

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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September/October 2015



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



National Commander Ed DeMent

Past Chapter Commander/Past Department Commander (Massachusetts) and active AXPOW member Bob Noble was honored to place the AXPOW wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on April 9, 2015. Bob was accompanied by 38 family members and friends. The next day, he placed the wreath at the World War II Memorial. (The yellow rose is in memory of Gloria).



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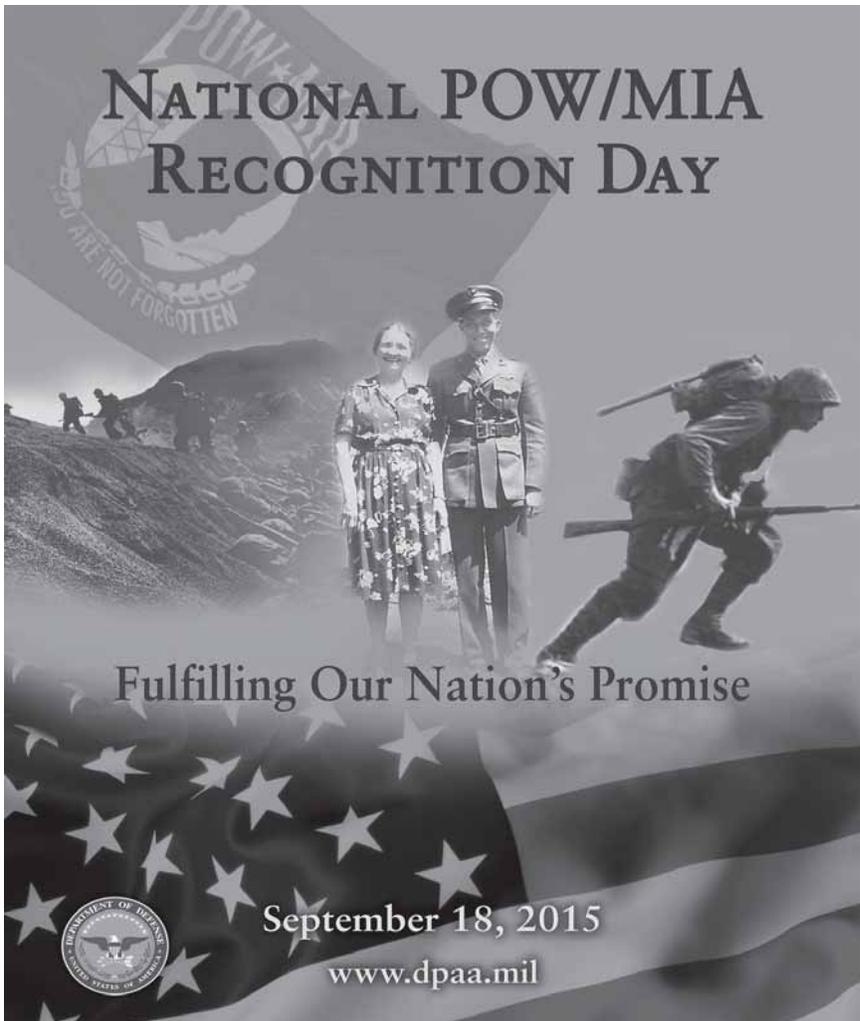
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Please send all materials to
the editor at the above
address.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

A Pentagon ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. This ceremony will feature troops from each of the military services.

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National Commander
Edward DeMent

Thank you for the honor of electing me as your National Commander for 2015-2016. I would like to congratulate our board of directors on their elections, and I will do everything possible this year to ensure that we are a true EX-POW family.

Ours is an organization unlike any other in the world. It will be small, but it can be a tremendous force because of this unique nature. The very idea of a group of former prisoners of war and civilian internees and the next of kin banding together in the interest of justice and good, it's almost without precedent. Above all else to be successful...it will be a unity. Just remember, we have a common goal. If we work together, we will stay together.

Our by-laws have been reviewed and changes were made. The duties of my position as National Commander will now serve as the spokesperson of the organization and represents the legacy and honor the POW and the experience of captivity to all as the face and voice of the American ex-Prisoners of War.

I will be the last World War II Commander, therefore we know that our next of kin will carry on our great organization.

We are the greatest generation the men and women who fought in the World War II carried an unimaginable burden. Their date with destiny, both horrendous and heroic, shaped the world we know today. As time goes by, EX-POW's wives and widows are vanishing from our society. Many wives and widows are left with serious financial problems. God bless our service officers that are making every effort to relieve this burden.

**2015 NATIONAL
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
September 18, 2015**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. This annual event honors our missing service members and their families, and highlights the government's commitment to account for them. Across the country, local POW/MIA ceremonies are encouraged throughout POW/MIA Recognition Week, culminating with countless events and the national ceremony in Washington, DC, on Recognition Day.

Support for these missing Americans and their families is deeply felt. America's POW/MIAs should be honored and recognized, rather than memorialized, with the focus on continuing commitment to account as fully as possible for those still missing. Strong, united support by the American people is crucial to achieving concrete answers.

God bless our troops.

Yours in patriotism,

Edward L. DeMent

news
from
hq



Hope you had a great summer! We did here at HQ. It is finally beginning to cool down some.

We are rolling out new programs for you. The 2016 calendar is out. It is dedicated to the veteran and POW monuments throughout the country. We have extra copies for you to share with friends and family.

As a windup to the 150th Anniversary Commemorations of the Civil War, Andersonville is planning a special weekend Sept. 18-20th, culminating with a program titled "The Funeral for the 13,000" commemorating those POWs who died at Andersonville. BG (ret) Rhonda Cornum (Desert Storm POW) is the keynote speaker.

It's time to renew your dues if you are an annual member. Notices are going out in the mail and you should get your reminder soon. Renew early to make sure you do not miss any issues of the Bulletin.

National Midyear Board of Directors Meeting will be Monday, November 16 at the Hilton Arlington. Contact National Headquarters for more information.

Watch out for the kids heading back to school! Enjoy the autumn breezes and colors!

Clydie, Marsha, Donna

from the CEO



David Eberly

Our annual convention in Dallas was a significant milestone for our AX-POW Organization. The series of meetings proved to be a congenial gathering of returnees and next-of-kin determined to move forward with several positive initiatives.

The most significant action was the revised Bylaws endorsed by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership. This new governing directive has created a new officer position and renamed the Executive Director and Finance Officer to better align the management structure with modern business practices. Now, the management team will consist of a Chief Executive Officer, a Chief Operations Officer, and a Chief Finance Officer. This will allow the National Commander to focus on representing the organization without the burdens of day-to-day operations.

I am honored to have been appointed as your Chief Executive Officer by the Board of Directors. My vision for the organization comes from that time-honored phrase: *Pride in the Past; Faith in the Future.*

Unquestionably, we must face the reality of our declining membership of the Greatest Generation while instilling in the youth of our nation the courage and service above self of the

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POW experience. In Article II. of the newly adopted Bylaws, we state:

A. The purpose of the American Ex-Prisoners of War is to foster programs to highlight the service of those American military and civilian persons held in captivity or interned by enemies of the United States, and to sustain the legacy of the POW experience.

B. The organization is dedicated to assisting the returnees and their families; and to educate the public and maintain an historical database.

C. Through fraternal activities, members will foster patriotism, loyalty, and allegiance to the United States of America to preserve and defend her from all enemies.

This is a challenge to all. And, with the newly expanded next-of-kin eligibility and the associate category, it is a call for increasing the membership. This is our *future.*

Complementing an increase in membership to sustain the organization is a proposed *named* scholarship program. These scholarships to college students and Andersonville interns would honor Past National Commanders and preserve the legacy of the individual's POW experience. Andersonville also offers us a unique venue to personally tell our story. I encourage each returnee to consider scheduling a visit through the National Park Service and to be available to talk with visitors about their own POW experience. This is *pride in the past.*

Finally, we must bolster by any means possible our National Service Officer program. This effort is critical to the ongoing needs of those who have so valiantly served our great country.

I trust you will consider joining us in Dallas next June for the annual convention and continue to support by any means our AXPOW organization. Our commitment today is as important as ever:

" Help those who cannot help themselves"

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You may not be aware that there are other presumptives you may be entitled to in addition to the POW presumptives. This issue, we focus on "atomic veterans". If you qualify as an "atomic veteran", you may be eligible.

Atomic Veterans and Radiation-Related Health Issues

Approximately 195,000 U. S. service members have been identified as participants in the post-World War II occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan following the atomic bombing of Japan. In addition, approximately 210,000 mostly military members are confirmed as participants in U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests between 1945 and 1962 in the United States and the Pacific and Atlantic oceans prior to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty. Largely as a result of epidemiological studies of Japanese atomic bomb survivors, exposure to radiation has been associated with a number of disorders including leukemia, various cancers and cataracts. VA provides special priority enrollment for health-care services to "atomic veterans" for radiation-related conditions. In addition, these "atomic veterans" are eligible to participate in the VA ionizing radiation registry examination program.

What is Ionizing Radiation?

The term "ionizing radiation" refers to a group of subatomic particles, electromagnetic waves or photons that have enough energy to break chemical bonds and create ions (electrically charged particles) when they interact with atoms or molecules

such as in the human body, which can lead to short- and long-term health consequences.

What are the types and common sources of Ionizing Radiation?

The following are types of ionizing radiation.

Alpha particles are relatively large particles compared to other types of radiation, and are made of parts of the nuclei of helium atoms. Sources include some radioactive elements. They are not able to penetrate the intact skin. Therefore, alpha emitters are hazardous primarily if they are taken into the body (for example, via the mouth and nose) and function as sources of internal radiation.

Beta particles are high-energy electrons that also come from many radioactive elements. They can penetrate a short distance into the body, but are hazardous primarily if radioactive elements that produce beta radiation are taken into the body and become sources of internal radiation.

Gamma rays and similar x rays are types of electromagnetic radiation. Common sources are radioactive elements, and x ray medicine. These rays can penetrate the body readily so both external and internal gamma sources are hazardous.

Neutron particles emitted from atomic nuclei are another type of ionizing radiation to which some veterans were exposed (for example, by being nearby during or immediately after atomic weapons explosion). Neutron radiation is also produced by a

few radioactive elements, and can penetrate the body readily.

Where does ionizing radiation come from?

Sources of ionizing radiation include radioactive atoms present in radioisotopes (radioactive forms of natural elements), as a result of nuclear fission (splitting of the atom such as in a nuclear reactor or detonation of an atomic bomb, which produces radioactive elements), nuclear fusion (fusion of atoms as in detonation of a hydrogen bomb), and certain mechanical devices, such as x-ray machines.

What are the health concerns from exposure to Ionizing Radiation?

Many veterans who were present during the construction and later testing of atomic weaponry, and those serving in the occupation of Japan, are continuing to seek treatment for health problems believed to be caused by ionizing radiation for themselves or their families. Family members understandably have related concerns. Other veterans were exposed to ionizing radiation as submariners or as Gulf War participants who were exposed to depleted uranium (DU) and their families also have concerns.

What is the government doing to help veterans exposed to Ionizing Radiation?

Over the years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed comprehensive

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programs to respond to the needs of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation. VA provides special health care services to certain veterans who were exposed to radiation while on active duty. Veterans can receive our Ionizing Radiation Registry Health examination (see Ionizing Radiation Brief, B1, for additional information about the Registry) and have special eligibility for medical treatment for conditions possibly related to their exposure. (See Ionizing Radiation Brief, B2, for health care eligibility). These veterans are also eligible for the wide range benefits offered by VA to most veterans, including home loan guarantees, educational payments, and, under certain circumstances, disability compensation.

About the Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam

This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter. Important points about registry health exams: Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary Based on Veterans' recollection of service, not on their military records Will not confirm ionizing radiation exposure Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop Veterans' family members are not eligible for registry exam.

How does a veteran qualify to participate in this program?

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To qualify for VA's program for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, individuals must meet specific criteria. By law, veterans with special eligibility include those who:

- Participated in atmospheric (above ground) nuclear weapons testing;
- Participated in American occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan;
- In some cases, were held as Prisoners of War in Japan;
- Veterans who served at gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and area K25 at Oak Ridge, TN (during specified time periods); or
- Participated in certain underground nuclear weapons tests in Alaska.

Individuals in the first three groups are sometimes referred to as "Atomic Veterans".

Veterans who received nasopharyngeal (NP) radium treatments during their military service are also eligible to participate in VA's Ionizing Radiation Registry examination program.

How does a concerned veteran get an Ionizing Radiation Registry examination?

Examinations are provided upon request to all eligible veterans. Examinations, with few exceptions, are conducted at VA medical center nationwide. For information about eligibility and a possible appointment, veterans are encouraged to call the local VA medical center. Veterans are also urged to contact their local VA. You can reach their local VA Regional Office for benefit information by calling 1-800-827-1000.

What are the advantages and limitations of the Ionizing Radiation Registry?

Because of the self-selected nature of Registry participants (that is, the individuals decide themselves to be part of the Registry rather than being "chosen" in a scientific manner), this group of veterans are not truly representative of radiation-exposed veterans as a whole.

Therefore, the health-related information collected cannot be used for scientific research. The information can, however, be used to detect possible health occurrences and can provide useful facts about the group itself, and serve as an opportunity to address health concerns of veterans exposed to radiation while in service.

How many veterans have been exposed to radiation during their military service?

