

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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June 2006



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Korean War Memorial, Washington, DC

*Inside...VA Statistics...Convention News...stories...
events... NSO success stories...and more*



Clockwise from top left: Tennessee ladies at the Valentine's Day party at the VA; Mary & Warren King giving valentines to patients at the Nashville VAMC; Norm Swanson and Dale Bowlin - Norm Swanson describes his nearly four years as a POW following his capture on Wake Island when he was 16 years old; Ft Vancouver Chapter Officers, L/R: Gene Liggett, SVC, Randall Whetzel, Chaplain, Norm Swanson, JVC, Phyllis Bowlin, Adjutant & Treasurer, Dale Bowlin, Commander, Bonnie Sharp, National JVC, and Maurice Sharp, PNC. MidYear Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC; NC Gerald Harvey prepares to testify before the Veterans Affairs Committee.



national commander



Gerald Harvey

Knowing that all of our members are concerned about the survival of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, I want to bring you up to date on what has happened and is happening to the relationship between AXPOW and the American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation.

The Foundation was incorporated in August 1997, and adopted Bylaws in September. These bylaws were submitted along with the Foundation's application to the IRS. In November 1997, the IRS asked for further information than that submitted in the application. **The original application requested classification as a section 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(3) supporting organization**, which was the original intent when the AXPOW organization voted to set up the Foundation.

In March 1998, the Foundation replied to the IRS that its request for 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(3) was incorrect. The application was changed to 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1). **The Foundation has never been a supporting organization.** It is a non-private foundation, with no legal connection to the AXPOW organization.

In 2001, in part because the Foundation had been raising money using the AXPOW name, but had not provided any funding the AXPOW, the then-National Commander, with the Executive Committee, told the Foundation to cease and desist all further efforts to solicit funds using the AXPOW name, emblem, trademark or logo. In March 2002, the AXPOW Executive Committee met with the Board of Directors of the Foundation to discuss the relationship between the two organizations. The result was a Joint

Resolution that addressed the concerns of both organizations. AXPOW agreed that the Foundation could continue to use the AXPOW name so long as the terms of the resolution are complied with by the Foundation. The Foundation has not complied with those terms, which included the primary agreement to use the liaison committees as a means of communication between the two organizations. Each of the organizations was to appoint a liaison committee of three who would attend the Board Meetings and Budget Committee Meetings of the other organization as ex-officio members without a vote. The Foundation has never notified AXPOW who their Liaison Committee members are. The Foundation has notified the AXPOW liaison committee of meetings with their Board. These meetings follow the Foundation Board Meetings that the AXPOW Committee is not allowed to attend. Closed board meetings are a violation of public charity regulations.

At the National Convention in 2004, the National Commander reactivated the Strategic Planning Committee to look at where we were and where we were going - organizationally and financially. The Committee reported at the Midyear Board Meeting in April 2005. The Foundation was a major issue in their report.

In the seven years (1997-2004) the total money raised was \$3,756,451.

Fundraising costs were \$3,076,130
(82% of all dollars raised)
Administration and management
\$228,953 (6% of all dollars raised)

Programs / program services
\$54,215 (1% of all dollars raised)

This is opposite of most 501(c)3 organizations, where 70% is allocated to programs.

The Foundation has continued using a telemarketer to raise money, despite the fact that less than 1% of the money raised using the AXPOW name went to AXPOW. The American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation is listed by charity watchdog organizations as **one of the very worst Foundations** because of the extremely low amount of funds used on programs and the extremely high amount spent on fundraising. Because the name of AXPOW is a part of the name of the

Foundation, this has hurt AXPOW's PUBLIC IMAGE.

Following the Strategic Planning Committee's report, a motion was passed that "...AXPOW take back its name from the Service Foundation, and that the AXPOW mailing list be returned by the Foundation." On April 27, 2005, then-National Commander Cooper wrote to the Foundation. His letter was a formal notice that the "...foundation, and its agents, officers, directors, employees and other representatives immediately cease and desist from any continued use of the name, words or phrase, American Ex-Prisoners of War." He asked them to reply indicating that they would comply with the demands to cease and desist set forth in the letter. He received no reply.

In June, a court summons was received, calling upon American Ex-Prisoners of War to file a written response to the complaint filed by the American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation. In short, they were claiming that AXPOW had agreed to their using the name and should not be allowed to withdraw that permission. AXPOW became the defendant in the lawsuit and hired our trademark lawyer to help us keep our name and trademark. After I became National Commander at the 2005 National Convention in Denver, I appointed an Ad Hoc committee to meet with the Foundation Officers to try to settle the problems between the two organizations. Our Past National Commander was Chairman of the Committee. He was unable to establish a meeting while in Denver.

Later in October I received a letter from the Foundation President offering to meet with our committee. I wrote back to him telling him PNC Jim Cooper was the Chairman of the Committee and all correspondence should be addressed to him. PNC Cooper never heard from him.

Continued on page 5...



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national commander's column continued from page 3...

At the recent Mid-year Board meeting, a motion was made by ND William Richardson that the current Commander and the four vice commanders be a Committee to get with the Foundation to simultaneously drop the lawsuit. Earlier in the meeting our Adjutant read a message that she had just received from the Judge to whom the case was assigned. The Judge had issued a directive that the two Organizations should go into mediation. The lawyers agreed on May 24th as the day that the mediation should begin. Our lawyer and the Foundation lawyer agreed on the mediator. The mediator's job is to help the two sides find a solution to their differences.

Our lawyer was hired to represent the AXPOW Organization. He understands that the Board manages the affairs of the Organization. However, he explained that the motion that was passed could cause us to lose our name and trademark and might even cause us to lose our whole Organization. He recommended that we call a meeting and let him talk to the Board and explain what the result of this action could be. I thought that a meeting would be too expensive. Our Judge Advocate suggested that a postal vote would be the least expensive. The lawyer prepared some materials for the members of the Board to study before they voted. He wanted them to know some of what he would say if he could talk to them.

The postal vote was very close but it passed to rescind the motion. Our lawyer will report to the court and the Judge will tell us the next step. It is all right to disagree, but don't let our different opinions destroy our fellowship and keep us from reaching out to those who need our help.

National Adjutant Clydie Morgan has been ill since early April. She has been in the hospital, and underwent surgery on May 8, 2006. The doctors expect a full recovery, but please keep Clydie in your thoughts and prayers.

Gerald

COVER: The Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC.

At approximately 4 a.m. (Korean Standard Time) on June 25, 1950, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Army (DPRK - North Korea) artillery and mortars open fire on Republic of Korea (ROK - South Korea) Army positions south of the 38th Parallel, the line then serving as the border between the two countries.

Note: The next issue of the Ex-POW Bulletin will be a combined July/August issue, containing convention and election information.

