

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 71

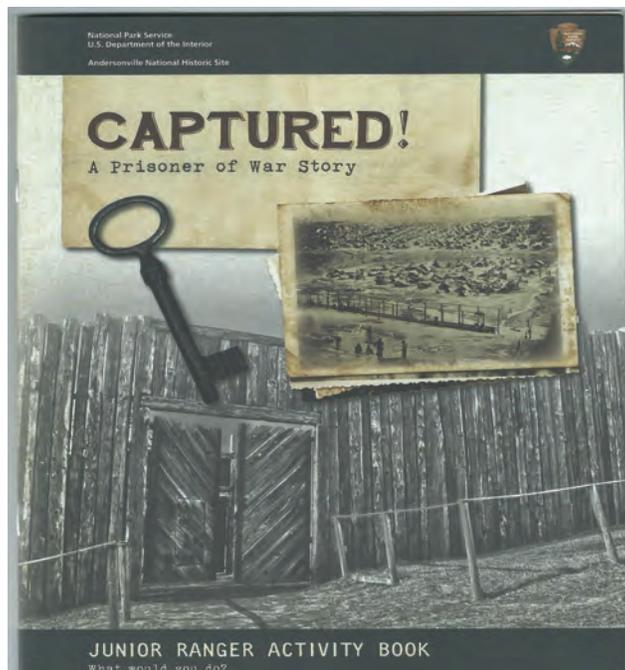
www.axpow.org

Number 7/8

July/August 2014



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves





CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

14 April 2014

**THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
38TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI**

In honor of the Missouri Department of American Ex-Prisoners of War 38th Annual Convention, I join each member, their families, and friends in thanking each of our Active Duty and former members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard for service well-done.

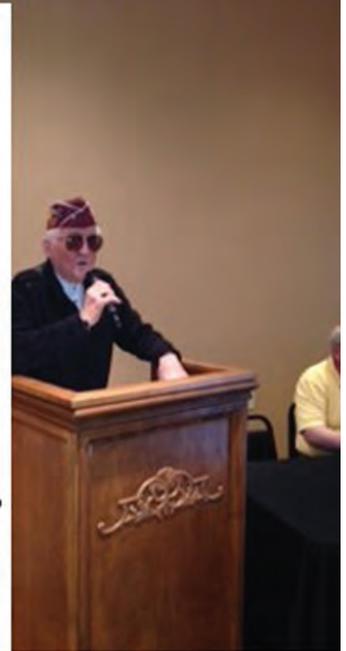
Throughout our Nation's history, men and women of honor and integrity have answered the call and defended our freedoms. Events such as the 38th Annual Convention offer a time to pause and to reflect upon family and community that includes the sacrifices of the millions who have stood and are currently standing in defense of our country. Our dedicated Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are true professionals because they inherited a proud legacy of service, dedication, and loyalty. By keeping America's veterans in our hearts, we assure the men and women serving today that we are also appreciative of their sacrifices. Our veterans are national treasures, and those of you who are Ex-Prisoners of War are America's standouts!

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, please accept and extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Missouri Department of American Ex-Prisoners of War, the veterans, and their family members for making a difference and for their continued patriotism.

Best wishes for a terrific event!

Sincerely,

Martin E. Dempsey
MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
General, U.S. Army



Commander Ralph Kalberloh calls the convention to order

2014- 2015 State Officers:
Chaplain Ray Ruetsch,
Adj/Treas John Clark,
Commander Ralph Kalberloh (not present,
Vice Commander Robert Carter.



EX-POWs in attendance: Robert Vickers, George Snodgrass, Wilbur Rowden, Ralph Kalberloh, Hank Mayhall, John Clark (not pictured Jim Losey).

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Deadline for the Sept/Oct 2014 issue is August 1, 2014.

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

July/August 2014

BREAKING NEWS: After nearly five years in captivity, the last servicemember unaccounted for from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has been freed in exchange for five Guantanamo Bay detainees who will be transferred to Qatar, which helped facilitate the deal.

As we go to press, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, 28, is under the care of the U.S. military after being handed over by his captors in Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said in a statement May 31st. The resident of Hailey, Idaho, was serving in a parachute infantry regiment of the Army's 25th Infantry Division when he was captured in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009.

August 10...

On this day in 1945, just a day after the bombing of Nagasaki, Japan submits its acquiescence to the Potsdam Conference terms of unconditional surrender, as President Harry S. Truman orders a halt to atomic bombing.

Emperor Hirohito, having remained aloof from the daily decisions of prosecuting the war, rubber-stamping the decisions of his War Council, including the decision to bomb Pearl Harbor, finally felt compelled to do more. At the behest of two Cabinet members, the emperor summoned and presided over a special meeting of the Council and implored them to consider accepting the terms of the Potsdam Conference, which meant unconditional surrender. The Council had been split over the surrender terms; half the members wanted assurances that the emperor would maintain his hereditary and traditional role in a postwar Japan before surrender could be considered. But in light of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, Nagasaki on August 9, and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria, as well as the emperor's own request that the Council "bear the unbearable," it was agreed: Japan would surrender.

It was the end of World War II.



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National Commander
James L Lollar

I will have left office as your National Commander by the time you read this. It's been a very learning experience to say the least. Seeing and watching from the "cock-pit" has given me an understanding of how great the AXPOW Organization really is from the perspective of just how great we have been along with the sense of how we need to change a few things to prepare for the future.

I am truly honored by your trust in electing me to all the various positions on the Board of Directors over the past several years, especially as your National Commander for FY 2013-2014. Fiscal responsibility has always been one of my objectives, and in conjunction with previous National Commanders, we've been able to slowly but surely bring our an-

nual budgeting process to a more realistic position.

My original promise to you was to leave this office with a greater and better organization than when I took office. Some of you may not agree, but for the most part, I think I've done that with the help of numerous individuals and support from the Board of Directors. I look forward to now move into that great, elite group of Past National Commanders and to continue serving AXPOW as your Senior Director for FY 2014-2015.

This is not a "Good-Bye" column by any means because I hope to be around for many years into the future to continue helping to keep our wonderful organization on the path to even more greatness, and to continue my service in any way you, the Membership, deems appropriate and necessary.

As you've been in the past, I ask you to continue your support with your generous donations to keep AXPOW financially strong. Your past and future generosity will give us the necessary leverage to become what we should be.

Help Wanted

The American Ex-Prisoners of War is now accepting applications for the position of National Treasurer.

According to the Bylaws, the applicant must be an active member of the AXPOW organization. He/she must be experienced with a strong financial background and can demonstrate the ability to handle the many responsibilities of the position. Please submit your application and complete resume to Deanie Schmidt, 1001 Parkview Blvd., #316, Columbus, OH 43219, no later than October 1., 2014.

It will be presented at the Mid-Year Board meeting and be considered by the Board of National Directors.

news from hq



When you read this the National Convention will be over and we will be planning for the next one.

The breaking news now is the release of Bowe Bergdahl. We welcome him home after 5 years in captivity.

We just received this from the Department of Veterans Affairs: The Veterans Crisis Line is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families with qualified, caring VA professionals through a confidential toll-free hotline and on-line chat. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, go to www.VeteransCrisisLine.net to chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs or enrolled in VA health care.

Keep an eye out for your 2015 AXPOW calendar. You should receive one in August. If you want more just contact us at HQ and we will send them out to you. For 2015, we've focused on the end of World War II...surrenders, dancing in the streets, homecomings, etc. They are always a popular item.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Clydie

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nsO



Ruth Powell, Director
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The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War met in Washington, DC on May 5-7, 2014.



Members present were Chairman Tom McNish, MD; Michael Ambrose, MD who spoke on the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoner of War Studies; Rhonda Cornum, MD; Paul Galanti, Norman Bussel, Bill Andrews; Bob Certain; Robert Fletcher.

Danny Pummill, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits gave a briefing on advancements in VBA. A detailed report will be given to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; however there were a number of important points made. Last year was the 4th year in a row that VA has done more than 1,000,000 claims. The back-

log dropped below 300,000 claims in May, 2014. This is more than a 60% reduction from a year ago. They are looking at electronically distributing new claims to the facility best equipped to handle them, which should offer consistency across the VA system. Very importantly, by Sept. 2014, DIC will be automatically applied to eligible surviving spouses, without the necessity of filing a new claim for DIC.

Dr. Laurent Lehmann, representing VHA, spoke on the Veterans Health Initiative Update. There were briefings on VA's Employee Education System and Outreach Oversight, as well as a talk by Jose Riojas, Chief of Staff for the DVA.

One item came up for discussion more than once. Many ex-POWs don't know of the benefits available to them. And many clinicians don't know of POW entitlements. VA is working hard to overcome both.

Of special interest to NSOs...something which could cut the number of appeals filed...once the claimant receives the letter of determination after filing a claim, there is a one-year window of opportunity to ADD to the claim, without filing a separate appeal if additional information becomes available. Many NSOs may not be aware of this.

Norm Bussel spoke about the children of ex-POWS. How they do not know their stories. Norm said his own children were unaware of his experiences until they read his book. The committee asked him to begin outreach for these children...to try and get these parents and children together before it is too late.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be in Seattle in the fall of 2014.

As Printed in News from The Military Chaplains Association of the USA

by Robert Certain

Condemnation without Investigation is never a good idea. And yet, it seems to be the norm in American political and social interaction in recent years. The "scandal du jour" is focused on the Department of Veterans Affairs. A couple of years ago, it was directed at the Cemetery system; the VBA is always under the gun of criticism; and now the VHA is being condemned for what may or may not be a widespread problem. I would urge our members to seek the truth, and to speak that truth in love. There is considerable room for improvement in the DVA - but little can be done when senior leaders are hamstrung with investigative spotlights and are required to pass every jot and tittle of their responses through the scrutiny of Public Affairs and the Legal Department. Consequently, as much as the President would like to let investigations turn up the facts before he takes action, he may very well find it expeditious to take a "ready, fire, aim" approach much as members of the Congress and of the Fourth Estate have done.

As a young clergyman I was admonished to "praise in public, chastise in private." Let us adopt that posture in the midst of all the controversies that have and will arise as the USA moves toward our next national election in 2016. We retired and former chaplains can do much to support our actively serving chaplains by reminding our people that we have good people doing good work under very difficult circumstances - but good news doesn't sell and honorable people are often sacrificed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Certain".

Skin Cancer

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. The two most common types are basal cell cancer and squamous cell cancer. They usually form on the head, face, neck, hands, and arms. Another type of skin cancer, melanoma, is more dangerous but less common.

Anyone can get skin cancer, but it is more common in people who

- Spend a lot of time in the sun or have been sunburned
- Have light-colored skin, hair and eyes
- Have a family member with skin cancer
- Are over age 50

What Are The Symptoms?

A change in your skin is the most common sign of skin cancer. This could be a new growth, a sore that doesn't heal, or a change in a mole. Not all skin cancers look the same.

A simple way to remember the signs of melanoma is to remember the A-B-C-D-Es of melanoma—

- “A” stands for asymmetrical. Does the mole or spot have an irregular shape with two parts that look very different?
- “B” stands for border. Is the border irregular or jagged?
- “C” is for color. Is the color uneven?
- “D” is for diameter. Is the mole or spot larger than the size of a pea?
- “E” is for evolving. Has the mole or spot changed during the past few weeks or months?

Talk to your doctor if you notice changes in your skin such as a new growth, a sore that doesn't heal, a change in an old growth, or any of the A-B-C-D-Es.

NORMAL		CANCEROUS
	“A” IS FOR ASYMMETRY ● If you draw a line through the middle of the mole, the halves of a melanoma won't match in size.	
	“B” IS FOR BORDER ● The edges of an early melanoma tend to be uneven, crusty or notched.	
	“C” IS FOR COLOR ● Healthy moles are uniform in color. A variety of colors, especially white and/or blue, is bad.	
	“D” IS FOR DIAMETER ● Melanomas are usually larger in diameter than a pencil eraser, although they can be smaller.	
	“E” IS FOR EVOLVING ● When a mole changes in size, shape or color, or begins to bleed or scab, this points to danger.	

What Can I Do to Reduce My Risk?

Protection from ultraviolet (UV) radiation is important all year round, not just during the summer or at the beach. UV rays from the sun can reach you on cloudy and hazy days, as well as bright and sunny days. UV rays also reflect off of surfaces like water, cement, sand, and snow. *Indoor tanning* (using a tanning bed, booth, or sunlamp to get tan) exposes users to UV radiation.

The hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Daylight Saving Time (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. standard time) are the most hazardous for UV exposure outdoors in the continental United States. UV rays from sunlight are the greatest during the late spring and early summer in North America.

