger, Dept. Commander,
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