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Ex-POW Bulletin
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on capitol hill



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Drue Gillis died around the first of May. A few days later, I received word that Dennis "Nick" Nicklin died. They were close friends of mine. Sixty one years ago, the three of us (along with several hundred other shot-down airmen) arrived in the same 40 & 8 boxcar at Krems, Austria to be interned in Stalag XVII-B. We had 13 months to get to know each other and a lifelong friendship grew and flourished. We used to look forward to the 17-B reunions each year around the first of May, which is the anniversary of our liberation in 1945. Nick had already purchased plane tickets and had hotel reservations and reunion registration for him and his wife, Gertie. Drue knew he would not be able to make the trip, but he sure talked about how he would miss being there. Then he would reminisce about previous reunions. "Remember the night in the bar with the Grey Ghost? What a blast!" Then Nick would remind us of other memorable characters we lived with. Oh yes, memorable in so many different ways.

But were we so different? No, I don't think so. We came from diverse backgrounds, from different parts of the United States, but we were more alike than we were different. For one thing, we were all volunteers. Airmen had to volunteer. It was considered hazardous duty. We had one common objective: survival. We went about it with a spirit of mutual helpfulness. If a guy was in a rough spot, he got help immediately, no questions asked. There were 4500 of us in this camp

and as many stories of heroism. The stories of mutual respect and helpfulness are not as dramatic as heroic efforts to save another's life. We helped those who could not help themselves; come to think of it, we also helped those who **could** help themselves. The captive experience forged a bond among all us "kriegies" that exists to this day.

I first met Nick when I made myself known to a body lying on the floor next to my bunk. He had been there asleep and appeared to have not moved for two or three days. This was not the Sheraton and he did not have a reservation, so he had no bunk and was just sick enough to not care. I kicked him on the bottom of his foot with "Get off your dead butt if you don't want to spend the rest of your life right here!" He replied with some not-so-well-chosen words to let me know where I could go. We have been close friends since. More than 40 years later, he told me he really needed what I did to him years earlier.

Drue had a reputation as the "Bugs Bunny" man. He was a fabulous artist. Guys from all over the American compound would bring him their "Log Books" to ask him to draw Bugs Bunny or some other picture, and he willingly obliged. When he was flying his missions out of England, he did "nose art" on B17s, particularly his own plane, "Blue Campaign". We saw a lot of each other in our later years; we lived in the same county and were members of the "Chuck" Williams Chapter of AXPOW. He made about a dozen AXPOW logos about 30 inches in diameter and gave them away.

Perhaps it was the unique makeup of the camp that gave it its character. Our friend Ed McKenzie, in his book "Boys at War, Men at Peace" described Stalag XVII-B as a Military Democracy. We were highly organized and we elected our leaders. It worked. It worked well. With 4500 men existing in an overcrowded prison camp, we certainly had our disagreements about many things. They were always worked out in various ways. Of course, our elections stirred up a lot of dust as did the 4th of July boxing matches, where the whole camp got into picking a winner. All such events ended with a handshake, then we went back to concentrating on **objective #1: SURVIVAL**. Are we Boys at War or Men at Peace?

les

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Finally Former Prisoner of War and Purple Heart designations will be on the face of the VA card; sites will have 30 days to install the software once it is nationally released.

The release of the VistA and PICS software is currently scheduled on or about May 9, 2006. Nationwide implementation is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2006. This project will modify the existing Veteran Identification Card software to incorporate POW and Purple Heart data. Veterans with a current Veteran Identification Card and whose POW and Purple Heart eligibility statuses have been verified by the Health Eligibility Center (HEC) will be automatically issued a new Veteran Identification Card. Veterans who subsequently enroll and are verified as a POW or Purple Heart recipient will also be

issued a new card. Veterans who are currently enrolled with pending POW and Purple Heart statuses will be issued a new card once their eligibility has been verified by Health Eligibility Center.

On another note: Nick Nishimoto, Former Korean POW, from Honolulu, Hawaii, along with his Korean veterans, did an outstanding job hosting the ceremonies in Hawaii for the Former Prisoner of War recognition week. We had almost 30 veterans and their spouses in attendance from Florida alone.

The military buses from Hickam picked us up to tour the Arizona, with an hour narrated tour by the Navy prior to visiting the Arizona. Then we were off to a tour of the Missouri. All the fees to view the Missouri were waved and they even gave everyone two 8x10 photos of each group at no charge. We were then off to tour the DNA lab at Hickam Air Force Base.

This 425-person organization, commanded by a flag officer, is committed and dedicated to bringing home the nation's service members and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice. Again we were all given an 8x10 photo of our whole group. Then we were off for a tour of the State Capitol with recognition of us by the Senate. Another day we had a picnic overlooking Waikiki beach.

The next day was the banquet at the Hale Koa, the military hotel on Waikiki Beach. On April 9th again the buses from Hickam brought us to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punchbowl.

Many distinguished guest speakers were in attendance, along with the 25th Division Army Band, the 25th Division Army Buglers and the Pacific Fleet Firing Detail.

Despite Nick's health problems, he says he will do this again next year.

Doris Jenks

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
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**AXPOW
59th
National
Convention
Oct. 3-8, 2008
Nashville, TN
"Music City
USA"**
see pages 24-25
for more
information

VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late

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TAPPING INTO TAPS
Existing to Remember New Widows

Surely this calls for a Memorial Day OUTREACH.

Every month, the Ex-POW Bulletin has the TAPS column. Here is what happened when I followed up and used our latest AXPOW National Directory and the Internet to get phone numbers, to reach the new widows. So far, 15 calls.

1. Mrs. B in Pittsburgh, PA, husband died Dec. 05, already has DIC and ChampVA.

2. Mrs. B in Cary, NC, Joe died 11/05, now has DIC, aware of ChampVA.

3. Mrs. C in New Brunswick, Canada, husband died 10/05, DAV in Maine has helped her and she now has her DIC. Checking to see if she is eligible for ChampVA.

4. Mrs. C in Goldsboro, NC, he died 01/06, referred to NSO Paul Dallas to check eligibility for DIC widow's benefits.

5. Mrs. F in MN, death 12/05, already has DIC and ChampVA.

6. Mrs. F in Ohio, has DIC; sent her ChampVA information.

7. Mrs. H in AZ, husband died 01/06, NSO Bill Manda already has DIC claim in process; already has ChampVA.

8. Mrs. LJ, in AL, husband died 01/06, cardiovascular disease, will send DIC application and ChampVA information.

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9. Mrs. P in VA, NSO Les Jackson, ED of AXPOW Washington, DC office, already helping her with DIC claim.

10. Mrs. R in MI, has DIC and ChampVA, but she thought ChampVA was only for prescription medications; told her it generally covered everything after Medicare.

11. Mrs. R in GA, husband died 11/05, she already has DIC and is getting extra since he had 100% rating eight years.

12. Mrs. S in CO, husband died 06/05 with 100% over a year; she is in a nursing home and didn't know about DIC or ChampVA. I talked to son, sent DIC application, advised of Aid/Attendance.

13. Mrs. W in NC, husband died 01/06, and on-the-ball county veterans service officer already has DIC claim to VA.

14. Mrs. Y in TN, he died 08/05, she has DIC.

15. Mrs. Z in SC, has DIC, will check with NSO Lawrence King about ChampVA.

Serious OUTREACH has many possibilities.