CDC recommends easy options for protection from UV radiation—

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours.

- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.

- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears, and neck.

- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block both UVA and UVB rays.

- Use sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.

- Avoid indoor tanning.

What Screening Tests Are There?

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has concluded there is not enough evidence to recommend for or against routine screening (total body examination by a doctor) to find skin cancers early. The USPSTF recommends that doctors—

- Be aware that fair-skinned men and women aged 65 and older, and people with atypical moles or more than 50 moles, are at greater risk for melanoma.

- Look for skin abnormalities when performing physical examinations for other reasons.

Skin Cancer Statistics

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. The following statistics refer to melanomas of the skin. Non-epithelial skin cancers, which are not reflected below, represent 7% of skin cancers that are tracked by central cancer registries. These statistics also do not include data for basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, which are not tracked by central cancer registries.

In 2010 (the most recent year numbers are available)—

- 61,061 people in the United States were diagnosed with melanomas of the skin, including 35,248 men and 25,813 women.*†

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medsearch cont'd...

·9,154 people in the United States died from melanomas of the skin, including 6,002 men and 3,152 women.*†

*Incidence counts cover about 97% of the U.S. population; death counts cover about 100% of the U.S. population. Use caution when comparing incidence and death counts.

†Source: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. *United States Cancer Statistics: 1999-2010 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report*. Atlanta (GA): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Cancer Institute; 2013.

What CDC is Doing About Skin Cancer

CDC provides leadership for nationwide efforts to reduce illness and death caused by skin cancer, which is likely the most common form of cancer in the US.

The Burning Truth Communication Initiative

The Burning Truth communication initiative encourages young people to keep their skin healthy and beautiful for life by protecting themselves from too much exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun and tanning beds.

Preventing Skin Cancer Through Reduction of Indoor Tanning

Skin cancer is an urgent public health problem, and if current trends continue, one in five Americans will get skin cancer in their lifetime. Indoor tanning increases the risk of getting skin cancer, including melanoma (which can be deadly) and non-melanoma skin cancers (which are usually treatable but can be disfiguring and costly to treat). To bring attention to indoor tanning as a public health problem, CDC scientists published two papers in a special issue of the

American Journal of Preventive Medicine to discuss ways to reduce indoor tanning and prevent future cases of skin cancer.

Journal Supplement About Melanoma

CDC published a journal supplement about melanoma in the United States. Several articles describe patterns of melanoma, and others focus on how melanoma can be prevented. Participants include partners from the state cancer registries, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and academic centers.

Skin Cancer Risk Behavior Research

CDC is using data from nationwide surveys to learn more about skin cancer risk behaviors among the U.S. population. Two recent studies used data from the National Health Interview Survey: one looked at indoor tanning among U.S. adults, and the other examined sun-protective behaviors and sunburn among adults under age 30. Data from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey were used to examine sunscreen use and indoor tanning among high school students, as well as factors related to indoor tanning among male high school students.

Sun Safety for America's Youth Toolkit

Each local comprehensive cancer control (CCC) program must develop a plan that addresses a wide variety of cancer prevention and control priorities. This often includes skin cancer prevention. The Sun Safety for America's Youth Toolkit is a resource for CCC programs interested in engaging schools and other education partners in sun safety efforts.

Measures for Sunless Tanning Use

In December 2005, CDC and a group of skin cancer experts met to discuss common measures of sun protection and tanning behaviors, with an aim of developing a consensus-based set of core items to measure indoor and sunless tanning use. After reaching a con-

sensus, the core measures were cognitively tested and revised. The recommendations were published in the February 2008 edition of the Archives of Dermatology.^{1 2}

Strategies for Preventing Skin Cancer

CDC worked with other federal agencies and the independent Task Force on Community Preventive Services to review studies of community-based interventions targeting skin cancer prevention. Recommended interventions are published on the Guide to Community Preventive Services Web site.

School Guidelines

The Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer were designed to provide schools with a comprehensive approach to preventing skin cancer among adolescents and young people.

Shade Planning Manual

The Shade Planning for America's Schools manual helps schools ensure school grounds have adequate shade, which is part of the Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer.

References for Measures for Sunless Tanning Use

Lazovich D, Stryker JE, Mayer JA, Hillhouse J, Dennis LK, Pichon L, Patago S, Heckman C, Olson A, Cokkinides V, Thompson K. Measuring nonsolar tanning behavior. *Archives of Dermatology* 2008;144(2):225-230.

Glanz K, Yaroch AL, Dancel M, Saraiya M, Crane LA, Buller DB, Manne S, O'Riordan DL, Heckman CJ, Hay J, Robinson JK. Measures of sun exposure and sun protection practices for behavioral and epidemiologic research. *Archives of Dermatology* 2008;144(2):217-222.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
3719 N Peachtree Rd
Building 100 MS F-76
Chamblee GA 30341

What is your risk of developing skin cancer?

1. What is your gender?

- Male 1
- Female 0

2. What is your age group?

- 60+ 2
- 40-59yrs 1
- 39 or less 0

3. What is your ethnic origin based on the majority of your ancestors?

- Northern European or UK 1
- Other 0

4. When you went out in the sun without sunscreen, did you burn easily and never tan, (or only tan a little bit)?

- Yes 1
- No, I could get a tan 0

5. Since you were born, how many times have you been so severely sunburnt that you peeled and blistered?

- More than 5 2
- 2 to 5 1
- Less than 2 0

6. As a teenager, how many moles and/or freckles did you have?

- Many 2
- Some 1
- Few or none 0

7. Has anyone in your immediate family had a melanoma?

- Yes 1
- No 0

8. Have you had sunspots burnt or frozen off?

- More than 10 3
- 1 to 10 2
- none 0

9. Have you had any type of skin cancer cut out? (e.g. BCC, SCC, Melanoma)

- More than 10 6
- 1 to 10 4
- none 0

10. Were any of the skin cancers in question 9 a Melanoma?

- Yes 3
- No 0

TOTAL POINTS _____

What your score represents:

Score: 9+ RISK: HIGH

What you should do...If you haven't had a skin check in the past year, get a check as soon as possible. You should also SCAN your skin yourself every 3 months, plus have a skin check by a doctor at least once a year, or possibly more frequently as determined by the doctor.

Score: 4-8 RISK: MEDIUM

What you should do...Start with a skin check by a doctor. SCAN your skin at least twice a year. Continue to see a doctor for skin checks every 2-3 years, or if you have any concerns.

Score: 0-3 RISK: LOW

What you should do...SCAN your skin yourself at least once each year. See a doctor for a one-off skin check, or if you have any concerns. **Remember - Low risk doesn't mean NO risk!**

Source: Scanyourskin.org



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



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



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



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



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



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



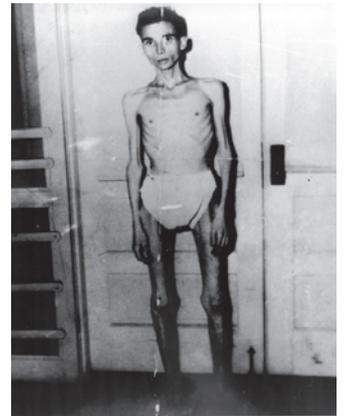
6. Private Joe Demler and another POW are liberated from XII-A, Limburg.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



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

POW Photos Order Form

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

Fill in the number of copies of each picture desired in the blank beside the picture's identification number:

1. _____ 5. _____ 9. _____

2. _____ 6. _____ 10. _____

3. _____ 7. _____ 11. _____

4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____

Set of 12 photos _____

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343

Memorial Day 2014

By Stephanie Steinhorst,
Park Ranger

Memorial Day weekend was a wonderful success due to hundreds of community volunteers, active duty soldiers and veterans choosing to donate their time and energy at Andersonville National Historic Site.

Beginning on Saturday morning, 300 boy scouts, girls scouts and other community members placed the over 19,000 flags on gravesites in Andersonville National Cemetery. Groups traveled from across Georgia and other states to participate. The Dixie Crows, a service group from Warner Robins, Georgia provided a gracious meal for the many hungry kids who helped place flags.

Sunday afternoon witnessed a lovely, albeit hot, Memorial Day observance. The featured speaker this year was Jim Range, retired Army officer and instructor in the Military History Department at the Warrant Officer College in

Fort Rucker, Alabama. Musical selections were played by the Maneuver Center of Excellent Band from Fort Benning. Superintendent Brad Bennett played Master of Ceremonies for his final Memorial Day service at Andersonville. Superintendent Bennett will be taking over as the Superintendent of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park beginning in June. He will be greatly missed. Jim Covington, President of the Friends of Andersonville gave greetings. The Georgia State Honor Guard advanced the colors and performed the rifle salute. Rabbi Martin Schwartz of

prison and the fatalities throughout 2014 and 2015.

Andersonville prison opened in late February of 1864. By late May 1864, there were over 18,000 Union soldiers held in the prison and 1,500 United State soldiers lay buried in the trenches that formed the future national cemetery. These 1,500 graves will grow to 13,000 burials over the next twelve months.

As the anniversary commemoration continues, Andersonville National Historic site will sponsor guest speakers, noted authors, and special programs to talk



Jacksonville, Florida gave the invocation and recognition of veterans was led by AXPOW Jr. Vice Commander Eastern Zone, Ed DeMent. Mr. DeMent also presented the AXPOW wreath. Rev. Joe Hairston, Jr. of Montezuma, Georgia gave the benediction.

This Memorial Day marked the 150th anniversary of Andersonville prison. In keeping with the tradition of remembering the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in service of their country, the National Prisoner of War museum has been tracking the historic population of the

about prisoner of war experiences in the Civil War and beyond. Civil War commemorative events will continue through the end of 2015. To highlight the courageous acts of United States soldiers buried at Andersonville, the park staff recently created a series of short videos called "Stories in Stone." These videos can be viewed on the park Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AndersonvilleNPS>.

Ex-POW Bulletin
July/August 2014

namPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
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One More Roll

Compiled from the Nam-POW Net and personal experience by Paul Galanti:

One night during a bombing raid on Hanoi, Lieutenant Commander Jerry Coffee, U.S. Navy, who'd been shot down as pilot of a Navy RA-5C Vigilante reconnaissance aircraft in January 1966, peeked out of his cell window and watched a flight of four "Thuds" (F-105 Thunderchiefs) during their bombing run. As they pulled up, it was obvious lead was badly hit. Trailing smoke, he broke from the formation and Jerry watched the damaged bird until it disappeared from sight. He presumed the worst. As he lay there in his cell reflecting on the image, he composed a toast to the unfortunate pilot and all the others who had gone before him.

On New Year's Eve, 1968, Air Force Captain Tom Storey and Jerry were in the Stardust section of Hoa Lo (pronounced Wa-Low) prison. Jerry whispered the toast

under the door to Tom. Tom was enthralled and despite the risk of terrible punishment, insisted Jerry repeat it several more times until he had it committed to memory. He then promised Jerry when the time came and they were again free men, he would give the toast at the first dining in he attended.

Tom's first assignment following release in 1973 was to the US Air Force Academy. During that same year the Academy hosted the annual Air Force Conference for General Officers and the associated dining in. Tom found himself seated with Generals Curtis Lemay and Jimmy Doolittle (two men of heroic proportions in their own rights). The jovial clinking of glasses accompanied all the traditional speeches and toasts.

Then it was Tom's turn. Remembering his promise so many years ago, he proposed Jerry's "one more roll." When he was finished, there was total silence. To the men in that room, men who spent their careers flying into combat and laying their lives on the line, it was a stunning toast, and one they would never forget...

Now a colonel, Tom Storey stood between the two famous generals, cleared his throat and began, "Please stand and raise your water glasses for a silent toast to our comrades in arms. Tom paused while the officers and cadets stood, looked round the room as all sound stopped and in a loud, clear voice, intoned:

"We toast our hearty comrades
who have fallen from the skies,
And were gently caught by
God's own hands
to be with him on high.

To dwell among the soaring
clouds they have known
so well before,

From victory roll to tail chase,
at heaven's very door.

And as we fly among them
there, we're sure to hear their
plea:

'Take care my friend,
watch your six, and
do one more roll for me.'"

A silent toast to all our POWs,
Missing in Action, and our com-
rades.

Author's note: Until Ho Chi Minh died in September 1969, American POWs in Vietnam were often held in tiny cells in solitary confinement. It would have been easy to fall into a routine of self-pity if it hadn't been for the support of other POWs who risked much to communicate with isolated POWs.

