

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Inside...stories...events, NSO success...
ChampVA vs. Medicare...and more.*



Clockwise from top left: Auburn, WA Veterans Day Parade with the Tacoma Chapter Float ... The Clearwater Veterans Appreciation Day, November 12, 2005 - Dept. Cmdr. Bill Allen raising money for children of service personnel stationed at MacDill AFB; Bill Allen, ND Ed DeMent with PCC Homer Still; Bill Allen and Gulf Coast Chapter Cmdr. Don Denny ... UNH ROTC Ceremony in honor of Mrs. Nikki Carr's late husband - Mrs. Carr; PCC Gerry Smith with wife Dorothy; The Carr family; ROTC holding day vigil at UNH flag pole; Lori Chase, POW Coordinator.



national commander



Gerald Harvey

In my last article I mentioned that we all need to be better communicators if we are to reach our goals and keep our organization going in the right direction. Starting a new year is a good time for us to start working hard on this. Communication is a two way street. It is not just sharing information and opinions. It is listening to the ideas and opinions of others.

Our first and best communication tool is our *EX-POW BULLETIN*. It keeps us up on what is happening.

Remember that the Bulletin is for all of our members. It is the only contact that many of our members have with our organization. It is true that many things are repeated and some people already have some of the information. Read it anyway, and in your chapters and your newsletters, call attention to items that all need to know, but many may have missed.

When members of your chapter attend department or national meetings, they should be reporting to your chapter and in your news letters, keeping members up on what is happening nationally and in your department. National Directors should be sharing regularly with chapters and departments. Chapters and departments should share your activities, ideas, and needs with your National Directors. They are your representatives and they need to hear from you. Most chapters have recently or will soon elect new officers. Make sure to report your new officers to National Headquarters.

We also need to communicate with people with whom we disagree. Don't write letters telling others about how wrong the person is. Write, call, or go directly to that person. Tell him or her what you think and why. Listen to him. Try to understand his point of view. You still may not agree on everything, but you can understand each other, respect each other, and work together for the good of the organization.

I have had a few calls since convention regarding the Eagles POWER Foundation. They have been in existence for a number of years and expressed interest in helping AXPOW. They have made the commitment that every dollar donated by AXPOW members for tax-deductible purposes will flow back into AXPOW's treasury. The address for the foundation is: 23 Cove View Dr., South Yarmouth, MA 02664.

Gerald

Betty Harlan, Chairman, Surviving Spouse Committee AXPOW NSO

With the new Medicare Prescription Plans being offered to those who are eligible for Medicare and also have CHAMPVA, there has been a lot of confusion as to which way to go. Some are questioning whether they need to drop CHAMPVA in favor of a Medicare prescription plan. This is not the advisable thing to do because there is not a plan being offered by any company that competes with what we have with CHAMPVA. The prescription plans all have monthly premiums and the cost of prescriptions is lowered, but there would still be a charge for each prescription. Also, there is a "doughnut" effect with Medicare, that is, reductions in prescription costs would be covered at first, then when a certain amount is reached the pa-

tient would have to pay the complete cost of the prescriptions until a certain catastrophic amount is reached and then Medicare prescription benefits would begin again. There are many plans being offered and each one is different, so the specifics of each plan cannot be listed here. There is, in fact, no need to learn the specifics of each plan since none of them can compare to the benefits under CHAMPVA.

Now compare this with CHAMPVA: NO monthly premium, FREE prescriptions if ordered from the 2 national prescription facilities with no annual deductible; and if a prescription is needed from a local pharmacy there would be a 25% co-pay with a \$50.00 annual deductible. Also, CHAMPVA is a lifetime benefit, CHAMPVA FOR LIFE, or CFL. Those of you who have CHAMPVA, look at your ID card. Most of them have either no expi-

ration date, or if they do, it is 2050. CHAMPVA is a FREE Medicare supplement with a fantastic prescription plan, and there is no need for anyone on CHAMPVA to change to a Medicare prescription plan.

There is also still some confusion about the difference between CHAMPVA and TRICARE. A very simple explanation of the differences are these: TRICARE is for retired or active duty military personnel and is administered by the Dept. of Defense. CHAMPVA IS FOR WIVES, WIDOWS AND ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS OF 100% DISABLED VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY LESS THAN 20 YEARS. ALL CLAIMS FOR CHAMPVA ARE MAILED TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION IN DENVER, COLORADO.

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The Cabanatuan Raid

Following the 1945 American forces occupation in Luzon, it was discovered that the Japanese had hundreds of American Prisoners of War held in Cabanatuan. The hundreds of American POWs were the survivors of the 75,000 Filipino and American POWs who survived the infamous 85-mile march out of Bataan in 1942, at which point the Filipino POWs were released and the Americans were shipped to Cabanatuan to work details in 300 acres of farmland under the control of machine guns and 20-foot towers. Executions, disease, beatings and starvation took the lives of more than 3,000 in just a few months. Many more were killed by U.S. aircraft and submarines while being transferred to Japan in unmarked vessels.

Just over 500 American POWs were left in Cabanatuan when the 6th Ranger Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Henry Mucci, joined forces with Filipino Guerrillas for flank protection and operational security led by Capt. Juan Pajota and Capt. Eduardo Joson, and the Alamo Scouts who provided forward Reconnaissance and tactical support.

With only 48-hours of planning, the joint forces moved out at dusk on Jan. 30, 1945, on a 30-mile walk to the camp in a mission to save the remaining American POWs of Cabanatuan. P-61 Black Widow pilots flew overhead and distracted the guards while the raiders successfully pulled 516 POWs from the camp. While only two Rangers were killed, over 500 enemy troops were wounded or killed during the raid.

Without the help of Filipino guerrillas holding back a force of 1,000 approaching enemy troops at the nearby Cabu Highway bridge and the Filipino civilians who provided demobilized prisoners with caraboa carts to ride out of the camp, the mission would have been nothing short of impossible.

The offices of AXPOW – National Headquarters, National Capitol Office, Treasurer and Bulletin are closed on the following dates in 2006.

Jan 2	New Year's Day
Jan. 16	MLK Day
Feb. 20	Presidents' Day
May 29	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
Sept. 4	Labor Day
Oct. 2-10	National Convention
Nov. 10	Veterans Day
Nov. 23-24	Thanksgiving
Dec. 25-Jan 2	Christmas/New Year's

In addition, the offices will be closed for AXPOW's MidYear Meeting. Dates to be announced.

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**Deadline for the March 2006 issue
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**Please send all materials to the
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on capitol hill



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The Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs held hearings on Oct. 27th to take a closer look at the rising number of individual unemployability benefit claims. The Committee observed that VA's goal in this regard is to restore the capability of veterans with disabilities to the greatest extent possible and improve the quality of their lives and that of their families. All the witnesses were experts in the field of human disabilities including Admiral Daniel Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits; Cynthia Bascetta, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security Issues; and Rick Surratt, Deputy Legislative Director of DAV. When the witnesses were done, the Committee had heard a thorough presentation of the history, current analysis and operation of individual unemployability.

Admiral Cooper acknowledged that the number of veterans rated totally disabled for IU has more than doubled in the past six years and that is somewhat consistent with a pattern of higher number of more seriously disabled veterans. As a prerequisite for an IU rating, a veteran must have disability rated 60% or higher. During fiscal years 2000 to 2004 the number of veterans with 60% rating increased by 31%. The number of veterans rated 70% increased by 60%; veterans rated 80% increased by 75%; and veterans rated 90% increased by 91%. In addition to higher numbers of veterans potentially eligible for IU, an aging veteran population may also account for part of the increased numbers of veterans who are unemployable. Disabled Vietnam veterans make up the largest single group of disabled veterans by period of service and whose disabilities are on average rated higher than their counterparts from other periods of service. The Admiral further stated, "An interplay of advancing age, diabetes, and various pre-

sumptives of service connection for cancers associated with herbicides and radiation as well as a significant increase in the number of veterans awarded service-connection for PTSD, account for a substantial portion of the increase." There is an increase in the number of veterans on IU and a reasonable explanation in simplest terms; there are more veterans with disabilities. Veterans are surviving injuries thanks to advances in modern medicine, who would not have survived in earlier conflicts.

Rick Surratt of DAV reviewed some historical background of how IU developed to what it is today and how important that benefit is to many veterans today. He compared the rate of increase of the total number of veterans receiving disability compensation with the total number of persons receiving Social Security Disability payments and found it to be the same over a given period of time. Rick also discussed VA's practices in the area of vocational rehabilitation and employment - a subject covered earlier by other witnesses. He said that VA's first objective of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program is to provide all service-connected veterans with the opportunity to become employable and obtain suitable employment, while providing special support to veterans with serious employment handicaps.

This program must be viewed in light of the realities of the challenges associated with retraining veterans of advanced age to a status of rehabilitated to the point of employability. He further stated, "To expect an elderly disabled veteran to embark upon a new career in his or her final years of life is unrealistic.

The demand of training may only make the disability worse. To refuse IU to a veteran who uses the good judgment not to undertake such an unwise course would contradict the

purpose of veterans benefits. We therefore believe that mandating or pressuring veterans of advanced age to attempt vocational rehabilitation would be ill-advised and would quite probably result in a waste of resources."

We do not know what will result from this hearing, if anything, but it appears the interest of the Senators on the Committee lies primarily in the welfare of the young soldiers in combat zones today who will become tomorrow's service-connected beneficiaries. That is how it should be.

This August, after months of quiet and intense diplomatic efforts among the United States, Morocco and the Algerian Polisario, the remaining 50 of over 400 Moroccan POWs were released. (See page 8, Oct.2005 Bulletin) On November 7, the Moroccan Ambassador, Aziz Mehoular, hosted a reception at his residence in Bethesda, MD to thank the people who were involved in the release.

I was honored to be among those invited and was accompanied by my daughter, Lesley Riley. It was a small informal affair attended by a few of the Moroccan former POWs and many Capitol Hill staffers representing their Congressmen and Senators. In a brief welcome and formal announcement, Ambassador Mehoular personally thanked me and the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization for our involvement in the release. I was fortunate to be able to speak once again with Ali Najab, a former fighter pilot who had been held for 23 years. He is the spokesman for all the former POWs, many of them in attendance and anxious to express their gratitude for our efforts. We received many invitations to visit them in Morocco.

A buffet of traditional Moroccan dishes was served. The Ambassador's hospitality was equal to his sincere appreciation to the US and AXPOW for

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their involvement in freeing the longest-held POWs in modern history.

LES

Let's get busy! What am I talking about? Yes, I intend to keep on pushing all of you - Board of Directors and you who read this column! My update for this month - we have just 16 co-sponsors on HR1598. Personally, we should be ashamed of ourselves for our lack of persistence with pushing our Congressional members to co-sponsor. The ball is in our court and we must get co-sponsors now. The companion bill in the Senate is S1271, introduced by Sen. Patty Murray. This, too, is a shame with only ONE CO-SPONSOR. PLEASE LET US GET OUR MEMBERS TO CO-SPONSOR THESE TWO BILLS NOW. Yes, we also need to obtain co-sponsors on HR2369, the bill introduced earlier by Reps. Bob Filner and Michael McNulty the "Purple Heart for POWs who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart". Include this in your request to your members now.

At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors with Commander Gerald Harvey, it was agreed that Mid-Year would be in Washington again this year. Also agreed that it would only be for three days due to budget restraints. Since then, I have been frantically working toward this agenda. In November, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Rep. Steve Buyer, announced that there would be no hearings in March by the VSOs. This was immediately disturbing for the VSOs and to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairmen Larry Craig and Daniel Akaka. As of this writing, it has not been settled! I have talked several times to both sides and the Committee sources have told me that arrangements are being made to accommodate the VSOs. Details will not be available until after they come back from recess after Jan. 20, 2006. Just as soon as we learn the details, the BOD will be immediately notified. Eventually a detailed package will be sent to the Board of Directors and Committees. If you are interested in coming if and when it is to be, just call the office and we will be in touch with you. Sorry the situation is such, but please know we are doing the very best we can in this changing Congress.

Here are the co-sponsors as of now - please contact your members!

Rep Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA)
Rep Lane Evans (IL)
Rep Mark Foley (FL)
Rep Bart Gordon (TN)
Rep Sue Kelly (NY)
Rep Tim Ryan (OH)
Rep Lee Terry (NE)
Rep Heather Wilson (NM)
Rep Ginny Brown-Waite (FL)
Rep Bob Filner (CA)
Rep Vito Fossella (NY)
Rep Melissa Hart (PA)
Rep Michael Michaud (ME)
Rep Clay Shaw, Jr. (FL)
Rep Ed Whitfield (KY)
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MARY

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A new policy for reimbursement of National Service Officers has been voted on by the Budget Committee. The new policy is as follows:

- 1) This applies to Certified AXPOW National Service Officers and expense necessary to work on claims. Basically, this is a volunteer service. This policy is to help some NSO expenses when it is needed.
- 2) Expenses should be submitted monthly on the approved form. Forms can be requested from the NSO Director.
- 3) Travel: Reimbursement is for trips made for the express purpose of working on claims. If the NSO works on claims while attending his/her chapter or department meeting, that is personal expense. Each trip is to be

listed separately giving the purpose of the trip, and number of miles round trip going directly from home to the destination. Travel is reimbursed at 20 cents per mile. (This includes the cost of gasoline.) An unusual trip for a special reason should be cleared with the NSO Director before travel. The Director will advise the NSO if it can be reimbursed or may suggest another NSO who is closer.