And then, the old-fashioned way - Word of Mouth: Sensitive former POW Bob von Sternberg, Parma, OH tells Ms. L in next church pew that her mother might be eligible for a widow's benefit, since her father was a WWII POW in Germany and died of "massive coronary" in 1982. Ms. L calls, DIC application has now gone to VARO for her mother, 90 years old, in rural Arkansas, thanks to Bob - alert, caring to reach out.

Success!

From Maxine M. in Minden, LA: "I am sending this to you for printing in the Ex-POW Bulletin if you approve. I cannot say enough to express my true feeling of thanks for what you all have done. I still feel like I'll wake up after the dream. After several attempts, I

decided to write one more letter. I could not believe I heard from you so quickly. I can't thank you enough. I didn't have to sit, wait and wonder. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Houston knew what they were doing and made sure I understood also. I didn't understand I could get anything for burial expenses. That is in process now also. You all let us know we are not forgotten. I'm glad I read the Bulletin. Very Sincerely, Maxine Moore." (NOTE: Mrs. Moore wrote on Sept. 3rd, right after Hurricane Katrina devastated South Louisiana, and with concern that New Orleans VARO might have trouble expediting claims. Houston VARO took care of this claim for her very quickly.)

Now, an ode to the VARO in St. Paul, MN!

In November, 2005, a call came from Mrs. B in St. Paul. Might she be eligible for a widow's benefit? Husband had been a Japanese POW in WWII. He had died on May 12, 1989 and his death certificate read as cause, "massive left middle cerebral artery stroke, with underlying cause Arteriosclerosis". Also contributing causes, "COPD, Coronary artery disease". Recently, the VARO rating decision came through: "Service connection for the cause of death is granted".

We commend the St. Paul VARO for their diligence. They went back and corrected a **June 1994** letter of denial; she should have received her benefit then. On Aug. 24, 1993, ischemic heart disease (under beri-beri) was legislated as presumptive condition for former POWs. This POW's VA record documented he had beri-beri and ischemic heart disease, with swollen feet during captivity. Mrs. B had incorrectly been denied her DIC in June 1994. St. Paul VARO corrected this. Mrs. B's daughter called to tell me, "Mother got two checks today; one for \$1,033 for April 1st, and one for \$131,925, retroactive from Sept. 1, 1993". St. Paul VARO, you win the prize!

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

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April 2006

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POWs) AND MISSING IN ACTION (MIAs)

“We’re here to remember, we’re here to honor, the courage of America’s captives and our missing countrymen who risked everything, facing the worst of war to preserve the best of America.” (Then-Acting) Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England at the Pentagon on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 16, 2005

Introduction

This report is an annual update (for calendar year 2005) of the numbers of American POWs and MIAs. The information used to provide the numbers comes from disparate sources, including: historical books and reports, official Defense Department records, rosters kept by POW and MIA organizations, and demographic estimates. Often, the sources do not agree. Often, information changes over time. More often, actual records do not exist and estimates, based on broad assumptions, need to be made. Therefore, the reliability of the numbers herein varies from table-to-table and from footnote-to footnote. Information on more recent cohorts of POWs/MIAs is generally more reliable than information on older cohorts of POWs/MIAs because the data on the former are more current and based on better recorded information. With this in mind, a summary of the nature of the data is provided below:

- Information on POWs and MIAs of World War (WW) I, World War (WW) II, Korea, and the Cold War are based on original official battle reports, records on casualties, and other DoD sources. Estimates of surviving WW II and Korean Conflict POWs alive at the end of calendar year 2005 are based on estimated male veteran deaths and population by period of service for that year (Source: VA Office of Policy, VetPop2004, June 2005).

- Information on POWs and MIAs of the Vietnam period and the U.S.S. Pueblo incident come largely from the Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office (DPMO); counts of surviving POWs alive at the end of 2005 are based as much as possible on records about individuals kept and followed under various auspices, such as NAM-POWs and the Pueblo Veterans Association (please see acknowledgments and sources in this report).

- Information on POWs and MIAs for post-Vietnam periods also comes from the DPMO. Because there is no one official source on the current status of all repatriated POWs, this report assumes those of periods after Vietnam were alive at the end of 2005.

A comparison of data and estimates from the end of calendar years 2004 and 2005 shows notably that during 2005:

- The estimated number of living POWs decreased from nearly 32,550 to about 29,350, caused mainly by estimated deaths among WW II and Korean POWs.

medsearch continued...

- There were eight recorded deaths among Vietnam POWs (their names appear at the end of the report). [In 2005, the PMSEA (Personnel Missing in S.E. Asia) reclassified an army POW returned alive to AWOL/Deserter; it also added an Air Force POW who died while a POW].
- The number classified as MIA and unaccounted for in Vietnam, declined from 1,842 to 1,807.
- Capt. Michael Speicher and Spc. Keith Maupin, both of the Gulf War era (1990 to date), remain missing/captured.

Summary of Wars

Table 1. Summary of Wars

	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to US Military Control	Refused to Return	Alive at end of 2005
GRAND TOTAL	142,246	17,010	125,213	21	29,350 ^(a)
WW I	4,120	147	3,973	—	—
WW II	130,201	14,072	116,129	—	26,750 ^(b)
Korea	7,140	2,701	4,418	21 ^(c)	2,000 ^(b)
Vietnam	725	65	660	—	579
Gulf War (Desert Storm)	47 ^(d)	25 ^(d)	21 ^(d)	—	21 ^(d)
Somalia	1	—	1	—	1 ^(e)
Kosovo	3	—	3	—	3 ^(e)
Bosnia	—	—	—	—	—
Iraq	9 ^(f)	—	8	—	8 ^(f)

^(a) Number rounded to nearest 50.

^(b) Number alive at end of 2005 is based on mortality estimates derived from VA Office of Actuary data and rounded to nearest 50. Because of the advanced age of WW I veterans, estimates of those alive at end of 2005 would be too unreliable to report. However, the number might be zero. Estimated death rates in 2005 for all “WW II only” and “Korean War only” male veterans are used to estimate living POWs of WW II and the Korean War, respectively.

^(c) While initially 21 Korean Conflict POWs refused repatriation, only one remained in China, one died and 19 left China for Western countries.

^(d) The DPMO lists 47 captives (including Navy Captain Michael Speicher, who is listed as “missing/captured”). Of the 47, 25 are listed as killed in action (the remains of 2 have not been returned because they were in aircraft lost at sea), and 21 were repatriated. The 25 killed in action are listed here as died while POW. Since DoD indicates that it does not officially maintain contact with ALL living POWs, it cannot say for certain how many are still alive. The assumption for this report is that those of this era were still alive at the end of 2005. Captain Speicher is not included in the number alive at the end of 2005, but this in no way is meant to suggest anything about his status.

^(e) The assumption for this report is that those of this era were alive at the end of 2005.

^(f) This number in the first column includes Spc. Keith Maupin, who is listed as “missing/captured.” The number in the last column pertains only to those who were returned to U.S. military control; all are assumed to be alive at the end of 2005. Spc. Maupin is not included in the number, but this in no way is meant to suggest anything about his status.