The real benefit of this toast - which I use several times a year - is that it emphasizes the antithesis of self-pity, "Get over it! No matter how tough I have it, somebody else always has it worse."

I believe its philosophy is why so many of my Vietnam POW contemporaries get so disgusted with bloviating self-promoters and why, as a group they are so positive. And so supportive and appreciative of positive people.

So in keeping with ex-POWs from ALL wars overcoming some severe adversity wished upon them, let's celebrate by doing "one more Victory Roll..."



legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr
Chairman

We have been tracking S.1982, Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Senate Bill introduced by Vermont Senator Bernard Sanders months back continues to be stalled. As previously reported, it is a broad based Bill with many improvements in servicing the veteran and their families. Since its introduction in February, it has accumulated 29 co-sponsors however there has not been another Senate vote. We encourage you to be an active advocate for this Bill and contact your Senators by either writing or calling their office. We are concerned it is stalled.

It has been recently reported in the news media of the long waiting lines at the Phoenix, Arizona VA for veterans to obtain medical attention and alleged it has caused 40 deaths. Since it has surfaced, this issue has reached the attention of the President and Congress with Secretary Shinseki testifying on Capitol Hill. The long waiting lines at VA facilities have been a high profile issue for years with the VA focusing on addressing the situation and reported improvements. The White House has dispatched Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors, to work with Shinseki to find the underlying cause of what allegedly happened in Phoenix and elsewhere in the VA system. The interim report

2013-2014 Legislative Committee

PNC Charles Susino, Jr.
ND Charles Anthony Susino
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released by the VA Office of Inspector General confirmed the widespread use of second patient waiting lists in the Phoenix VA Health Care System that were not in compliance with VA policy, and that the average wait time for a selected sample of veterans was actually 115 days, not the 24-day average wait that Phoenix officially reported. The report also said that 1,400 veterans were on the official electronic waiting list, but inspectors found more than 1,700 other veterans who were waiting for appointments but were not on the official waiting list.

With growing pressure, on Friday, May 30th, Secretary Shinseki turned in his resignation stating that new leadership would be most effective addressing the problems and not have him as a distraction. VA officials found to be breaking the law should be prosecuted. Sloan Gibson, current Deputy in the VA, will be in an acting role until a new Secretary is named. In addition, the Defense Department is conducting its own investigation regarding medical treatment for its active military.

Senator Sanders from Vermont and Senator McCain from Arizona and others have been very vocal on getting to the bottom of the problem and fixing it with appearances on TV and other media. In and of itself, Secretary Shinseki's resignation has not changed anything constructively to improve the care for our veterans. Some suggest that the VA system needs to be more flexible and allow the veteran to select a caregiver if the VA facility is too far away or too long a waiting line. Senator Sand-

ers promises to introduce legislation facilitating this flexibility. This is an important issue affecting veterans everywhere and we encourage you to contact your Senator with your experiences, both good and bad and suggestions for improvement.

As mentioned in our last column, we continue to encourage Congress to update and expand the list of "special groups" of veterans it established in 1986 who fought in foreign wars to receive medical treatment from the VA regardless of whether the veteran has incurred disabilities while serving the country. Since the special groups only included veterans up to WWI, we continue to believe the more recent warriors are deserving and in need especially as they get up in age. We want to keep this issue visible in Washington until action is taken.

On the positive side, Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl is heading home after five years in Taliban captivity. His release was in exchange for five Taliban terrorists.

113th Congress Veterans Affairs Committees Information

House

Jeff Miller, *Chair*
336 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4136

Senate

Bernie Sanders, *Chair*
332 Dirksen Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5141

Ex-POW Bulletin
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va outreach



Bill Jeffers, Chairman
3522 Millbrook Way Cr
Greenacres, FL 33463
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This is the last OUTREACH article I will author. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve our organization as a contributor to the EX-POW Bulletin. Like my peers, age is increasingly chipping away at my energy and drive to the point that I now find it very difficult to provide the quantity and quality of information that our readers expect. It has been a learning experience for me. I hope that my articles have been a help for the readers and their friends to become aware of financial and health-related benefits available from the VA.

This concluding article will describe the essential elements of My HealtheVet web site. This free online personal health record empowers veterans and servicemembers to become informed partners in their health care. My HealtheVet website is private, secure and easy to use. To gain access to the site, you must be a veteran/VA patient. The login address is www.myhealth.va.gov. To register in this system, you have to create a user profile, a user ID and a password.

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The HealtheVet has three account types. The Basic Account allows anyone to self-enter personal health information. However, at this level, you cannot view personal information located in VA or DoD systems. The Advanced Account is only for veterans/VA patients and allows you to view/refill VA prescriptions online. This account paves the way to get a Premium Account, the highest level of access to My HealtheVet features. To get this level of access requires completing the Authentication process by which the VA verifies your identity as a Veteran/VA patient. The Premium Account allows you to view your official VA health records, participate in secure messaging with your VA health care team and other VA staff, and view your DoD Military Service information.

The rest of this article will summarize the extensive scope of information that is available to a veteran/VA patient with a Premium Account.

Secure Messaging is a way to work more effectively with your VA health care team. It is for routine questions and sharing information about such matters as your health status, appointments, test results, medications, refilling VA prescriptions, etc. Secure messaging is not to be used for emergency matters.

Track Health allows registered users to self-enter and track their health information. You may also be able to view many parts of

your VA health record. For example, you can view, print and download such things as vitals and readings, labs and tests, health history, journals and goals. You can self-enter these types of data derived from non-VA physicians and labs and share information from your non-VA health professionals.

My Goals is an interactive web-based tool that gives My HealtheVet users the power to be active participants in their care by using the feature to identify, set and track personal health goals.

The Health Calendar feature gives registered users a way to self-enter special events and to-do lists, as well as view VA appointments. You can print this calendar and post it in a convenient place.

Wellness Reminders is a feature that lets you know when it is time to have a test, examination, or immunization. Wellness Reminders are derived from your VA Health Record. Some are for everyone and others are specific for patients with known risks. If desired, you can set up email reminders of your VA appointments.

The Research Health section of My HealtheVet is available to everyone. You do not have to be registered to take advantage of the resources offered in this section. It is here that you can find health information, research a particular health topic, or simply learn more about your health concerns.

HELP WANTED:

A team of veterans and historians have launched a Legacy Project to identify San Antonio area former POWs who are buried in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery or San Antonio National Cemetery or the Kerrville National Cemetery. This includes POWs from WWI, WWII, Korea, the Cold War and Vietnam. Assistance is needed from family members whose former POW relative's headstone does not indicate the veteran was a POW. Names and death dates for former POWs buried in the area private and church cemeteries are also accepted. Please forward the name of the former POW, date of death and the National Cemetery to: Alfred Evans, Legacy Project, 527 Cicero, San Antonio, TX 78218.

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards
Chairman
889 Randall Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 393-3907 phone/fax

FREE!

Taliban-held U.S. soldier
Bowe Bergdahl released
in exchange for Afghan
detainees



The following is the text of a statement by President Obama on the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl May 31, 2014:

Today the American people are pleased that we will be able to welcome home Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, held captive for nearly five years. On behalf of the American people, I was honored to call his parents to express our joy that they can expect his safe return, mindful of their courage and sacrifice throughout this ordeal.

Today we also remember the many troops held captive and whom remain missing or unaccounted for in America's past wars. Sergeant Bergdahl's recovery is a reminder of America's unwavering commitment to leave no man or woman in uniform behind on the battlefield. And as we find relief in Bowe's recovery, our thoughts and prayers are with those other Americans whose release we continue to pursue.

For his assistance in helping to secure our soldier's return, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Amir of Qatar. The Amir's personal commitment to this effort is a testament to the partnership between our two countries. The United States is also grateful for the support of the Government of Afghanistan throughout our efforts to secure Sergeant Bergdahl's release.

This week the United States renewed its commitment to the Afghan people and made clear that we will continue to support them as they chart their own future. The United States also remains committed to supporting an Afghan-led reconciliation process as the surest way to achieve a stable, secure, sovereign, and unified Afghanistan.

While we are mindful of the challenges, it is our hope Sergeant Bergdahl's recovery could potentially open the door for broader discussions among Afghans about the future of their country by building confidence that it is possible for all sides to find common ground.

"Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,000+), Korean War (7,921) Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,642), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6).

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civilians



JVC Alice Gollin
Chairman

HOW AMERICAN CIVILIANS WHO WERE HELD BY OR SUCESSFULLY EVADED THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY IN ASIA DURING WWII CAN AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE DENTAL BENEFITS PROVIDED FOR BY THE WAR CLAIMS ACT OF 1948 AND THE AMENDMENTS THERETO

By John P. Montesa
STIC/LBIC

First, a bit of background as to why I decided to set forth this 'how-to' article. I cannot remember how I learned in 2010 that Jay Hill, a former teen-ager in Los Baños, after liberation, became a dentist and in the course of his career was able to successfully lobby Washington law-makers to include a provision in the law providing that the American captives of the Japanese and those Americans evading capture from such enemy, who suffered from malnutrition while in the prison camps or in such evasion could be presumed to have contracted periodontitis. Unlike American military prisoners-of-war, this is the only presumptive granted to those unfortunate American civilians held by the Japanese during World War II and they would have to prove that they had suffered from malnutrition. In my attempt to obtain this benefit I did have to jump through hoops and leap over hurdles of the absurd - but persevere be-

cause it can be worth it if your dental expenses should amount to tens of thousands of dollars. So, let's get on with the quest; here we go.

Initially, you will have to address two queries: The first one will be to the National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records in St. Louis, Mo 63138. Ask them for proof of your captivity and that the record of such was held by the Office of The Provost Marshall-General. Give them your particulars: full name, date of birth, place of birth; if you were not born in the U.S. state how you are able to claim having had U.S. citizenship during the time of your detention by the Japanese Imperial Army. It is easier for the agency if you give them sufficient information as to your identity. The agency will send you your requested proof which consists of a single page containing your name, your civilian status, code numbers for the wartime area and the detaining power, the date that your POW status was reported and lastly, the code number of the camp in which you were detained. You will eventually submit a copy of the proof to the U.S. Department of Labor/ Office of Worker's Compensation Programs.

The second query will be to the U. S. Department of Labor/Office of Worker's Compensation Programs, 1240 E.9th St. Room 851, Cleveland, Ohio, 44199, Attn.: Mr. David Woods. The envelope containing your query should be marked "Do Not Open In The Mail Room". State your case giving a short paragraph of the particulars. This will result in your receipt of a query to fill out. Do that and return it to DOL with a copy of the Provost Marshall-General document-a copy, mind you! In due course you will receive a communication stating that you didn't establish yourself as a legitimate claimant [par for the course] together with a much longer questionnaire to complete. Elaborate on your wartime experience without resorting to hyperbole and unsubstantiated war stories unless you want a further rejection. Do not make up any fiction. I firmly believe that they know the full story and they are testing you and your bonafides. Again, in due course you will receive

a notification that your claim has been approved and you will be given a claim number and the name of the claims examiner who will handle your case. Your claim number should be placed on any document that you later send to the DOL/OWCP. In the instructions that you receive with the claim approval notification will be a passage referring to the necessity to obtain an authorization prior to having any dental procedure performed. Do not ignore that directive. I have it on good authority of a former Senior Claims Examiner who has subsequently been promoted to a higher position that when a claim for reimbursement is received such a claim is retroactively authorized in those instances where the procedure has already been performed. But a caveat on this matter is set forth further on in this article.

It is difficult to find a provider of dental services who is willing to go the extra length and deal with the DOL/OWCP in order that he/she receives payment directly from the agency. They just don't like to do it. It is a lot of extra work. Perhaps in such a search one could contact the dentist's bookkeeper and ask if he/she deals with the DOL/OWCP. If they do, you are in because they are already set up to deal with the agency. You might be lucky and find a provider who is willing to make an exception just for you because they admire your Great Gatsby sartorial splendor or you remind them of their first love. If you find one of those then everything is rosy and you can just let the dentist drill, extract and root away. I didn't find one. If you can pay in full to the practitioner and then submit your claim for reimbursement you are ahead of the game. If you need to and can borrow the fund to pay in full and later pay your lender with the receipt of your reimbursement from DOL/OWCP, your total expense is merely the interest on the loan. Pretty inexpensive for your high-priced dental work!