4) For other expenses - telephone, postage, supplies - copies of receipts must accompany the report. For telephone calls, send a copy of the phone bill. If calls are itemized, mark the calls that are about claims. If calls are not itemized, send a copy of the bill and explain what you are claiming. Another way to keep track of the expense is using a phone card that is only used for these calls.

5) The monthly reimbursement is limited to \$50 approved expenses. Reports, MUST be sent to the NSO Director for approval and forwarding for payment.

6) This policy is subject to change. Remember that we can reimburse expense only when funds are available.

Additional SBP information: The widow only gets a full refund of SBP if the SBP annuity amount is equal to or less than the DIC amount. If the SBP amount is greater than the DIC amount, then the widow gets a reduced SBP payment, as the DIC amount is subtracted from the SBP annuity amount and she gets a partial refund of the premiums paid over the years by her spouse to SBP.

The partial refund formula is not clearly stated anywhere. Any refund of SBP premiums will be made automatically. The widow does not have to apply for it.

It can take up to a year to get the premium refund. - Submitted by Doug Burns, Arizona

Remember: There is no need to subscribe to the new Medicare Prescription Program, Part D, if you are eligible for ChampVA or Tricare. These are both better programs.

Doris Jenks

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**January 2006**

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

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## AXPOW Outreach Happens

Over 400 letters have gone out from the Washington State Department's Commander Lloyd Gabriel to alert former POWs and widows of VA benefits they may be missing. This was the idea of State Treasurer Dick Roth who, with wife Geraldine of Maple Valley, took the list of those receiving POW license plates and culled out all who were not members of any AXPOW chapter in Washington state. The goal - to reach out to those who are not members of any chapter, especially in remote areas. They stuffed and mailed the letters, many to folks who belong to National, but not to a chapter or the state. State Commander Gabriel says; "Our VA POW Coordinators act as NSOs and do all the paperwork. Our POW Protocol MD will go to a POW's home and do the exam there, especially if it is further than 50 miles from the hospital, and/or the POW cannot travel. It's a good system we have worked out here." Congratulations on such a determined OUTREACH in Washington!

And NSO Rudy Collins of Leavenworth, WA who formerly lived in Montana reports on progress of cases he went and initiated at Fort Harrison MT VARO: "Bill in Helena, Upgrade 30% to 100% with retroactive \$147,000 check; Chuck in Wise River, 40% to 100%; Jim in Great

Falls, 30% to 100%; Henry in Kalispell, 40% to 100%; Loren in Great Falls, 10% to 100%; Jim in Choteau, 40% to 100%. We have several other pending claims, so more Outreach progress to come." Thanks, Rudy!

At AXPOW National Convention in Denver, it was great to hear of similar Outreach going on all over the country.

Outreach to our former Prisoners of War and their widows has been a multi-faceted effort, with a lot of stumbling blocks in the way...like reluctant former POWs who don't want to talk about it, or other recalcitrant ones who have been discouraged by the VA's rejection in times past. All of this can be costly for them and their widows, as they miss out on the VA disability benefits now available. And the VA is truly doing its best to reach out to them now to correct past frustrations, with over 20 presumptive conditions now recognized as going back to our POW experiences years ago.

AND continuing responses to the EXPOW Bulletin Outreach items show that the Bulletin is a major factor for POW Outreach!

## Success Stories

### NSO Success Solves a Dilemma for Family

From Oklahoma, 9/16/05 letter from Sherry in Tulsa area:

"Dear Mr. C:

Words can never express my gratitude for what you did to help my family. Without your phone call my mother would have continued to try and live month to month on her social security. One of the things I am most grateful for is that she can now live out her days with more dignity and a peace of knowing my father's death was recognized for what it was. My father never asked anything

of the country he loved so dearly. But he paid a price most of us can not conceive. He paid with his life. I saw many times growing up the pain both mental and physical he endured from being a POW. He couldn't even speak of his experience for many years. What he did tell me was that he would do it again for his country and for our freedom. Thank you for the deepest parts of my heart for allowing my family to have peace with my father's death. I will be eternally grateful. I beg you to continue helping others who might never know this compensation exists.

Sincerely,

Sherry P., Daughter of  
POW Richard McPh."

Sherry's letter made my day. Her mother received her homebound DIC, plus now her ChampVA free medicare supplement benefit.

NSO volunteer work is so rewarding as it pays off for so many former POWs and their widows.

Fred Campbell, San Angelo, TX

## When success seems denied!

"They told me my income is too high to get a VA widow's benefit."

Don't give up! If someone tells you your income or assets are too high for you to be eligible for the VA widow's benefit, don't give up. Your financial resources have nothing to do with your being eligible for the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefit! Financial information is needed only when applying for Pension.

Contact an AXPOW National Service Officer who knows the POW presumptive conditions and other details of what the VA has available for former Prisoners of War and their dependents.

Former POWs are a small minority of the veteran population, so that many service officers seldom deal with us. Don't give up. Make sure you get the right information as to your eligibility for VA Compensation.

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January 2006**

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**Packet #5 (What Every POW's Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow)** has been updated again, with much time and effort on the part of Marlene Agnes, to include the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet (approximately 110 pages) may be purchased from National Headquarters. Cost of the updated packet is \$15.00~includes S/H.

## ChampVA

*NOTE: Our Surviving Spouse Chairman, Betty Harlan, has important information about ChampVA and the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Please read her article on page 3 of this month's Bulletin.*

### Overview

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The program is administered by Health Administration Center and our offices are located in Denver, Colorado.

Due to the similarity between CHAMPVA and the Department of Defense (DoD) TRICARE program (sometimes referred to by its old name, CHAMPUS) the two are often mistaken for each other. CHAMPVA is a Department of Veterans Affairs program whereas TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. In some cases a veteran may look to be eligible for both/either program on paper. However, if you are a military retiree, or the spouse of a veteran who was killed in action, you are and will always be a TRICARE beneficiary, you can't choose between the two.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, you cannot be eligible for TRICARE/CHAMPUS and you must be in one of these categories:

- \* the spouse or child of a veteran who has been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by a VA regional office, or the surviving spouse or

child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service connected disability, or the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who was at the time death rated permanently and totally disabled from a service connected disability, or the surviving spouse or child of a military member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct (in most of these cases, these family members are eligible for TRICARE, not CHAMPVA).

- \* An eligible CHAMPVA sponsor may be entitled to receive medical care through the VA health care system based on his or her own veteran status. Additionally, as the result of a recent policy change, if the eligible CHAMPVA sponsor is the spouse of another eligible CHAMPVA sponsor, both may now be eligible for CHAMPVA benefits. In each instance where the eligible spouse requires medical attention, he or she may choose the VA health care system or coverage under CHAMPVA for his/her health care needs. If you have been previously denied CHAMPVA benefits and you believe you would now be qualified, please resubmit an application.

### Benefits

In general our CHAMPVA program covers most health care services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary. Upon confirmation of eligibility, you will receive program material that specifically addresses covered and non-covered services and supplies in the form of a CHAMPVA handbook.

### General Exclusions

Like all health programs there are certain services and supplies that are not covered by our program, some of these are:

- \* Services and supplies obtained as part of a grant, study, or research program.

Services and supplies not provided in accordance with accepted professional medical standards or related to experimental/investigational or unproven procedures or treatment regimens.

- \* Care for which you are not obligated to pay, such as services obtained at a health fair.

- \* Care provided outside the scope of the provider's license or certification.

Services or supplies above the appropriate level required to provide the necessary medical care.

- \* Services by providers suspended or sanctioned by any federal agency.

- \* Services provided by a member of your immediate family or person living in your household.

For a complete listing of non-covered services and supplies please consult the CHAMPVA handbook.

### Medicare Impact

CHAMPVA is always the secondary payer to Medicare. If you are eligible for CHAMPVA, under age 65 and enrolled in both Medicare Parts A&B, SSA documentation of enrollment in both Parts A&B is required.

For your benefits to be extended past age 65, you must meet the following conditions:

- \* If you turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and only have Medicare Part A, you will be eligible for CHAMPVA without having to have Medicare Part B coverage.

- \* If you turned 65 on/or before June 5, 2001, and have Medicare Parts A and B, you must keep both Parts to be eligible.

- \* If you turned 65 on or after June 5, 2001, you must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible.

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### **Remarried Widows/Widowers**

Remarriage: Eligibility for CHAMPVA ends at midnight on the date of your remarriage if you remarry prior to age 55. If you remarry on or after your 55th birthday, The Veterans Benefit Act of 2002, Public Law 107-330, allows you to keep your CHAMPVA benefits.

**Termination of Remarriage:** If you are a widow(er) of a qualifying sponsor and you remarry and the remarriage is later terminated by death, divorce, or annulment you may reestablish CHAMPVA eligibility. The beginning date of your re-eligibility is the first day of the month after termination of the remarriage or December 1, 1999, whichever date is later. To reestablish CHAMPVA eligibility, copies of the marriage certificate and death, divorce, or annulment documents (as appropriate) must be provided.

### **Communicating with CHAMPVA**

When sending correspondence, applications or claims to the Health Administration Center, please do not staple, tape or bind the materials together in any manner as this will cause a delay in your correspondence or request being processed. CHAMPVA is managed by the VA's Health Administration Center. You can call us at 800-733-8387, Monday through Friday from 8:05 AM to 6:45 PM ET. You can e-mail us at [hac.inq@med.va.gov](mailto:hac.inq@med.va.gov). E-mail is the best way to communicate with us if you have this capability. You can also fax us at 1-303-331-7804. PLEASE do NOT fax applications to this number. Online Chat is available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM ET.

### **Assistance and Claims Address**

If you have a general question (other than one regarding an application), an appeal, or if you need to file a claim for reimbursement for health care and the claim is older than one year, please send your request to:

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VA Health Administration Center  
CHAMPVA  
PO Box 65023  
Denver CO 80206-9023

For submitting new (less than one year old) health care claims only, please use:

VA Health Administration Center  
CHAMPVA Claims  
PO Box 65024  
Denver CO 80206-9024

### **CHAMPVA Handbook**

The CHAMPVA Handbook contains important benefit information that is of interest to you. You are highly encouraged to carefully read the handbook prior to using CHAMPVA benefits.

### **Change of Address**

The HAC needs your help - if you change your address, it is vital that you let us know your new address. You can mail the information to:  
PO BOX 65023  
Denver, CO 80206

You can call us at 800-733-8387. Please help us keep our records up to date!

### **Medicare Exclusion List**

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG) maintains and publishes a monthly list of individual medical providers that are not allowed to provide medical services and supplies to Federal health care program participants. Medical providers on this list have been convicted in State or Federal court of certain felonies, criminal offenses, or have had other offenses toward Federal Agencies related to the delivery of health care. Mandatory exclusions include, but are not limited to, convictions related to patient abuse or neglect, felony convictions related to health care fraud, and controlled substances.

Excluded individual medical providers and medical institutions cannot, by law, receive payments for health care services or supplies from any Federal health care program. That exclusion includes programs funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs such as CHAMPVA, Foreign

Medical Program (FMP), Spina Bifida, and the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Programs.

### **FAQs**

#### **What is CHAMPVA?**

CHAMPVA is a health benefits program in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries (see Eligibility Fact Sheet 01-3 for criteria for CHAMPVA coverage).

CHAMPVA is managed by the VA's Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado. We process CHAMPVA applications, determine eligibility, authorize benefits, and process medical claims.

#### **Who is eligible for CHAMPVA?**

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, the beneficiary cannot be eligible for TRICARE. CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse or widow(er) and to the children of a veteran who:

- \* Is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, or was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death, or died of a service-connected disability, or died on active duty and the dependents are not otherwise eligible for DoD TRICARE benefits.

Effective October 1, 2001, CHAMPVA benefits were extended to age 65 and older. To be eligible, you must also meet the following conditions:

- \* If the beneficiary turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and only has Medicare Part A, the beneficiary will be eligible for CHAMPVA without having to have Medicare Part B coverage.

- \* If the beneficiary turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and has Medicare Parts A and B, the beneficiary must keep both Parts to be eligible.

- \* If the beneficiary turn age 65 on or after June 5, 2001, the beneficiary must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible.

#### **What does CHAMPVA pay?**

In most cases, CHAMPVA pays equivalent to Medicare/TRICARE rates. CHAMPVA has an outpatient deductible (\$50 per person up to \$100 per family per calendar year) and a cost share of 25% up to the

## medsearch continued...

catastrophic cap (up to \$3,000 per calendar year). You should collect the 25% allowable cost share from the patient except when the patient has other health insurance.

If the patient has other health insurance, then CHAMPVA pays the lesser of either 75% of the allowable amount after \$50 calendar year deductible is satisfied, or the remainder of the charges and the beneficiary will normally have no cost share. See Payment Methodology Fact Sheet 01-11 for further information regarding payment on other than outpatient type of services.