Excluded from Table 1 are:

- The crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, captured on January 23, 1968, because those captured were not considered POWs of the Vietnam War, the era in which the incident occurred. North Korea captured this naval vessel and held the entire crew as POWs. One died during captivity and 82 were held captive, including two civilians. Of the 80 military POWs that were repatriated, 70 were alive at the end of 2005, according to the U.S.S. Pueblo Veterans Association.

- Merchant Marine casualties in WW II: 4,780 missing, 882 dead, including 37 POWs, and 572 released from captivity and one civilian POW accounted for. An estimated 140 were alive at the end of 2005 (applying estimated death rates of male WW II only veterans and rounding to nearest 10). Merchant Marines were granted veteran status after WW II, not during the time of their service. (Summary of Merchant Marine casualties, WW II, from U.S. Coast Guard report dated July 1, 1950.)

- Approximately 600 captured construction workers on Wake Island and American Airlines workers on Guam; an estimated 90 were alive at the end of 2005 (applying estimated death rates of male WW II only veterans and rounding to nearest 10). Construction workers on Wake Island and American Airline employees on Guam were treated as veterans for purposes of VA benefit eligibility in accordance with DoD Directive 1000.20 (P.L. 95-202).

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POWs from wars prior to WW I: during the Civil War, 220,000 were captured by the North, with 26,436 dying during confinement; 126,950 were captured by the South, with 22,576 dying during confinement. (*The Civil War*, Garden Press, New York, New York.) During the American Revolution, unofficial reports indicate up to 11,000 died during captivity, most while confined in prison ships in New York harbor.

World War II, Korea, and Vietnam

Table 2. World War II POWs by Status, Branch and Theater (for Army and Air Corps)

	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to US Military Control	Estimated Alive at End of 2005
GRAND TOTAL	130,201	14,072	116,129	26,750
Army & Air Corps – Total	124,079	12,653	111,426	25,800
European theater/ Mediterranean ^(a)	93,941	1,121	92,820	21,950 ^(b)
Pacific (Other than the Philippines)	1,885	457	1,428	300 ^(b)
Other Theaters of Operation	2,673	425	2,248	550 ^(b)
The Philippines ^(c)				
(Dec. 7, 1941 thru May 10, 1942)	25,580	10,650	14,930	3,000 ^(b)
Navy & Marine Corps – Total	6,122	1,419	4,703	950
Navy ^(d)	3,848	901	2,947	600 ^(b)
Marine Corps ^(e)	2,274	518	1,756	350 ^(b)

^(a) Includes 23,554 captured during the Battle of Bulge (Ardennes, December 16, 1944 – January 25, 1945).

^(b) The calculation uses an estimated 2005 death rate for male “WW II only” veterans and makes no distinction among WW II branches and theater with respect to death rate. Estimates of survivors are rounded to nearest 50.

^(c) Also known as the Bataan-Corregidor combat zone. Some 7,300 American civilian men, women, and children were involuntarily incarcerated by the Japanese in 1941 – 1942. An additional 13,000 of mixed American and Asian parentage holding American citizenship hid out during this period and were never interned.

^(d) Navy casualty data are allocated to naval vessels, not to theater of operations.

^(e) Marine Corps personnel captured in the Philippines December 1941 – May 1942 totaled 1,388. Data on numbers dying during captivity, repatriated, and still living are not available separately for the Philippines.

Table 3. Korean Conflict POWs by Status and Branch

	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to US Military Control	Refused to Return	Estimated Alive at end of 2005 ^(a)
GRAND TOTAL	7,140	2,701	4,418	21	2,000
Army	6,656	2,662	3,973	21	1,800 ^(a)
Navy	35	4	31	—	— ^(b)
Marine Corps	225	31	194	—	100 ^(a)
Air Force	224	4	220	—	100 ^(a)

^(a) The calculation uses an estimated 2005 death rate for male “Korean Conflict only” veterans and makes no distinction among branches with respect to death rate. Estimates of survivors are rounded to nearest 50.

^(b) Less than 25.

Table 4. Vietnam POWs/MIAs by Status and Branch

	Captured and Interned ^(a)	Died While POW	Returned to US Military Control	POWs Alive at End of 2005	Remains Recovered	Still MIA ^(b)
GRAND TOTAL	725	65	660 ^(c)	579 ^(c)	800 ^(d)	1,807
Army	167	29	138	118	155 ^(d)	574
Navy	160	9	151	132	153 ^(d)	378
Marine Corps	46	8	38	32	75 ^(d)	220
Air Force	352	19	333	297	401 ^(d)	601
Coast Guard	—	—	—	—	1 ^(d)	0
Civilians	—	—	65 ^(c)	—	15 ^(d)	34

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- (a) Includes “POWs Dying in Captivity” plus “POWs Returned to U.S. Military Control”.
- (b) Source: DPMO, *Vietnam-Era Unaccounted for Statistical Report*, 1-24-06, p.1. At the conclusion of hostilities, League of Families data indicated 2,583 were classified as MIAs (including 48 civilians).
- (c) Civilians, excluding foreign nationals, are not included in grand total for this column. Source of data: www.NAMPOWS.org. NAM POWs is source of data for living POW's by branch.
- (d) The source of the branch data is PMSEA, *Summary Report by Service and Status Code*.

The Cold War and Post-Vietnam Conflicts

The Cold War

The DPMO has an official designation of POWs/MIAs from the Cold War (1946-1991). These are primarily U.S. pilots and crew downed during operations against hostile communist foe during this period (exclusive of action considered part of the other wars occurring during these years). Details are as follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Returned or Recovered Alive</u>	<u>Remains Returned</u>	<u>MIA</u>
Air Force	81	3	21	57
Marines	1	0	0	1
Navy	79	7	6	66
<u>Civilians</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	165	12	27	126

Source: DPMO, *Cold War Report—Cold War Losses, Single Page Summary*, 8/31/00

Note: There is insufficient information to estimate the number of survivors alive at the end of 2005.

The Gulf War (Desert Storm)

The total number of American servicemen captured was 21 and all were immediately repatriated when hostilities ceased. Captain Michael Speicher is listed as missing/captured. See Table 1, note (d) for more details. Source: DPMO web site (www.dtic.mil/dpmo/gulfwar.htm)

Somalia/Bosnia/Kosovo

One U.S. serviceman was captured and briefly held prisoner in Somalia, none in Bosnia, and three in Kosovo.

Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom)

No POWs / MIAs to date.

Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

9 POWs / One MIA to date, viz., Spc. Keith Maupin.

Additional Sources

Estimated Deaths and Estimated Population for Computing Death Rates for WW II and Korean Conflict POWs
VetPop2004, June 2005, Washington, DC: VA Office of Policy.

World War II

Army Battle Casualties and Non-Battle Deaths in WWII: Final Report, 7 December 1941 – 31 December 1946, Published 1 June 1953.

Combat Connected Naval Casualties: WWII by States – 1946 UNS – MC – GC, 2 Vol. Published by Casualty Section, Navy Department.

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History of Medical Department of Navy in WWII: Statistics of Diseases and Injuries, US Govt. Printing Office (*Navy Med.* P. 1318, Vol. 3).