Assuming then that we ourselves will pay the practitioner in full upon billing and then seek reimbursement from DOL/OWCP the following is set forth and should be carefully followed as any error or omission

civilian cont'd...

will result in a cryptic explanation of the denial of your submitted claim. You will immediately feel a need to contact your claims examiner; but don't. Instead, examine your submitted claim for errors or omissions. I had occasion to do so and found both an error and an omission. However, if you are totally frustrated, do call the examiner for an explanation. I sincerely hope you get one. A re-submission on my part remedied my woe. In submitting a claim for reimbursement you will use only one form, OWCP-915, downloadable from the agency. Fill it out using the detailed information contained in the itemization of the dentist's billing and remember; no errors, no omissions. Mail it to DOL/OWCP at their London, Kentucky address together with as much proof of payment that you are able to muster up. In other words, redundancy.

When your claim is received in Kentucky I presume that a higher power [the claims examiner?] reviews it and merely passes judgment on it because [as I found out by some discreet questioning] the payment of the claim is not made there. It is shipped out to Ohio where a private enterprise entity does the processing which eventually results in the issuance of U.S. Treasury checks from any number of locales. All of this handling, examining and massaging of your claim illustrates the need for your own exercise of extreme accuracy without errors or omissions on the form OWCP-915. Remember that in large bureaucracies such as the DOL/OWCP and the private contractor neither can deviate from established procedure. So be advised!

After you mail in the claim for reimbursement what can you do while the mills grind away? Well, I have learned to be patient and not hold my breath. I have

learned that notices printed and dated each Thursday are mailed out to claimants containing either an approval or denial of the claim. Therefore, if your mailed claim arrives in London, Kentucky a day or two before a Thursday do not expect any action on that Thursday. Two Thursdays after the first one you can reasonably expect to have received their notice of approval or denial and the statement that a check will be sent to you under separate cover.

However, and this is the rub that will tax and frustrate you to no end: It is on the matter of the authorization mentioned above. Even though your claim for reimbursement is totally correct, a perfect submission with no omissions or errors it will result in a denial if the claim is for more than a minor dental procedure. The denial will usually be based upon one or both of two reasons. They are [1] prior authorization required and no matching authorization is on file for the dates of service and [2] prior authorization required and billed procedure and/or modifier[s] not on file in claimant's or provider's authorization record. In claims for reimbursement there is no form provided for seeking prior authorization. What you must do in order to gain authorization for the procedure [either before or after the fact] is to have your practitioner compose a letter to the Kentucky address describing your dental condition and its origin and why you need the specific dental work. He/she ideally should provide in detail relating to the procedure in order that the claims examiner has a clear picture of your dental scenario. I do not advise writing letters to include with your claim. It appears that those are all ignored totally.

In claims for reimbursement only a claims examiner can authorize the procedures. Therefore, upon receiving a denial it is reasonable to contact your

claims examiner and ask for his/her help. You should wait for a bit though, one or two weeks, because I have been surprised that in two or three weeks after a denial, suddenly I was informed that authorization was granted and made retroactive. You will then breath a sigh of relief and exult in having dealt successfully in your endeavor.

Do not send original documents to the agency. Make copies to send and keep the originals in a binder. Maintain a continuing history of your every action in that binder. Send your communications by certified mail, return receipt requested in order that you know the agency received your mailings, not for anything else other than your own piece of mind.

If you are contemplating the undertaking of dental procedures now don't feel that you have to postpone them until you have submitted and received an approved claim number because it takes some time to obtain it. Go ahead with the procedures now inasmuch as you have one calendar year succeeding the year in which the procedures were performed to submit your claim for reimbursement. You should have established an approved claim number by then if you have followed the instructions correctly.

Go at this project with the determination of a bull, the focused eye of an eagle, the tenacity of a pit bull, the heart of a lion, the patient deliberation of a Galapagos turtle and what else.... What the heck is this animal? Hmmm.... must be civilian ex-POW! Oh, yes, a BACEPOW member! Draw me a picture of this creature and I will answer any other question on the subject of the presumptive.



looking
for



that was shown on BBC earlier this month. Thanks in advance, Robert B. McConnell, Alexandria, VA 22314; (703)-299-8792; mcconnell61@comcast.net.

July 27-Aug 3, 2014. The Korean War Ex-POWs 2014 Reunion will be held in Louisville, KY at the Brown Hotel, 335 West Broadway. This will be our last reunion. The room rate is \$110.00 per day, plus tax. The discounted rate will apply three (3) days prior and after the scheduled reunion dates to accommodate those who may wish to come early or stay late. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 502-583-1234.

Aug. 8-9, 2014. The Department of Ohio will hold their annual convention at the Drury Inn and Suites, Columbus South, 4109 Parkway Centre Drive, Grove City, OH. To reserve a room you will need to contact Drury Inn and Suites before July 1, 2014 at 1-800-325-0720—Group No 2190191. Convention price is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to Dept of Ohio, American EX-POWS and mail to Hilda Spack, 14874 Seacrist Rd, Salem, OH 44460; Phone 330-537-3131.

Aug. 26-30, 2014. Stalag Luft III Annual Reunion will be held at the Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO. **Group Name:** Stalag Luft III Reunion **Rate:** \$91 + tax. Rates are offered before and after reunion dates, based on group block availability. The rate includes breakfast for two each morning. Co-chairs for this event are Marilyn Walton and Mike Eberhardt. We would encourage those who wish to attend to register as early as possible, as space may be limited. For more information, please contact Marilyn at waltonk9@gmail.com.

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I am looking for a source to obtain information about the WW2 POW camp in **KAMNITZ, CZECH**. (It is also possible it may be listed as 12A). My father was a WW2 POW, formerly listed in his military records as a POW at *Stalag 4B Muhlberg Sachsan 51-13*, however, he recalls being at Kamnitz as well. (12A 4B). I am wondering if it is possible he could have been sent from one to the other even though he is listed as Stalag 4B officially? I was also wondering what the Kamnitz camp was like (there is a significant amount of info on Stalag 4B but not on Kamnitz. Any information you can provide me would be appreciated. Thank you. Patti Krebs; pattikrebs12@msn.com.

Cheryl. Thank you for talking with me last Friday reference a BBC documentary on WWII British POWs in Malaysia. Here is the link to stream moving Half the Mountain.

https://hla.wiredrive.com/present_reel/token/d294bc02f1c9731a8f938d56f037a727.

The British woman who produced the documentary is a close friend of my daughter Kirsten in London. She has shared many of her projects with me and is now looking forward to producing two more documentaries covering the **Hell ships and the US subs that picked the POWs out of the South China Sea**. She has a meeting this week with BBC after which she will have a better idea of how to proceed. If you could put something in your bulletin and maybe get some interest from a survivor, it would be fantastic. I will provide you more info as I get it, and provide you and other interested folks contact info in the UK. Attached below is the documentary that

I am a Nurse Practitioner at the VA in Indianapolis, IN. I just saw a Veteran who was also a prisoner at **Stalag 12A**. He was interrogated by a German colonel who had studied at Purdue University here in Indiana. The colonel had been visiting his family in Germany and intended to return to Indiana, which he loved. However, war was declared while he was there. He did not have a US passport and he was conscripted. According to the Veteran, the colonel was very kind and hopeful to survive and return to Indiana. So, I'm trying to find out the name of the colonel and wondered if anyone remembered any colonel fitting that description. Thank you. Peg O'Grady; MARGARET.O'GRADY@va.gov.



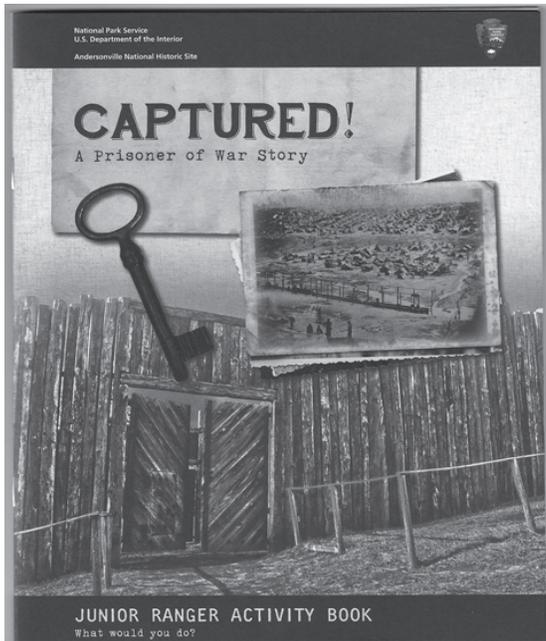
Veterans Discount at Best Western Rosslyn Iwo Jima - Arlington, VA

At our hotel we have a veterans discount code that would benefit your organization. All your guests need to do is mention "VET" when they call in and speak to our front desk, the number is 703-524-5000. The rate is fixed at \$125.00 per room per night until November 15th and after that its \$75.00 per room per night until February 28th. We are in a prime location in Arlington, VA right across the key bridge which takes you into Washington DC. We are a 7 minute walk to Rosslyn metro station which takes you to most major attractions. We are a 7 minute walk to Iwo Jima memorial. 3.5 miles from Ronald Reagan airport.

Andersonville Special Lessons to Learn

by Alice A. Booher

One of an ongoing Series



At a very basic level, the concept can be simple: one country goes to war with another country, and during the conflict, take each other's participants as prisoners, making them POWs. However, the understanding of the POW experience, even for the POWs themselves and their families and friends, is convoluted and complex, and requires some considerable thought and introspection. To facilitate even a limited comprehension of the POW experience for an "outsider" is difficult indeed, even when there have been exhaustive efforts made to educate through photos or writings, or preserve the POW camp site, or even provide a museum at the location. Other factors may convolute the effort towards understanding, such as the historical context of the captures, e.g., during the American Civil War involving two sides within one nation, often literally brothers against brothers.

Such is one conundrum faced by the Andersonville Historical Site, which encompasses three distinct locations: the 1864-5 prison stockade

site, the National POW Museum, and the national cemetery (established on July 26, 1865). The Museum is located on the site of the most deadly wartime prison on U.S. soil but also concurrently examines and interprets the role of POW camps and honors all POWs throughout history. The cemetery not only shelters the remains of the 13,800 Union soldiers who were interred there by 1868, but is one of only two cemeteries run by the National Park Service still accepting burials -making it both a historic location and an ongoing and very personal experience.

The imperative goal of conveying insights into such experiences to a demographic at large requires an extra ongoing effort to structure didactic, interactive programs. The *Andersonville National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretative Plan*, issued in February 2010, delineated realistic but challenging short, mid and long term implementation strategies. As

discussed in the March-April 2014 issue of this *Bulletin*, special current focus is being placed on the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the Civil War (2013-2015), which is intended to target all ages and constituencies and groups, especially youngsters.

As excerpted from a *State of the Park Report*, Eric Leonard, Chief of Interpretation and Education at the Andersonville National Historic Site, recently shared with us the problem of interpretative efforts for those young people who visit the

Andersonville POW Museum and Site. Mr. Leonard notes that one of only a few limited points of intersection with youth is through a museum activity or Junior Ranger program. Accordingly, Andersonville has developed a new Junior Ranger program in a "choose your own adventure" style booklet titled *Captured! Prisoner of War Story*. In the past, booklets had tried random activities such as word searches or scavenger hunts, all of which left something to be desired; however, narrative and activities in which the children were participants had more positive impact. Mr. Leonard notes that the new booklet "propels the visitor through the choices and uncontrollable circumstances of prison life, including features like a maze that either delivers you to a surgeon for treatment or turns you away. We wanted to use activities that kids liked best, but we wanted them to mean something more than a task completed. At the end of the book, they fill out a prisoner memoir to recount their choices. Children and families are encouraged to explore the park and make educated decisions about prison life. What do you try to smuggle into the prison? Where do you build your shelter? Who do you trust to mail a letter? Do you try to escape? All of these questions and many more face the participant as they explore the park".



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Jr. Rangers Program cont'd...

Even for an adult, a perusal of the new booklet is a bit intimidating and certainly challenging; and it is a daunting task to complete, although kids are encouraged to do as much as they can and not feel defeated if that cannot do it all. The program also requires cooperation of the participating families, and a lot of hands-on input from the already extended park staff and rangers. Extra effort has been exerted to take the revolting details of the POW experience and creatively tell a story of the suffering and sadness in a way that will not make a child afraid. An insightful article prepared by an Andersonville Park Ranger Stephanie Steinhorst, *Captured! Interpreting the POW Experience With Children*, in Vol. 25, No. 1, (January-February 2014 issue) of *Legacy* magazine, published by the National Association for Interpretation, explains the reinforcing technique of having a child fail in a task such as looking up a name of a missing POW in a word search. By engineering the word search so as to have many of the names unlisted, the youngster can share the despair of the POW's loved one having failed to find that name; this opens up the opportunity for discussion on why and how Clara Barton set up the work of the Missing Soldiers Office in the first place. The *Legacy* article, which is part of a special issue of the magazine dedicated to interpreting controversial issues, also notes that while the site is from captivity in the 1860's, the Museum places focus on POWs from the American Revolution to WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and many more. Ranger Steinhorst observes that the POW "experience is one that can either be completely foreign to families without military connections, or intimately terrifying for those who send their loved ones into combat". The circumstances on which teaching is being undertaken are especially ugly and contentious;

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the anticipated visceral and intimate responses accordingly require unusual tact and activities above and beyond the usual museum artifacts or films, regardless of the age or awareness of the visitor.