VA estimates that more than 400,000 service members participated in activities, which may have involved exposure to radiation. This includes about 210,000 individuals who participated in atmospheric nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, and an estimated 195,000 service members who participated in post-World War II occupations of Japan. The number of veterans with other sources of exposures is considerably smaller.

How does a veteran get disability compensation?

Any veteran who believes his or her health medical problems were incurred in or aggravated by military service is encouraged to apply for disability compensation. VA provides billions of dollars each year to compensate veterans for injuries

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and illnesses that they have had while on active duty. Veterans Services Representatives (VSR), located at all VA regional offices and many VA medical centers, can explain the compensation programs in greater detail and can assist veterans who need help in filing a claim for service-connected disability compensation. Some survivors of certain veterans are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC). A VSR can also help the survivors complete the necessary forms for this benefit program. In addition, veterans can reach the VA Regional Office serving their area by calling 1-800-827-1000.

What is the difference between presumptive and non-presumptive service-connected disability compensation?

“Presumption” means disability compensation will automatically be granted (assuming that the veteran applies for this benefit and meets certain conditions, such as documentation of participation in a “radiation risk activity”). “Non-presumption” means compensation may be awarded if there is evidence supporting the veterans claim that it is at least as likely as not that the illness was incurred in, or aggravated by, military service. VA provides monthly payments to eligible veterans under these two programs.

Several categories of veterans are automatically eligible for compensation for one or more of 21 cancers specified in Federal law or VA regulations to be “presumed” to be associated with radiation exposure. For example, 21 cancers are known as presumptively recognized service-connected conditions. Radiation-exposed veterans with exposure situations or

conditions not covered by the presumptions may also be eligible for disability compensation depending on how much radiation they received and consideration of other factors.

IONIZING RADIATION REGISTRY

What is it?

The Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR) is a service provided to veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation during their military service. For eligible veterans, VA performs a complete physical examination (and various other tests) for each veteran who requests it.

Who is eligible for this program?

Veterans, who participated in atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, served with the U.S. occupational forces in Hiroshima or Nagasaki or were a POW there, were exposed to ionizing radiation while participating in another “radiation risk” activity as defined in VA regulations, or received nasopharyngeal (NP) radium treatments while in military service may participate.

Are veterans required to enroll in the VA health care system to participate in the Registry?

No. Veterans need not be enrolled for general VA health care to be eligible for the Registry.

Where can a veteran join the Registry?

This program is offered at virtually all VA medical centers throughout the Nation.

Under what authority was the Registry established?

Public Law 99-576, the “Veterans Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of

1986,” enacted October 28, 1986, required VA to establish and maintain an Ionizing Radiation Registry of veterans exposed to radiation. In addition, Public Law 105-368, the “Veterans Programs Enhancement Act,” enacted November 11, 1998, states that VA may provide a medical examination, hospital care, medical service, and nursing home care that the Secretary finds may be associated with the veteran’s receipt of nasopharyngeal (NP) radium irradiation treatments while in the active service.

What does the Ionizing Radiation Registry consist of?

The IRR consists of data from veterans who participated in the IRR program along with information about compensation claims and radiation exposures from the Veterans Benefits Administration, an agency of VA and Department of Defense (DoD) agencies. VA compiles and consolidates information maintained by VA and DoD. Additional specialized tests and consultations are provided to veterans participating in the IRR exams program, as medically needed. This program potentially serves as an entry point for VA care.

Does participation in the Registry make a veteran eligible for disability compensation from VA?

No. Veterans are advised that the examination or treatment for radiation-related diseases does not constitute a formal claim for compensation. Although the results of an IRR examination may be used to support a compensation claim, the

medsearch cont'd...

examination will not, in and of itself, be considered such a claim.

Where can a veteran go to receive an Ionizing Radiation examination?

Contact the nearest VA medical center and request an Ionizing Radiation Registry examination.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

1. Presumptive Service-Connection

The following categories of veterans are automatically eligible for disability compensation for one or more of 21 cancers specified in Federal law: Veterans who participated in nuclear tests by the U.S., including certain underground tests at Amchitka Island, Alaska, prior to January 1, 1974, or who served with the U.S. occupation forces in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, between August 1945 and July 1946, or who were prisoners of war in Japan, or some who served at the gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and area K25 at Oak Ridge, TN.

The 21 cancers are **presumed** to be service-connected for veterans who participated in "radiation-risk activities," a term defined by VA regulations, include all forms of leukemia (except for chronic lymphocytic leukemia); cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract (renal pelvis, urethra, urinary bladder, and urethra), brain, bone, lung, colon, and ovary, bronchiole-alveolar carcinoma, multiple myeloma, lymphomas (other than

Hodgkin's disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

2. Non-presumptive - Direct Service Connection

To determine service-connection for other conditions or exposures *not* eligible for presumptive compensation, VA adjudicators consider each case individually, looking at number of factors, including the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender, family history, age at the time of exposure, the extent to which a nonservice-related exposure could contribute to the disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

VA regulations define all cancers as possibly caused by radiation. Other non-malignant conditions might be caused by radiation include, posterior subcapsular cataracts; non-malignant thyroid nodular disease; parathyroid

adenoma; and tumors of the brain and central nervous system. For a given individual, VA will also consider the possibility that other diseases were caused by radiation, if supported by medical or scientific evidence. To be eligible for compensation, VA must be able to establish that it is at least as likely as not that a veterans' illness was caused by their exposure to radiation during military service.

What about benefits for the survivors?

Surviving family members of deceased veterans who had a disease or diseases from exposure to radiation may be eligible for monthly payments known as dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC).

When the evidence in favor of service-connection is equal to the evidence against such a relationship, VA policy requires that the adjudicator find in the claimant's favor.

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.

(A Non-profit Veteran's Assistance Organization)

NAAV was founded in August, 1979 by the late Orville E. Kelly (of Burlington, Iowa) for the purposes of allowing the U. S. Atomic Veteran Community to speak, with a single voice, to their inability to get a fair hearing related to their developing (radiogenic) health issues that may have been precipitated by their exposure to "ionizing" radiation while participating in a nuclear weapon test detonation, or a "post-test" event. From the beginning, and to date, we continue to pursue our purpose to this dedicated cause.

**The National Association of
Atomic Veterans, Inc.
[National Headquarters]
11214 Sageland
Houston, Tx. 77089**





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



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



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



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



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



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



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



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



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

POW Photos Order Form

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

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legislative



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While in the past I have dedicated the legislative column exclusively with providing updates on legislative issues either new federal Bills, implementation of existing Bills, activities within the VA, etc. This column will also contain a perspective regarding one of the presidential candidates. The American EX Prisoners of War have always focused its efforts on ensuring politicians understand the needs of our veterans and especially those that during their service to our country have sustained injuries and disabilities. It is this obligation that we ask our elected officials to help those that have served our nation. Rarely though, in politics do we find a case where our country's heroes are directly disrespected by someone running for the US Presidency and Commander and Chief. Mr. Donald Trump took the opportunity during an interview to disrespect Senator John McCain, an American hero. We ask you to openly share the perspective communicated by David Eberly, Chief Executive Officer, AXPOW:

July 21, 2015

"Over the weekend Mr. Donald Trump, in an apparent attempt to continue his media-grabbing headlines as a presidential

2015-2016 Legislative Committee

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candidate, made reference to Senator John McCain's military service. Specifically, Mr. Trump disparaged McCain's widely-recognized distinguished career as a Naval Officer and fighter pilot because he was shot down on his 23rd combat mission over North Vietnam. Mr. Trump made no reference to the fact that McCain was captured, tortured, and held as a prisoner of war for over five years. We find these remarks incredible from a person who four times evaded service to his country and now seeks to be the Commander-in-Chief.

Members of The American Ex-Prisoners of War salute the courage and tenacity of Senator McCain, and all those men and women who have fought and died for our great country."

Returning to our Nation's Capital, a disturbing situation for many of our returning veterans is homelessness. While the prior VA Secretary expressed homelessness as a top priority, actions beyond supportive words are required. Senator Boozman, from Arkansas has introduced Bill S. 425 Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015 which will extend the window of reintegration programs for 5 years. As reported in the last bulletin, the House has also introduced a similar Bill HR. 474. Homeless Veterans Prevention Act S.684 by Senators Burr and Machin are another step in addressing our nation's homeless veterans. We ask that you actively support these Bills by contacting your Senators.

In the area of VA servicing our veterans, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted to advance S. 1082, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hold

underperforming employees accountable for wrongdoing. Without proper accountability of those employees providing service to our veterans, changes in process and leadership will ultimately be insufficient to realize the service level our veterans deserve. In addition the Senate committee advanced Bill S. 1203, to improve the appeals process for VA compensation benefits; and S. 1493, to provide a cost-of-living increase for VA benefits equal to Social Security benefits.

Veterans ID Card Act: On July 20, 2015 the President signed this Bill into Law. It provides for military ID cards for those who have reached the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the Armed Forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

As a reminder of those that qualify, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) allow military retirees to receive both military retired pay and Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation. This was prohibited until the CRDP program began on January 1, 2004 and phased in the benefits gradually until January 2014 to full retirement pay.

-----Remember-----

You can research the status of any Bill in Congress by accessing the website govtrack.us and search by Bill number or subject. Politicians must hear from us to take action!

House Veterans Affairs Committee

Jeff Miller, Florida
Chairman
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4136

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

Johnny Isakson, Georgia
Chairman
131 Russell SOB
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3643

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Supt. Charles Sellars
charles_sellars@nps.gov

This fall heralds a lot of transition for Andersonville National Historic Site and the National Prisoner of War Museum. We are excitedly in the final stages of planning for the 150th anniversary event that will take place on Sept. 18, 19 and 20, 2015. This three-day weekend will bring hundreds of participants from across the country to commemorate the sacrifices of the prisoners of war who died at Andersonville during 1864 and 1865.

The anniversary week will begin with a community production of Saul Levitt's "The Andersonville Trial" put on by the Sumter Players at the historic Rylander Theater in Americus, GA. This production explores the themes duty, conscience and honor. This production will take place September 10 -13, 2015.

On Wednesday, September 16th, Brigadier General (Ret.) Rhonda Cornum will speak at the annual convocation ceremony on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, GA. The convocation will begin at 11:00 am and is free and open to the public.

The free three-day weekend will kick off on Friday, September 18 at 10:00 am with a welcome ceremony at Andersonville National Cemetery. In conjunction with the annual Ride Home event, the services and pro-

grams at the national park will draw hundreds and possibly thousands of people each day. Programs about the history of Andersonville and other civil war topics will be given across the park from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, with shuttles providing access to these programs throughout the day. At 7PM, the park will open the prison site loop road to private vehicles who wish to view the almost 13,000 luminaries that will be placed across the prison site. Each luminary representing a life that ended all too soon. The luminary loop will be open until 10:00 pm on both Friday and Saturday nights. Please consider bringing canned goods for donation to the local food bank, if you visit during the weekend. In a place where thousands of United States soldiers starved, we want this event to ensure that no families in this area go hungry.

On Saturday, September 19th the park will continue with programs from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm. Highlights of the day will include a wreath laying ceremony at 10:00 am for descendants, re-enactor groups and other community or fraternal groups that wish to honor their ancestors. The largest event of the weekend will begin just after 12:45pm in the national cemetery with special music, this program entitled "The Funeral for 13,000" will be both historical memorial and modern day acknowledgement of the soldiers who perished at Andersonville and the ones who came after. The service will officially begin at 1:00 pm with the arrival of a ceremonial casket. Guest speakers will include Judson Mitcham, the poet laureate of Georgia, Dr. Lesley Gordon from the University of Akron and the keynote speech given by the Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey. Representatives from each of the military branches during the Civil War will also be involved throughout the ceremony. This modern day memorial service will speak to the challenges of transition from war to peace and from captivity to freedom. People interested in attending this service should come prepared for outside conditions, bring chairs or blankets when possible, and plan for water and snacks as needed in the

day. Parking will be limited, and shuttles or walking will be the main form of transportation around the park. The luminary loop will be open once again at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, September 20th will begin with another round of programs by guest speakers and park staff. The park grounds will be open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, with programs being given from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. A closing ceremony will conclude this 150th anniversary at 5:00 pm.

In addition to the programs and special ceremonies, there will also be wonderful opportunities for children and families to earn their Andersonville Junior Ranger badge and a special event Junior Ranger badge available only during this special month. Also, for those who collect the National Park ink stamps in your souvenir passport books, there will be a special stamp only available during the month of September at the front desk of the National Prisoner of War Museum.

While this event has been our sole focus for many months, our park continues to serve its essential purpose as a national cemetery. We are happy to announce the addition of Cemetery Administrator Charles Barr, who will take over as the lead ranger in charge of cemetery operations. Ranger Barr is retired combat Infantryman who received a Purple Heart during his second tour in Iraq. Ranger Barr, his wife Mandy and their two little girls are long-time residents of Sumter County. Please help us welcome him to the park.

The "Victory from Within" traveling exhibit is now on display at the Reece Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. It will remain there until early October. We encourage everyone in the area to visit it when they are able. It continues to be an effective and emotional way to reach a new generation of visitors across the country.

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namPOWs



Paul E. Galanti
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Lies, Damned Lies and statistics

Mark Twain was fond of the term, "lies, damned lies and statistics" which Twain used frequently to demonstrate irony in his works and humorous writings. British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was also fond of the term which he employed during his prominence usually when blasting Baron Otto von Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor of Germany in the 19th Century. The term usually sarcastically described using statistics as an obfuscation factor to bolster weak arguments.