History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in WWII: Volume V. Appendix A, Published 1968 by Historical Branch, G-3 Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

Korean Conflict

DoD Public Information Release No. 1088 – 54, November 5, 1954.

DoD Tentative Final Report of U.S. Battle Casualties in the Korean War, Office of Secretary of Defense, November 4, 1954.

Vietnam

The number of Vietnam Era POWs still alive on December 31, 2005 provided by Mike McGrath, Historian/ Statistician, NAM-POWs Association (www.nampows.org). Those POWs who died in 2005 are: Capt. Ronald Bliss (USAF), Lt. Col. Robert Daughtrey (USAF), Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Kientzler (USN), Vice Adm. William Lawrence (USN), Col. Harold Monlux (USAF), CW3 Donald Rander (USA), Vice Adm. James Stockdale (USN), and Lt. Col. Russell Temperley (USAF).

Updates on remaining MIAs provided by Ann Mills Griffiths, National League of Families (www.pow-miafamilies.org); and from DPMO, *Subject: Vietnam Era Unaccounted for Statistical Report*, 1-24-06.

Post-Vietnam Era Conflicts

Number captured and returned to US Military Control provided by the DPMO for Desert Storm, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. DPMO web site: www.dtic.mil/dpmo/generalinfo.htm

U.S.S. Pueblo Incident

Don Peppard, President, U.S.S. PUEBLO Veterans Association (www.usspueblo.org)

This report continues the series of annual reports and updates on the status of Americans who were POWs and MIAs during various wars. Charles A. Stenger, Ph.D., a veteran of WWII and former POW of the European theater himself, produced the series almost single-handedly from 1977 until 2003. Dr. Stenger worked at VA in the Mental Health and Behavioral Science Service from 1964 through 1980. He continued preparing the POW/ MIA report long after retirement from VA. OPP&P assumed the task of updating the report starting in 2004 not only because OPP&P serves as a VA center for data collection, data evaluation, and analysis, but also to honor all POWs and MIAs and to acknowledge the enduring contribution of Dr. Stenger.

We are grateful to Mike McGrath of the Nam-POWS Association, Ann Mills Griffiths of the League of Families, and Don Peppard of the U.S.S. Pueblo Veterans Association for their invaluable assistance and to Mike McLendon, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, VA, for his support. Any shortcomings remaining are the sole responsibility of the first author.

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June 2006

Andersonville



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"3576"

By: Gerry Allen
Cemetery Administrator



"3576" - That's what they call me. Not much of a name, but it is all they have in the way of my identification.

It sounds cold, but it is not. It is spoken of and identified with reverence in this place. How can I feel "Unknown" with the company I keep? 142 years ago I joined 12,919 men who paid the ultimate price in an effort to keep this Union together.

"3576" - It sounds lonely, but it is not. I was a man who had a family that waited for me. But, I hope they finally realized that I would not be coming back and moved on with their life without me. The rest of the country did not wait, but continued its quest for a re-unification of this great nation.

The war that was waged during my brief stay on this earth was different from those before it. The use of out-dated military tactics along with new equipment resulted in the deaths of so many of my fellow soldiers in the field. So many men died on the fields that a new method for burial was necessary. In July, 1862, legislation was enacted authorizing the creation of national cemeteries in locations where high numbers of soldiers died either on the field of battle, or near field hospitals where death was a constant companion.

On November 19, 1863, our nation's leader spoke briefly on a battlefield in Pennsylvania and said, "...we have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those that died here, that the nation might live..." My battlefield was not in the wilderness of Virginia, nor was it on the fields of Gettysburg, Antietam, or Shiloh. My battlefield was a prison stockade, built in 1864 to hold 6,000 to 10,000 prisoners, but ended up with over 31,000 men stacked inside like pigs in a pigpen. And we paid a price, a price as final as my comrades paid on those battlefields, as well as those who paid the price on other fields and war areas that followed - Cold Harbor, Richmond, San Juan, Marne, Anzio, Normandy, Inchon, Hamburger Hill, Konduz, Baghdad.

Now I rest. I am proud of my home here at Andersonville. It was a terrible homesteading process, but I am proud of my neighborhood here near the cotton fields of Georgia. Of course I miss my original home, but you cannot beat the neighbors I keep. As I said before, the men that joined me here in 1864 and 1865 are brothers who had the same dream as I did - a unified country.

After this war ended, new brothers and sisters joined me. The neighbor-

hood has become quite diverse. From the Revolutionary War through the war in Iraq, we have welcomed them to our home away from home.

It is now peaceful here in Andersonville, Georgia, and our home is a beautiful site honoring all veterans and their spouses. In late March and early April, the cemetery springs forth with a floral display of green that awakens with the breath of new life. In the summer, green grass and the smells of the morning dew drift over the grounds like a low hanging cloud. And the fall - the fall brings forth colors announcing the soon arrival of winter. But, this is Georgia, and the winters are not long.

The educational process of enlightening new generations of the events leading up to our interment 142 years ago is being continued by a new Cemetery Administrator - Gerry Allen. He has been with the Park Service for approximately four years. He previously was employed for thirty years with a major airline as an environmental and fueling engineer, but retired when an opportunity became available to fulfill a life-long dream of working with the Park Service. Previous to coming to Andersonville, he worked at Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi and at Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Being a veteran himself, he jumped at the chance to come here and work with veterans and their families. Along with his cemetery responsibilities, he is looking forward to developing interpretive programs relating to the cemetery, and telling visitors stories about those of us living here now. To Gerry, "3576" is more than a number; I am a story waiting to be told.

So, if you are in the area, stop by and see me, and talk to Gerry about me. I'll be here. My headstone may say "3576 - Unknown", but I am not unknown amongst my brothers, my friends, and the men that take care of my home.

"3576" - I am home, and I am proud of it.

NamPOW news



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"Where do we get such men?"

- RADM George Tarrant, played by Frederic March in the 1954 movie, *Bridges at Toko-Ri*

So why do people join our Armed Forces with so many options that seem at first glance to be better choices? This comparatively low-paying profession is rife with dangerous tasks, long periods of family separation, many hours on duty with no "overtime reimbursement." Further, our military system is enveloped by a totally separate system of justice in which the majority of cases are resolved solely by "the Boss." It's an organization wherein individual rights are stripped away and slowly given back as "perks" and "privileges." Why would anybody want to do it, let alone the thousands who join every year?

While there are risky civilian occupations there are none where an individual can be ordered to perform dangerous tasks with the possibility of being killed or going to jail for non-performance. The worst financial manager in the world could do this cost-benefit analysis in his head, conclude that it has no merit and head back to his Microsoft Excel™ spreadsheets where he'll toil until 5:00 p.m. and go home.

It seems reasonable to ask, "What kind of idiot would join in the first place?" A better way to explain it is "What kind of marketing genius can convince a young man to swap several years of his life for such disin-

centives and only a vague promise of the possibility of adventure, a terrific experience and doing something for something larger than one's self?"

Those are great questions with surprising answers. The draft went away more than 30 years ago. Despite gloom and doom prophecies from "pundits" who never wore any kind of uniform, our armed forces continue to do their duty and perform well. Many voluntarily join each of our armed forces every year. And many more reenlist to stay in. Voluntarily.