Mr. Leonard informs that a family guide is planned for the Andersonville Museum Exhibits in 2015 so as to have the same kind of resources for parents with the exhibit areas. [An assessment of how the Andersonville staff is concurrently handling familiarization with the cemetery will be the subject of a future *Bulletin* article in the near future.]

Another new and noteworthy Andersonville initiative, geared particularly to what they found to be the overwhelming nature of kids understanding the impact of captivity, involves individual prisoner narratives for each member of a given guided school groups. This is a technique that has also been useful at "scary" (intense or brutal) sites such as the National Holocaust Museum and the *Titanic* exhibit. Ms. Steinhorst notes that with regard to the youth-oriented educational efforts, many parallels have been identified, such as the extreme youth of both the POWs and their guards, that of high school and college students. As a result, in 2011 Andersonville instituted a Historical Interpreter Apprentice Program, accepted a small number of high school students annually, who meet with staff every Saturday for 8 weeks, culminating in a living history weekend when they portray prisoners and civilians. This is in addition to the usual reenactments and similar activities surrounding the Site. In association with the programs and the new Junior Ranger booklet, they have small trading cards, similar to baseball or min-

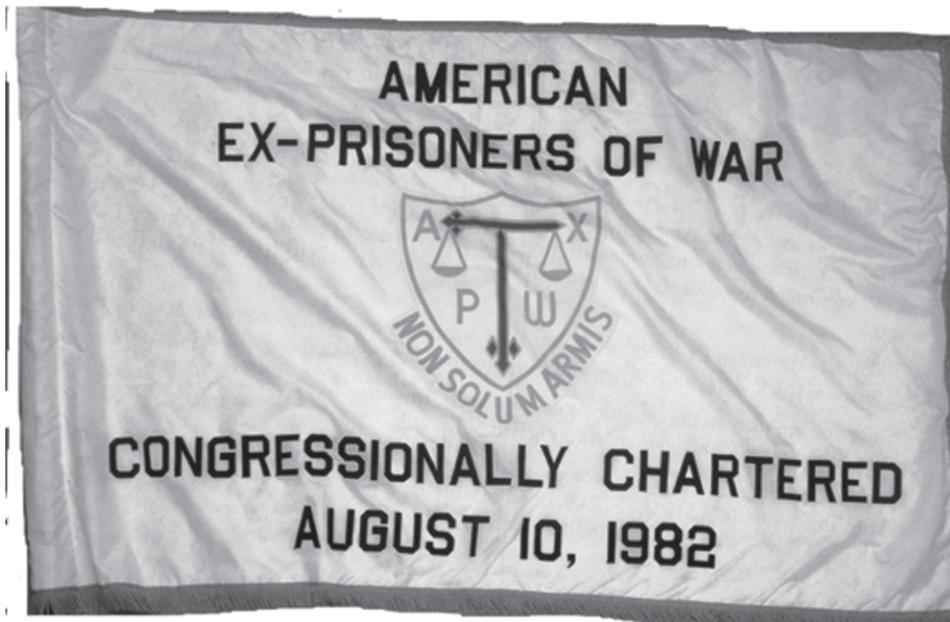


ature flash cards, featuring a given POW on one side, or a historical detail, and brief reflective data on the reverse.

Other more traditional National Park Service efforts including photos, documents and publications, include lessons developed as part of the Classrooms program. For teachers and parents with children at any age, there are online opportunities including some written by former Andersonville supervisory Park Ranger Alan Marsh, now the NPS Site's cultural resource specialist, geared to fit into a standard school curriculum. (See <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/11andersonville/11about.htm>.)

Andersonville has also newly expanded the educational efforts to off-Site, as noted in one of their regular columns in this *Bulletin*, e.g., Eric Leonard, *Andersonville Cuts The Ribbon on New Traveling Exhibit*, (March-April 2014, p. 11). Funded through a three way agreement with AXPOWs, Friends of Andersonville and the NPS, and hosted through June by Georgia Southern University, future venues for the 1,200 square foot thematic traveling exhibit are being arranged by Mr. Marsh, Chief of Resource Management, (229) 924 0343, ext. 115).

Public Law 97-234 — August 10, 1982
Federal Charter of American Ex-Prisoners of War
UNITED STATES CODE TITLE 36
PATRIOTIC AND NATIONAL OBSERVANCES, CEREMONIES, AND
ORGANIZATIONS
SUBTITLE II - PATRIOTIC AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
PART B - ORGANIZATIONS
CHAPTER 209 - AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR



§ 2101. Recognition as corporation and grant of Federal charter

American Ex-Prisoners of War, organized and incorporated under the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act (Wash. Rev. Code Ann. 24.03.005) of the State of Washington by Charles Morgan, Junior, San Antonio, Texas; Edward Fisher, Fairhaven, Massachusetts; Charles Miller, La Jolla, California; C. Earl Derrington, Jackson, Mississippi; Edward Parks, Middleboro, Massachusetts; Henry Goodall, Houston, Texas; Stanley Sommers, Marshfield, Wisconsin; Edward Allen, N. Olmstead, Ohio; Irving Rittenberg, Brookline, Massachusetts; Edgar Van Valkenberg, Saint Petersburg, Florida; W. C. Musten, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Clifford Omtvedt, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Orlo Natvig, Charles City, Iowa; H. C. Griffin, Houston, Texas; Milton Moore, El Paso, Texas; Marie Harre, Fairway, Kansas; Alfred Galloway, Seattle, Washington; Reginald Reed, Bremerton, Washington; Ralph Moulis, Tucson, Arizona; Betty Rodriquez, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Randall Briere, San Antonio, Texas; Joseph G. Schisser, San Leon, Texas; Herman Molen, Las Vegas, Nevada; Joseph B. Upton, Saint Louis, Missouri; Harold Page, Buckley, Washington; D. C. Wimberly, Springhill, Louisiana; Albert Braun, Phoenix, Arizona; Melvin Madero, San Diego, California; Tillman Rutledge, San Antonio, Texas; Benson Guyton, Decatur, Alabama; Frank Hawkins, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Melvin Routt, Tracy, California; John Romine, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Christopher Morgan, Old Bridge, New Jersey; Allen Smith, Diana, Texas; and John G. Flynn, San Antonio, Texas, is hereby recognized as such and is granted a charter.

News Briefs

World War II Internment Camp Survivors Honored 70 Years Later

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

Eight U.S. Army Air Force Airmen who were interned at Wauwillermoos, Switzerland seven decades ago were finally honored with the Prisoner of War Medal on April 30, 2014.



CREDIT: www.AF.Mil

Award recipients were:
Retired Lt. Col. James I. Misuraca

Retired Maj. James V. Moran
1st Lt. Paul J. Gambaiana
1st Lt. James F. Mahon

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Tech. Sgt. Alva H. Moss
Staff Sgt. John M. Fox
Sergeant William G. Blackburn
Sergeant George E. Thursby

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presented the awards to seven surviving men who in 1943-44 were “barely old enough to grow facial hair,” Welsh said, while flying bombing missions into the heart of Nazi Germany, fully aware of the fear and peril awaiting them, when they were shot down over Switzerland.

“During that time period, for these men and their bomber crewmates, the chance of surviving a combat tour without being shot down, captured or killed, was about 25 percent – a one in four chance of survival,” Welsh noted.

Aircraft loss rates of 30-50 percent he said, were not uncommon on missions against the most well-defended targets.

“It’s the kind of courage we read about in books, that people make movies about and that these humble, grateful survivors praise on their fallen comrades but rarely seem to recognize in themselves,” Welsh said. “But make no

mistake about it – these men have that kind of courage.”

But the courage of these eight men, Welsh recounted, wasn’t limited to the skies over Western Europe. “Each of them has a story about a mission that didn’t go well, about a day when he and his crew were the ones who didn’t return, about a day when his aircraft was either shot down or damaged so badly that they had to crash land in Switzerland.”

Today’s ceremony came about as the result of nearly 15 years of effort by U.S. Army Maj. Dwight S. Mears, an Iraq war veteran and an assistant professor of history at West Point, to learn more about his late grandfather, Army Air Force Lt. George W. Mears who was captured after his B-17 Superball was shot down in 1944.

“My grandfather was wounded, his controls were shot away and he lost two engines, but he managed to fly the crippled bomber to Zurich, where the entire crew was interned,” Mears wrote.

Because Switzerland was neutral during the war, the Americans were not allowed to leave the country but many, including the eight survivors wanted to get back into the fight or return home, Welsh explained. “For those who tried to escape and were caught, the punishment was severe.”

They were captured and interned with the very basest criminals in Swiss society, Welsh said. “They slept on lice-infested straw, sewage and waste overflowed in many of the common areas; many prisoners became very sick and there was no medical treatment available.”

There was, however, solitary confinement, starvation and mental terror, the general added. And after the war, many of the survi-

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vors carried the secrets of the horrors they endured.

Switzerland's neutrality rendered internees ineligible for the POW medal because existing law required captivity by a belligerent in a declared conflict, or alternately captivity by "foreign armed forces hostile to the United States," Mears wrote.

Congress passed an amendment to the FY2013 defense bill that allowed the Wauwilermoos airmen to be considered for the medal. The Air Force agreed that these airmen deserved recognition for their sacrifices while trying to reach Allied lines in France. "They served each other and our country proudly; they saved a world and they inspired a nation," Welsh said.

Deeply Inspiring Hero Louis Zamperini Selected as 2015 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES® Grand Marshal



Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, Louis Zamperini, a true American hero who survived excessive hardships was announced today as the Grand Marshal for the 2015 Tournament of Roses, themed "Inspiring Stories." Zamperini, age 97, will ride in the 126th Rose Parade* presented by Honda on January 1, 2015.

Tournament of Roses President, Richard L. Chinen, made the announcement at a press conference and public event at Tournament House in Pasadena. In his remarks, Chinen referred to Zamperini as inspiring in his courage and resilience.

"Louis Zamperini's life story illustrates the strength of human spirit in many ways. From becoming a young sports hero in Southern California to surviving for 47 days on an inflatable raft in the Pacific Ocean and then persevering for more than two years held in captivity in Japan, Louis now lives as an enduring symbol of perseverance, heroism and forgiveness. His life is truly a series of 'Inspiring Stories,' and I am elated and humbled that he accepted our invitation to be the 2015 Grand Marshal."

"It is such an honor to be the Grand Marshal of the 126th Rose Parade," said Zamperini. "Growing up in Torrance, the parade route on Colorado Boulevard is one I have been familiar with my whole life. I look forward to sharing the experience with my family and all the fans of the Rose Parade who will be watching."

Zamperini wrote his personal history in the book "Devil at My Heels" and his life story was documented in the New York Times best-selling book, "Unbroken," written by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Laura Hillenbrand. In December 2014, Universal Pictures will release the movie, "Unbroken," a feature adaptation of the book. Born in 1917 to Italian immigrants, Zamperini moved to Torrance, California in 1919 and became a world-class runner by the end of high school. Qualifying to run in the 1936 Olympics

in Berlin, he was America's top finisher in the 5000 meter run, finishing the final lap in 56 seconds and causing Adolf Hitler to request a personal meeting with the track star.

During World War II, Zamperini retired from running and joined the U.S. Armed Forces as a bombardier in the South Pacific. While on a reconnaissance mission, Zamperini's aircraft crashed into the Pacific Ocean. He and a crewmate survived for 47 days in shark-infested waters eventually drifting into a Japanese-controlled region where he was held and tortured for another two years. He survived the brutality of the war and came back to Southern California where he was treated like a hero and celebrated for his longevity. Zamperini married, had a family and started on a quest of forgiveness as an inspirational speaker - meeting with and forgiving the Japanese military guards who tortured him.

Zamperini currently lectures around the world on how to deal with stress, the meaning of Olympic spirit and the freedom he has found through a personal relationship with God.