### **Can a beneficiary have other insurance and use CHAMPVA?**

Yes. If the beneficiary has other health insurance (OHI), they should be billed first. The explanation of benefits (EOB) from the OHI should then be submitted with the claim for reimbursement to CHAMPVA. By law, CHAMPVA is always secondary payer except to Medicaid, State Victims of Crime Compensation Programs and supplemental CHAMPVA policies.

### **What is the impact of Medicare on CHAMPVA?**

As a result of a Federal law passed June 5, 2001, CHAMPVA expanded benefit coverage to eligible family members and survivors of qualifying veteran sponsors effective October 1, 2001.

If the beneficiary is eligible for CHAMPVA and also has Medicare Part A entitlement (premium-free hospitalization coverage) and Medicare Part B (outpatient coverage) we will cover many of the costs not covered by Medicare. CHAMPVA will pay after Medicare and any other insurance, such as Medicare HMOs and Medicare supplemental plans, for health care services and supplies. CHAMPVA does not pay Medicare Part B premiums.

### **How do I get more information?**

VA Health Administration Center  
CHAMPVA  
PO Box 409028  
Denver, CO 80206-9028  
Phone: 1-800-733-8387  
FAX: 1-303-331-7804

E-mail: [hac.inq@med.va.gov](mailto:hac.inq@med.va.gov)

Website: [www.va.gov/hac](http://www.va.gov/hac)

### **What is the difference between CHAMPVA and TRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS)?**

Although similar, CHAMPVA is completely separate with a totally different beneficiary population than TRICARE - a Department of Defense healthcare program formerly called CHAMPUS. While the benefits are similar, the programs are administered separately with significant differences in claim filing procedures and preauthorization requirements.

### **How can I obtain an application for CHAMPVA benefits?**

Application for CHAMPVA Benefits (VA Form 10-10D):

Call the Health Administration Center at 1-800-733-8387. When calling, select the Application Form option from the voice-mail menu. To help reduce the volume of telephone calls during business hours, please consider placing these calls during evening or weekend hours.

### **From the time an application is submitted, how long before I can expect a response from the Health Administration Center?**

Generally, applicants can expect to receive written notification from the Health Administration Center within 45 days from mailing their application. To streamline the process, applicants are encouraged to complete the Application for CHAMPVA Benefits (VA Form 10-10D) in its entirety and to attach all required documents. As further explained on the application, required documents include a copy of each applicant's Medicare card (if Medicare eligible) and a school certification for all applicant children between the ages of 18 and 23.

### **Why is CHAMPVA the secondary payer when beneficiaries have other health insurance (OHI)?**

To answer this question, a look at CHAMPVA's origin and the congressional intent behind its legislation may help. From the start, CHAMPVA was intended to serve as a safety net in the event other coverage was not available - rather than being the primary carrier. While families with OHI

are not disqualified from CHAMPVA benefits, CHAMPVA's safety net protection becomes available after the OHI has paid. This includes benefits available from the enrollment in a health maintenance organization (HMO), preferred provider organization (PPO), Medicare or other health insurance. Exceptions to CHAMPVA's secondary payer status are supplemental CHAMPVA policies, Medicaid, and State Victims Compensation Programs - CHAMPVA becomes the primary payer in these cases.

### **Are CHAMPVA benefits available to beneficiaries with other health insurance (OHI) coverage through a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), who elect to receive HMO-covered services outside of the HMO network?**

Just as beneficiaries with OHI cannot opt to waive those benefits to have CHAMPVA become the primary payer, beneficiaries enrolled in an HMO cannot elect to waive the HMO benefits without forfeiting their CHAMPVA benefits. CHAMPVA benefits, however, do apply to covered services that are not covered by the HMO.

### **How does my annual deductible and catastrophic cap work?**

The annual outpatient deductible begins over again each Jan 1st and is \$50.00 per person, no more than \$100.00 per family. This deductible must be paid before CHAMPVA will pay 75% of the allowable amount. As claims are processed for covered services, charges are automatically credited to individual and cumulative family deductible requirements for each calendar year.

The catastrophic cap (cat cap) begins over again each Jan 1st and is \$3000.00 per family per year. Each time we pay a bill, the deductible and cost share (out of pocket expenses) are calculated and credited to the cat cap. When the cat cap reaches 3000.00 for the family, CHAMPVA will then pay at 100% of our allowable amount for the rest of the calendar year.

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# Andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Alan\_Marsh@nps.gov  
Kandace\_Muller@nps.gov

## My Internship at Andersonville National Historic Site

By: Kendra Derrer

In June of 2005 I began a two-part internship at Andersonville National Historic Site. During the first ten weeks of this internship the majority of my responsibilities consisted of cataloging old and recent acquisitions. My goal, as well as the park's, was to catalog 250 items. The majority of the items cataloged thus far have been from World War II, with additional artifacts from the Civil, Vietnam, and Korean Wars. Specific materials cataloged include textiles, prints, Wartime Log books, and various other three-dimensional items. The archival collections consist of correspondence from POWs to family and friends, government correspondence, photographs, currency, and diaries. One of the most memorable items I cataloged was a World War II suitcase made of Nestle Milk Cartons. I found the construction of the object incredible. The POW who created the suitcase used milk cans interlocking them in such a way that materials such as nails or drills were not needed. It is an excellent example of the creativeness and craftsmanship found in many of the pieces in the Andersonville collection. Other responsibilities associated with my ten-week internship included, preventative maintenance, environmental

and integrated pest management monitoring. This accounted for approximately ten percent of my internship. This portion of the internship consisted of calibrating the hygrothermographs, gathering data from the data loggers, monitoring the pest traps, and reading through the emergency operation plan.

At the end of June I was fortunate in the fact that Andersonville decided to extend my internship for another three months. This allowed me to successfully complete all my requirements for school and graduate, completing my master's degree in Historical Administration. With the addition of another three months I was able to gain the full collections management experience. My supervisor, Kandace Muller, and I were very happy with this extension. This meant that new projects we had only dreamed about accomplishing could now be achieved. Projects like the one hundred percent inventory would finally be completed. Unlike the first ten weeks where my internship focused primarily on cataloging, this one would center on completing the one hundred percent inventory. Along with the inventory, I would also dedicate a significant portion of my time to preventative maintenance and environmental and integrated pest management monitoring.



Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this second internship was the fact that I was responsible for the planning and installation of an exhibit, *Surviving Bitter Weather: How POWs Did It*, to open November 15, 2005. Kandace and I decided early on in this internship that this, along with my other responsibilities would provide me with the most well rounded experience. To help prepare myself for the daunting task of planning an exhibit, I helped Kandace design, plan, and install the previous exhibit for POW/MIA recognition day. For this exhibit

I created mounts for many of the artifacts and helped determine which layout worked the best for each case, mounted all posters in the exhibit, and assisted with text.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the grand opening of the Southeast National Archives in Morrow, Georgia, thanks to Superintendent Fred Boyles. This was a fantastic opportunity! What I found to be truly amazing was the fact that this archive housed all the draft registration cards from World War I. I also attended the Southeast Museum Conference (SEMC) at Jekyll Island, Georgia. I was able to attend the majority of sessions. While at the SEMC, I was able to attend one workshop, *Basic Approaches to Maintenance Cleaning of Collections for the Non-Conservator*, which has proven very beneficial. Even more exciting, I think, is having the opportunity to take a tour of the National Park Service, Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC) in Tallahassee, Florida. SEAC assists in the long-term protection, use, storage, and appreciation of archeological and cultural resources. At SEAC we were able to view some of the artifacts in the Andersonville collection currently stored there. It holds archeological artifacts and associated field notes from the whole Southeast region of the United States.

Overall, Andersonville has provided me with a wonderful internship experience. Before coming here I only had a background in the collection management for fine arts. During my time at Andersonville I have gained a broader understanding of the POW experience and been given a glimpse into what life as a POW must have been like. I think I was most impacted by the many letters I read through when filling out archival catalog worksheets. It was as if I was reading a book I could not put down. I was engulfed in the emotions of the writer and I could begin to visualize the activities being talked about, the environment, and the fellowship between other prisoners. I feel very fortunate both for my exposure to the prisoner of war experience and to the broader knowledge I have gained of museum collection care, preservation, documentation and use in exhibits. Through my internship I feel confident that I have acquired many of the skills that will carry me through to the next level of my career.

# NamPOW news



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pgalanti@comcast.net

## And It's Not The Phoenix!

A squadron reunion of a Naval band of brothers will occur in April in Richmond, Virginia as an old Douglas A-4C Skyhawk is unveiled at the Virginia Aviation Museum. That's not exactly earth-shaking news but for it to be "my" airplane in "my" squadron markings might be one of the biggest compliments I've ever had in my life.

Several months ago, I was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame. The director of the Virginia Aviation Museum told me he'd been trying to find an A-4 to paint in my squadron markings and wanted it done by the Hall of Fame Induction. The plane didn't make it by the induction but it was acquired on long term

loan basis from the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola and transported to Richmond in pieces through the generosity of a private donor.

What the director needed help with was getting the painting accomplished so it would be authentic. He and I visited NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach where a squadron found it to be an interesting challenge. Four volunteers will paint the bird in January at the Air National Guard facility at Byrd Field in Richmond and have promised that it will look like new when they finish. It turned out that nearly all of the young midshipmen from Annapolis I knew on my last active duty assignment at the Naval Academy are now squadron and Wing commanders. It might be the oldest I've felt in a long time but it also shows how the Beat truly Goes On in this merry-go-round called life!

The cost of the paint and supplies will be borne by the aforementioned band of brothers from VA-216 who are excited about the project. We expect to have most of the pilots from VA-216 who are still alive here for the dedication.

The exhibit will honor those who flew the A-4 in combat including VADM James B. Stockdale, our senior Naval Officer in the Hanoi Hilton. Indeed it will honor all those who have flown into combat in any war when it joins

the WW I Spad and Sopwith Camel already in the museum. It'll be rejuvenated but, unlike the mythical Phoenix, this one won't fly. But it will serve as a beautiful reminder of what once was a glorious time in our young lives.

The photo below, old and grainy, is what the airplane will look like when it's completed and put on display in Richmond. The skinny young guy in the photo will be there, too. But not skinny. And certainly not young. But the fact that he's there despite nearly seven years in a Hanoi POW camp is proof that we POWs are the lucky ones.

There are many - *many* - who didn't come back.

Paul



Photo: LTJG Paul Galanti's A-4 Skyhawk

## pow-mia



### PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

### North Korea:

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Jerry D. Jennings met with Chinese officials where he laid out U.S.

requests for more cooperation in gaining access to archival material from the Korean War. He also thanked officials in Dandong, China for their assistance in the recovery effort which led to the identification of the remains of USAF Captain Troy G. Cope.

On May 25, 2005 recovery efforts were temporarily suspended in North Korea.

### WWII Research:

An analyst from DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate completed a month-long search in the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb for records pertaining to American WWII MIAs. Some of the documents discovered contain references to destroyed American aircraft and captured or killed American and Allied servicemen.

Additionally, the researcher gathered information on several WWII crash sites, including the specific location of a U.S. aircraft, reportedly in 72 meters of water off the coast of Vis Island. The co-pilot of that aircraft is MIA. This information and documentation could lead to further investigations to refine more specific locations.

### Libya:

A two person DPMO team visited Libya recently to continue discussions on losses in that area from WWII and from the 1986 El Dorado Canyon operation.

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# Honor America's Commitment to Veterans

## **Mandatory Funding Will Provide a Comprehensive Solution for VA's Health Care Funding Crisis**

We support moving veterans health care from a discretionary to a mandatory funding method. This would neither change current eligibility requirements nor create a new entitlement benefit. Providing quality, timely health care services for veterans disabled as a result of military service should be a top priority.

Guaranteed funding would eliminate the year-to-year uncertainty about funding levels that have prevented the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from adequately planning and meeting the growing needs of veterans seeking care.

## **Congress must enact mandatory funding to ensure:**

- VA can deliver a comprehensive health care package in a timely and cost-effective manner to all eligible veterans who choose VA as their health care provider.
- VA health care funding is sufficient for VA to carry out all its missions.

## **Why Is the VA Health Care System in Crisis?**

The current discretionary funding method for veterans health care is broken. The needs of our nation's sick and disabled veterans are not being adequately met. Continued funding shortfalls, combined with rising costs for care and increased demand for medical services, have resulted in unprecedented waiting times nationwide for routine and specialized medical services.

VA's enrolled patient population surged from 2.9 million in 1996 to 6.8 million in 2003, a 134 percent increase. However, appropriated funding for VA medical care only increased 44 percent from \$16.6 billion in 1996 to \$23.9 billion in 2003. VA has received on average a 5 percent increase in appropriations over the last eight years.

However, VA's Under Secretary for Health has testified that VA requires, at a minimum, approximately a 14 percent increase annually just to maintain current services. In addition, VA projects enrollment will exceed 7 million in 2006.

## **Under the current discretionary funding method:**

- VA health care funding has failed to keep pace with medical inflation and the changing needs of the veteran population.
- VA has been forced to ration care by denying services to eligible veterans and curtailing needed medical treatment.
- VA has had to forgo the modernization of many of its facilities and the purchase of necessary state-of-the-art medical equipment.
- Veterans are unfairly subjected to the annual funding competition for limited discretionary resources.