Despite those "experts" in Hollywood, academia and the mainstream (sic) media who constantly refer to our military professionals by a derogatory "they" (as contrasted to "we," the enlightened intelligentsia), morale remains high in the day rooms, ready rooms, bases, ships, aircraft and military vehicles of all kinds. These are far and away some of the happiest, proudest individuals in the world despite nay-saying influencers' trying to demoralize them. Morale, ironically, appears much higher than in the newsrooms of many newspapers and it was reported thus incredulously by embedded reporters during the race across Iraq.

These wonderful young people - and the military *is* a young profession - are not idiots. A large percentage falls into the upper reaches of intelligence and vocational aptitude tests. And this is despite an ongoing war - two wars - that will probably last for a while. I'd bet that the average college SAT scores of military officers picked at random are higher than those of the contemporary typical critics of the "military-industrial complex" who might be able to turn on a calculator - with training.

The reasons these volunteers join are many and not intuitive to anyone who's never served. There are certain aspects of military service that have no direct civilian counterpart. Our service personnel are together in their units 24/7 often for months at a time - which is not a normal part

of a civilian job. With rare exceptions, there's no automatic compensation for extra work and most of the military rewards are intrinsic as opposed to buying loyalty with a wad of cash.

There's camaraderie and esprit de corps and a feeling that one is doing something for a purpose larger than one's self. The bonds that tie military units and branches and individual services together are strong and have little counterpart in civilian life. For the combat arms, there is adventure and the pride of being the best at what they do. It can be seen following the annual Army-Navy football game where each team and the Corps of Cadets and Brigade of Midshipmen stand respectfully during the singing of *the other school's alma mater*. This mutual respect shown by teams and student bodies who seconds before had been beating each other's brains out is an encapsulation of all that makes our Armed Forces great and different.

They know that after graduation they'll all be playing on the same team - Uncle Sam's - but with a much more deadly set of rules.

The bond is created early in service and remains during military tours of duty and for decades afterward. This weekend my Navy squadron, the Black Diamonds of Navy Attack Squadron 216 (VA-216) is meeting in Richmond to dedicate a restoration of one of our aircraft. Nearly every living member of that squadron is here and enjoying a terrific time reliving shipboard life, liberty and our combat flying missions - harrowing and humorous. And for a brief period of time, each of us was transported to an earlier era where things were simpler, "black and white" and there were actual concrete standards. We toasted departed comrades and the young chargers who are carrying the banner now. And each felt a little sorry for those who've never experienced the satisfaction of serving in their country's armed forces.

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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JPAC Teams Deploy to Laos to Search for Missing Aircrews

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command sent four recovery teams to Laos in early May for approximately 30 days to search for evidence associated with Americans who never returned from the Vietnam War.

Personnel from JPAC and the Lao People's Democratic Republic are conducting recovery operations focusing on four American aircraft crews.

One case involves a Special Forces reconnaissance team that disappeared Jan. 5, 1968, after ground fire showered their UH-1D Helicopter and sent it plummeting to the

ground. The aircraft exploded on impact. Five Americans are unaccounted-for from this incident.

The second excavation is associated with the loss of an F-4B Phantom that caught fire after it was hit by enemy anti-aircraft artillery Dec. 22, 1967. The crew parachuted from the aircraft roughly 500 feet above the ground. Two crewmembers remain unaccounted-for.

Another excavation is associated with an O-2A Skymaster pilot who didn't return from a combat support mission. While a fellow pilot witnessed the O-2A disappear behind a ridge on Feb. 19, 1971, the pilot's remains were never recovered.

The fourth team is excavating a site associated with a Skyraider A-1G aircraft that disappeared Feb. 25, 1967, during a reconnaissance mission. Reports suggest that the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed on the lower side of a hill. The plane disintegrated on impact. One individual is unaccounted-for from this incident.

This mission is the 94th Joint Field Activity in Laos.

B-24J Liberator Airmen Buried

The remains of 11 airmen from a B-24J Liberator that crashed in 1944 in New Guinea after a bombing mission during World War II were buried at Arlington on May 5. Although formerly thought to be lost at sea, the crash site was excavated in 2002 after JPAC investigators interviewed a native of Papua New Guinea who located the crash.

The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) assisted in the identification of these aircrew using mitochondrial DNA obtained from the remains.

During this recent 2 week period, to include the 11 airmen mentioned above, 20 formerly unaccounted for military personnel (from World War II, Korea and SEA) were buried at Arlington or at their hometown locations.

Additionally, 5 other families have accepted JPAC's Central Identification Lab's (CIL) identification of remains during this same time period.

Lastly, a repatriation flight of remains arrived in Hawaii on May 1.

Airman Lost in 1942 Crash is Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. Army Air Forces airman, missing since 1942, have been identified.

He is Aviation Cadet Leo Mustonen, 22, of Brainard, Minn. The family has not set a date for his burial.

Mustonen was one of four men aboard a routine navigation training flight which departed Mather Field, Calif., on November 18, 1942. Their AT-7 Navigator aircraft carried about five hours of fuel, and when the plane did not return to base, a search was initiated. It was suspended about a month later with no results.

In 1947, several hikers on Darwin Glacier in the Sierra Nevada mountain range discovered the aircraft wreckage. Human remains of three of the crew found at the site were buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, Calif.

Several other hikers on Mendel Glacier (adjacent to Darwin Glacier) discovered frozen human remains, circumstantial evidence and personal effects in October 2005. Park rangers from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and a forensic anthropologist from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) recovered the remains, which were later shipped to the JPAC laboratory in Hawaii.

Scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) also used mitochondrial DNA as one of the forensic tools in the process. U.S. Army Casualty and Mortuary officials located and briefed representatives of the families of all four crewmen.

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civilians

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Another Perspective

By Jeri Cadwallader
Constantine-Conklin

Most of the recollections about Santo Tomas Internment Camp are told by people who had longed to be liberated, longed to return to their old way of life - the life they knew to be better than prison camp life. But, for me, this camp life was all I knew and being liberated meant my child's life turned inside out - culture shock. I was born in camp during the first few months of its inception. I was, therefore, *almost three years old* when we were liberated - literally saved from starvation and the almost certain slaughter of every person held prisoner there. At that time, I did not know this.

A few sketchy memories remain from those years - years where I had learned that food was precious and never to be scorned. I had become accomplished at hitting the ground in a ball, nose in the dirt, hands clasped together at the back of my neck, knees tucked under my chest; I knew there were uniformed men who would kill us if we didn't follow the "rules". I knew my parents loved me. I had no siblings yet, but I had cousins. We had an ever-present extended family in camp; we, the prisoners, were a community. And this was my world - the only world I had ever known. To me, at that time, it was normal. I have a camp newspaper clipping about my birth, a food punch card and a few other items to verify the information I was too young to recall, though a few fragmented memories remain. Among these memories of three years in camp, this is one: I remember standing beside my parents and looking up into the blue sky and seeing men floating down beneath what I now know to be parachutes; some waved their arms wildly, others tried to cover their faces with their arms, and some hung limp. Gunfire bursts coincided with their bodies jerking inexplicably - some called out and some did not. They looked small suspended up there

in the sky. My mother, crying audibly, pressed my face into her skirt and the side of her knee, closing the door on this fragment.