In this, the era of the Internet, it seems very hard to tell the difference - and the lies, damned lies and statistics crop up often in political arguments. Using only the internet can be dangerous. Witness the semi-phony story of actress Jane Fonda and POWs in Vietnam.

In 1999, a story surfaced on the internet that infuriated nearly all who saw it. It claimed that several POWs were tortured to meet with Jane Fonda and forced to participate in a publicity stunt with her. The POWs were allegedly tortured after she gave the Vietnamese interrogators slips of paper the POWs had given her.

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Long-term Vietnam POW Mike McGrath, then president of Nam-POWs our fraternal society, refuted the claim and sent his response to the Internet where it went viral generating hundreds of responses ranging from "I didn't think it could be true" to disbelief that Jane Fonda was totally innocent of all charges - including betraying the country by fomenting lies about our involvement.

That was in 1999 but the story is still bouncing around the internet today. Three different POWs were mentioned by name and none of them ever saw Jane Fonda. Much of what was in the story was true but nearly all the POW stuff was made up. Mike McGrath repeats his refutation every few years when a new group of (usually) veterans expresses outrage at "Hanoi Jane's" duplicitous acts. The story takes slightly different form sometimes starting by saying Jane Fonda is being nominated for one of 100 women of the Century by Barbara Walters.

Here's what TruthorFiction.com says about it - note the summary says the story is partially truthful and partly fiction!:

Jane Fonda Supported the Enemy in Vietnam and Her Conduct Got American POW's Killed-Truth! & Fiction!

"In protest of Jane Fonda being considered as one of the top 100 women of the century, this email reminds Americans of her controversial visit to North Vietnam during the war. It quotes a POW named Jerry Driscoll who was taken from his prison cell, cleaned and dressed for a visit with Fonda, then ordered to give Fonda a positive account of his treatment. He spit at Fonda and was beaten and dragged away. Then a group of POWs which included a Col. Larry Carrigan were brought out to visit with

Fonda. According to the story, "...she walked the line, shaking each man's hand and asking little encouraging snippets like: "Aren't you sorry you bombed babies?" & "Are you grateful for the humane treatment from your benevolent captors?" Many of the POW's were listed as missing in action so to identify themselves to American authorities, they each wrote their Social Security numbers on small pieces of paper and slipped them to Fonda as she greeted them. To their horror, however, after Fonda finished meeting them, she turned to the North Vietnamese commanding officer and handed him the POW's pieces of paper. In the beatings that followed, three American POW's died and Col. Carrigan nearly died. The email then ends with a statement about events in North Vietnam from an unnamed American POW."

Here's the entire Truth or Fiction site's article: <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/h/hanoijane.htm>

Lesson Learned? When you get a mass-mailed email that really makes you mad, it is probably only partially true - if that. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true. If it sounds outrageous, it stands a good chance of being wrong.

I personally think the best thing you can do is take just about anything from the internet with a huge grain of salt. I try to. Particularly if it's from a political site bragging about one of its own or lambasting an opponent. So I try very hard to be totally apolitical in this column (except when talking about one of those dirty scoundrels on the other side of the spectrum, of course).

Regardless, I still can't stand Jane Fonda...

civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

A Shared Destiny: The Liberation of Old Bilibid Prison

by John Ream

December 27, 1944, was a travel day of great importance to two groups of people. For five hundred civilian prisoners of war at Camp Holmes in Baguio, Philippines, it was a truck ride from Baguio to the capitol city of Manila. For the men of the 37th Infantry Division, their naval convoy departed Manus in the Admiralty Islands bound for the Philippine Island of Luzon. They were unrelated incidents taking place thousands of miles apart from each other, but led both groups to a destiny shared together during World War II seventy years ago.

The internees were divided into two groups to make the 16-hour journey down the mountains to Manila. It was the day after Christmas that the Japanese interpreter, Yamato-san, told the internees to gather food and water, a bedroll, and one cubic meter of personal items for an extended journey. Soon it became known that Manila was the destination, and before departure the last issue of the Camp Holmes Daily News printed their destination; Old Bilibid Prison in Manila. The truck ride was discomfort. The first group arrived after midnight on the 28th followed by the second group the next night. All were aghast at the conditions at Bilibid in comparison to what they left in Baguio. How long they could survive in their new environment was unknown, but events were leading the 37th Division to them.

The 37th Division was combat tested. Its 129th, 145th and 148th regiments fought with distinction in the battles of New Georgia and Bougainville. As part of XIV Corps it landed at Luzon's Lingayen Gulf on January 9, 1945, and quickly outdistanced the 40th Division

on its right and the I Corps on its left. Its capture of Fort Stotsenberg and Clark Field in late January opened the doorway to Manila and secured the most important air base in the Philippines. The 37th was now in position to be the first American unit into Manila.

The civilians from Baguio didn't know it, but their arrival at Bilibid was the greatest fortune that could have befallen them. They marveled that their truck convoys avoided destruction by American air power, but the sixteen foot prison walls, soiled and vermin infested bedding, unsanitary conditions and paucity of food made Bilibid the hell they all feared. They didn't know and wouldn't know until after the war that their home at Camp Holmes in Baguio was obliterated by American bombers. Most importantly, Bilibid was in the direct path of the 37th Infantry Division.

General MacArthur's 1st Cavalry Division landed at Lingayen in late January 1945. He had a special job for them. Two squadrons of the 5th and 8th Cavalry, reinforced by tanks of the 44th Tank Battalion, were sent in a flying column to Manila. He told 1st Cavalry Division commander, Major General Verne Mudge to "Go around the Japs" and rescue the civilian internees at the prison camp in Santo Tomas University and secure Malacanan Palace. MacArthur, however, never limited himself to one option.

On January 31st MacArthur met 37th Division commander Major General Robert Beightler. They knew each other in WWI. MacArthur told his old Rainbow Division comrade how much he would like to see Beightler's division get into Manila first. Beightler pushed his foot soldiers to get to Manila before the mechanized cavalry assault.

Using Highways 3 and 5, the 37th Infantry and 1st Cavalry Divisions moved on Manila. The last barrier before the city was the Tuliahan River. Highway 3 crossed at Balintawak and Highway 5 crossed at Novilaches. On Feb. 3rd, at Novilaches, the 1st Cavalry found the bridge intact and moved into the city of Manila. At Balintawak the 37th Division found the Balintawak Brewery intact and the bridge destroyed. Many a 37th Division soldier with a

helmet full of beer felt they had the better situation.

The internees at Bilibid shared the prison with 800 military prisoners captured in 1942. The prison had been the holding station for military prisoners destined for the "hell ships" taking them to Japan, Manchuria, and Formosa. Upon arrival at Bilibid the civilian internees found graffiti left by thousands of POW's. Their lot as civilian captives was put into perspective. On the walls was found "God damn MacArthur, FDR, and Hull," but more haunting was "God damn God." Bilibid was an institution of suffering and misery, but redemption was coming.

"I saw them. I saw them." It was the evening of Feb. 3rd and Gene Kneebone was overcome with excitement telling his fellow Bilibid internee William Moule that he had just seen American tanks and soldiers break through the gate at Santo Tomas University just a few blocks away. Kneebone had been on the third floor of the old prison hospital, which now served as the home of all the Baguio internees, watching the 1st Cavalry Division. Liberation had to be near!

Bridging the Tuliahan River at Balintawak on February 4th, the 145th and 148th Regiments moved south using Old Manila Road and Rizal Avenue. Firefights erupted with Japanese defenders at the Caloocan Rail Yards and the Chinese cemetery, but by the afternoon the 2nd Battalion of the 148th Infantry was pushing toward the Pasig River.

The third platoon of Company F was sent to find a way around a road block that was holding up the battalion, but it didn't return for many hours. Sergeant Rayford Anderson then put together a patrol from the second platoon and set out before sundown to find them. At Bilibid the camp was wide open. Japanese Major Ebiko and his guards departed at 10:00am to meet their destiny elsewhere. They announced their departure then left with a warning to stay off the streets. The prisoners immediately burst into

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singing God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner, but Manila was burning and fighting was just beyond the 16-foot walls. A small American flag the women had sewn together was broken out and briefly flown from the top of the hospital building. It immediately drew fire from the Japanese and was hauled down.

Sergeant Anderson's patrol entered Bilibid at dusk. Army intelligence did not brief them on prisoners at Bilibid. When the patrol entered Bilibid to find out what it was, it was their belief that the only prisoners in Manila were at Santo Tomas. PFC Donald Ammon pried off some boards covering openings into the prison and saw Americans huddled in a courtyard. They were unresponsive to him until he threw in a pack of Philip Morris cigarettes. Only then did the figures in the courtyard yell, "They are Yanks!" The liberation of Bilibid began.

Anderson got word to 2nd Battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Radcliffe, who immediately moved his troops into Bilibid to expand his perimeter and protect the prison. Ever since the battle at Fort Stotsenberg the foot soldiers of the 37th Division marched with the idea that prisoners awaited them in Manila. It was "something concrete they could fight for." The 1st Cavalry Division beat them to the liberation of prisoners of war, but on February 4th, 1945, the 37th Division had its moment.

Fate had thrown the two groups together. The battle of Manila was exploding around them, just in its initial throes, but for all the prisoners of war in Bilibid Prison the nightmare was over thanks to the 37th Division. Food, soap, medical care, clothes, mobility and all the things denied them became the benefits of freedom. Internee Betty Foley captured the spirit of liberation from Bilibid when she said, "I'll be celebrating the 4th of July in February from now on."

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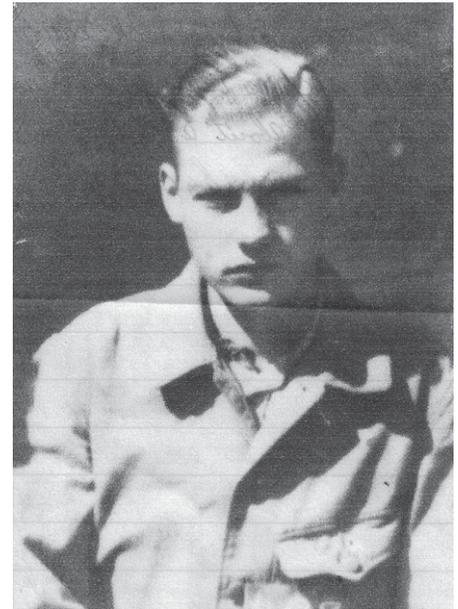


Sept. 9-13, 2015. The 6th Bomb Group Association, Tinian Island 1944-1945 Annual Reunion will be held in Portland, OR. Contact Glenda Richards, 951-233-4516; ggr41797@msn.com

Sept. 14-18, 2015. 11th Airborne Division Association Reunion will be held in Branson MO. Reunion details and registration form can be found at <http://www.11airbornedivision.com/>

Oct. 12-16, 2015. Attention USAF, USAFR and ANG RED HORSE and Prime BEEF Members Past and Present. You are invited to the REDHORSE Association 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of RED HORSE (RH) and Prime BEEF (PB) AF Civil Engineering Construction Units. At the Ramada Inn in Ft Walton Beach, Fl. This is a once in a lifetime experience for all PB & RH members. Highlights planned including recognizing members of the first units deployed to Vietnam and Thailand including 554, 555, 556, 819, 820 and 823 RED HORSE Squadrons plus initial Prime BEEF Teams deployed during 1965-66. Interaction and Presentations by members of current Active Duty 823rd RED HORSE and Reserve 556 RED HORSE Squadrons stationed at Hurlburt Field. Review of the major accomplishments of PB & RH since their inception. Active Duty Update, Golf Tournament and Banquet are part of the activities. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Two commemorative coins designed especially for this 50th Anniversary Celebration will be available. For more information contact Greg MacDougal at (912) 884-7273; or email at: greg.macdougal@rhamail.org or Dick Aldinger at (407) 859-7436, e-mail famdinger@aol.com.

looking
for



I am wondering if there is anyone else out there who was a member of **Battery D, 60th CAA**. Here is my information:

POW # Yuan hochi hochi; North Japan February, 1945. Captured on Corregidor Island May 6, 1942. I was a member of Battery D, 60th CAA. I was mad as heck the guards got us up for the picture taking and we were sitting on a stool in about a foot of snow. The photographer brought a comb. Thank you, Clifford Warren, 10 Rosalie St., Shepherd, TX 77371; 832-401-6511.

My name is Kevin Hall. I am working on my PhD in History at Central Michigan University and am writing about the experiences of American airmen that were Prisoners of War in Germany during the Second World War. I have a questionnaire that I would like to try and have filled out by those willing. If you are interested, please contact me: Kevin Hall, 2031 South Sheridan Road, Caro, MI 48723; hall1kt@cmich.edu.

Finally A National Doughboy Legacy

by Alice A. Booher



Numbers can be somewhat meaningless by themselves, but nonetheless overwhelming taken together. The “Great War”, World War I (WWI) was a vast, complicated affair with numerous complex alliances and venues. Bloodshed for Europe began in the summer of 1914, leading to a devastating estimated death toll of more than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians. The US entered the war on April 7, 1917. According to figures from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), of the 4,734,991 total American service members in WWI (1917-1918), there were 116,516

American deaths (279 deaths per day of the war) [53,402 in battle, 63,114 noncombat (non-theatre)] and 204,002 nonmortal woundings. These statistics become more dreadful when juxtaposed with the nearest (1920) census showing a total U.S. population of 103,268,000 which translates to a US/war-related death ratio per population of 0.110%. VA reports that as of April 2015, there were no remaining WWI veterans, but 1,757 children and 2,472 surviving spouses remain on the benefits rolls from WWI. According to an assessment from Dr. Charles Stenger, NARA, DoD and others, American POWs during WWI (captured and interned) numbered 4,120 (of whom 147 died in captivity; 3,973 were returned to US military control). Other statistics reflect about 3,350 were MIA with remains never recovered – which adds up to 7,470 American POW/MIAs in WWI.