## **President's Health Care Task Force Agrees On the Need for Funding Reform**

In May 2001, President Bush signed Executive Order 13214 creating the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. Former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Dr. Gail Wilensky, and former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt were appointed as Co-Chairs.

The PTF identified a significant mismatch between demand for VA services and available funding which, if left unresolved, would delay veterans' access to care and threaten the quality of care provided. Under Recommendation 5.1, the PTF states,

The Federal Government should provide full funding to ensure that enrolled veterans in Priority Groups 1 through 7 (new) are provided the current comprehensive benefit in accordance with VA's established access standards. Full funding should occur through modifications to the current budget and appropriations process, by using a mandatory funding mechanism, or by some other changes in the process that achieve the desired goal.

In January 2003, the Secretary of VA suspended new enrollments of Priority Group 8 based on an insufficient budget. The PTF stated, "Individually [these] veterans do not know from year to year whether they will have access to VA care, and as an organization, VA cannot effectively plan or budget, given the uncertainty." The PTF declared the current situation with regard to Priority Group 8 is unacceptable, and recommended the President and the Congress work together to resolve the status of this group of veterans.

The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, made up of The American Legion, AMVETS (American Veterans), Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Vietnam Veterans of America, strongly believes that all enrolled veterans should be included under a mandatory funding mechanism.

# Honor America's Commitment to Veterans

Based on their findings, the PTF recognized that even if VA were operating at maximum efficiency, it would be unable to meet its obligations to enrolled veterans with its current level of funding.

The Administration and Congress must move forward on the recommendations of the PTF, and support a permanent solution to resolve what has become an untenable situation.

## Why is VA Health Care Important?

### HEALTH CARE PROVIDER:

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the health care arm of VA, is the nation's largest health care provider, encompassing 162 hospitals, more than 850 community and facility-based outpatient clinics, 206 counseling centers, 137 nursing home units, and 43 domiciliaries.

### SPECIALIZED CARE:

VA Provides a wide range of specialized services unmatched by the private sector, tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans: spinal cord injury medicine, blind rehabilitation, amputee programs, advanced rehabilitation, prosthetics, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, extended mental health and long-term care programs.

### COST-EFFECTIVE CARE:

Studies continue to show that the VA health care system is more cost-effective than comparable private-sector health care.

### LONG-TERM CARE:

VA provides long-term care for thousands of veterans annually. VA

is also the nation's leader in geriatric research, education and training.

### HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET:

Last year, 4.5 million service-connected disabled and low-income veterans relied on VA for all or part of their health care. As an added benefit to states, the veterans health care system acts as a safety net for these veterans, keeping them off state programs.

### RESEARCH:

VA is the nation's most clinically focused setting for medical and prosthetic research; VA scientists have been awarded three Nobel Prizes. Major breakthroughs pioneered at VA include the cardiac pacemaker, the CAT scan, and the development of radio-immune assay techniques.

### MEDICAL EDUCATION:

VA partners with 107 medical schools and 2,000 colleges or universities. More than half of the nation's practicing physicians receive all or part of their training in VHA. VA's academic affiliates train more than 85,000 health care professionals each year. Affiliations bring first-rate health care providers along with state-of-the-art medical science to the service of America's veterans.

Veterans get excellent care, society gets well-trained doctors and nurses, and the taxpayer pays a fraction of the market value for the expertise the academic affiliates bring to VA.

### SPECIAL MISSIONS:

VA offers comprehensive mental health services, including programs for substance abuse and the chronically mentally ill. VA is the largest provider of health care for veter-

ans with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C. One-third of the nation's homeless are veterans, and VA has developed broad-reaching programs to address their psycho-social needs.

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY BACK-UP:

By statute, VA serves as a back-up to the Department of Defense and the National Disaster Medical System in times of national emergency or period of war.

### SAVINGS FOR OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS:

The acute and long-term care services VA provides subsidize Medicare and Medicaid programs at great savings to the Medicare Trust Fund and the taxpayer.

### JOBS:

VHA employs 180,000 full-time health care professionals and support staff in cities and communities across the United States.

The above information was compiled by The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform.

### The American Legion AMVETS

Blinded Veterans Association  
Disabled American Veterans  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

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## events and information



**January 12-14, 2006. Department of Texas** midwinter conference will be held at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites, 201 S. Washington. Those wishing to attend may call 800-446-0202 or 830-997-0202 for reservations. Registration fee \$12.00. Contact Ruby Williams, 1306 N. 4th, Temple, Texas 76501-2013.

**April 2006. The Association of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans** will lead a group to England and France to commemorate the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of these historical events: The D-Day Landings, the Battle for Normandy and the drive through France to the Rhine. For information call Sy Canton, 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484; 561-865-8495.

**April 2006. Dept. of Tennessee Annual Convention** will be held at the Carnegie Hotel, Johnson City, TN. Contact: Commander Ruth M. Lewis, 105 Hughes Road, Watauga, TN 37694; 423-543-4391.

**May 14-21, 2006. 505<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group - 313<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing "B-29" WWII Reunion** will be held in King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Samantha Kemp, 1-800-367-2577.

**June 21-22, 2006. The Dept of Iowa 2006 state convention** will be held at the Best Western Starlite Village located at the intersection of Highways 169 and 7 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Motel reservations may be made directly at 1-800-903-0009, ext. 5. Contact Adjutant Pat Ludwig, P.O. Box 246, West Bend, Iowa 50597, 515 887-7409 or [patlesone@yahoo.com](mailto:patlesone@yahoo.com).

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# looking for



I have been searching for years for information about an **African-American Officer , a Kregie at Hammelburg**. I had met and talked with him in streets there, then days later the Abe Baum Raid arrived. That night, about 0200 after the tanks all circled and we gathered near the stone building, we were told "return" was impossible, and Col. Goode and Abe Baum, told us our three options: 1. Return to Camp with Col. Goode, strike off towards American Lines in small groups, or join the tankers in their defense. In the darkness I turned to this African-American Officer and asked what he was going to do, and he told me , "Join the Tankers". I thought it a very heroic thing to do, and years later I learned from others who climbed on the tanks that he was with them; then armed with a rifle, he left the group and headed towards the German lines. We have searched for years to learn his story, but have failed. Abe Baum in his book, speaks of seeing and talking briefly with an African-American soldier in the Infirmary with a wound. Abe Baum's radio operator who was blown off a tank, losing his leg, says he saw an African-American on the ground, and saw a German soldier shoot him.

With the chaos and darkness no one can be sure. I have contacted men who were in the three African-American Tank Bn. that Patton committed during the Bulge, they don't remember any officer being captured. If you have any memory of this please reach Bill Warthen, 1204 Loop Road, Vidalia, Ga. 30474, 1-912-537-4430, or ([bwarthen@cybersouth.com](mailto:bwarthen@cybersouth.com)).

I hope you can assist me with a search of two former POWs in Germany. They were two of a five man crew of a C-47, tail number 43-15146 shot down over France 7 June 1944. **Navigator: 2nd Lt. Mancuso**, Arthur J. O 700639 Home of record N.Y. Crew Chief: **T/Sgt Kosta, Anthony** 32231192 Home of record N.Y. Next of kin: Mrs. Jennie Oday (Sister) Jersey City, New Jersey.

My purpose of contacting the veterans or family members is to attempt to obtain information what occurred. A crew member was injured on impact, and was not awarded the Purple Heart. Unfortunately, his records were "lost or destroyed" in the fire at St. Louis during 1973. Perhaps a diary or a conversation describing that day would lead to testimony aiding the process. The individual was held captive at **Stalag Luft 3**. Thank you. I can be contacted at: Robert E. Johnson, [Robersabel@aol.com](mailto:Robersabel@aol.com), 16169 North 158 Avenue, Surprise, Arizona 85374; 623-546-3410.

I'm trying to contact an Ex-POW named **Sy Brenner** who was a POW in Stalag 5A near Ludwigsburg, Germany in 1945. This was my Stalag from 1/2/45-4/27/45 and I have lost contact with him. He was last living at 5691 Unit C, Adobe Fall Road, San Diego, CA.

My stepfather, **PFC Harry F. Jahn**, (listed as Dental Corps/Medical Dept.) was a POW in Stalag 9, Berga. I would like any information on him. He was an American of German descent. His most notable feature that might be remembered was a scar from the left side of his chest to his knee, obviously treated with amateur stitching. I'd appreciate any information you can give me. Please contact Jon Gardner, 304 E. Penn La., Farge, WI 54639; [jsg1093@justice.com](mailto:jsg1093@justice.com).

# Your Stories



## World War II vet, 91, recalls his days as a POW

By Layla Wilder  
lwilder@timespapers.com  
re-printed with permission from The  
Times Community Newspapers

For veteran George Juskalian, 91, of Centreville, Virginia, life in a POW camp became a family affair that lasted a lifetime.

The then-Capt. Juskalian spent 20 months of World War II at Oflag 64, a German prisoner of war camp for American officers in Szubin, Poland.

Born to an Armenian family in Fitchburg, Mass., the decorated World War II, Korean and Vietnam veteran actually recalled his time at Oflag 64 as “a good time” in his life because of the camaraderie among fellow prisoners.

By the time Oflag 64 was formed in 1943, the war had fully engulfed the world, and the prisoners there would live the war’s final years in captivity, fighting to survive in a different way.

“We now think of each other like family,” Juskalian said. “We prisoners organized ourselves so sufficiently and so completely into a community.”

Juskalian, captured during the 1943 invasion of North Africa, and about 1,200 other American commissioned infantry officers built a community at Oflag 64 that sustained them through the rest of the war, Juskalian said.

Despite cold weather, bad food and

captivity, Juskalian talked about theater, music, sports and classes when he recounted his days at Oflag 64.

Also captured during the invasion of North Africa, Wilbur Sharpe, 83, of Bethesda, Md., was at Oflag 64 with Juskalian.

“It was cold, and we were so hungry most of the time that it was not very pleasant,” said Sharpe, a native of Lebanon, Ind., who joined the Army when he was 18 years old.

“Participating in the musicals and entertainment was a way to get rid of the misery,” he said.

Edward DeMent, 82, a National Director of American Ex-Prisoners of War, said the experiences at Oflag 64 are unique to a lot of POWs.

It’s not often that men will want to even talk about their experiences in POW camps, DeMent said.

“A lot of men don’t want to be reminded about what they went through,” he said. “Some of them have a hard time talking to their families about them.”



### **Livin’ it up and surviving**

The prisoners’ commander, Col. Thomas D. Drake, encouraged his soldiers to keep in good spirits and take care of themselves during their captivity, Juskalian said.

“The commanding officer required us to keep in shape,” Sharpe said.

“He didn’t want us to let ourselves go,” Juskalian said.

Theater productions, medical centers, schools and newsrooms sprang up in the old school for girls that the Germans turned into a camp.

Juskalian said he remembers watching productions like “Arsenic and Old Lace,” with the women’s parts played by the “more handsome guys.”

“They were good productions,” Juskalian said. “Even the guards would come watch the rehearsals.”

Church services also drew soldiers, according to Sharpe, who said he attended them every week.

“There were chaplains from all different faiths,” Sharpe said.

Besides the shows and church services, the officers were able to form medical clinics, athletic programs, classes and libraries to keep themselves busy, Sharpe said. “We had a lot of talent, and they were all members of the U.S. Army”.

The camp’s activities and news from home were reported in a monthly newspaper named the Oflag 64 Item, a publication Juskalian helped start.

“Touch Football Season Ends As Reds and Whites Fight to 6-6 Tie,” was one front-page headline in the December 1943 issue.

“Mass, Prayer, Oratorio Mark Easter Services” was a headline in the April 1944 issue.

“Sometimes we would make up headlines,” Juskalian said.

“Hedy, Garbo and Ike Wire Anniversary Greetings” was one headline they made up.

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Frank Diggs, Jim Bickers and William Cory, lieutenants at the camp, compiled "Oflag 64," a book about the camp for the 1993 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the camp's beginning. The book includes stories about the soldiers and the camp's activities and reproduced clips from its newspaper.

### The Germans of Oflag 64

Issues of the Oflag 64 Item were printed in a German officer's home, according to Juskalian.

A few of the soldiers were escorted to the German officer's print shop outside the camp every month in exchange for money, cigars or some other novelty.

Most of the time, the Germans were surprisingly friendly, Juskalian said.

But the Germans got suspicious when the prisoners planned, by coincidence, their captivity celebration on June 6, 1944, the day Allied forces invaded Normandy.

Although the prisoners had been planning it for weeks, the Germans were convinced their prisoners were communicating with the officers of the Allied forces.

The prisoners heard about the invasion on the morning of the celebration, according to Sharpe.

"They thought we had a secret channel to the greatest secret of the world," Juskalian said. "They thought we were celebrating the invasion we had known about weeks in advance."

The soldiers let the Germans think what they wanted and celebrated big, Juskalian said. They had saved the rations they got from the Red

Cross to compile a big meal, and the theater and music departments planned special programs, according to Sharpe.

"We wanted to have something to celebrate," Juskalian said. "In the end, we did."