I survived the shattering of our community when we were liberated as well as the boat and plane trip back; I remember nothing of the boat, but do remember the seats and partial interior of the plane. It seemed everything was gray. We arrived safely in the States after what I am told was a harrowing journey. We rushed to a phone booth and my mother phoned the hospital to talk with her father for the first time in over three years; in seconds, she dropped the phone and broke into sobs. I saw the black phone swinging slightly on its silver cord there in front of my eyes. I had never seen a phone booth or pay phone before and was at a loss to understand what was happening. Later, my father explained that my grandfather had died two weeks before our arrival. We did not know.

The years went by and I grew into a young woman and rarely ever thought about Santo Tomas and those early years. In my early twenties, my father and I were traveling by car to someplace or other. He was driving. "Look at all those tanks," he said, "I've never seen so many in one area." I peered out the car windows, but could not discover even one tank. Growing impatient, he said, "They're right there in front of us." He paused and then started to chuckle ruefully, "Oil tanks, Jeri, *oil tanks*." I had been looking for *Army tanks*. The word "tank" had a different meaning for me still. As a child the enormous tanks had terrified me.

Sometimes, I suppose the old adage (slightly modified) is true: You can take the child out of the prison camp, but not the experiences out of the child - ever.

How did this all come about...my bio as it relates to the Philippines and China

My name is Tom O. Moore, Jr. I was the second son born to Tom and Nada Moore on November 27, 1942, in Sacramento. About 1992 I decided

that I wanted to really get to know my uncle, Emil "Scotty" Scott. All I knew was that he was killed in a plane accident in China, March 14, 1942, that he knew Claire Chennault and had something to do with the Flying Tigers. My interest in computers and the advent of the Internet made it a natural for me to build a web site in honor of my uncle: <http://www.cnac.org/emilscott>

My mother's brother, Emil "Scotty" Scott, was killed flying China National Aviation Corporation's (CNAC) last DC-2 on a flight out of Kunming, China, March 14, 1942. He had married a girl from Maui that he met while stationed in Hawaii. In Kowloon, on November 19, 1939, he married this girl, Elizabeth Steele, later to be known as "Georgi".

Georgi and Scotty had been living in Manila in 1941. In August 1941, Scotty decided to go back to China and fly for CNAC as the money was so good. Georgi stayed in Manila as they thought it would be safer than China, not realizing what the near future was about to bring. Georgi was interned at Santo Tomas and Los Banos until liberated February 23, 1945. My family had lost contact with my Aunt Georgi until about 1980 when I renewed our friendship. We kept in close contact until her death in San Francisco, June 19, 2005. Here is the link to her life story: <http://www.cnac.org/emilscott/georgi01.htm>

In addition to the pages for my aunt and uncle, I started building some web pages for people I had begun to meet who were either Internees or POWs of the Japanese in the Philippines or who knew my Aunt Georgi. This link will show the camps I have listed: <http://www.cnac.org/powcamps01.htm>

These sites have continued to grow with the help of former Internees/POWs and their families. So, if you have anything you'd like to add, no matter how big or small, please let me know. I can be reached at: Tom O. Moore, Jr., 11200 Sunrise Ridge Circle, Auburn, CA 95603-6009; pepperbud@pobox.com.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2006**

M

Members'

forum



Hello Cheryl,

Enclosed is my response to Mr. Kreft's letter in the Nov/Dec. Bulletin.

Mr. Kreft,

Re: Your letter to Cheryl in the Nov/Dec 2005 Bulletin.

The VA provides a card called a "Fee Basis" card for those disabled veterans who are unable to travel long distances to a VA medical facility for medical care.

Sounds great, doesn't it! It should be, but it isn't.

You may use this card for all medical except dental and eye glasses.

The problem is, this card **limits the payment to the medical provider to the amount that he could have collected from Medicare.**

With the Medicare program, the provider collects from Medicare 80% of the Medicare approved amount, and then the provider bills either the patient or his supplemental insurance for the additional 20%. Under the Fee Basis program, the provider is NOT ALLOWED to bill for the additional 20%.

Since the medical providers are unwilling to forego the additional 20%, very few will accept the Fee Basis card.

I have written to the VA about this problem with no results.

Good Luck!
Charles B. Heffron, NSO
1836 Timbercrest Dr.
Athens, TN 37303
(423) 745-9209

Dear Cheryl

I requested "Fee Basis" authorization from my doctor at Palm Desert (CA) Clinic and took it to the Loma Linda VA hospital. Loma Linda completed the authorization to go to the therapy clinic. I have had two sessions this week so far and one more tomorrow.

The amazing thing about this entire project is the VA never examined me or anything. They took my word for it. I had a thorough examination done at the therapist's office. And it is helping. If anyone is interested in pursuing information about "Fee Basis" authorization, they can contact me.

Joseph Zelazny
84-250 Indio Springs Dr.
#454
Indio, CA 92203

Dear Clydie,

A note of thanks for the nice January Bulletin and the profile story by Layla Wilder and her coverage on Oflag 64, the same camp in which I was in (sic) for nearly six months. The remarks furnished to her and embroidered so nice were: George Juskalian and Wilbur Sharpe, both dear friends of mine for nearly 60 years. If you think it is appropriate and timely, I hope you will ask Layla to get in touch with me and I would gladly respond to many other questions which she may address for a future printing.

Thank you again, and our best wishes from Chapter #1 in Fayetteville, NC.

Sincerely,
Herbert L. Garriss

In response: Herb, you are more than welcome to write to Layla. Her information is with her article.

Porter E Stevens wrote:

To: Marsha Coke
What every POW should carry is a piece of paper listing medicines he takes every day and how many he takes every day. This paper should list the name and phone number of the VA hospital, along with the primary care doctor. Also put on the paper that you are 100% disabled; if you have to go to another hospital on an emergency call, it will help that hospital get in touch with the VA hospital to see what they should do.

Marsha, I have been doing this for years and it sure helps getting something done in an emergency matter. But I've never seen anything written up about something like this, and since you write about all the health things, maybe this would help somebody else.
porterestevens@zoominternet.net.

Cheryl:

There are several sources of info on the internet about POW Camps. Go to www.google.com and type in these or similar words, German POW Camps

There are many locations. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German_WWII_POW_camps

When you have the camp pages open - you can do a page search: Press on Ctrl + F (meaning "go Find") and type in the German town name that was associated with the camp or the Camp number (example) IV-B or IV B or IVB.

John Kline, Editor, The CUB

events and information



June 1-4, 2006. The Collier Chapter will be hosting the 2006 Annual Convention for the Department of Florida at the Best Western Naples Plaza Hotel, Pine Ridge Road, Naples. The hotel is located across from exit 107 of Interstate 75. Reservations for the hotel can be made direct by calling the toll free number 1-888-679-6655. For further information contact Yolanda Hansen at 1-239-348-3541 or e-mail at yth925@aol.com.