These figures seem inexcusably bleak when addressed in the context of the lack of any American national memorial to WWI veterans. There have been any number

of proposals for such a memorial over the past nearly 100 years, but for myriad reasons, these ideas just did not generate much traction. It is entirely possible, nearly probable perhaps, that this may soon change. It might well be argued that this progress can be attributed to one man, a remarkable former POW who took a stand.

Over the years, including via several *Bulletin* stories (features in January-February 2008, May-June 2011, and January-February 2012), readers became familiar with the compelling story of Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last remaining American WWI veteran (February 1, 1901-February 27, 2011). Some of his story deserves retelling in this new context. In the summer of 1917, after Marine Corps and Navy recruiters told him he was too young, too skinny, too flat footed, Buckles embellished his assets and the Army signed him up, serial number 15577. Informed the quickest way to get to France was to drive an ambulance, Buckles volunteered and soon was driving those, cars and a motorcycle with sidecar; after Armistice Day, Buckles was with the 122nd POW Escort Detachment returning German POWs home. In a letter to *The Quan* magazine in June 2004, Buckles said that he only had 3 remaining photos of himself in uniform, one of which (shown here) was on the way to a reception for GEN John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force, in Oklahoma City circa February 1920, when he met the general and spoke with him about their shared Missouri heritage.

After WWI, Buckles returned home to take various jobs, landing in 1940 with a job to expedite cargoes for the American President Lines in Manila. As Buckles

WWI Veteran Frank Woodruff Buckles

Gap View Farm Rt. 6, Box 127
Jefferson County
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414
304-725-5998

Three pictures are all I have from my experience in World War One. The one showing my four gold overseas stripes was taken about February 1920 in Oklahoma City on the way to a reception for General Pershing. The General questioned me at length and asked where I was born — Harrison County, Missouri — the General said, “Just 43 miles, as the crow flies, from Linn County where I was born.”

Frank Woodruff Buckles enlisted in Oklahoma City and was sent to Ft. Logan, Colorado to be sworn into service in the US Regular Army in August 1917. He was then sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas for training in trench retrieval and ambulance service. After completing his training, he was sent to A.E.F. in December 1917 with the first Ft. Riley Casual Detachment, a unit of 102 men. He sailed from Hoboken, NJ via Halifax, Nova Scotia, without escort, on the Cunard Line vessel HMS Carpathia, the ship famous for the rescue of the survivors of the White Star Liner Titanic April 15, 1912.

Frank returned to the US in the USS Pocahontas in December 1919 after two years on various assignments and locations in England and France. After the Armistice, he was assigned to the 122nd P.O.W. Escort Detachment for returning German prisoners to their homeland.

I was born on my father's farm north of Bethany in Harrison County, Missouri, February 1, 1901. I experienced some difficulty in convincing the military of the extra years added to my age in order to qualify for service.

Dear Joe,

Recently I have received a lot of attention as a surviving veteran of World War One, including the French Legion of Honor presented by Jacques Chirac, the President and Grand Master of the Order.

I hope you continue in good health as I am, and with best wishes to you.

Sincerely,
Frank



On way to reception for General Pershing in Oklahoma City about January 1920 — Frank Woodruff Buckles.

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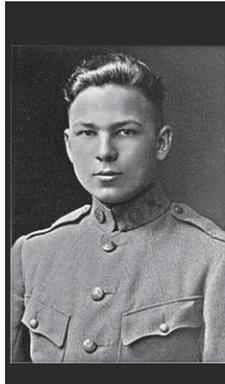
legacy, cont'd...

phrased it, his “stay was extended by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941”. He would spend 3 ½ years as a POW in Santo Tomas and Los Banos where he planted a vegetable garden, helped care for some fellow POWs including one polio victim and was rescued by the 11th Airborne Division on February 23, 1945. In 1946, he married Audrey Mayo in San Francisco, and in 1954, they returned to West Virginia to raise their daughter Savannah.

After WWI, Buckles had not pursued recognition or benefits as a veteran, but after WWII, he used VA educational benefits at business school and later VA medical benefits including hearing aids. He was a staunch advocate for veterans, was National Commander of the Veterans of WWI and encouraged its publication *The Torch*. An articulate, erudite man, who read classics in their original Greek and Latin, into his late 90's he rode his John Deere tractor on the 320 acre farm that had been in his family since 1732 in Charlestown, WV, overlooking the Civil War battle sites of Antietam and Harpers Ferry. Asked about his mental and physical agility despite his age of then nearly 100, Buckles was quoted as saying: “Longevity has never bothered me at all. I have studied longevity for years”.

In his last few years, the national press featured the elegant and indomitable Mr. Buckle's regular participation in Veterans Day activities at Arlington National Cemetery, singularly pictured in his Army long coat, cap at a jaunty angle with wool scarf and wooden wheelchair usually rendering a crisp salute at GEN Pershing's grave.

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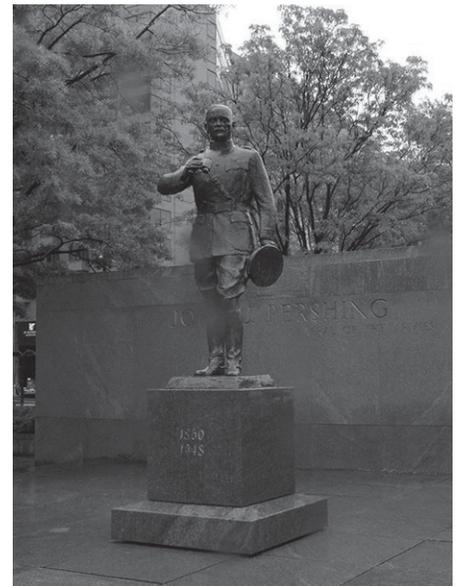


Longevity has never bothered me at all, I have studied longevity for years.

(Frank Buckles)

On one such visit to Washington, D.C., Buckles was driven towards Memorial Bridge on the way to Arlington National Cemetery via Ohio Drive which parallels Constitution Avenue on either side of the National Mall going towards the Tidal Basin. In the slow rush-hour traffic, Buckles had a chance to look around, and out the car window on his right, he took notice of what he was told was the local D.C. WWI memorial, then a rather seedy looking modestly scruffy edifice hidden in brambles, sidewalk overgrown in grass and birds and other small creatures living atop the columns and debris. The DC WWI Memorial had been dedicated on November 11, 1931 by President

Herbert Hoover, his beloved GEN John J. Pershing and band leader John Philip Sousa. It is a classic structure, domed, wedding-cake shaped, 47 feet tall, small, white and round with Jefferson Memorial-like columns, locally funded to honor DC residents who served and died in WWI. As one scribe noted in 2000, the memorial structure basically was not unattractive, it had “good bones”, but it had fallen into considerable disrepair.



In his 2004 *Quan* letter, Buckles also said that “recently, I have received a lot of attention as a surviving veteran of WWI, including the French Legion of Honor presented by Jacques Chirac, the President and Grand Master of the Order.” Adeptly utilizing, deflecting and redirecting that new unwanted notoriety and public-

legacy, cont'd...



ity, Buckles suggested that the DC site might be suitable as a WWI National Memorial. He alternatively advocated that at the very least it could be cleaned up, noting the broken fieldstone pathways, cracked marble and overgrown scrubs and grass. A Foundation was set up and effectuated renewal, using some Federal stimulus money and donations, and the site was rededicated on November 11, 2011, and is now cared for by the National Park Service. Thus, at least one of Mr. Buckles' suggestions was implemented.



However, Buckles' idea to somehow translate that site into a National WWI memorial ultimately met strong opposition from the DC folks who tend to bristle at "states' rights" (AKA "home rule") issues. Tidying it up was entirely different from turning it over to the government. Nonetheless, Frank Buckles was very convincing. Many on and off The Hill accepted Buckles' legacy as their

own, including in a proposed historic film of his story to be narrated by Emmy Award winning actor Richard Thomas, "*Pershing's Last Patriot*". As President Barack Obama noted at a ceremony at the White House in June 2015, Frank Buckles "quietly became a powerful advocate for our veterans", and his attention on a national WWI Memorial stimulated action, albeit creakingly slow.

One possibility for a national WWI Memorial was at the site of the existing Pershing Park in downtown D.C. Like many other 19th century DC neighborhoods, it had been a motley assortment of rickety structures which were demolished by the federal government in 1930. The U.S. Congress adopted legislation in 1957 to call the prime 1.76 acres "Pershing Park".

If it had an address it would be 1400 Pennsylvania Ave.: an unusual spot of land, sitting between 14th and 15th Streets, NW, across the street to the north is the famed Willard Hotel and the Occidental Grill and Seafood Restaurant, and to the south, federal and District office buildings including a White House visitors center. The unimpeded views from the ends of the park are perhaps two of the best in Washington: facing to the west is the Treasury and White House, and facing to the east is the direct line to the U.S. Capital. It is at that famous corner where all Presidential Inaugural parades turn going to and from the Capital. The 1957 Congressional authorization was followed by 5+ years of bickering while the site itself languished in litter and neglect. In the fall of

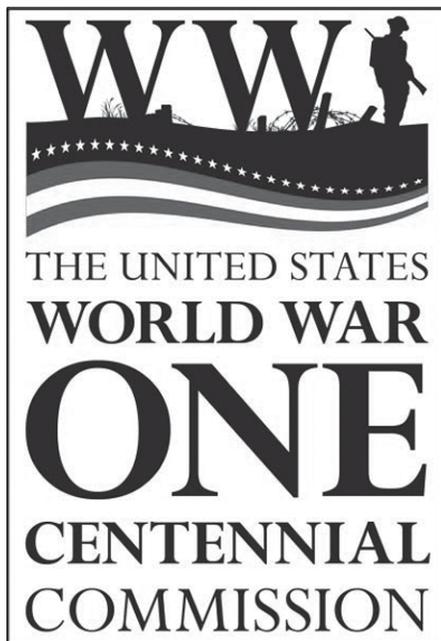


1963, DC did a superficial clean-up, planting some trees and flower beds while Washington concurrently discussed the "Re-development of Pennsylvania Avenue", a minor part of which was honoring Pershing's memory. Various service organizations, especially The American Legion, supported a 12' bronze Pershing (by Robert White) statue in the square. Through the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Committee, this was added in 1970 and the area slightly enlarged, but again action stopped halted for a decade. Pershing Park, designed by M. Paul Friedberg and Partners, opened in May 1981 with the statue, a granite Pershing monument structure (by architect Wallace Harrison), some benches, a waterfall/fountain in a sunken plaza, amphitheater style seating with lawn terraces and garden areas, and to the delight of many Washingtonians, a pond which turned into a concessionaire-run ice rink during the winter (until big plumbing problems). There is a now abandoned small building which used to house a café, changing room for skaters, and restrooms. The relatively open flat area, owned by DC but administered by the National Park Service, is prime for demonstrators.

After decades of discussion (and the dedication of a WWII Memorial), finally, the 110th Congress passed the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act which autho-

legacy, cont'd...

rized the American Battle Monuments Commission to either take over the DC War Memorial or build a new one on the same site. This was followed, not surprisingly, with much more discussion, some proposed legislation, testimony by Mr. Buckles, then age 108 as to various exigencies, e.g., the lack of space on the National Mall for another memorial and whether there should be two such memorials, in DC and KS. By 2012, in part because of the Commemorative Works Act, a Congressional amendment to ban any more memorials on The Mall, the DC memorial "conversion" idea was finally dropped. The WWI Centennial Commission (WWICC) was established by the 112th Congress and signed by the President.



On January 16, 2013; the 12 commissioners appointed by the President, Senate and House, VFW, American Legion, and the National WWI Memorial in Kansas signed a Memo of Understanding with the Commemora-

tion of World Wars, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to be primary fundraiser. An amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, signed by Pres. Obama on December 29, 2014 with support from the WWI Memorial Foundation, designated Pershing Park (along with the Liberty Memorial in KS), and provided for development of the former. Honorary chairmen are former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. See their website at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/competition-overview.html>.

On May 20, 2015, the WWICC launched a design competition for the National WWI Memorial in Washington, DC, with a goal of completion on November 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Headlines in *Stars & Stripes* of May 22 referred to the Commission's acknowledged "insane schedule" needed for the design and construction. Rules are on their website; judges will be government, military, arts and citizens of Washington. Internationally open to all, with a \$25,000 first prize for each of the design finalists in the second round of the contest, the deadline for the entries (to include narrative and graphic description of concept absent elaborate details) was July 21, 2015. The WWICC met that day with key members of Congress; the following day, GEN Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret), senior adviser for development announced the intent to break ground on Veterans Day 2017. Private donors are being sought for the expected \$20-30 million required to construct it absent federal money allocations. [On May 23, 2015, the *Washington Post* reported that the WWICC received a \$2.5 million grant from the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in Chicago to fund the competition.] The 3-5 finalists, announced on August 4, 2015, will be paired up with a pro-

fessional architectural firm to develop design concepts with mid-course and compliance reviews leading to final submissions for public exhibition in December 2015. The award winner, to be announced on January 20, 2016, will immediately commence work with the goal of a dedication on November 22, 2018. *Military Times* reported that the WWICC wants a design to demonstrate "the war's gravity and scale, forging functional and perceptual linkages in the pathways, streets and civic spaces and architectural landmarks around the site". Mr. Buckles would justifiably be very gratified.