### Freedom and war's end

By the start of 1945, Germany was being surrounded by Russian and Allied forces and the war would be ending soon.

With little notice, the Germans took their prisoners out of Oflag 64 in the middle of winter for a march that lasted 40 days and 400 miles, according to Juskalian.

"We sustained ourselves through loyalty, which then preserved us in the march we had to make when the Germans marched us out of Germany," Juskalian recalled.

Sharpe escaped during that march by hiding and staying behind in one of the barns where the prisoners spent the night.

Although he tried to escape, Juskalian did not get to go free until Gen. Robert Frederick liberated the prisoners in March 1945 at a POW camp in Hammelburg, Germany.

### Today's Oflag 64 community

About 450 Oflag 64 POWs are still living, according to Sharpe.

"The group keeps in close contact," Juskalian said. "These are the people I went through the hardships and the good days with."

"We have a bulletin that comes out for former POWs listing everyone that has died," Sharpe said.

About 80 people, including wives and children, attended the last Oflag 64 POW reunion, according to Sharpe.

Sharpe and his wife, Mary, have a daughter, Cynthia Burgess. She is

married to Glenn Burgess, and they live in Oak Hill.

Juskalian, an active member of the Bill Rolan Memorial Chapter of Northern Virginia American Ex-Prisoners of War, lives in Centreville with his wife, Lucine, and daughter Elissa. His son and daughter-in-law, Kevoik and Tanya Juskalian, live in Oakton.

After World War II, Juskalian went to work at the Pentagon and served in Korea and Vietnam.

But the Oflag 64 community made his time serving in World War II an indelible memory, he said. "We had very, very personal relationships," Juskalian said.

Juskalian is featured in the book, "Triumph and Glory: Armenian World War II Heroes," by Richard Demirjian.

## Korean POWs Reunite After 50 Years With a Message

By Vera Fields  
15113 E. 42nd Terrace  
Independence, MO 64055

An amazing reunion occurred in July 2005 as Ed Slater (75) and Walt Whitcomb (74) were reunited. Both imagined the other long dead. The last time they were together was in 1950, as POWs under a pile of slain American soldiers in North Korea, and trying to survive.

Slater and Whitcomb were among the few survivors of the Suncheon tunnel massacre in October, 1950. They learned that for decades neither could speak of their ordeal; both experienced personal problems such as anxiety and alcoholism.

Their reunion has an agenda, which is the message that POWs need to know comradeship and veterans' benefits are theirs, if they wish.

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They urge other POWs to share their experiences with young people. Slater said, "Even though it bothers me to talk about my war experiences, I never turn down a school group." Whitcomb added, "The kids today should know about war and its consequences."

Slater was captured on July 19 and Whitcomb on July 27 during the invasion of South Korea by North Korea in June 1950. They were prisoners of war, often without shoes and food, and were marched with no apparent destination for weeks at a time.

In mid-October, North Korean forces loaded about 250 American POWs - Slater and Whitcomb among them - on a train that headed north from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. On Oct. 20, the train stopped at a tunnel near Suncheon. About 100 prisoners left the train after being told they were going to get something to eat. American forces overtook the site, finding 67 soldiers shot to death, plus 25 wounded survivors. The survivors indicated the unarmed soldiers had been led off in groups and shot.

The train continued on. At some point, the North Koreans ordered another large group of American soldiers off the train. Advancing American troops later found 29 bodies and a 30<sup>th</sup> man dead on the train. There were three survivors. Two of the men were Slater and Whitcomb. It is here where they get confused. Both remember the North Korean soldiers boarding their boxcar. "They told us again that we were going to walk or we would all die right there. We didn't want to walk anymore, so some of us said, 'Shoot us. We don't care.' They were shooting these guys in the cars and throwing them out," Slater added. "I scooted to the door and just fell out. I think Whitcomb

fell on top of me. He was moaning. I told him to be quiet. They thought it was me moaning, so they bayoneted me in the head."

Whitcomb remembers being shot. "I remember that it was dark and the guy above me started saying, 'Shoot again, shoot again,'" he said. "They stuck a bayonet in him, and it passed within inches of my nose.

There are 8,114 missing soldiers from the Korean War, meaning that their bodies have not been recovered. Since 1996, US teams have been conducting recovery operations under license from the North Korean government, and the remains of more than 200 American soldiers have been found. However, operations were suspended last year.

## fields of flyboys

By Mary L. Collins in honor of  
Francis Angier  
"thank you for inspiring it..."

Who took the plow from his hand  
and sent him flying over Germany  
with missiles now in the silos,  
the bombardier fingering the  
trigger,  
clouds, the benign target,  
safe from imploring souls down  
below.

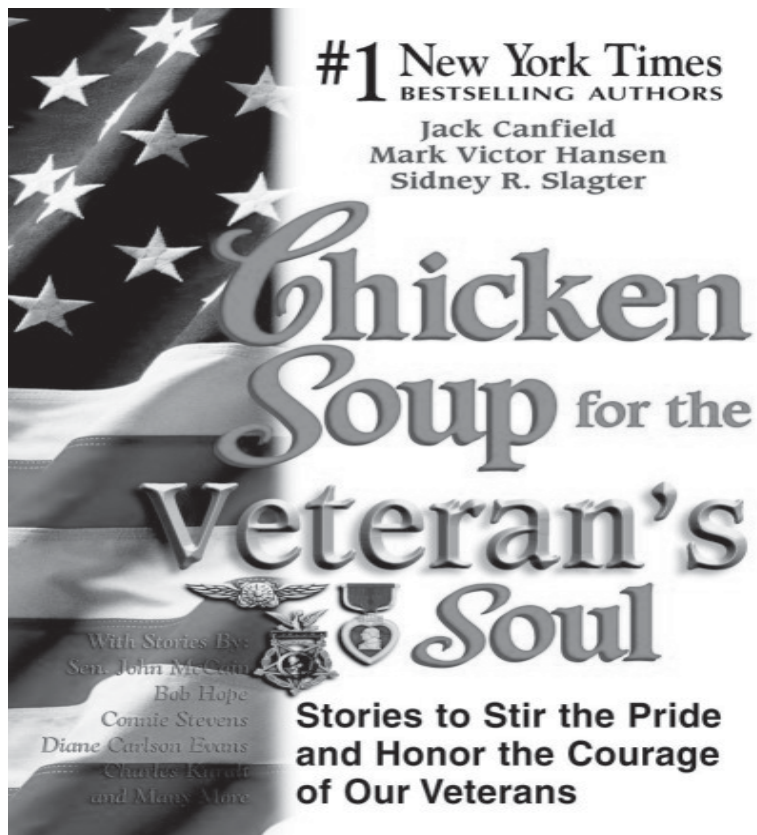
Scattered ground fire  
found his fuselage first  
and blew him from the sky  
raining jet fuel and shrapnel,  
parachutes in flames  
and broken bodies burning.

He fell hard and fractured in a  
farmer's field,  
so like his own back home,  
but the pitchfork was a weapon  
this time  
and with it the townspeople  
crowded around  
threatening in a tongue he could  
not understand  
save for its tone, the anger, the  
fear,  
the question *why* that alone saved  
him.

Nine months in a prison camp,  
and more death than he could  
stand,  
near death twice himself, weight  
down to nothing  
not unlike the Jews he was sent to  
save and did,  
and he's told the story his whole  
lifetime knowing  
the Tutsi, the Lakota, the Aztec,  
the Armenians,  
the Irish, the Pequot, the Cherokee,  
the Ukrainian, the Kurds  
all suffered the same and had no  
flyboy savior.

Both the aggressor and the  
aggressed  
are enslaved by fear  
and patriotism that does not run  
clear  
but dances off the tongues of  
prime ministers  
and presidents and papal bulls  
until the things they feared so  
much  
lie in ruins, and with it  
all that could have been redeemed -  
fertile cultures furrowed under  
the hands of the self righteous and  
mighty.

Gone, the Ghost Dancers at  
Wounded Knee,  
Afghani women, the Sudanese,  
the people of Nepal, the Philip-  
pines,  
women for sale in Juarez or Thai-  
land,  
on and on until someone takes a  
stand  
and realizes there is nothing  
foreign  
about any foreign land except the  
once young soldiers who some-  
times die  
and sometimes grow old there,  
and find they had been harvested  
to fertilize the fields  
that still reach up to catch  
these fervent and bewildered  
flyboys  
raining down, the ones, them-  
selves,  
who should be farming.



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# News Briefs

## Air Force Museum's 'Wild Weasel' Exhibit

An exhibit commemorating the accomplishments of the "Wild Weasels" during the Vietnam War was unveiled recently at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The exhibit contains an F-105G "Thunderchief" aircraft; an SA-2 surface-to-air missile and launcher; items such as maps, flight gear, helmets, gloves, patches, photos; and other artifacts used by the Wild Weasels.

The name "Wild Weasel" originates from the U.S. Air Force's first anti-SAM program, known as "Project Wild Weasel," that took place in 1965 during the Vietnam War. The Wild Weasels were specialized U.S. Air Force crews and aircraft that suppressed enemy air defenses, including the Soviet SA-2, with direct attacks from 1965 to 1972. These attacks were some of the most dangerous missions in the Southeast Asia War.

The Wild Weasels in Southeast Asia created an essential and lasting capability for the Air Force. Though some believed that SAMs would be the death of the flying Air Force, the Wild Weasels provided an effective counter measure, paving the way and protecting strike forces over North Vietnam. The Wild Weasels accomplished their mission at great risk to themselves — 34 Wild Weasels were killed or missing in action and 19 became POWs. In addition, they lost a third of their aircraft in combat. Visit <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum> for

more information on this exhibit or other exhibits at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

## New Mission for Tuskegee Airmen

Lt. Col. Herbert Carter is 86 years old and ready for deployment. More than 60 years after his World War II tour with the pioneering black pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen, Carter's new mission was shorter, though no less courageous. Carter is one of seven aging Tuskegee Airmen who traveled to Balad, Iraq - a city ravaged by roadside bombs and insurgent activity - to inspire a younger generation of airmen who carry on the traditions of the storied 332nd Fighter Group.

"I don't think it hurts to have someone who can empathize with them and offer them encouragement," he said.

The three-day visit was put together by officials with the U.S. Central Command Air Forces to link the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen with a new generation.

"This group represents the linkage between the 'greatest generation' of airmen and the 'latest generation' of airmen," said Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, commander of the Air Forces command.

The retired Airmen who made the trip - five pilots, a mechanic and a supply officer - shrugged off the dangers of Iraq, saying they have stared down the enemy before. Some fought in Korea and Vietnam as well as World War II.

The original Tuskegee Airmen were recruited in an Army Air Corps program created to train blacks to fly and maintain combat aircraft during World War II - though some of the retired Airmen say it was really designed to try to prove that blacks were incapable of flying and fighting.

Even after the first group completed pilot training in March 1942, they were not allowed to fly for more than a year.

"My status as a Negro bordered on second-class citizenship and the military simply reflected the culture of the time," Carter recalled in a recent interview. "If you were a Negro, you were a Negro in either setting."

Eventually, the black airmen flew escort for bombers. They were credited with shooting down more than 100 enemy aircraft and never losing an American bomber under escort to enemy fighters. In all, 992 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. About 450 deployed overseas and 150 lost their lives in training or combat.

Only about 100 Tuskegee Airmen are still living.

## Fisher House Hero Miles

The Fisher House organization uses more than a million frequent flyer miles per week in distributing free round-trip airline tickets to families of war-wounded servicemembers being treated in military and Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the country. To date, the program has distributed more than 4,000 tickets, using more than 150 million frequent flyer miles. The foundation's general fundraising, including money received from the Combined Federal Campaign, pays airport security fees, taxes and administrative fees on the tickets. Fisher House gets the millions of frequent flyer miles through "Operation Hero Miles." The program has been expanded to wounded servicemen and women being treated at major

## news briefs cont...

military and Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country. Those who have approved convalescent leave may be given a free round-trip airline ticket to visit loved ones if they're not eligible for government-funded airfare. Family members are also eligible for the free tickets. The unused frequent flyer miles come from private and corporate donations. For more information on the program or how to donate your unused earned miles, visit [www.heromiles.org/](http://www.heromiles.org/).

## Brain Cancer Link to Sarin

The DoD is notifying members and veterans of units who may have been exposed to nerve gas during the Persian Gulf War. Concerns about possible health problems from low-level sarin exposure became an issue for 1991 Gulf War veterans following revelations that some Iraqi munitions destroyed by U.S. forces at Khamisiyah contained this agent. In 1997 and 2000, DoD sponsored modeling of potential chemical warfare agent exposure for Gulf War veterans resulting from U.S. demolition of Iraqi chemical weapons at Khamisiyah in March 1991. They concluded that no Gulf War veteran experienced acute exposure; however, about 100,000 veterans could have been exposed to "very low levels" (sub-clinical sarin exposures so small that they would have caused no immediate or obvious poisoning). This is consistent with DoD's observation that throughout this period there were no reports of chemical warfare agent detections, or of any service members experiencing symptoms consistent with acute chemical warfare agent exposure. These units were located

within a 31-mile radius of Khamisiyah, Iraq, where chemical weapons were destroyed March 4-15, 1991. Anyone with information about the March, 1991 incidents should contact DoD at 1-800-472-6719:

## Air Force Enlisted Home

The Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependent Home Foundation offers the only independent living retirement communities in the country for the Air Force's enlisted personnel.