Secretary Shinseki Resigns; Deputy Sloan D. Gibson Becomes Acting Secretary

From President Obama's speech May 30, 2014:

"Ric Shinseki has served his country with honor for nearly 50 years. He did two tours of combat in Vietnam. He's a veteran who left a part of himself on the battlefield. He rose to command

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the 1st Cavalry Division, served as Army chief of staff, and has never been afraid to speak truth to power.

As secretary of the V.A., he presided over record investments in our veterans, enrolling 2 million new veterans in health care and delivering disability pay to more Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, making it easier for veterans with post-traumatic stress, mental health issues and traumatic brain injury to get treatment, improving care for our women veterans.

At the same time, he helped reduce veteran homelessness and helped more than 1 million veterans, servicemembers and their families pursue their education under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

So Ric's commitment to our veterans is unquestioned. His service to our country is exemplary. I am grateful for his service, as are many veterans across the country. He has worked hard to investigate and identify the problems with access to care."

Service Dogs Treatment Study

A much-anticipated Veterans Affairs Department study into the effectiveness of service dogs for treating post-traumatic stress disorder will restart in the coming months, with veterans receiving dog care training in anticipation of being paired with an animal. The study, "Can Service Dogs Improve Activity and Quality of Life in Veterans With PTSD?" will include 220 veterans, half teamed

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49ers Chapter in the News

From ND/Chapter Commander Ted Cadwallader:

On May 25, 2014, four members (including a wife member) of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, were at the Viet Nam Memorial in Capitol Park, just behind the state capitol. Chapter 500, Viet Nam Veterans of America, annually hosts the "Reading of the Names" of the over 5,500 names of Californians killed in the Viet Nam War. It takes all day. At the noon break there are ceremonies for an hour. My participation in the noon ceremonies includes the reading of the Missing Man Table Ceremony. We try to get our chapter members, if any show up, to stand behind the table while a Marine friend points to objects on the table as I read the ceremony. This year our two chapter military POWs, in AXPOW vests and caps, and the Marine made it on the front page of the Sacramento Bee newspaper. On the right of the picture is Eldon Koob, U.S. 28th Infantry Division, to his right is Manuel "Mel" Raimundo, a combat medic in the 106th Infantry Division captured on December 16, 1944, the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. Both men were in the European theater of WW II and are members of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, AXPOW. Gregory McNeill is the Marine lance corporal (past) and a Vietnam veteran, and a friend. "Once a marine, always a Marine!"

PHOTO CREDIT: The Sacramento Bee/ Renee C. Byer.



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with a dog trained to address their disability and the rest paired with an emotional support dog — basically, a pet or companion that has passed a rigorous obedience course but is not specifically trained to perform tasks to mitigate PTSD. The research aims to determine the impact of a service dog on the quality of life and activities of a veteran with PTSD compared with a common companion animal or pet.

The differences between the two are notable. Trained, well-bred service dogs can cost upward of \$25,000, including purchase, training and care, and they are allowed by law to accompany their handlers in public spaces. And, depending on the study outcome, they might become an accepted treatment for PTSD covered by VA. Emotional support dogs essentially are well-trained pets that provide comfort and support. They do not have the same public access as service dogs under the Americans with Disabilities Act, although they're offered some protections under the Fair Housing Act and on commercial airlines.

The 2010 Defense Authorization Act required VA to study the effectiveness of service dogs for treating PTSD. VA provides support and veterinary care for dogs for visual and hearing disabilities, as well as mobility impairments, including traumatic brain injuries that cause seizures or affect a vet's ability to move or make decisions. But it does not cover service dogs for mental health disorders.

VA has partnered with several service dog organizations to pair veterans with PTSD with potential service dogs, but the vets in these programs are working with dogs

that are later trained as guide or service dogs for veterans with physical disabilities. VA has said there isn't enough scientific evidence regarding their effectiveness for that purpose to warrant benefits coverage. And when it comes to PTSD, VA officials say they must use proven treatments. While stories abound about veterans with PTSD and service dogs, few clinical studies have been conducted on the effectiveness of animals for PTSD. In April, a Texas State University researcher completed a small study on the topic that found PTSD symptoms were reduced by 22% in veterans who completed training their own psychiatric service dog through the program Train A Dog Save A Warrior.

Fisher House Dedicates New Facility at Malcom Randall VAMC in Gainesville, FL

Newest Fisher House Will Provide Free, Temporary Lodging to Military Families

Congressman Ted Yoho, 3rd Congressional District; Rick Fabiani, President, Gainesville Fisher House; and Thomas Wisnieski, Director, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System joined Fisher House Foundation President David Coker here today to dedicate the newest Fisher House at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, that provides lodging for families of wounded warriors and Veterans at no cost while a loved one undergoes treatment at the hospital. These beautiful homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time - during the hospitalization for a combat injury, illness or disease.



CUTTING THE RIBBON (l. to r.): David Coker, President of Fisher House Foundation; The Honorable Ted Yoho, 3rd Congressional District of Florida; Stephen Cade; Barbara Gentry, Fisher House Foundation Trustee; Rick Fabiani, President of Gainesville Fisher House; Thomas Wisnieski, Director of North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System.

The 20-suite, 16,800 sq.-ft. "comfort home" joins the other 60+ Fisher Houses operating in the United States and Europe, and was gifted to the VA as part of today's ceremony. Each bedroom suite comes equipped with a private, handicapped-accessible bathroom. Common areas include a spacious kitchen, large communal living, dining and family rooms, laundry room and patio.

"It's a privilege to expand our support in this region with a Fisher House, and to amplify the care provided to our Veterans and their families" said Mr. Coker. "We are pleased to see the doors open to this beautiful home, which will be a refuge for families for years to come."

"We are very excited to have a Fisher House located at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center," said Mr. Wisnieski, Director of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. "Without the generous donations provided by so many compassionate individuals and businesses within the commu-

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nity, this facility would not have become a reality. The hospitalization of a loved one can be a very stressful time for both the patient and family members. Having the ability to provide a safe and homelike environment for the families is an honor and a commitment that we (VA) take seriously and we look forward to serving many families in the future years.”

Construction of this Fisher House was supported by: The Cade Family, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Gainesville Fisher House Foundation, Gainesville Rotary Foundation, Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund, Ted L. McIntyre II and Family, and Jay Leno.

About Fisher House

Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital it serves. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veteran families an estimated \$200 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles Program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the

bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other military charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

DIC Rate Increase Proposed

Rep. John Tierney (D-MA) on 22 MAY introduced H.R.4171, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The first section would raise DIC to 55 percent of what a 100% disabled veteran receives. At present a veteran with no dependents rated 100% receives \$2,858.24 monthly. The second section prohibits the increased amount (the difference between what they receive now and the increase) from causing a reduction in SBP benefits. Surviving spouses as of 1 DEC 2012 are entitled to receive a Basic Monthly Rate of \$1215 with the following additional allowances:

Add \$258 if at the time of the veteran's death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployment) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death AND the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years. (38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(2)).

Add \$301 per child for each dependent child

under age 18 (38 U.S.C. 1311(b)). Add \$301 if the surviving spouse is entitled to A&A. (38 U.S.C. 1311(c)).

Add \$141 if the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound (38 U.S.C. 1311(d)).

Ride for Freedom 2014

One Million + participate in Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s 27th Annual Memorial Day Demonstration
PRNewswire-USNewswire

This year marked the organization's 27th anniversary demonstration in support of POW/MIA and veterans' issues.

Friday, May 23rd began with a visit to the Washington National Cathedral with the church hosting a special "Blessing of the Bikes" to honor those who have served and to provide a place of healing for veterans. The Candlelight vigil took place at the Vietnam Wall where Gold Star Mothers were escorted by the Flame of Freedom to honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to their country and those still missing or held prisoner.

On Saturday, members of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. visited the VA Medical Center and sang songs led by Gordon Painter for an enjoyable afternoon. Also on Saturday, a wreath was presented at the Navy Memorial and Harley-Davidson of Washington held a free barbecue. Speaker Myke Shelby, an Air Force Veteran and owner of San Diego Harley-



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Davidson received the first Michael Cobb Memorial Award, Saturday night at the Hospitality Room, for his work with Veterans.

Sunday, May 25th an estimated 800,000 motorcyclists took part in the annual "Ride for Freedom" from the Pentagon parking lots to the National Mall with supporters lining the streets giving this demonstration an estimated total of over one million. Gerry Walter a former WWII POW and his wife, first time participants, rode in a restored Ford Model "A" car owned by Gregg Hanke.

The stage area by the Reflecting Pool was filled with supporters to the top step of the Lincoln Memorial. The keynote speaker was Dorothy Woods, wife of former Navy Seal Tyrone Woods who was killed in the Benghazi attack, also Veteran's advocate Nikki Mendicino; and other supporters of Rolling Thunder*, Inc. and the POW/MIA issue. Celebrity entertainers provided a fitting musical tribute which included the Loch Rannoch Pipes & Drums Band, perennial favorite Gordon Painter, Ben Mason, 6th Generation and Rockie Lynne.

Rolling Thunder*, Inc., a 501(c)(4) non-profit Veterans organization incorporated in 1995, by National Director Sgt. Artie Muller, to seek accountability for all POW/MIA's from past wars and to promote the needs of Veterans. National membership is comprised of Veterans from all wars and peacetime with 40-45% of members being non-veterans. There are currently over 95 chartered Rolling Thunder*, Inc. chapters throughout the United States. Although many members ride motorcycles, a person does not have to own or ride a motorcycle to be a member.

News from the Hudson Valley Chapter

After Chapter Commander Melanie Bussel toppled off a tall horse during a riding lesson and broke her pelvis, her husband, Norm, awarded her the "Military Order of the Purple Horse" while she was in a rehab center. Her good friend and Hudson Valley Chapter member, Vince Lisanti, created this wonderful image.



improved and continuity of care is better.

Patient Aligned Care Teams

VA is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, caring for approximately 5.3 million Veterans in primary care settings. Over the past two years, VA has bolstered its support to all medical centers to expand established Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs). Teams are comprised of a provider, a Registered Nurse care manager, a clinical associate, and an administrative associate. Clinical pharmacists, social workers, nutritionists, and behavioral health staff support PACTs. Since implementing PACTs, the number of primary care patients has increased 12 percent, and the number of encounters with Veterans has increased 50 percent mostly due to telehealth, telephone and group encounters.

Communicating with health care professionals through secure electronic means has increased dramatically as well. Despite the increase of primary care patients, access to primary care has

Additionally, approximately 65 percent of Veterans requesting a same day primary care appointment with their personal provider are accommodated and 78 percent of Veterans are able to see their own primary care provider for an appointment on the date they desire. Veteran access to primary care during extended hours (non-business hours) has increased 75 percent since January 2013. Over 72 percent of all Veterans discharged from VA are contacted within two days to ensure they are following discharge instructions and check in on their condition.

These critical post-discharge follow-ups are important to reducing readmissions. Mental Health Integration is also a critical component of PACTs and the program's goal to provide coordinated care. Veterans now see mental health providers in the primary care setting. In just one year (FY12-FY13) using the PACTs model, mental health services

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offered in VA primary care clinics increased 18 percent.

Alternative Pain Treatments

On April 30, 2014, Sen. Bernie Sanders used his position as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to press for expanded veterans' access to treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, meditation and animal-assisted therapy for chronic pain.

In a hearing on overmedication at the Veterans Affairs and the Defense departments, Sanders, a longtime admirer of complementary and alternative medical treatments, said VA must do more to reduce its doctors' reliance on prescriptions to treat pain. "For many veterans, chronic pain is a part of their daily life ... options for managing chronic pain are paramount to improving their quality of life," Sanders said. According to Pentagon data, about a quarter of active-duty personnel received a prescription for an opiate-based painkiller in 2013. At VA, about half of patients with chronic pain are prescribed opioids such as OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet.

In the past five years, both VA and DoD have moved to reduce the number of potentially addictive prescriptions. A DoD task force in 2010 released a comprehensive pain management plan for physicians, and the Pentagon has cut the percentage of active-duty troops receiving opiates from 26 percent in 2011 to 24 percent last year. And VA in April launched a

department wide Opioid Safety Initiative focused on patient education, prescription monitoring and emphasis on complementary and alternative practices. According to VA, the program already is seeing success, reducing the number of VA patients receiving opiates. The long-term use of highly addictive opioids pain medications can lead to chronic abuse, overdose and accidental death if taken in conjunction with other medications.

In the hearing, Sanders said alternatives should be considered before prescribing these drugs. The program on which VA's OSI effort is modeled uses a comprehensive approach that includes acupuncture, relaxation, meditation, tai chi and aromatherapy along with traditional psychotherapies such as cognitive behavioral therapy.