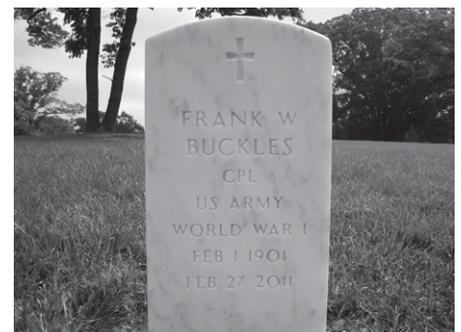
The oldest member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War

Frank Woodruff Buckles was born 1 February 1901 in MO and died 27 February 2011 in WV. He was the last WWI veteran. And in his case, the 110 years of his life were nothing less than remarkable.

In 1917, at 16, the Marines told him he was too young and too skinny, and the Navy told him he was flat-footed, so he lied to the Army recruiter about his age and entered service.

Frank was in the Philippines working for White Star Lines in December, 1941. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he was held at Santo Tomas and Los Banos for 3 years, 2 months.

He served as National Commander of the Veterans of WWI of the USA, Inc. a Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization founded in 1949



Historic POW March from Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A near Munich

It was an insidiously depressing life being a Stalag POW in Germany in World War II. You had to make a strong conscious effort to remain psychologically and physically resilient to survive successfully. That is how POW Bob Thompson (2nd Infantry Division "Indianheads") experienced it in Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg. The overcrowded living conditions, boredom, inactivity and hunger were inescapable. It is all in his wartime diary which he later turned into a little book. The real history of the World War II is made up of little books like this, detailing real soldiers' real experiences.

But all that effort was worth it because suddenly everything changed. General Patton's Third Army was advancing fast on Nuremberg. So early in April 1945, the German Army administration ordered the immediate evacuation of Stalag XIII-D. All its POWs had to go 100 miles south of Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg near Munich. But surprisingly, don't imagine this was necessarily a terrible ordeal. For POWs who had kept themselves fit enough, it was quite the opposite. It was more like a sudden, unexpected and very welcome explosion of activity, variety and food

in their dreary monotonous undernourished POW lives. Bob Thompson puts it well and succinctly in his book:

"We departed from Nuremberg, by foot, on April 4th at 1PM, and so began the best two weeks of captivity. What was so special? Well, (1) the end of boredom and confinement, (2) beautiful Bavarian scenery, (3) the friendliness of the German farm families, and (4) and finally, and the most important, was the sudden availability of plenty of food. The Krauts provided bread stations at various places and various times along the route but the primary source of our good fortune was the Red Cross boxes!...(which also contained) Swan soap and cigarettes which we traded (with the local German frauen) for eggs and other edibles.

... it was a very long column (of POWs).. some (estimates) exceeding 100,000!...if you so desired, you could sit and rest for a day or two and then get back into line, which we did on several occasions...the guards were vastly outnumbered...(but) the rules for the hike were very simple: Stay on the route and you will be fed. Leave the route and you will be shot. Simple enough - and understood!"

Bob Thompson finally made it to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg on April 18 1945. He stayed there for almost three weeks until he was flown out

to Reims France on May 7 1945. He can still clearly remember Moosburg being liberated by Third Army (he thinks 14th Armored Division) on April 29 1945 and General Patton's visit on May 1 1945.

It's been Bob Thompson's greatest wish to recreate his hike from Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg and his stay there. But he definitely wants to do it this time in leisurely comfort by luxury German touring coach with plenty of time for reminiscing, sightseeing and

photos. He also wants to share with his family and friends this unique, historic little piece of World War II which he experienced, and to give other former Stalag POWs especially of Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg and Stalag VII-A in Moosburg, accompanied by their families and friends, the chance to return in the company and comradeship of their fellow Stalag POWs. That is why he asked me, a professional veterans tour guide, to create a tour to make his wish come true. Perhaps it will inspire you too. If you are interested, look at the advertisement "Retrace Historic POW March".

We will all be most welcome. I have just received two very nice greetings to you all from the present Mayoress of Moosburg Anna Meinelt, and from the former Mayor of Moosburg Herbert Franz, now President of the Stalag Moosburg Association, who was a small seven year old boy at the time of the American liberation and remembers it well. They have willingly given me so much help and cooperation in arranging this tour. Here are their messages.

"Dear Visitor, It is a great pleasure and honor for us that more than seventy years after the end of a terrible war, former prisoners of war and their families now want to come back as friends. We welcome you most heartily to Moosburg and very much look forward to being able to greet you and receive you in our town." Anita Meinelt, Mayoress of the town of Moosburg on the River Isar.

"We were very impressed by your proposal to follow up the traces of wartime captivity, from which you or relatives of yours were liberated in April 1945 by the American Army under General Patton. We have an Association called "Stalag Moosburg", the purpose of which is to historically document what happened and also to be a form of remembrance for all people at that time. Your visit next year will be a highlight for us, and we are very much looking forward to your coming and our time together." Herbert Franz and Günther Strehle (Board of the Stalag Moosburg Association).

Retrace Historic POW March

From Stalag XIII-D Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A Moosburg and also see Munich, Dachau, Salzburg, Berchtesgaden and the Eagle's Nest

April 13-20, 2016

Early Bird discount for reservations received before November 15th!

For Veterans, Family, Friends, Historians and History Enthusiasts. A rare opportunity to follow in the 70+ year old footsteps of POWs marched from Stalag XIII-D to Stalag VII-A. A seven day adventure rich in history, beauty and hospitality unimagined in 1945. Inspired by Robert L. Thompson and his book, well-known Tour Manager Patrick Hinchy will guide this tour along the same route followed by POWs in 1945. This time we ride in a comfortable motorcoach, stay at fine hotels, enjoy excellent cuisine and the hospitality of former enemies turned allies. The 2016 POW March Commemorative Tour brochure is available on request by mail or phone or download it from our website.

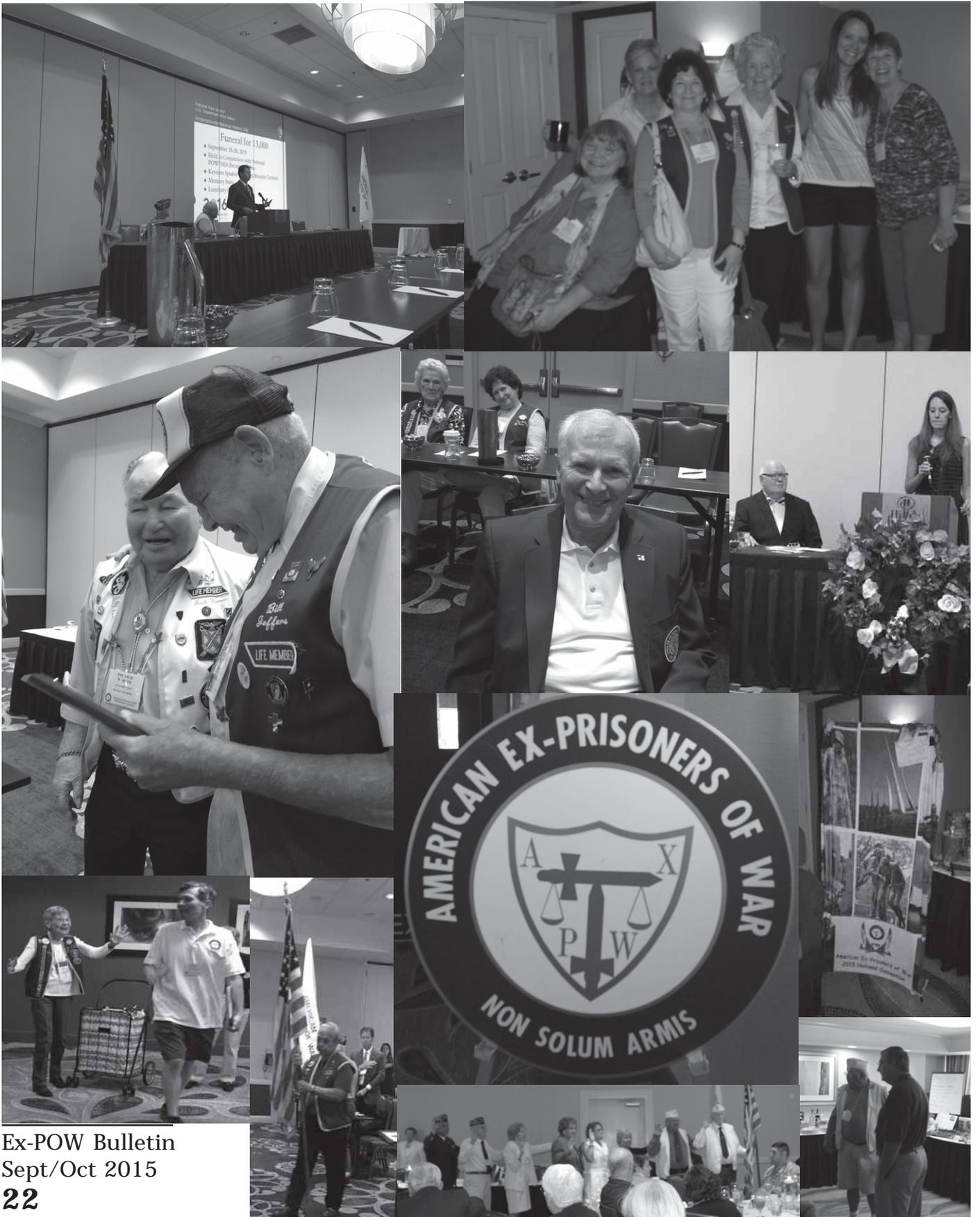
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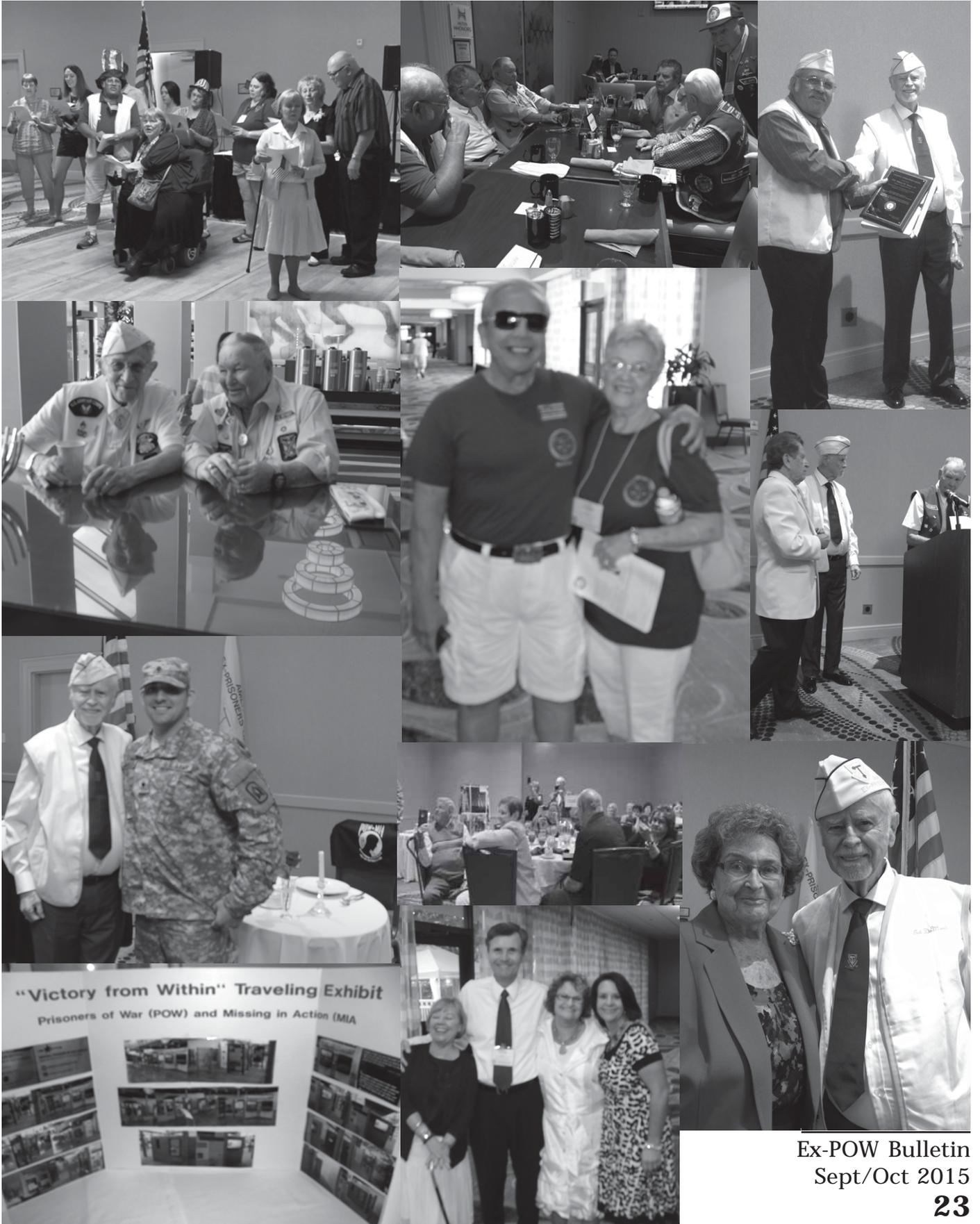