After two years, a reneged \$8-million donation and several major hurricanes the Enlisted Village at Shalimar, Fla., has opened the doors to Hawthorn House, the latest addition to the community that provides a home for widows of retired enlisted Airmen. Hawthorn House, a 64-apartment assisted living residence, brings a 38-year dream to life for an organization whose goal has always been lifetime care for these widows. Divided into four "neighborhoods" that include 16 apartments, a dining area, living area and laundry room, the upscale two-story state-of-the-art facility was built on five acres of land on the Bob Hope Village campus at Shalimar.

To date, 30 residents occupy the facility. For information about assisted living at Hawthorn House, contact the administrative assistant at (850) 651-3013.

A widow[er]'s eligibility criteria for admission is:

- 1 Must be age 55 or older;
- 2 Possess a valid military identification card;
- 3 Submit a completed Application for Admission;
- 4 Provide a medical report stating the widow can live independently;
- 5 Submit a marriage certificate;

6 Provide the spouse's death certificate and

7 Provide Proof of the spouse's retirement.

Widow's requiring immediate housing and financial assistance with rent are given priority. Retired couples are eligible for admission provided the retired member is age 62 or older and the spouse is age 55 or older. Widows of other services are eligible on a "space available" basis and do not qualify for financial assistance. The average waiting period is six-months from the time the widow is placed on the waiting list until an apartment is offered. The waiting period for a married couple is seven-years.

The Foundation operates two villages located in the northwest Florida panhandle between Pensacola and Panama City. Teresa Village is located in Fort Walton Beach and consists of 112 apartments and 10 houses. Bob Hope Village is located in neighboring Shalimar and consists of 256 patio-style apartments. Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field are in close proximity to both villages. For information on independent living apartments at Teresa Village or Bob Hope Village, contact the admissions department at (800) 258-1413. For more information about the Air Force Enlisted Village, visit [www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org).

## Concurrent Retirement Disability Pay

Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) had no opposition to his amendment to the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act which was approved by voice vote, without dissent. It allows those retired veterans who are rated IU (Individually Unemployable) and compensated at 100% by the VA, to be paid CRSC (Combat Related Special Compensation) and CRDP (Concurrent Retirement Disability Pay) retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

## news briefs cont...

### Joint VSO Hearings Canceled

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer (R-Ind) recently announced that veteran's service organizations will no longer have the opportunity to present testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, a tradition of legislative presentations by veteran's service organizations that dates back to the 1950s.

The joint hearings have been held each year to allow the elected leaders of veterans groups to discuss their organization's legislative agenda and foremost concerns with the lawmakers who have jurisdiction over federal veterans programs. Senators and Representatives who serve on those committees also get the opportunity to address the hundreds of constituent members from these organizations' who make the annual pilgrimage to Capitol Hill. At this writing, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is planning on holding hearings - probably in February, 2006.

### Lost Airmen Laid to Rest at Arlington

After spending the last 37 years entombed in a glacier, two Airmen were finally laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Col. Wilfred B. Crutchfield and Lt. Col. Ivan E. O'Dell received full military honors at their Dec. 7 burial ceremony, with several family members in attendance. "I appreciate that the Air Force never forgets its own," said Hayden Crutchfield, the colonel's youngest

son. "We're so grateful to the Air Force for taking the time and effort to go and retrieve them. This gives an appropriate level of honor for the sacrifice they made."

The Airmen were flying home to McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in their T-33 Shooting Star when they crashed into Mount Rainier April 15, 1968, some 10,800 feet above sea level. The wreckage and remains were embedded in a glacier, preventing a recovery team from reaching them.

Over time, parts of the glacier melted as it moved down the mountain. In September 2004, a scientist found wreckage debris. Two weeks later, teams from the National Park Service and the Air Force services mortuary found and recovered remains of the missing men.

"I never stopped believing they would find them," said Colonel O'Dell's widow, Marjorie. "My children were astonished when we got the phone call."

The colonels both led very successful Air Force careers. Colonel Crutchfield flew in three wars. Colonel O'Dell received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star for his aerial achievements.

"Dad loved being a fighter pilot," said Mr. Crutchfield, who was 9 years old when his father died. "He was larger than life. He'd come home in his wool uniform and I'd jump in his arms. I still remember what it smelled like."

The families were impressed with the horse-drawn caisson, band and members of the Air Force honor guard participating in the funeral service.

The ceremony says something about how the military takes care of its own and honors not only the fallen, but their families as well,

said Rev. Kendall Crutchfield, the colonel's eldest son.

He also said the funeral is a way to gain some closure to losing his father. "We didn't really get to say good-bye," Reverend Crutchfield said. "Now we know where he is and can always come to visit him. I'd never been to Arlington Cemetery, and to have my father buried here, well you don't get better than that."

### VA Offers Prescription Refill Service

Tens of thousands of veterans are now receiving their prescription drug refills from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with greater convenience, speed and security, thanks to a new service available to veterans over the Internet. The secure online prescription refill service has quickly emerged as one of the more popular features in the MyHealtheVet system, which connects with VA's electronic records system.

When a veteran orders a prescription refill, the request is routed to VA's computer system to be filled by one of the department's outpatient mail pharmacies. The refill is then sent directly to the veteran, eliminating the need for a trip to the pharmacy and a wait in line.

Veterans can sign up for the program at VA's Website at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov). Future expansion of MyHealtheVet will allow VA patients to view appointments and co-payment balances, access portions of their medical records, and give access to their records to doctors, family members and others.

## news briefs cont...

### Hon. Jerry D. Jennings Retires

On December 2, 2005, the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings wrote a letter to the employees of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office informing them of his intent to retire from the Department of Defense due to his ongoing health challenges. His retirement became effective December 3, 2005.

In his letter he wrote, "It has been my utmost hope to return to full duty; however, my illness precludes my continued service." He went on to say, "I appreciate your expressions of support during this ordeal [his illness]. I wish you all continued success as you work this sacred mission." Jennings has served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs since August 2001.

### Stair Climbing Mobility System Now Covered by VA

Eligible veterans with disabilities now have the opportunity to purchase the innovative INDEPENDENCE® iBOT® 4000 Mobility System, developed by Independence Technology, through medical coverage provided by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

In 2003, Congress recommended the VHA study the iBOT®. At the conclusion of the study, the test subjects were unanimous in their positive recommendation for the iBOT®. In January 2004, the iBOT® Mobility System underwent a second consumer pilot study.

This second study was expanded from three veterans to eleven veterans due to demand and interest in the iBOT®. Afterward, the iBOT® coverage recommendation was issued and in 2005 the iBOT® Mobility System was placed on the Federal Supply Schedule under contract number V797P-3006M. iBOT® 4000 assessments are now being conducted at hospitals in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) across the country.

According to the coverage criteria released by VHA for the iBOT® 4000: "The clinician will take into account the veteran's medical diagnoses, prognosis, functional abilities, limitations, goals, and ambitions. ... The VA supports the dispensation of power mobility to allow the veteran to access medical care and to accomplish necessary tasks of daily living in ordinary home and community environments such as paved surfaces and mild terrains."

The iBOT® Mobility System is unlike any mobility device on the market. It is one of the most thoroughly tested, studied and sophisticated devices ever manufactured for the disability community. The iBOT® Mobility System's combination of innovative functions allows users to go places and do things not possible with any other single mobility device.

These Functions include:

**Balance Function.** The Balance Function of the iBOT® Mobility System can raise you to eye level for business or social interactions, even when you are on the move.

**Stair Function.** The Stair Function enables the user to safely climb up and down stairs, with or without assistance, giving them accessibility to previously inaccessible places.

**4-Wheel Function.** The 4-Wheel Function enables the user to climb curbs as high as five inches and to travel over a variety of uneven ter-

rain, such as sand, gravel, grass, thick carpet and other surfaces.

**Standard Function.** The Standard Function enables the user to operate the device in the same manner as if in a traditional power chair. While operating in the Standard Function, users are able to easily fit their Mobility System under a table or desk.

**Remote Function.** The Remote Function allows the user or an assistant to drive the mobility system unoccupied into a vehicle.

For more information and video of the iBOT® 4000 in action, visit [www.ibotnow.com](http://www.ibotnow.com). Veterans who are interested in evaluating the iBOT® can call 866-813-0788 to speak with an iBOT® 4000 Representative regarding VA coverage.

### Disabled Tenant Eviction

Federal and Case Law prevents eviction of "Disabled-Tenants" who request reasonable accommodation in eviction when their landlord is evicting them because of their disability. The tenant's rent must be up-to-date, or if not up-to-date "Lawfully Withheld" from the landlord for the landlord's failure to comply with local or state housing codes such as not repairing or providing heat, or not repairing broken doors and plumbing, etc. Refer to the "Landlord's Obligations" under the Landlord and Tenant Act in your home state. This Federal or Case Law applies to both private and public housing providers. However, it may not apply to housing providers with less than five units. Disabled veterans who cannot afford an attorney should contact their nearest Legal Aid Office or other non-profit legal organizations in their area, and to file in federal or state court for a "Court Order" temporarily or permanently stopping the eviction.

# contributions



**Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201  
East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010. You can  
also make a donation with a  
credit card (MasterCard or  
Visa). Just call 817-6492979.  
Thank you!**

## GENERAL FUND

Barbed-Wire Buckeyes Chapter,  
Ohio  
Jane & Bob Fredrickson  
Leona Taylor  
Tom McElherne, Iowa  
In honor of "my good friend, Bill  
Babington", by John Denison  
In honor of Frank Kravetz and  
John Parkhurst, by F J Brunner  
In honor of my grandparents,  
Harold & Dorothy Shrode, by  
Anna Krause Crabb  
In memory of Andrew Trasko, by  
Gregory & Carolyn Gentile  
In memory of Andrew Trasko, by  
Kevin Keegan  
In memory of Andrew Trasko, by  
NPU Customer Service Center  
In memory of Andrew Trasko, by  
Thomas, Carolyn, Jennifer and  
Tommy Trasko  
In memory of Andrew Trasko, by  
the Malerba Family  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by 612<sup>th</sup> Tank  
Destroyer Battalion  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Bob & Karen  
White  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Homer Wilson  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Joan &  
Gilberto Morey  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by M/M James  
Martin

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Margaret  
Lewis

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Margaret  
Wingate

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Paul & Karyn  
Tash

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Sandra & Tom  
Jones

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Susan Nixon

In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Wanda Badger  
In memory of Charles William  
'Bill' Townsend, by Winston Park  
Social Club

In memory of Charlotte Galloway,  
by Virginia "Ginny" Henry

In memory of Charlotte Galloway,  
by Zellwood United Methodist  
Church

In memory of Elsie V Smith, by  
Robert & Helen Seitzinger

In memory of Ken Badke, by Bill  
& Nancy Fornes

In memory of my husband  
Leonard, by Vera Vorm

In memory of Newton Boyce Luft  
III roommate, by Robert Rivers

In memory of Norman Bolle, Luft  
III roommate, by Robert Rivers

In memory of Robert Ping, by  
Virginia "Ginny" Henry

In memory of Verle "George"  
Edwards, by Virginia "Ginny"  
Henry

In memory of William Moyer, by  
Roger Conklin

In memory of William Moyer, by  
the Sunday school class taught by  
his sister

## LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Department of Minnesota

## LEGISLATIVE FUND

Barbed-Wire Buckeyes Chapter,  
Ohio

## MEDSEARCH FUND

Barbed-Wire Buckeyes Chapter,  
Ohio

In memory of Agnes Roberts, by  
William & Margery Nichols

In memory of Stewart Cooper, by  
William & Margery Nichols

## N.S.O. FUND

In honor of Rev. Fred & Peggy  
Campbell, by Harold & Bessie  
Gournay

In honor of Fred Campbell, by  
Joseph & Nancy Fertitta

In memory of Ken Badke, by the  
Department of Georgia

In memory of William Shaffer, by  
Gertrude Shaffer



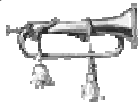
Members of the Southern Arizona  
Chapter gave donations totaling al-  
most \$3,000 to NC Gerald Harvey  
at the National Convention in Den-  
ver. The chapter feels so strongly  
about the worthiness of National  
that they challenge other chapters  
to follow their lead.

Donors are:

Ann Prim  
Charles Reuter  
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Eula Gibbs  
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M/M William Manda  
Raymond Swanson  
Rose Marie Reichel  
Ruby Irwin  
Theresa Felgar  
Vida Carmichael  
Warren Smith  
William Moore

*Thank You!*

**Ex-POW Bulletin  
January 2006**



# taps



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

**ASHER, Robert**, age 83, passed away Oct. 8, 2005. He was a member of the Imperial and Gulf Coast Chapters, AXPOW. He was captured 5 days after participating in D-Day, while serving in Co. A, 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Inf. His wife of 51 years, Barbara, survives him.