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) cited the case of a veteran prescribed medication for chronic pain because it was inexpensive and expedient. "Is this the 'veteran-centric' care we constantly hear VA describing? When it comes to the care we are providing to those who have sacrificed so much ... we can't afford to get it wrong," Burr said.

Sanders introduced legislation earlier this year that would require VA to expand access to alternative treatments. The bill failed on a procedural vote, but Sanders has pledged to try again this year.

POW/MIA Accounting Changes

The Senate Armed Services Committee approved an amendment before Memorial Day to consolidate the nation's POW/MIA accounting operations under a single agency with a single fed-

eral official in charge. The amendment — introduced by Missouri Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill — was included in the annual National Defense Authorization Act during the committee's markup, according to a statement from McCaskill's office. McCaskill said the move would strengthen recovery efforts after the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command have come under fire for systemic problems.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered an overhaul of the agencies in February. No concrete plans have been released yet.

VA Hospice Care Bill Introduced

On May 22, 2014, Rep. Chris Collins introduced legislation to give all veterans access to hospice care through the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA hospice care is not guaranteed to all veterans under current law. For instance, veterans must have received previous care in the VA system and/or meet certain income brackets in order to qualify for hospice care. Moreover, directives for VA hospice care can vary among individual facilities.

Collins said his bill H.R.4725 would help provide veterans with equal access to hospice care. "It was a shock to learn that some of our veterans who have given so much to this country were not allowed to receive VA hospice care at the end of their lives," Collins said. "Our veterans deserve so much better." The House is expected to vote this week on five bills regarding services for veterans, including a measure that would overhaul the performance review system for VA senior executives.

The OSS, Buzz Bunny and POW Recovery

by Alice A. Booher



Former Office of Strategic Services (OSS) agent Edward Hymoff (who would work out of Bari and Brindisi himself) prefaced his classic 1972 book, *The OSS In World War II* with a quote from Radio Berlin describing the OSS as “fifty professors, twenty monkeys, ten goats, twelve guinea pigs and a staff of Jewish scribblers”. Not coincidentally, Gregory A. Freeman repeats the same quote in his *“The Forgotten 500: The Untold Story of the Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II”*. To this OSS Noah’s Ark list, both could have added “and one bunny”. Whatever they may have been called, the OSS menagerie was individually and collectively remarkable, making decisive con-

tributions to the Allied victory including extraction of POWs.

That OSS “bunny” would be Doris Arlene Sharrar (Bohrer), who had always loved airplanes, but pragmatically opted to take the civil service examination in 1942. Studying at night at George Washington University, during the day, Doris had an OSS job typing intelligence reports in the office of an expert who analyzed maps by the suitcase-full. She thought that looked challenging, so she began to receive intensive training to learn about maps and cartography, then to Army/Air Intel School to absorb scaling, altitudes, recognition of ships, planes, and to analyze aerial photos of Europe. Creating relief maps of Sicily using balsa wood, at age 21, Doris shared in plotting the Allied invasion on the Italian front. After GEN “Wild Bill” Donovan finally convinced a reluctant DoD that he needed OSS in Bari, Doris ended up on the Adriatic herself, “almost as good as flying” she now says. Her special training had been as a “photo interpreter” - using photos on the desert was a new tool which worked well for tactical purposes. As Doris said in a 2011 interview: “instead of wondering how many tanks were over the sand dunes, they could fly out there and take pictures of them”, a very helpful truth in North Africa.

With her subspecialty of inland transportation and air fields, Doris notes that the aircrews took photos of their missions, and when they returned to base, her intel unit evaluated the photos to see what had been hit, was the bridge down, etc. - it was immediate feedback on successes and failures. Aerial photos were also used to ascertain Nazi movements and buildings, and (too late) to identify the locations of concentration camps. Photo analyses facilitated a primary remark-

able recovery mission involving selection of air-drop sites.

Bari would become the site for some of the most remarkable of WWII stories, many of which related to locating and recovering POWs (e.g., see *the American ExPOW Bulletin*, September-October 2013 issue, on American OSS agent and POW, Fred Mayer one of the truly inglorious bastards. Former CIA Director William Casey would say their early 1945 *Operation Greenup* was “by far the most successful of OSS operations mounted from Bari”). Indeed, the roster of Italian-based OSS Bari operatives (e.g., Lalach, Vujnovich, Musulin, Musgrove, Orsini, Weber, Wijnberg, Jibilian, etc.) and their other missions/teams (e.g., *Halyard*, *Dawes*, *Houseboat*, etc.), reads like their own extraordinary history book.

The OSS locations in Italy were busy with Russians, Brits (SOE and others), Americans (military and OSS) and sundry others; deals with a Yugoslavia in flux, partisans or non-partisans, Communists or Serbs, Tito or Mihailovic; often things were not as they seemed and it was hard to distinguish friends from foes. The Bari-Headquartered Americans included an amalgam: Detachment 101, guerilla units behind enemy



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“Buzz”, cont’d...



lines; “experts” dealing with Turks, Bulgarians, Serbs, Albanians or Greeks; befriending Mafia in Sicily; even (to Gen. Hap Arnold’s surprise) their own “Balkan Air Force”, an unofficial but effective outfit created by/for the OSS out of everyone’s spare parts.

In the fight over Romanian oil fields, hundreds of Americans were shot down to be imprisoned, hidden, released, shielded, moved and saved by Serbs peasants, farmers, Chetnik guards, all working for the common goal of their safety and freedom via the OSS and associates. One bold OSS rescue out of Bari involved medics and 23 nurses who crash landed in Albania in November 1943 [see Cate Lineberry’s new book, *The Secret Rescue: An Untold Story of American Nurses and Medics Behind Nazi Lines*]. Another 500 flyers, mostly Ameri-

cans, with a few Brits, French, Russians and Italians were rescued in *Operation Halyard* in the period from August-December 1944.

The OSS in busy Bari was physically co-located with 15th US Air Force HQ, and uniforms were usually abundant except for OSSer Doris Bohrer - so buddies cobbled one together for her. Everyone also had a distinctive shoulder patch but Doris had none. [Disney Studios had been rendering specialized patches for various military units containing one or another of the Disney animated characters].

On the other hand, Doris had her beloved stuffed long orange eared bunny, who wore a small letter-bead ID bracelet saying “Bohrer Jr.”. An impromptu artist in the Bari OSS/15AF HQ crowd picked up one of the working aerial photos and on the back, penciled then penned a jaunty, completely individualized “Buzz Bunny”, complete with cigarette, a 15th AF white star on a white neck scarf, and renderings of a beloved aircraft with its dual fuselages. A local Italian seamstress used this as a pattern to make a one-of-a-kind, shoulder patch which Doris wore for the duration.

Doris has many pleasant and extraordinary memories of the activities in Bari and the men on all sides of the conflict who met there. One Romanian Colonel, still dressed in his only belongings, filthy from work in the mountains, with beautiful dark hair long like “Prince Hal” in the comics, had managed by considerable cunning to arrive in the back of a plane in Bari to deliver papers as to how POWs were to be extricated. Doris was quickly called to join them at General’s quarters for a dinner in his honor...she remembers the charming but slightly worse for wear Rumanian who gave her his

silver insignias as appreciation for being a delightful dinner partner.

Doris later worked in the CIA’s Frankfurt office collecting data from the myriad German scientists who had been seized by the Russians, evaluating and selecting the most pivotal intel for others to write up. On returning to Washington, Doris worked in various aspects of counterintelligence, and after retirement from the CIA, became an Alexandria, VA realtor. Doris and her husband Charles Bohrer, M.D., had a son Jason, who with his wife Carol gave them a grandson and granddaughter. Doris became a widow in 2009 when her husband, who had been CIA’s director of medical services, died. Now 91, Doris resides in Northern Virginia. In a recent chat over tea, she and Buzz Bunny (standing on the parachute silk scarf) wondered how many of those American airmen POW/MIA’s and their Serb friends are still around to tell the tales.





AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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contributions



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Kindly accept the enclosed
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Thank you!

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In memory of Curtis W
Campbell, by Don Wilken

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It's very simple to make a be-
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\$_____ or _____percent of the
rest, residue and remainder of
my estate."

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new members

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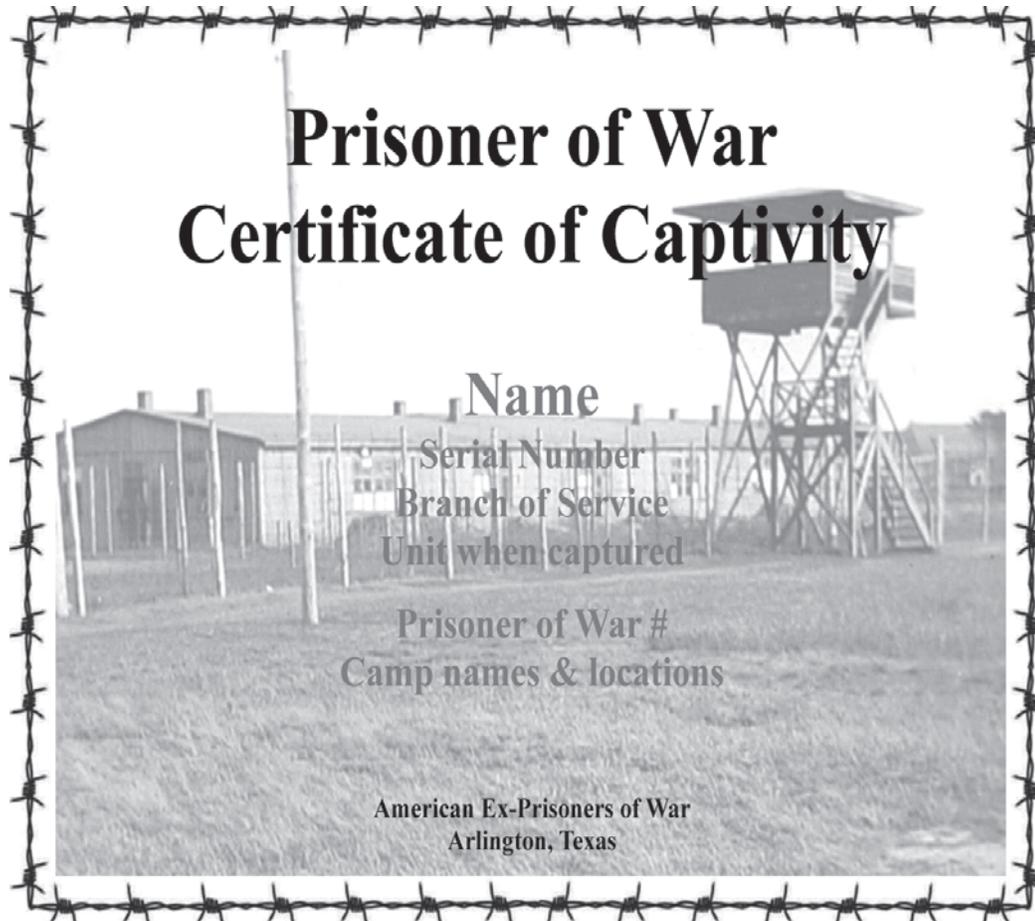
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taps



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

ASH, William, of London, England died April 26, 2014 at the age of 96. During WWII, while in Paris, Ash was seized by the Gestapo and sent to the notorious Fresnes Prison, south of the city, where he was tortured. After it was determined that he was an airman and not a spy, he was shuttled from one POW camp to another in Germany, Poland and Lithuania. It was in the camps that he discovered his true calling: would-be escape artist. Before the war ended, he had attempted 13 escapes and made it outside the barbed wire a half-dozen times. He was always recaptured. His wife, Ranjana, survives him; he also is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BLOOMBERG, Arthur, 89, of Brooklyn, NY and Scottsdale, AZ passed away Feb. 3, 2014. He was captured in Italy while serving with the 45th Div., 157th Inf., Co. C and spent the next 1 ½ years in various POW camps in Germany. His wife, Irene, predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

BEUOY, James died Sept. 9, 2013. **BEUOY, June** died June 12, 2013. They lived in of Kirkland, Washington and were former member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ.

DANIELS, Mattie J., 88, of Valdosta, GA died Feb. 26, 2014. She was the widow of ex-POW James T. (8th AF, 389th BG, 567th BS; held in Lufts 2 & 4). James died in 1978 and Mattie accepted the POW medal for him in April,

1989. They are survived by one daughter and family.

DAVES, Edward, of Fresno, CA passed away May 2, 2014. Edward was the pilot of a B-17 with the 401st Bomb Group flying out of Deenethorpe, England & was shot down over Germany on Sept. 28, 1944. He was a POW in Luft 1 in Barth, Germany. He is survived by his wife, Edna also a WWII veteran, a daughter and a son. Edward and Edna were active members in Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW.