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2015 National Convention



Arlington, Texas June 25-27



American Ex-Prisoners of War Committee Assignments 2015-2016

ANDERSONVILLE NHS

COORDINATOR

DeMent, NC Ed
Marsh, Alan

BUDGET & FINANCE

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Cerbone, JVC Cheryl
Eslinger, JVC Pam
Gollin, JVC Alice
Morgan, COO Clydie
Moore, PNC Milton
DeMent, NC Ed

CHAPLAIN

Rayborn, Benny

CIVILIAN EX-POW

Gollin, Alice
Cadwallader, Ted

BYLAWS & RESOLUTIONS

Eberly, CEO David
Cerbone, Cheryl
Eslinger, Pam
Susino, Charles A.
Williams, Jan

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Williams, Jan

ESTATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Susino, Charles Anthony

LEMKAN INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

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Susino, Charles Anthony
Coke, CFO Marsha

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Cadwallader, Ted
Gollin, Alice

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Warner, PNC Jack

LEGISLATIVE

Susino Jr, PNC Charles
Susino, Charles A

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Coke, Marsha
Powell, Ruth

MEMBERSHIP

Coke, Marsha
Garrido, Ben

GRIEVANCE & INVESTIGATION

Williams, C.R.
Rayborn, Benny
Executive Committee

NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Coke, Elizabeth
Lyon, Debbie
Eslinger, Pam

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Garrido, Ben

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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Moore, PNC Milton

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Harlan, Betty - Co-Director

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Gollin, Alice
Cerbone, Cheryl
Eslinger, Pam

POW-MIA COORDINATOR

Cerbone, Cheryl

PROTOCOL

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Coke, CFO Marsha

PROTOCOL FOR NEW OFFICERS

Morgan, Sally

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Cerbone, Cheryl

SUBCOMMITTEES

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Moore, PNC Milton - Publisher

Cerbone, Cheryl

EDITOR

Cerbone, Cheryl

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Williams, C.R.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Susino, Charles Anthony
Edwards, Paul
Eslinger, Pam
Garrido, Ben

VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE

National Headquarters

WAYS & MEANS

Cerbone, Cheryl

Ruetsch, Ray

SUB-COMMITTEE

DIRECT-MAIL PROGRAMS

Cerbone, Cheryl

WASHINGTON DC:

SPECIAL EVENTS

National Headquarters

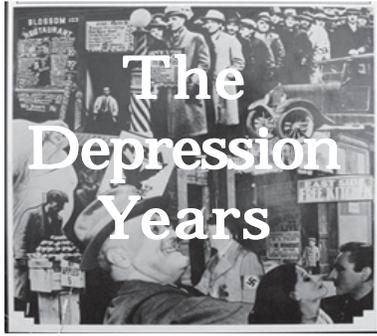
SPECIAL LIAISON TO MILITARY & VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

Garrido, Ben
Lee, Judy

The first person listed
is the chair.

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Convention	Lyon, Debbie	(972) 475-0942	dec8deb@aol.com
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Judge Advocate	Warner, PNC Jack	(580) 473-2115	
Legislative	Susino Jr, PNC Charles	(732) 549-5775	
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NSO Director	Powell, Ruth	(781) 899-0726	ruth.Powell2@va.go
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Ways & Means	Ruetsch, Ray	(573) 817-9332	ruetschray@aol.com

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Times were hard after the Depression of the 30's

The dust bowl days and the Depression were getting close to the end as far as we knew. It was time to move on to greener pasture. My dad loaded mother and five children in the car to head to a place north of Pie Town, New Mexico on the continental divide between Socorro, NM and Springerville, AZ about 175 miles SW of Albuquerque, NM. My two brothers and I rode in the rumble seat behind the cab. The trip took about 4 days from Sweetwater, OK. A lot of our time was spent with flat tires (rotten tires); sometimes two tires would go down while patching the flat on the first one. Once my dad got mad at a driver who ran us off the road. It was really hot; we stopped at night and slept out in the open air. It was not a good trip as mother was sick most of the time.

When we arrived at the place that we were to homestead, there was a one-room log half dugout to live in. The nearest school was a one-room with all the grades in this one room. We walked about 3 miles to school in all kinds of cold weather. The nearest water was a mile away, which was a windmill. We bought two burros and they pulled the cart with a barrel to our ½ dugout home. Baths were once a week as water was rationed; the children first and then the older ones in the same water, then the bath water was used to mop and then what was left was put in the garden. On wash day, we loaded our clothes as it was an all-day event to go to the windmill and boil the water in lye soap, then back home.

The winters were very cold and there was plenty of wood to burn. Daddy would hunt as the deer were plentiful; we lived on deer meat and red beans. We would have been very hungry if not for the wildlife.

Mother ended up having two more children making 7 mouths to feed. After about 3 years, my dad died from cancer; he was 42 years old. This was March 1938. Mother moved to a log home after that - 7 miles south of Pie Town near Alegra Mountain. She toughed it out until 1945, after which she moved back to Sweetwater, OK. In the meantime, my sister and I were sent back to live with an aunt to go to high school since there was no high school in New Mexico.

This is where I met E.L. Fowler and later we married during World War II. I finished high school a year ahead of E.L. and went to California to work at Douglas Air Craft building C-47 planes as "Rosie the Riveter". I was two years older than E.L. and when he finished school he came to California and we were married in Yuma Arizona. (We went there because he was 18 and couldn't get a license in Los Angeles.) WWII was going on and he was drafted, so I went with a cousin to Tinker Field and worked for Douglas Air there building C-47s until E.L. got back from Europe. After the war, we bought a farm in Sweetwater and have lived in the same place since 1947. We raised five loving children and have enjoyed the freedom and forgotten most of the hardships and remembered the good times! God has been good to us!

Wilma "Perry" Fowler, Sweetwater, OK
Wife of Ed Fowler, ex-POW, 29th Div., Normandy Invasion

The Great Depression in the United States began on October 29, 1929, a day known forever after as "Black Tuesday," when the American stock market—which had been roaring steadily upward for almost a decade—crashed, plunging the country into its most severe economic downturn yet. Speculators lost their shirts; banks failed; the nation's money supply diminished; and companies went bankrupt and began to fire their workers in droves. Meanwhile, President Herbert Hoover urged patience and self-reliance: By 1932, one of the bleakest years of the Great Depression, at least one-quarter of the American workforce was unemployed.

This is the third in a series of stories of growing up in the Depression. We hope to continue running these slices of American life, so send in your story to the editor and we'll publish them on a semi-regular basis. Next deadline is: Oct. 1, 2015.

Thank you! Cheryl

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News Briefs

Mitsubishi officials offer apology in WV for forced labor during WWII

Shauna Johnson

More than 70 years later, representatives from Mitsubishi Materials are publicly apologizing for forcing American prisoners of war to work for the company's predecessor, Mitsubishi Mining, while being held by the Japanese military during World War II.

On July 21st, those officials made a second stop in the U.S. to apologize at the National American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Museum, Education, and Research Center at the Brooke County Public Library.

Specifically, the apology was for Eddie Jackfert, 93, a U.S. Army veteran and former POW from Wellsburg, along with the descendants of several other POWs who helped found the museum after disbanding in 2009.

Captured in the Philippines, Jackfert and other POWs were transported to Japan on so-called "hell ships" and forced into working for Japanese companies by the thousands while others were held in labor camps in the Philippines in violation of the Geneva Convention.

Thousands died, including hundreds of Americans, during the Bataan Death March following the surrender to the Japanese in April 1942 while thousands more lost their lives because of harsh work, severe abuse and living conditions elsewhere.

It would be Aug. 15, 1945 before those POWs were liberated.

The first U.S. stop for Mitsubishi officials, who returned to Japan, came July 19th at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Ca. where a public apology was made to James Murphy, 94, an American POW who was forced to work for Mitsubishi Mining along with other descendants of POWs.

That company put an estimated 900 American POWs to work at four locations. Jackfert, from Wellsburg, WV, was forced to work at the Showa Denko Kawasaki factory and the Mitsui & Co. docks.

In all, 100 people joined Jackfert for Tuesday's ceremony that included the announcement of a \$50,000 gift from Mitsubishi for educational programs, locally and internationally, run through the National ADBC Museum, Education and Research Center.

VA Expands Disability Benefits for Air Force Personnel Exposed to Contaminated C-123 Aircraft

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a select group of Air Force Veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH).

VA published this regulation as an interim final rule so that it could immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined by VA to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald made the decision to expand benefits following receipt of a 2015 report by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) on [Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft](#). This VA-requested report found evidence that as many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members on ORH C-123 aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam were exposed to the herbicide.

"Opening up eligibility for this deserving group of Air Force veterans and reservists is the right thing to do," said Secretary McDonald. "We thank the IOM for its thorough review that provided the supporting evidence needed to ensure we can now fully compensate any former crew member who develops an Agent Orange-related disability."

Under this new rule, Air Force and Air Force Reserve flight, medical and ground maintenance crewmembers who served on the contaminated ORH C-123s are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides during their service, thus making it easier for them to establish entitlement for some VA benefits if they develop an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition. In addition, for affected Air Force Reserve crew members, VA will presume that their Agent Orange-related condi-

news, cont'd...

tion had its onset during their Reserve training. This change ensures that these reservists are eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any Agent Orange-related presumptive condition, and that their surviving dependents are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

The interim final rule can be found on the Federal Register. VA will immediately begin processing claims and issuing benefits to eligible Air Force crew members.

VA encourages reservists who were assigned to flight, ground or medical crew duties at Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadron), Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron) or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, International Airport (758th Airlift Squadron) during the period 1969 to 1986, and developed an Agent Orange-related disability to file a disability compensation claim online through the joint VA-Department of Defense web portal, (<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>).

VA also has identified several active duty locations where ORH C-123 aircraft may have been used following their service in Vietnam. Active duty personnel who served in a regular USAF unit location where a contaminated C-123 was assigned and who had regular and repeated contact with the aircraft through flight, ground or medical duties during the period 1969 to 1986, and who develop an Agent Orange-related disability, also are encouraged to apply for benefits. For more information on applying for these benefits, including the affected

Midway Remembered

Alice A. Booher

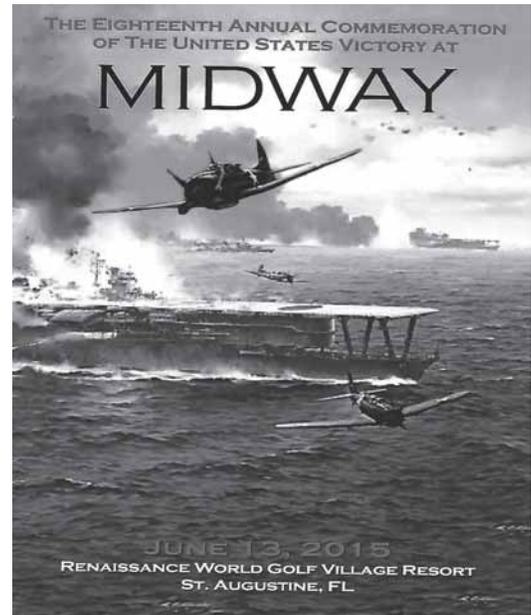
The Navy League of the US of Mayport, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, FL hosted a remarkable event on June 13, 2015 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort. The event, sponsored by the U.S. Navy League, was intended to pay homage to 14 veterans who fought so valiantly at the Battle of Midway.

Acknowledged as the largest commemoration in the country of the US Navy's victory at the Battle of Midway (June 4-7, 1942), in this 18th year of the spectacular annual event, special speakers included RADM George Ballance, USN, Commander, US Naval Forces Southern Command and US 4th Fleet, who also introduced the keynoter, GEN John Kelly, USMC, Commander, US Southern Command. A significant portion of the program involved recognition of 10 Midway veterans and 5 Midway widows, (as well as 15 departed Midway veterans), Medal of Honor wearer Robert Ingram, Pearl Harbor veteran Hal Sullivan, 21 wounded warriors, and special recognition of former POWs: (WWII) Patrick Ganio, Sr. and CPO Bill Ingram, USN (Ret), and (Vietnam) Henry Lesesne, USN (Ret), CAPT Thomas Letendresse, USN (Ret), and CAPT Giles Norrington, USN (Ret).

Throughout the occasion, stories of heroism and great courage were shared with those in attendance.

The commemoration ended with the Navy Band Region Southeast performing, followed by the dinner and closing remarks made by guest speaker Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, commander, Navy Installations Command.

The Battle of Midway is widely regarded as the most important naval battle of the Pacific in World War II. Approximately one month after the Battle of Coral Sea and six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy decisively defeated the Imperial Japanese Navy and turned the war in U.S. favor.



news, cont'd...

units, Air Force Specialty Codes and dates of service for affected crew members, and a listing of Agent Orange-related conditions, visit www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp.

Claimants should annotate "(C-123)" after each Agent Orange related disability in *Part II, Block 14* of *VA Form 21-526* or *Section I, Block 11* of VA.

Veterans Choice

The number of appointments made and authorized under the Veterans Choice program has more than doubled in the past two months, according to Veterans Affairs Department officials. As of June 26, 2015, VA had granted 115,645 authorizations for appointments and 84,385 appointments have been made under the Veterans Choice program, up from 48,583 authorizations and 40,546 appointments in April. A VA official said the increase can be attributed to a change in the program's eligibility requirements. VA expanded eligibility in late April by changing the 40-mile requirement from a straight distance measure to actual driving distance from a VA medical facility.