**BROWN, George Willard**, of Jasper, TN died Sept. 30, 2005. He was 81 years old. George was a member of the North Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII and Korea, he served in the Army. He was a POW for 14 months. He is survived by his wife, Mary, 1 stepdaughter, 1 brother and 2 sisters.

**CAVETT, Virginia**, age 69, of La Plata, MO died Sept. 25, 2005. She was the beloved wife of Ex-POW John A. Cavett. In addition to John, she leaves 2 sisters and 1 brother.

**CLARK, Robert C. "Bob,"** age 83, of Pasadena, CA passed away Oct. 5, 2005. In March 1941, Bob entered the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Coast Artillery on Corregidor. After capture by the Japanese he spent 3.5 years as a POW at Cabanatuan, Bilibid, and Hirohara, Japan. Bob's membership in AXPOW included serving at all levels - local, state, and national. He was a National Director and a National Junior Vice Commander for the organization. He leaves his wife, Sabra, five children, and seven grandchildren.

**COOPER, James R. III**, son of PNC Jim Cooper, of Carrollton, Texas, died November 7, 2005. He was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter. In addition to his father, he is survived by his wife, Blanche, and two brothers.

**DeWOLF, Fletcher M.**, 85, of Bristol, NH died Aug. 15, 2005. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 306<sup>th</sup> BG, 367<sup>th</sup> BS. He spent 29 months in Stalag 17B. Fletcher was past commander of the NH Chapter and life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris, 1 son, 1 sister, 1 nephew and 2 nieces.

**EISENACH, Ralph**, of Duluth, Minnesota, died February 9, 2005, after suffering a fall. He served as a bombardier in the Army Air Corp, and was held in Stalag Luft 3. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Alice.

**ERWIN, Chester D.**, 86, of Atlanta, GA died Nov. 18, 2005. Chester was a member of the Greater Atlanta Chapter and life member of AXPOW. He served in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 48<sup>th</sup> FS and was shot down over Italy. He was held in Luft 1, Barth. Chester is survived by 3 sons, 1 sister and 2 grandchildren.

**GUNTER, William J.**, of Longview, Washington, died November 18, 2005. William entered the Army in October, 1944, was captured at the Battle of the Bulge, and survived four months of captivity in Zeitz, Germany.

**HARTWELL, Norris E. Jr.**, passed away October 6, 2005 at the age of 84. He joined the Army in 1941 and became a flight cadet. As part of the 8<sup>th</sup> AC, he flew Photo Reconnaissance missions in Europe. Flying a P-38, he was the first Photo Recon pilot over Normandy beach on D-Day. He was shot down over Germany, placed in a German POW camp and later escaped. In the 1950's he served in Korea as well. He will be missed and will always be remembered for his sacrifice and service to our country.

**HASKINS, Thomas**, of Granada Hills, CA passed away Oct. 11,

2005. He was captured Dec. 10, 1941 while serving with the Navy on the USS Penguin. He was held in Guam Zentsuji, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe Fusiiki until liberation Sept. 10, 1945. He was a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Tom was predeceased by his wife; he is survived by 1 son, 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**HEADY, James**, of Newburgh, IN died July 19, 2005 at the age of 83. He was captured while serving with the 399<sup>th</sup> Inf., 100<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. He is survived by his wife Elma, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**HICKS, William Leon "Bill"**, 83, of Clanton, AL. died November 14, 2005. He was a Medic with the US Army in WWII and was captured while serving with the 3rd Army in Italy. He was interned as a farm laborer. Bill was a former member of the Montgomery Chapter, AXPOW. He was predeceased by his wife, Jennie Lou, and survived by one daughter and three grandsons.

**HOSKINS, Herman**, of Citrus Heights, CA died Sept. 28, 2005 at the age of 84. He was a member of the 384<sup>th</sup> BG, 545<sup>th</sup> BS, serving as a ball turret gunner. His plane was shot down over Germany and he spent 14 months in Stalag 17B before being liberated. Herman is survived by 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**HOWELL, F. John**, 83, of Blooming Valley, PA died June 26, 2005. John was a member of the Barbed Wire Assn. of NW PA. He was a POW in Stalag 17B after being captured while serving in the AAC. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Shirley, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 brothers, 1 sister, 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

## taps continued

**JEFFERS, Rosemary W.**, of Greenacres, FL passed away, November 15, 2005 at the age of 81. She and her husband of 56 years, William W. Jeffers were both staunch and valued members of the Suncoast Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, William, she is survived by three sons and six grandchildren. **She will be sorely missed by the members of our Chapter.**

**JURKOVIC, Paul**, of Sun City West, AZ passed away at the age of 89 on December 3, 2005. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to China on March 29, 1940. On December 8, 1941 he was assigned to the Philippine Islands Corregidor Operations. Paul was serving with the 4th Marines when he was captured by the enemy on May 6, 1942. He was held in several Japanese Prisoner of War Camps including Bilibid and Osaka #3. He was a life member of AXPOW and a member of the Agua Fria Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

**KAVANA, James E.**, 87, died December 1, 2005. He was born in Peekskill, NY, and came to Florida from Montrose, NY. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a decorated Ex-POW. He was a member of the Barbed Wire Seminole Chapter and the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**KEENER, William D.** (Doyt), 81, of Lincolnton, N.C., Life Member of AXPOW and a WW II POW in Germany died Nov. 29, 2005. Doyt is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy, two children and many good friends.

**KRAMER, Cletus J.**, 86, of Jefferson City, MO died July 3, 2005. He was

a member of the Central Missouri Chapter, AXPOW. He was shot down while serving with the AAC, flying out of Italy, and held in Luft IV. On April 26, 1945, he was liberated by Allied troops. His wife, Elizabeth, survives him.

**LACEY, Davie**, age 88, of Pinson, AL passed away November 27, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Frances, 1 son. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 81<sup>st</sup> Combat Engineers. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in 9A and 9B. He was a member of AXPOW.

**LANICH, Ruby R.**, widow of Ex-POW Edward, died in a plane crash Sept. 16, 2005. She was 67 and lived in Berthoud, CO. Her late husband served in the 306<sup>th</sup> BG and was a POW in Stalag Luft III.

**LITTLE, DeVern C. "Vern"**, of Punta Gorda, FL passed away July 16, 2005. He served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and was incarcerated in Stalag IVB. Vern was Past State Commander and Past Commander of the Florida Peace River Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Julie, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.

**LOLLAR, Dwight Lawson**, of Winona, MS passed away Nov. 21, 2005. Dwight served his country during WWII and was a POW in the European Theatre. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his loving nephew, Ex-POW James Lollar.

**MACALUSO, Albert J.**, of New York, NY died Jun 26, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 422<sup>nd</sup> Inf., Co. L. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held in two camps and forced to march before being liberated and treated for his wounds. Albert was an active member of the Big Apple Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 brother, 2 nephews, 1 niece and many friends.

**MALONE, William**, of Nashville, TN died November 5, 2005. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Division as Tech Sergeant, 422<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Reg., CO. I. He was captured in the Bulge, Battle of Bastogne. He was a member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Margie, and two daughters.

**MARES, Raymond**, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died November 7, 2005. A defender of Bataan and Corregidor, he was held in Manila. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sadie.

**McGUIRE, Robert E.**, age 84, of Manhasset, NY passed away Sept. 3, 2005. He was a proud member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Div. and was captured after being blown out of two tanks. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Nassau-Suffolk Chapter. He leaves his beloved wife, Mary, 4 daughters and 9 grandchildren.

**McMILLAN, Paul J.**, of Boynton Beach, FL passed away July 23, 2005. He was serving in the Army in the Philippines when he was captured in April, 1942. He was liberated by the 9<sup>th</sup> Army in Sept. 1945 after 42 months. Paul was a member of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marian, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

**NOWAK, Casimir "Charlie"**, of Riverside, CA died at the age of 80 on Oct. 30, 2005. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the Army's 260<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, sisters, children, grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**PENNINGTON, Ruby Farris**, 86, of San Angelo, TX died Nov. 3, 2005. She was the widow of Ex-POW I.L. (Irving), who was a POW of the Japanese during WWII. She is survived

# taps continued

by 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

**PFAFF, Robert W.**, of Hemphill, Texas, died September 12, 2005. A member of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, he served in C Co., 31 Inf. He was a POW at Bilibid, Cabanatuan, Osaka, Tanagawa and Kobe. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Patricia.

**PINTLER, Virgil A.**, 82, of Newman Lake, WA died Sept. 20, 2005. He served in the Army with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf., 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg., Co. M. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag IXB. Virgil was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter and life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his special friend, Thelda Moen, and 3 sisters.

**PUSEY, Gertrude M.**, 78, of Chrisfield, MD passed away Sept. 23, 2005. Trudy's late husband, Leroy, served in the 8th AF and was a POW in Stalag VII-A. She was a member of Maryland East Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 3 daughters, 2 sons, 2 step-daughters, 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

**RENFRO, Robert L.**, of Fort Worth, Texas, died July 2, 2005. A member of the Fort Worth Chapter, Renfro served with the Army Air Corp. He went to the Philippines in 1940 and was captured May 10, 1942, on the island of Mindanao, by the Japanese. He spent three and a half years as a slave laborer in Japan. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Eloise.

**REUSS, Harry** died July 18, 2005. He was 85 and had survived being a prisoner in Stalag Luft IV as well

as the Black March across northern Germany. He was a B-24 top turret gunner/flight engineer in the 15th Air Force. He is missed by his wife of 57 years, Lynn, and his daughter, Dee, and son, Rick.

**RUFF, Wilfred J.**, 79, of Pell Lake, WI died Oct. 21, 2005. He was a member of the Fox Valley Chapter, IL. He served in the Navy during WWII; later with the Army during the Korean War. He was a POW for 28 months in Korea. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Patricia, 2 daughters, 3 sons, 7 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**RUTKOWSKI, Charles Milton Sr.**, 85, of Baltimore, MD passed away Oct. 6, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg., 8<sup>th</sup> Div. He was captured in Brest, France and held in a camp on Crozon Peninsula. Charlie was a life member of AXPOW and adjutant of the Albert J. Bland MD North Chapter. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Virginia, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

**SMITH, Marle D.**, 81, of Chadron, NE passed away Sept. 17, 2005. Marle served with the 346th BS, 99th BG, 15th AF. He was captured and held in Luft I for 5 ½ months. His wife of 61 years, Laurine, survives him; he also leaves 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**STELZER, Bernard**, 85, of Laguna Woods, CA died June 1, 2005. He was shot down while serving with the 448<sup>th</sup> BG and was a POW in Stalag Luft IV. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Edith, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.

**STINEBAUGH, Archie Lewis Jr.**, of Sherman, TX passed away Oct. 12, 2005. He was 83. He was captured while serving with the 351<sup>st</sup> BG, flying out of England. He was held at Stalag Luft 6 and 4, then marched across Germany to Moosburg. Survivors include his wife of 53 years,

Mary Louise, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 1 brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

**STREETER, Earnest O.**, 88, passed away Nov. 24, 2005. During WWII, he was serving with the Navy when he was captured. He spent 3 ½ years as a Japanese POW. After retirement, he became a tireless advocate for POWs in both Washington State and California. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters, 1 great-granddaughter, 1 sister, 1 niece and 1 nephew.

**TAYLOR, Robert S.**, 82, of Mesa, AZ died Sept. 12, 2005. He served with the 15th AF, 97th BG, 341st BS during WWII. He was shot down and held at Luft I, Barth. Bob was a member of the East Valley Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Helen, 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

**VINESETT, Odis "Preacher"**, of Gaffney, South Carolina died in August, 2005. An AXPOW life member since 1985, he served with the 59th CA, Btry. G. He was held POW in Kawasaki, Niigata and Cabanatuan. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia.

**WEBB, Earl F.**, 82, of East Hartford, CT died Sept. 24, 2005. He served with the 435th Bn. Anti Aircraft, Italy. He was a POW at Stalag 7A. Earl was a former member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Annie, 1 daughter and 4 grandsons.

**WESTHEIMER, David**, passed away Tuesday, November 8th, 2005 at UCLA Hospital from heart failure. He was 88 years old. David served in the Air Force between 1941-45, spending three years as a POW in Italian and German prison camps. He remained in the Air Force Reserve until he retired. His first novel, SUMMER ON THE WATER, was published in 1948. During the span of his career he wrote many books. He is perhaps most well known for best sellers VON RYAN'S

## taps continued

EXPRESS and MY SWEET CHARLIE. MY SWEET CHARLIE became a Broadway play and later, a TV movie that won Patty Duke an Emmy. Twentieth Century Fox made a film on VON RYAN'S EXPRESS, starring Frank Sinatra. David also wrote numerous teleplays and adapted the screenplay DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES into a popular novel. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dody, two sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**WILSON, Hayward**, of Live Oak, FL died Oct. 27, 2005. He was 80. He

was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. He was a member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his beloved wife, Linda, 1 daughter, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**WYATT, Glenn W.**, age 86, of Bloomfield, IA passed away Nov. 24, 2005. He served in the Army with Co. D, 81<sup>st</sup> Armored Recon Bn., 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Div. during WWII. He was captured in Africa and spent nearly 3 years in Stalag IIB. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Kathleen, 4 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**YOUNG, Thomas Edgar, Jr.** passed away October 11, 2005, in Monroe, LA, at the age of 81. He was a member of the Northeast LA Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. Edgar served as a pilot in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF in Europe in WWII. He was captured and held as a German prisoner of war.