DRINKWALTER, Roger, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW, died Jan. 13, 2014. During WWII, he was assigned to the 390th Bomb Group, went to England in the 13th Bomb Wing. He was shot down on his 13th mission and became a POW at Stalag Luft 1; he was liberated April 29, 1945.

FIGURACION, Feliciano "Tony" and **FIGURACION, Althea S** of Gig Harbor, WA passed away recently. Both were members of AXPOW.

FLYNN, Robert J., who spent five and a half years in a Communist Chinese prison during the Vietnam War, almost always in solitary confinement, after he was shot down on a bombing mission, died May 15, 2014 in Pensacola, FL. Commander Flynn, one of only two American servicemen known to have been held by the Chinese during the war, was 76. Freedom came on March 15, 1973, when he was taken across a covered bridge into Hong Kong, wearing a blue Chinese cap. He was released to the American authorities there together with Maj. Philip E. Smith of the Air Force, who had been imprisoned by the Chinese since

his plane was downed over their airspace in September 1965.

FRIOT, Mabel, of Rensselaer Falls, NY passed away July 25, 2010. She was the widow of ex-POW Walter (served in General Hodge's First Army; POW in 13C). Mabel leaves 4 sons and their families, 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

GEARHART, Mabel, widow of Ex-POW Rich Gearhart (36th Inf. Div., Past State and Chapter Commander) passed away March 18, 2014. She is survived by 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GERVAIS, Anna M., of Bethany, OK passed away April 5, 2014. She was the widow of James (both were life members of AXPOW). Her family misses her very much.

GORDON, Paul Revere, 94, passed away May 27th, 2014 in Reading, PA. He served with the 92nd BG, 327th BS, flying B-17F's based at Bovingdon Field, Hertfordshire County, England. Shot down over France, Paul spent 31 months in a series of POW camps, including Stalag XVII-B. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, 2 sons, 1 step-son, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

HUBBARD, Mary, 92, of Washington, DC died May 21, 2014. She was with OSS in the 1940's (and then the CIA in Mukden, Manchuria at the brand new U.S. Consulate, just after CIA was formed) and was among the last surviving group of Americans held prisoner in Manchuria by the Chinese Communists in 1948 and 1949. She

taps cont'd...

was working at the Consulate in Mukden when the city fell, and along with American Consul Angus Ward and others, held in house arrest there for a year and then deported.

JOHNSON, Robert G., of Marble Falls, TX, died March 8, 2014. An AXPOW member since 1981, Bob was also a member of the Highland Lakes Chapter. He served with Co M, 143rd Inf., 36th Div. and was held in Stalags 7A, 2B, 3B and 3A.

KASLER, James Helms, Indiana's "Sergeant York" passed away in West Palm Beach, FL on April 24, 2014. He was a combat veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He is the only person to be awarded the Air Force Cross three times. On his 91st bombing mission in South Vietnam, he was shot down near Hanoi while trying to provide cover for his wingman, who had been shot down ahead of him. When he ejected, his right leg shattered, he was captured and subsequently spent from August 1966 until March 1973 as a POW. Survivors include his wife, Martha, 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and their families and 1 brother.

KENNEMER, Otis, of Athens, AL died April 20, 2014. He served with James Ball in the 2nd Div. in Korea and was a POW there. Survivors include a brother.

KIDWILER, William, of Marysville, WA (formerly of Seattle) passed away July 12, 2013 at the age of 90. During WWII, Bill served with the 99th BG, 416th BS. He was captured and held for almost two years until liberation. Bill is survived by his wife, Betty, 2 daughters and 5 step-children. He was a charter member and chapter commander of the Evergreen Chapter, AXPOW.

LEINWEBER, Douglas, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW died Feb. 20, 2014. He joined the Army Air Corps as a "Tail Gunner" on the B-17 called "Lady Satan". He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Lufts III and IV.

MEGLA, William J., of Columbus, OH died May 9, 2014. He served in the 9th Inf. Div., 47 Rgt., Co. C. He was a POW for 9 months at Limburg, Stalag 7A. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 68 years, 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

POPOVICH, Mary, of Dublin, OH, widow of Michael, former POW, died April 5, 2014. She is mourned by their 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

RAPP, Ray, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW, died Jan. 30, 2014. During WWII, he served with the USMC, 4th Marines in Corregidor before being taken prisoner. He was in Japanese camps Umedo Bongho, Tsuagai and Tanagawa.

ROTH, Shirley B., beloved wife of the late Harold "Hal" Roth passed away April 2, 2014. She leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 step-children, 6 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended families. Her beautiful smile and loving kindness will be forever missed by all.

RUCKER, Betty, 84, of Clearwater, FL died May 4, 2014. She was the widow of Ernest Rucker who served in the ETO. She is survived by a daughter, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Barbed Wire-Seminole Chapter, which later merged in to the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

SCHOLTEN, Donald, past commander of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 6, 2014. He was captured while serving in

the Army during WWII. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann and children.

SIMONET, Kenneth Adrian, 89 of Marietta, GA died April 22, 2014. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Elizabeth and 1 son. In 1942, he entered the Marine Corps, serving in the Pacific with the 1st Marine Raider Battalion and the 4th Marine Regiment. After the war, he graduated from West Point in 1948; he was then sent to Texas and Arizona as an Air Force pilot. On January 18, 1968, while serving on his second tour in Southeast Asia, he was shot down in the vicinity of Hanoi where he was held until March 14, 1973. Survivors include 2 sons, 2 daughters, 5 granddaughters, 3 great-grandsons and their families.

SNIDER, Norman, of Peoria, AZ passed away Feb. 4, 2014. He was shot down over Korea in April, 1951 and held until he was repatriated on Aug. 30, 1953. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, 2 children and several grandchildren.

THOMPSON, Robert E "Tommy", 88 of San Diego, CA died April 1 2014. He enlisted Dec 8 1941 at age of 16 lying about his age. Tommy was brought into the Navy Armed Guard and served on the SS Carlton with convoys PQ16 and PQ17. PQ17 found him sunk in the Arctic Sea July 3, 1942. He was picked up two days later and spent the rest of the war at Stalag 11B with the majority at Mirlag Marlag Nord in Bremen. Tommy was a member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 62 years Rae, 4 sons, 1 daughter, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

WHITE, Matilda Jean, of Vestavia Hills, AZ and Pasadena, CA died

taps cont'd...

May 4, 2014. She was 93 and the widow of ex-POW James. Both were active in the Birmingham, AL chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 1 daughter, 2 grandsons and their families.

WISE, Marie, of Irving, Texas, died April 7, 2014. Marie was the widow of Delbert Wise, POW held in Stalags 7A and 2B. They had been married 51 years when he died in 1991. She was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter and was known for her beautiful quilts.

ZAZAS, Chris J. passed away May 2, 2014. He was 89. He landed on Normandy, was captured on Rhine River Crossing and was a POW in Dachau and Stalag 7A. Chris was a member of San Diego POW Chapter. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Mary.

chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

The shortest verse in the Bible (John 11:33) simply states, "Jesus Wept." Only two words in that verse but it conveys a world of emotions and questions. For instance, one of the most frequently asked questions is, "Why would Jesus cry?"

If you have read the surrounding scripture you know that his

friend Lazarus had died. So Jesus cried because he felt sorrow, grief, remorse at the passing of his friend. He shed tears for the same reasons that you and I cry at air ports, bus and train stations and at funerals: Some one we love has gone away.

It is amazing that Jesus wept at Lazarus's passing because earlier he had told these very people in John 11:25 "I am the resurrection, and the life " and that means that he can restore life in the present world as well as the future. In essence those who are dead are not really dead because they are living a new life in Heaven.

For many people this is new information because they view God (and Jesus) as being "way off out there" or "uncaring about me or humanity in general" and many view religion as a way for some people to earn a livelihood.

Sadly, they don't realize that God does care about us as individuals. The scripture that relates Lazarus's story is just one proof that God is compassionate. No, we can not think of God as Magic as one comedian has been quoted as saying but we think of Him as being tender-hearted.

Many of our Prisoners-Of-War have realized that there is a Living God and that He does indeed care for each of them and by extension each of us alive today.

I will close with this prayer for each of you, Heavenly Father, I ask that each of our members know that you do care for them as individuals. And that they realize that they are being cared for by you. Help them to know that you offer peace, comfort and strength and further, that they may approach you with their requests. Amen.

Benny



From the Consulat General DeFrance...

"with endless respect and affection, in recognition of your noble contribution during WWII and in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause, a ceremony to bestow upon you the award of "Legion d'Honneur" will take place at the State Capitol, Raleigh, NC on Thursday, February 20th at 1:30PM."

James Sansom crossed Omaha Beach June 11, 1944, was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and liberated from Stalag IXB. He is a life member of AXPOW.



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American Ex-Prisoners of War
Website Biography
www.axpow.org



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

Name:

Nickname:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Telephone:

Spouse:

Email:

Conflict and Theater of Operation:

Branch of Service:

Unit:

Where were you captured?

Date captured:

POW camps you were held in:

How long were you a POW?

Date liberated:

Medals received:

Job in the military:

After military service:

Your biography listing may include 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white) and a 1000 word or less narrative. Please type or print your narrative. Photos and narratives may be emailed to hq@axpow.org please reference "Biography" and your name.

Send to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40Arlington, Texas 76010-5396. Please include your check for \$65.00, your photos and narrative (or indicate what date they were emailed).

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The National 4th (IVY) Division Association



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

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

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

"Steadfast and Loyal"

50/50 drawing

November 2013 Arlington, TX

1st Place	Adene Miles, MS	\$241.40
2nd Place	Skip Moore	\$181.05
	<i>donated back to organization</i>	
3rd Place	Velma Wilson	\$120.70
4th Place	Alice Gollin	\$ 60.35

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
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request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

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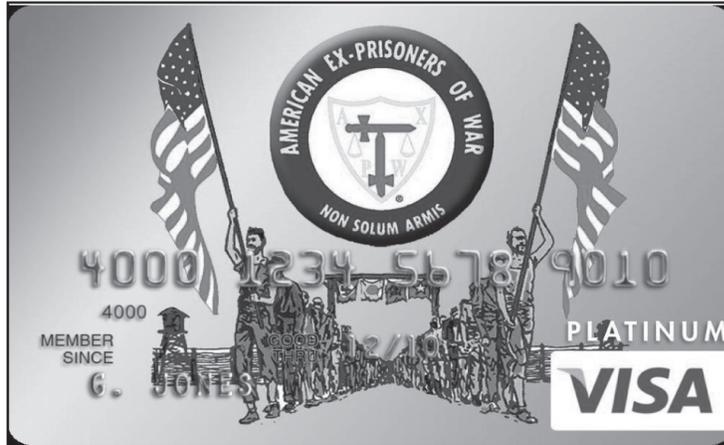
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<http://www.cardpartner.com/app/axpow>

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

CardPartner.com Powered by CardPartner. The #1 provider of custom affinity credit card programs.
From UMB

**Ex-POW Bulletin
July/August 2014**

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AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



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

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

\$75.00

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

AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement)

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest

Chapter Name (back of vest)

Price: \$55.00, includes S/H

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

AXPOW Challenge Coin



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

\$10.00ea

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

Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

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

Ship to: Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

We accept Master Card/Visa

12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo	60.00
Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
CLOTHSTRIPES (specify which title)	3.00
Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas	
Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer · Dep't Commander	
Past Dept. Commander · Dep't Adjutant	
Dep't Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander	
Jr. Vice Commander · Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer	

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

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

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

POLO SHIRT



COLORS AVAILABLE

White, Royal Blue, Maize, Black

Soft Egyptian cotton knit shirt with no curl collar

Smooth appearance

Three button placket

Men's, S-5XL ; women's S-3X

S-XL \$38.00 (Call 660-627-0753 for pricing larger orders)

Add \$1.50 per line for extra lettering such as name or "next of kin"

Plus \$2.00 for each size above XL

\$5.95 shipping each

Shipments to Missouri add 5.6% sales tax

Shirt Size _____ Gender (men's/women's) Color _____ Added lettering _____

Check enclosed or VISA/MasterCard/AmEx _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code(3 digits on back of card, 4 on front of AMEX) _____

Signature (CC only) _____

Ship to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Or E-mail to Roger@lonepineridge.com





All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

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



Challenge Coins!

great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization

AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00ea

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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