The Veterans Choice program was launched in early 2015 to improve health care access to veterans who live in remote areas or have waited more than 30 days for an appointment. Veterans and advocacy groups have pushed for broader expansion of the program, seeking legislation that would allow veterans who live less than 40 miles to a facility to use the program if the medical services they need are not available at their closest VA

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clinic or medical center. The Senate passed legislation that would allow the change; the House has not yet considered a similar measure.

The United States Navy Memorial Announces Names of Lone Sailor Award Honorees

The United States Navy Memorial has released the names of its Lone Sailor Award honorees. The Lone Sailor Award is given to Sea Service veterans who have excelled with distinction in their respective careers during or after their military service. The honorees will be celebrated during an event held at the National Building Museum on Sept. 24, 2015

The 2015 Lone Sailor Award honorees include: ADM James S. Gracey, 17th Commandant of the Coast Guard; J. William Middendorf II, former ambassador to The Netherlands, former secretary of the Navy and U.S. Navy veteran; Robert S. Morrison, retired vice chairman, PepsiCo, former chairman and CEO, Quaker Oats and U.S. Marine Corps veteran; and C. Michael Petters president and CEO, Huntington Ingalls Industries, and U.S. Navy veteran.

This year's award recipients will join an impressive list of men and women who have distinguished themselves by drawing upon their military experience to become successful in their subsequent careers and lives while exemplifying the core values of honor, courage and commitment

"The Lone Sailor Award honorees are the epitome of how service to our country changes lives and develops leaders, whether in the world of sports, politics, government, the private sector or

the arts," says Vice Admiral John Totushek, president and CEO of the United States Navy Memorial. "These honorees were chosen based on their support of our nation's Maritime Heritage, their distinguished careers which inspire us today, and the example they provide for future generations."

The Lone Sailor Award dinner draws close to 700 in attendance including those from the military, wounded warriors, government officials, Hollywood notables and supporters of the United States Navy Memorial. There is a dinner, silent auction and dessert reception to celebrate the honorees. The Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps will play a melody of songs to start the evening. In addition, each of the honorees is featured in a video highlight of their life and accomplishments and given time to address the audience. The event also provides a VIP reception for the honorees and corporate sponsors prior to the dinner.

To learn more, please visit NavyMemorial.org.

VA Funds Transfer

On July 30, 2015, the U.S. Senate approved the transfer of VA funds to avert a shutdown of veterans medical facilities in August. Veterans Service Organizations have actively pushed for passage of this critical legislation, and the victory is in no small part thanks to the thousands of veterans and supporters who wrote letters and called the elected officials in Congress demanding they fulfill the promise. The request from VA, formally transmitted on June 23, asked for flexibility to transfer funds from one program to another to continue VA's efforts to increase Veterans' access to care and life-saving pharmaceuticals.

The End of World War II

On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as "Victory over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.

From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Japan's devastating surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, capped a decade of deteriorating relations between Japan and the United States and led to an immediate U.S. declaration of war the following day. Japan's ally Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, then declared war on the United States, turning the war



Photo # USA C-2719 Japanese delegation on USS Missouri, 2 Sept. '45

raging in Europe into a truly global conflict. Over the next three years, superior technology and productivity allowed the Allies to wage an increasingly one-sided war against Japan in the Pacific, inflicting enormous casualties while suffering relatively few. By 1945, in an attempt to break Japanese resistance before a land invasion became necessary, the Allies were consistently bombard-

ing Japan from air and sea, dropping some 100,000 tons of explosives on more than 60 Japanese cities and towns between March and July 1945 alone.

The Potsdam Declaration, issued by Allied leaders on July 26, 1945, called on Japan to surrender; if it did, it was promised a peaceful government according to "the freely expressed will of the Japanese people." If it did not, it would face "prompt and utter destruction." The embattled Japanese government in Tokyo refused to surrender, and on August 6 the American B-29 plane Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, killing more than 70,000 people and destroying a 5-square-mile expanse of the city. Three days later, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing another 40,000. The following day, the Japanese government issued a statement accepting the



To Rear Admiral H. Arnold Kero, USN-98 - with best wishes and great appreciation of the assistance of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in making possible the above scene. C.W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy.

V-J Day, cont'd...

terms of the Potsdam Declaration. In a radio address in the early afternoon of August 15 (August 14 in the United States), Emperor Hirohito urged his people to accept the surrender, blaming the use of the “new and most cruel bomb” on Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the country’s defeat. “Should we continue to fight,” Hirohito declared, “it would not only result in the ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation but would also lead to the total extinction of human civilization.”

Reaction to Japanese Surrender

In Washington on August 14, President Harry S. Truman announced news of Japan’s surrender in a press conference at the White House: “This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when Fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would.” Jubilant Americans declared August 14 “Victory over Japan Day,” or “V-J Day.” (May 8, 1945—when the Allies accepted Nazi Germany’s official surrender—had previously been dubbed “Victory in Europe Day,” or “V-E Day.”)

Images from V-J Day celebrations around the United States and the world reflected the overwhelming sense of relief and exhilaration felt by citizens of Allied nations at the end of the long and bloody conflict. In one particularly iconic photo taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt for Life magazine, a uniformed sailor passionately kisses a nurse in the midst of a crowd of people celebrating in New York City’s Times Square.

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On September 2, Allied supreme commander General Douglas MacArthur, along with the Japanese foreign minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu, and the

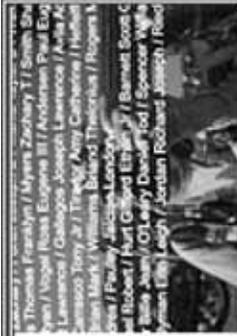
chief of staff of the Japanese army, Yoshijiro Umezumi, signed the official Japanese surrender aboard the U.S. Navy battleship Missouri, effectively ending World War II.





The Ride Home

Honoring all former Prisoners Of War
Remembering those still Missing In Action



The Ride Home began in 2002 as a retreat and rededication. Our founding members, from Florida and Georgia Rolling Thunder Chapters, chose the Andersonville National Historic Site at Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoner of War Museum.

We took up the challenge of a Presidential Proclamation, *"I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."*

Each year, our goals are to invite, as our guests, former POWs and MIA families, offering a recognition commensurate with their extraordinary courage and valor, to increase the number of participants paying tribute, and to increase public awareness and commitment that we will never forget.

Website: theridehome.com
Contact: info@theridehome.com

17-20 September 2015

Thursday

Set-up

Hotel check-in

Friday

Escort Ride

Opening Service at Andersonville

Heroes Dinner

KEEPING THE PROMISE Service

Candlelight Ceremony

Saturday

Escort Ride

Recognition Ceremony

ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO

AXPOW OR AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF

WAR Memorial Service

Special Entertainment

SUNDAY

Church Services

Life Point Church - Bud Womack

Testimonials from our

Honored Guests



"It is difficult for me to even begin to describe how much this weekend meant to us. I am still overwhelmed with emotion as I remember the ceremonies, the people we met, new friends we made and especially the kindness and compassion shown to us by all of you.

After so many years of waiting for answers and sometimes wondering if anyone else really cares - or even remembers, it was reassuring to know that you will ensure that there will be accountability and answers for the POW/MIA issue. We will never forget this weekend."



"All of you guys have shown us ex-pow's a friendship and camaraderie that few ever experience."



"... So thank you. For a fantastic weekend of events, for 'being there' for us, for all you do on the POW/MIA issue and for truly becoming part of my extended family."

contributions



GENERAL FUND

Garden State Chapter #1, New Jersey

Helen DeCesare, Cranston RI

Leroy Williamson, Denton TX

In memory of Barbara Bogard, by Adeline Robinson

In memory of David Farquhar, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of Donald McGregor, by Theodore Jenkins

In memory of Emanuel Rempelakis, by Mary Rempelakis

In memory of Ernest Beasley, by Violet Beasley

In memory of Frank Arambarri, by Lorene Arambarri

In memory of Harvey Houston, by Rocky Mountain Chapter

In memory of Imogene Knight, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of Irene Scaglione, by Joseph Scaglione

In memory of John 'Jack' Blair, by Jim & Elaine Gilles

In memory of Josephine Roslansky, by Stanley & Joan MacArthur

In memory of Lawrence & Jennie King

In memory of Paul Shull, by Stanley & Joan MacArthur

In memory of PNC Orlo Natvig, by Ruth Natvig

In memory of Robert Baldwin, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of Robert McKittrick, by Rocky Mountain Chapter

In memory of Russell Kauffman, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of William Pannone, by Deborah Luchka

In memory of William Pannone, by Jean Spino

In memory of William Pannone, by Sharon Sampson

NATIONAL CONVENTION

HOSPITALITY ROOM

To honor all former POWs, by Liberty Property of Dallas

BULLETIN

In appreciation of the Bulletin, by the Vermont Chapter

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Caesar Ricciardi, Winnewood PA
Caesar Ricciardi, Wynnewood PA

Dayton Area Chapter, Ohio

Maurice Markworth, Palmyra PA

Norman Gustafson, Scotch Plains NJ

Randy Gordon, Byron GA

Robert Smith, Tomahawk WI

Willie Garcia, San Antonio TX

The Legacy of your love can live on after...

An important way you can help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is always there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents is through your will or living trust.

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

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$ _____ or _____ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

Thank you!

Estate Planning Committee

Throughout the years, AXPOW has periodically been honored and entrusted to receive a sizable donation or portion of an individual's estate. In an effort to better manage the overall process and funds entrusted to us, an Estate Planning Committee has been established. I have been assigned to head this committee by our Chief Executive Officer, David Eberly. The Committee has four primary purposes.

1. When AXPOW has been identified as a beneficiary, manage the process to ensure that we receive all funds. Other Board of Directors or Officers will be assigned as needed to assist with individual estates.

2. Establish and provide overall direction for an Investment Committee that is charged with managing these funds to protect its principle and provide returns or dividends. The investment committee is currently chaired by C.R. Williams and its initial charge is to manage \$300k from the Lemkan estate.

3. Identify worthy causes and assign limited funds, such as \$1000 scholarships under a named, Past National Commander. This promotes charity both internal and external to the organization, visibility, and helps students and possibly others in need of financial aid.

4. Lastly, enhance communication to our members regarding their personal estate planning to consider dedicating a portion of their estate to the AXPOW to maintain and preserve its legacy.

This is an introduction to the Estate Planning Committee which will provide ongoing notifications to the Board of Directors and periodic updates in the Bulletin.

Thank you
Charles A. Susino, Chairman
National Director

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new members

National Headquarters
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 649-2979



New Members "Welcome Home"

DELBERT WAYNE HALLFORD
DEWEY AZ
GRT GRT GRANDSON OF
JAMES MACCALL, CIVIL WAR

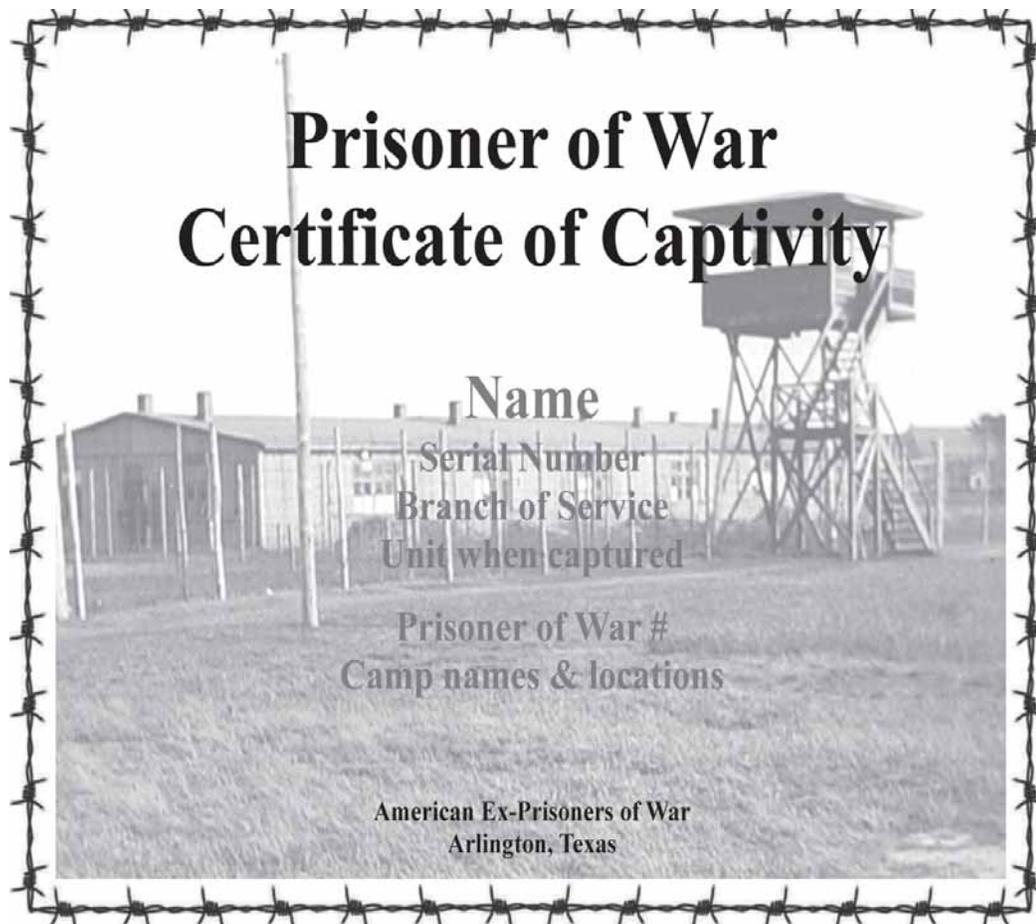
CURTIS E TIPTON
SIERRA VISTA AZ
GREAT GRANDSON OF
RUNNELL HUEY, CIVIL WAR



ROBERT I BOYETTE
AURORA CO
SON OF RUEL D BOYETTE, ETO

THOMAS J GARGIULO
NORWALK CT
232 INF 42 DIV 3 BN CO K
5A 1/18;45 5O 4/16/45

Certificate of Captivity



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

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taps



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

ANDREWS, William Francis, of Alexandria, VA passed away June 8, 2015 at the age of 56. Bill graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1980. He was captured in Operation Desert Storm and released from captivity on March 4, 1991. Survivors include his wife, Stacey.