**ZIMBELMAN, Harold**, of Denver, CO passed away Oct. 18, 2005 at the age of 87. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 423<sup>rd</sup> Reg. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Dept. of Colorado. He leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## chaplain's corner



### National Chaplain

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

One of God's most glorious and precious gifts to us is the dawning of a new year, with all the new opportunities and challenges that are ours to face and work with. A chance to try again to do a better job. To correct things failed in the past. Another chance to love, to learn, to reach out to others, to accomplish more than we have in the past, to face the trials and tasks of this new year with courage and determination, to make this the best year of our lives. Perhaps the greatest way to start the new year would be to be more thankful for the blessings 2006 holds for us to take, use, and enjoy. In recent thinking, our

officers come to mind. Have we really thanked the Lord for dedicated people (volunteers) who give their time, talents, and most of the time paying out of their own pockets to serve in their own special way? Please take time to give credit where credit is due.

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, as the old year falls behind us, let us look forward to a bigger and better year as we pray for your guidance and wisdom. Help us, O God, to remember the past in ways that will help us to face the future. Help us to forget the happenings of the yesterdays that tend to drag us down and even destroy us, but strengthen us with thoughts of better times. Now may Thy will be done in all things as we remember and pray for those still listed as POW/MIAs and all who need your healing and loving kindness. Amen.

**Thought for the month:** "Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon

about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year.

# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979  
marsha.coke@axpow.org



|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>New Annual Members</b><br><b>Welcome Home!</b><br>Emil Morris Petterborg<br>San Jose, CA<br>Navy<br>Tashkent, Russia                                                     | 8 AF 306 BG<br>Stalag Luft 4, 11A                                                                                                | Anastasio Landa<br>Lucille 39042 39043<br>Reno, NV<br>7 Reg 3 Div, 5A                                            | Widow of Richard D. Weber<br>Woosung, Kiangwan,<br>Nishi, Ashibetsu                                                             |
| Richard M. Smith<br>Elizabeth<br>Sarasota, FL<br>8AF<br>Dulag Luft, 7A, 13D<br>1/45-5/45                                                                                    | James Mucha *39028<br>Bridgeville, PA<br>AAC, Luft 1                                                                             | William P. Hurley<br>Lavonne M 39044 39045<br>Vista, CA<br>AAF<br>Luft 4 7/7/44-4/28/45                          | Paul J. Suchicki 39056<br>Ponce Inlet, FL<br>AAC<br>Dulag Luft, Frankfort, 7A,<br>Nurnburg 2/24/45-4/29/<br>45                  |
| John E. Lillich<br>W. Lafayette, IN<br>62 Armored Inf BN 14 DIV<br>13D, Nurnburg, 7A<br>1/1/45-4/30/45                                                                      | Ann Goldman *39029<br>Chicago, IL<br>Widow of David Goldman<br>2B 1943-1945                                                      | John W. Lenz<br>Betty L. 39046 39047<br>Ocala, FL<br>96 BS 2 BG<br>17B 12/23/43-5/6/45                           | Michael J. Eannone 39057<br>Toms River, NJ<br>AAC<br>Luft 4 6/18/44-5/5/45                                                      |
| Karlen Uretsky<br>New York, NY<br>14 Cavalry<br>9B, Prussia                                                                                                                 | Basil Corrin Bunyard *39030<br>Kansas City, MO<br>USS Houston<br>Tokyo, Java, Hakodate                                           | Bernard C. Day<br>Shirley I. 39048 39049<br>Naples, FL<br>15 AF 460 BG 762 BS<br>Nurnburg, 7A 3/1/45-4/<br>29/45 | Mamie Palmer *39058<br>Okay, OK<br>Widow of James R. Palmer<br>3C                                                               |
| Harold F. Wanamaker<br>Belva J.<br>Snohomish, WA<br>USAAC 456 BG 744 BS<br>Luft 3, 7A, Hospitals,<br>Meiningen, Obermasfeld                                                 | Joseph L. Annello *39031<br>Castle Rock, CO<br>H CO 7 Inf Reg 3 Div<br>Near Imju River 4/51-5/51                                 | Thomas E. Duncan<br>Annette 18779 39050<br>Columbia, SC<br>35 Inf 25 Div<br>Camp 1                               | Tanya Volkers-Miller 39059<br>W. Sacramento, CA<br>Civilian China<br>Chapei Shanghai 1942-45<br>Name was Tatiana Ivan<br>Miller |
| <b>New Life Members</b><br><b>Welcome Home!</b><br><b>*denotes new member</b><br>Roy L. Bruot 39025<br>New Haven, IN<br>1 Div<br>12A, Muhlburg, Chamnitz<br>11/29/44-5/8/45 | Delbert H. Cress<br>Faye 39032 39033<br>Spokane, WA<br>8 AF 445 BG 701 BS<br>Luft 4                                              | Philip W. Balsam 39051<br>Boca Raton, FL<br>CO A 109 Inf 28 Div<br>12A Others 12/44-5/45                         | Irmgard Kershner 39060<br>Newport News, VA<br>Widow of Jesse Kershner<br>9B                                                     |
| Pamela Donner Burden 39026<br>Augusta, GA<br>Daughter of Donald K.<br>Donner                                                                                                | Lawrence A. Wreyford<br>Sammie 39034 39035<br>Carmichael, CA<br>8 AF 40 Wing 1 Air Div<br>305 BG 364 BS<br>Luft 1 9/3/44-5/13/45 | Mildred Dix *39052<br>Mobile, AL<br>Widow of Lee Eugene Dix<br>Shinjuku, Tokyo Bay Area<br>35-140                | Dominic Montagna 39061<br>Windsor Mill, MD<br>USAAF<br>17B 4/22/44-5/3/45                                                       |
| Buffard Leon Johnson 39027<br>Dayton, TX                                                                                                                                    | Paul E. Chism<br>Martha 39036 39037<br>Birmingham, AL<br>15 FG 78 FS<br>Ofuna Honshu 7-8/45                                      | William J. Dallas 39053<br>Austin, TX<br>8 AF 303 BG 427 BS<br>Luft 1                                            | Ruth Webster 39062<br>Springfield, OH<br>Widow of Kenneth<br>Webster                                                            |
| <b>Ex-POW Bulletin</b><br><b>January 2006</b><br><b>30</b>                                                                                                                  | Karl S. Rannenberg<br>Darlene D. 39038 39039<br>Janesville, WI<br>Combat Engineers, 8                                            | Harry F. Bott 39054<br>New Providence, NJ<br>8 AF 349 BS 100 BG<br>Nurnburg, 7A, others 3/3/<br>45-4/25/45       | Morris "Chick" Chase 39063<br>Coconut Creek, FL<br>1010 AAF Base Unit<br>Luft 1 10/6/44-6/45<br>Last name was Chakansky         |
|                                                                                                                                                                             | Robert W. Foster<br>Eva Jean 39040 39041<br>Glendale, AZ<br>30 BS 19 BG<br>Kawasaki 2&5                                          | Ruth Weber 39055<br>Newport News, VA                                                                             |                                                                                                                                 |

### POW #3959: Memoir of a World War II Airman Shot Down Over Germany

In January 1943, not long after his nineteenth birthday, Ralph Sirianni was drafted for active duty by the U.S. Army. Ordered to the European Theatre of Operations in February 1944, Sgt. Sirianni served as the right waist gunner on a B-17. On his seventh mission over Germany, the plane—severely damaged by German fighters—crashed near Wildeshausen. With shrapnel in his legs and shoulder, Sirianni bailed out, and he spent the following 15 months in the infamous Stalag Luft I prisoner of war camp.

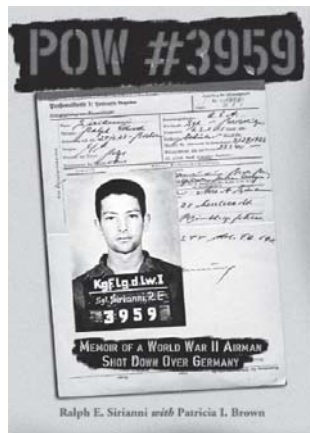
This memoir offers harrowing stories of combat, including detailed descriptions of each of Sirianni's combat missions; reveals the horrors of confinement and the despair of skin-of-the-teeth survival; and remembers camaraderie in the face of German abuse. Appendices offer excerpts from Sirianni's POW log book and pilot George McFall's firsthand account of the ill-fated final mission.

**\$29.95**

**Publisher:** McFarland & Company

**ISBN:** 0786422971

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



Ralph E. Sirianni with Patricia L. Brown

## 50/50 drawing

**Latest winners drawn in Denver, CO  
October, 2005**

1st Place, \$1140.00 - Fred Frey, Montgomery, AL  
2nd Place, \$855.00 - Joe Tannehill, McAlester, OK  
3rd Place, \$570.00 - Victor Breite, St Louis, MO  
4th Place, \$285.00 - John Petruska, Pittsburgh, PA

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.**

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project



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M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: [jpk@mm.com](mailto:jpk@mm.com)

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actual size: 4" diameter x 3/8" thick

weight: 1 pound

content: copper 86%/zinc 4%/tin 6%/lead 4%

This is a non-profit endeavor for all Ex-Prisoners of War, spouses, National Headquarters, Chapters, to get this medallion on all Ex-POW markers or headstones. Contact the next-of-kin and the cemetery to get their approval to have these medallions put on the deceased ex-POW's marker, and have yours for when the time comes.

Outdoor grave medallion, drilled, tapped, & stud-  
ded \$30.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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Stalag Luft IV. Send orders to: Grave Medallion,  
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46226-2018.

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\*Check with your cemetery to make  
sure you can place this medallion  
on the headstone.

**Ex-POW Bulletin  
January 2006**

**31**



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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for an application**

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Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice

(817) 649-0109 fax

e-mail: [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org)

| Life Membership Rates   |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Under 35                | \$360 |
| 36-50                   | \$300 |
| 51-60                   | \$180 |
| 61 & over               | \$120 |
| Spouse of life member   | \$ 40 |
| Annual Membership Rates |       |
| Single Membership       | \$ 30 |
| Husband & wife          | \$ 40 |

| Under 35                | \$360 |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 36-50                   | \$300 |
| 51-60                   | \$180 |
| 61 & over               | \$120 |
| Spouse of life member   | \$ 40 |
| Annual Membership Rates |       |
| Single Membership       | \$ 30 |
| Husband & wife          | \$ 40 |

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for vintage  
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Ex-POW Bulletin  
January 2006



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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) \_\_\_\_\_

Long, Regular or Short \_\_\_\_\_

Name on front of vest \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name (back of vest) \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

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| Eagle Sport Cap                        | 9.00  | 4" Blazer Patch                                    | 3.50  | 3" Vinyl Decal                                       | 1.00  |
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| Barbed Wire pin                        | 2.50  | <b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)         | 2.00  | 8" Vinyl Decal                                       | 5.00  |
| Life Member pin                        | 4.00  | Life Member · Chapter Commander                    |       | 12" Vinyl Decal                                      | 10.00 |
| Crossed Flags Lapel pin                | 4.00  | Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter |       | Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"                | 1.50  |
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| Past Chapter Commander pin             | 4.00  | Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian          |       | AXPOW Daisies (dozen)                                | 1.50  |
| Past Department Commander pin          | 4.00  | Service Officer · Legislative Officer              |       | In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)     | 1.25  |
| Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire                | 7.00  | Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer     |       | Wall Clock (battery included)                        | 20.00 |
| (specify gold, silver or antique gold) |       |                                                    |       | AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)                          | 5.00  |
| Necktie w/logo woven in fabric         | 20.00 | 12x18 inch American Flag                           | 5.00  | Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)                     | 5.00  |
| (specify regular or pre-tied)          |       | 12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag                         |       | AXPOW Prayer Book                                    | 2.00  |
| AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie                    | 15.00 | 10.00                                              |       | Ladies Prayer Book                                   | 1.00  |
| U.S. Flag Bolo Tie                     | 18.50 | 3x5 ft. AX-POW Flag w/3-color logo                 |       | POW Medal Poster Print                               | 5.00  |
| Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie                | 20.00 | with fringe, indoor use                            | 60.00 | AXPOW By-Laws                                        | 5.00  |
| Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord             | 9.00  | with grommets, outdoor use                         | 60.00 | POW Videotape – ETO or Pacific                       | 11.00 |
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**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**  
**817-649-2979**  
**axpowqm@aol.com**

# Veterans Day, 2005

Clockwise from top left ~  
VA Secretary  
J a m e s  
N i c h o l s o n &  
his wife with  
National  
Commander  
Harvey...flag  
bearers 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lt. Scott  
Graves and  
David Owens,  
grandsons of  
NC Gerald  
Harvey...The  
Tomb of the  
Unknowns...At  
the White  
House for  
Breakfast...  
Arlington  
Cemetery...NC  
~American  
Legion with  
NC ~AXPOW.



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For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page inside.



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

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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 ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

e-mail: [Marsha.coke@axpow.org](mailto:Marsha.coke@axpow.org)

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No collect calls, please