ARMINGTON, Judie A., of Arlington, VA, passed away July 12, 2015. She was a great asset to the POW community and a good friend of AXPOW. Judie served 21 years in the Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam. She will be missed by her many, many friends.

BAIN, James, 91, of Woodstock, GA died July 22, 2015. He was captured while serving with the AAC during WWII; he managed to escape and find his way to allied forces. He leaves 3 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BETLER, Glen Arnold, 89, of Union, WV passed away June 18, 2015. During WWII, he served with the 87th Inf. Div., Co. C, 345th Inf. Reg. He was captured in Belgium and held at Stalags XIII A and IXB until liberation. Glen is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Patricia, 1 son, 1 sister, 3 brothers, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

BICKERS, James F., 91, died March 10, 2010. He joined the US 17th Field Artillery during WWII. He was captured in Tunisia, North Africa Feb. 14, 1943 and held 28 months in Oflag 64, in Schubin Poland. He will be remembered for his keen intelligence, wry sense of humor and deep love of family. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Emily, two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

BURCKES, Ralph "Stacey", of Cushing, ME passed away May 15, 2015. He was 92. Stace served with the 8th AF, 837th BS, 487th BG. He was shot down over Belgium, captured 3 months later and held in Luft 1, Barth. His loving wife, Phyllis, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

BURKE, John D, 89 of Leavenworth, KS, died May 13, 2015. Mr. Burke served with the 106th inf. division of the 422nd regiment company L. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was predeceased by his wife, Nadine; survivors include his 2 daughters, 2 granddaughters and 4 great grandsons.

CIARRACHI, Harriet, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW passed away recently. She was the widow of Victor (USMC captured in Shanghai).

COUTURE, Rene Camille, of Northlake, IL died July 4, 2015 at the age of 93. He leaves 3 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 brother and their families.

DREW, George, Tampa native and life-long resident, passed away June 23, 2015. He was a WWII B-24 pilot and a former POW in Germany. George was an active veterans' advocate and served as commander of the Greater Tampa Bay Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his loving daughters and one brother. He will be deeply missed.

DROGT, Walter, 88, of Houghton Lake, MI passed away Oct. 25, 2014. He was captured near Vienna on his first mission while serving with the AAC, 301st BG, 32nd BS. He was sent to Luft IV, then marched across Germany until liberation. His beloved wife of 68 years, Millie, 1 daughter, 4 sons, 11 grandchildren and 1 sister survive him.

FAY, Marcus J., of Eau Claire, WI, died May 16, 2015. During WWII, he was a co-pilot of a B-24 in the 376th BG(H), 514th Squadron. His plane was shot down over Szombathely, Hungary on Dec. 6, 1944 and was a POW until April of 1945. Survivors include one son.

FOSTER, Robert W., of Glendale, AZ passed away March 18, 2015. He was 92. During WWII, he served in the AAC in the Philippines. He was captured and held 3 ½ years until liberation at various camps, ending up at Tokyo Sectional Camp 3 Hiraoka Nagano To. He leaves his loving wife of 67 years, Jean, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren who thank him for always being there.

FRIESEN, Iris "Jackie", 89, of Littleton, CO died June 25, 2015. She was a life member of AXPOW and the Mile High Chapter. Jackie's late husband, Orlando, served with the 8th AF, 392nd BG and was held in Stalag 17B. She is survived by 1 daughter, 2 grandsons and 5 great-grandchildren.

HARLAN, Henry Crawford of Trumann, AR died June 16, 2015, at the age of 97. Serving with the 60th Coast Artillery, he was captured at the fall of Corregidor in May 1942. He was held in various prison camps in the Philippines before being moved by Japanese prison ship to Korea then on to Mukden, Manchuria, by train where he was held until the surrender of Japan in August 1945. Survivors include his wife, Lou, two daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

KRAVETZ, Anne C., of Chalfant, PA, passed away March 31, 2015. She was 88. Annie was the perfect sidekick for her husband and a constant presence at National Conventions and meetings until her health declined. She was loved by everyone she knew and we will miss

taps cont'd...

her greatly. Annie leaves her devoted husband of 68 years, Frank, 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Frank said of her: "She was a great woman, loved everyone, and had a great ride".

LaBARBERA, Elsie M., of Mundelein, IL, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW died June 19, 2015. Her husband, ex-POW Anthony, predeceased her. Survivors include 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MONTOYA, Andres A., of Fremont, CA passed away April 28, 2015 at the age of 93. He was captured while serving with the 200th CA. He was one of Fremont's remaining survivors of the Bataan Death March. He leaves the "girl of his dreams" Effie, his wife of 69 years, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a host of friends and family.

NEWTON, Earl William "Bill", 92, of Tucson, AZ, passed away on his 67th wedding anniversary, June 19, 2015. Bill served with the 491st BG, 8th AF, piloting a B-24 Liberator. He was shot down over Ulm, Germany in 1944, and spent a year in Stalag Luft 1. He is survived by his loving wife, Anne, 8 children, 1 brother, 21 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

ROSLANSKY, Josephine, of Apache Junction, AZ passed away recently. She was 95 and the wife of ex-POW Marvin (captured on Guam, Dec. 9, 1941). Both Josephine and Marvin were life members of AXPOW and the Mesa, AZ and Rochester, MN chapters.

ROY, Carl W., of Solomons, MD died March 9, 2015 at the age of 92. He was captured on Bataan while serving with the 27th BG, 91st BS, and held 3 ½ years in various camps until liberation. His wife, Anna, survives him; 4 grandchildren, 9 grandchildren

and 3 great-grandchildren. His two daughters predeceased him.

STORY, Leland, of Kennedy, NY and member of the South Western Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 29, 2015. He was 93. During WWII, he served with the AAC in Europe. He was shot down over Holland and held until liberation. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 1 sister. His wife Phyllis, a Marine in WWII, predeceased him.

ZELAZNY, Joseph John, of Tacoma, WA died March 20, 2015. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 1278th Eng. Bn. and held until liberation. Joe was a tireless worker on behalf of veterans and he devoted the last 30 years of his life to ensuring all veterans received their benefits and recognition of their sacrifices. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Lorraine, 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

A few months ago while my Father was still living, he & I saw a young man wearing a tee shirt with writing that proclaimed, "No one but God can judge me". The young man was seated near us and my Father said to the young man "That is not the complete truth. There are lots of people who can judge you." And I, thinking of judges and juries, added "And some have that as their jobs"

The young fellow replied, "It comes outta the BIBLE. ' Judge not lest ye be judged'" I knew he had paraphrased Matthew 7:1 but he had the

general idea. This man goes on to say most people would not approve of the things he routinely did and no body can judge him for what he does.

The young man had taken the scripture out of context, which changed its meaning. We know this for two reasons, first the verses immediately following verse one deal with our efforts to remove a small fault (mote in the eye) of our brother. However, our brother has to duck to avoid being hit by the tree in our own eye. Our faults are greater than the faults of the one we try to correct.

The idea of the verses is that we should engage in self-examination so that we are neither Self-righteous nor hypocritical. We should approach all situations with charitableness and mercy. Both words mean "kindness". (A side note: I believe many divorces are caused by the couple forgetting to be kind to each other.)

The second thing we learn is from Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruit, Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" One could say that we are fruit inspectors. The deeds of a person are

known and we are allowed by God to have an opinion.

While this may not be judging as in administering punishment or rewards, it is a decision-making, and opinion forming activity. Just as we can judge that there is a difference between apples and oranges for example, we can judge between right and wrong behavior.

We can determine if one's behavior is Godly (upright, and good), or sinful.

From the remainder of Matthew 7, (I recommend that you read the chapter for yourself) I make this statement: The young man had the wrong idea about "Judge not, that ye be not judged".

Prayer: O Lord give us discernment so that we may know the truth and have the ambition to act on what we know to be true and to be the proper course of action. In Christ's Name Amen.

Benny

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**American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**
to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

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

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY: _____ Date of Death _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

Memorial donations should be sent to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



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Name _____

Address _____

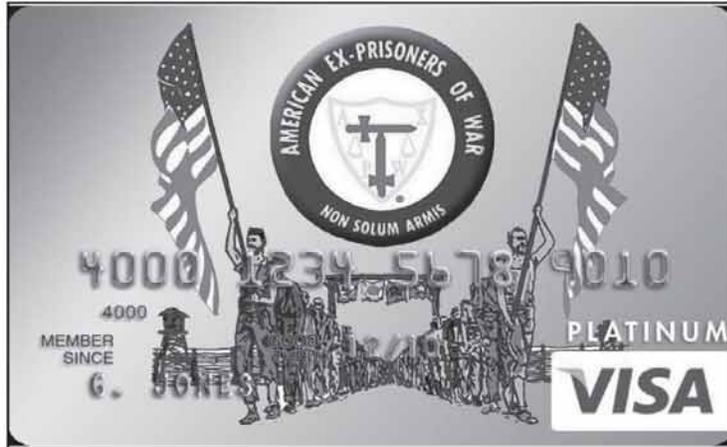
City, state and zip code _____

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
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(rev. 02/07)

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- Ongoing contributions made when you continue using your card.
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The AXPOW Visa card program is operated by UMB Bank, N.A. All applications for AXPOW Visa credit card accounts will be subject to UMB Bank N.A.'s approval, at its absolute discretion. Please visit www.cardpartner.com for further details of terms and conditions which apply to the AXPOW Visa card program. * Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. † After this period a low variable APR will apply.

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From UMB

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AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each issue.

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

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

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to
American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding
Mail contributions to:
National Headquarters
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010

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The National 4th (IVY) Division Association

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

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.

"Steadfast and Loyal"

50/50 drawing

June 27, 2015 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place** GROVER MULLINS, MO **\$322.60**
- 2nd Place** ANGIE SARACENO, AZ **\$241.95**
- 3rd Place** DOROTHY MURPHY, FL **\$161.30**
- 4th Place** JACK WARNER, OK **\$80.65**

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets.

These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

**Do NOT send dues with this request
for an application**

Mail to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936
(817) 649-2979 voice
(817)649-0109 fax
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active
since 1946

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

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

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

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AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

TOP QUALITY WIND SHIRT

100% Microtech Microfiber with nylon lining for easy on/off

Wind and water resistant

Women's version has zipper for easier donning

Rib knit trim at vee neck, cuffs, and waist

S-5XL (men) or S-3X(women) \$50.00

Add \$ 1.50 per line for added lettering such as "State Commander" or "Next of Kin" (14 characters/
spaces per line)

\$12.95 shipping each within Continental U. S.

Shipments to Missouri add 5.6% sales tax

A portion of the price is returned to American Ex-Prisoners of War

Size_____ Please CIRCLE male or female style

Desired lettering under logo (\$1.50/line; 14 characters/ spaces per line)_____

Check enclosed or VISA/MasterCard/ AmEx_____

Card security code(4 digits on front of AmEX card, three digits on back of others)_____

Expiration Date_____ Signature (CC only)_____

Ship to: Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Mail to Lone Pine Embroidery, 32245 Lone Pine Way, Greentop, MO 63546

Or E-mail to Roger@lonepineridge.com

Or call us at 660-626-6902

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AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

check with your local cemetery before ordering to see if medallions are permitted.

\$75.00

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I
Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.**

AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) _____

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$55.00, includes S/H

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

AXPOW Challenge Coin



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00 ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00
Brooch pin	5.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00
Logo pin	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Challenge Coins	10.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (silver)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00

Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**(includes S/H)

Ship to: _____
Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

We accept Master Card/Visa

12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00

CLOTHSTRIPES (specify which title) 3.00
Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer
Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice Commander
Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00
For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com**

Raising the POW-MIA Flag on all Oregon State Buildings

The state of Oregon passed into law a bill that will fly the POW-MIA flag on all Oregon State Public Buildings. After signing the bill, Governor Kate Brown gave a copy of the bill to ex-POWs Cordino Longiotti and Walter Haines, and Hugh Crawford (local VFW vice commander who spearheaded the effort to get the bill passed). Gov. Brown also gave the three the pens she used in signing the bill.



Courtesy of: Cor Longiotti
corlon@charter.net



All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

Thank you for supporting the American Ex-POWS with your purchases of National Merchandise.

Bronze Grave Medallions



\$75.00 plus \$15.00 S/H/I

Shipping cost on two or more is \$20.00.

change of address form

Include your mailing label for address change or inquiry. If you are receiving duplicate copies, please send both labels. If moving, please give us your new address in the space provided.

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396
Or fax: (817) 649-0109
Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com