June 5-8, 2006. The Dept. of New York State Convention will be held at the Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, Kerhonkson, NY. Contact Cmdr. Harold Perkins, 972 Main St., Clifton Park, NY 12065 or (518) 587-2965 or Perky972@aol.com for more information.

June 8-10, 2006. The Dept. of Arizona will hold its 24th Annual State Convention at the Doubletree Guest Suites, 320 N. 44th St., Phoenix, AZ 85008. Contact Dept. Commander Henry Ong, 602-992-0094; or convention chairman Alice Mabante, 602-943-6885.

June 8-11, 2006. A reunion of those held in Stalag 9 A, B, C, etc. is scheduled in Burlington, VT at the Holiday Inn. There is a free shuttle from the airport to the Holiday Inn. A number of bus trips are being scheduled. Contact: William and Marjorie Busier, 2 Crestview Road, Essex Jct, VT 05452; 802-878-4796.

June 9-11, 2006. The Dept. of West Virginia State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. Contact Dept. Cmdr. Charles Brown, 145 Seemont Dr., Kingwood, WV 26537; 304-329-

1382, or Chapter Cmdr. Annette Smith, 621 Front St., Brownsville, PA 15417; 724-785-8536.

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

July 20-23, 2006. Co. "B", 9th A.I.B. 6th Armored Division will hold its 61st Annual Reunion in Staunton, VA. Contact Eugene Brooks, 6064 Lee Jackson Highway, Raphine, VA; 540-377-2408.

July 23-30, 2006, The Korean War Ex-POW Association will hold their 31st Annual Reunion at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, TN. CONTACT: F. Jack Chapman at (505) 523-2298 or by email : fjchap@aol.com.

July 20-24, 2006. The WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 42nd Annual Reunion will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Spokane, WA. All Hands as well as family and friends are welcome. PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; ptboats@ptboats.org.

August 23-24, 2006. The Dept. of Wisconsin will hold its 30th annual State Convention at Elizabeth Inn, Plover, WI; 800-280-0778. For more information, contact Cmdr. Albert Kath, 608-754-3740.

August 24-27, 2006. The Department of Ohio State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn/Fremont, Ohio. Contact: "Doc" Unger, 1316 Sloane Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 or call (216) 521-1889.

August 27-30, 2006. The 1st Gathering of Bataan & Corregidor and

Former Prisoners of War of the Far East (including Wake and Midway Islands) will be held this year in Pigeon Forge, TN. Family, friends and guests are welcome. For reservations: Smoky Shadows, 1-800-362-1188. For information, call Wayne Carringer, 828-479-6205.

Sept. 5-10, 2006. The Third Infantry Division Society and attached units will hold their 87th reunion in Nashville, TN at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel; 1-800-325-3535. For reunion information, contact: John Shirley, 925-447-2256; jbs Shirley@comcast.net or Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521; info@theReunionBrat.com.

Sept 7-9, 2006. North China Marine POW reunion will be held at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in San Diego. Contact John Powers 715-253-2629 for details.

Sept. 13-15, 2006. The Dept. of New Jersey Annual Convention will be held at Holiday Inn, Atlantic City, NJ. For information, contact: Cmdr. Frank R. Koehler, 732-244-4629.

Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2006. The 45th Infantry Division Thunderbirds will hold their annual reunion. Please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; 210-681-9134.

Sept. 20-23, 2006. 80th Infantry Division's 87th Annual Reunion will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA. Reservations call, 706-660-1000. Chairman Robert H. Burrows, Box 453, Broomfield, CO 80038; 303-439-2198.

Oct. 3-8, 2006. The 59th National Convention of AXPOW. See the Ex-POW Bulletin for more details.

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looking for



I am looking for information about **Charlie John Johnson**. He is from North Carolina and participated in D-Day in Normandy. He was injured during D-Day and carries a large scar on his chest. He was also in the military police in Couvron in France during the 1960s before retiring. I am looking for this man because he is my father. I would like to know him or to know if I have brothers or sisters. Thank you for any help you can give me. Denis Dambrine, 38, rue d'Ypres, 69004 LYON France;
denisdambrine@yahoo.fr.

My name is Sheldon Hollingshead. Captain Charles Dunn made me sergeant in the field while I was serving with the **45th Div., 180th Inf., Company A**. Colonel Shaeffer (sp?) was our CO. We were in Sicily, April 1943 before we were captured. If you remember this event, or were in my Company, please contact me. My address is: 2013 Verano St., Sacramento, CA 95838; 916-922-9460.



Above is a group of American POWs who were with me in Germany. This picture was taken at a **work camp near Spremberg, Germany**. All but four of us were Jew-

ish. One Italian; the rest were American. We formed a clique to beat the Germans at their own game. If you recognize anyone in this picture, please contact T. Lucero (Blackie), 3620 Owens Way, North Highlands, CA 95660.

My deceased father, **John Roland Kyler**, was a POW in Stalag Luft VI from 2/21/44-7/15/44; Stalag Luft VI from 7/18/44-1/29/45 and Stalag Luft I from 2/8/45-5/13/45. I am trying to locate someone who may have known him during that period of his life that he put away. The following is a list of names that he had written in his notebooks:

STALAG LUFT VI & IV: Allen, Robert E. - B17, Ashby, John M. - B24, Baker, Frank L., Barowowski "Binn", Vincent - B24, Bolt, Clarence E. - B17, Brown, Harold F. - B-17, Brown, J. H. - B17, Brumley "Lund", Harry S. - B117; Burns, Kenneth M.; Clink, Robert L. - B17; Cole, Raymond L. - B17; Craver, Bill - B17; Crawford, Lewis W. - B17; Crippen, Richard - B17; Daly, John F. - B17; Dean, George O. - B17; DeBuyser, Jr., Edward; Dodge, Jr, C. C. - B17; Dye, Norman - B24; Finch, Charles C. - B17; Garder, Walter T. - B17; Gonshor, Edmund A.; Hagen, E. F. - B17; Harris, Wm. B - B26; Henderson, C.E. - B17; Hill, J. L. - C47; Hlavac, Geo. A. - B17; Hoge, Kenneth J.; Huntzinger, F.E.; Jamison, Gene C. - B17; Johnson, William D. - B17; Kelly, Ernest C. - B17; Kirby, Donald E.; Krebs, Bill - B17; Lani, LeRoy F. - B17; Lewis, N.A. - B17; Lindsey, Harold E. - B17; Linn, Virgil L. - B17; Longerbone, Robert W. - B17; Lunsford, Carter J. - B17 - Asst Camp Leader; Martinez, John; Masiewicz, Joseph R. - B17; McKemie, Floyd M.; Mills "Red", Evian C. - B17; Mitchell, Robert A. - B24; Moeller, Martin A. - B17; Nardozzi, Anthony J. - B24; Nichols "Nick", C.B. - B17; Parker, E.S. - B24; Paules, Frank - Camp Leader; Pingel, Robert - B17; Pursley "Red", Lewis J. - B17; Robert A. Mabie; Santangelo, Mario N. - B17; Shields, William E. - B17; Shuhart, Norman - B17; Simoncelli "Simon", John J. - B27; Smart,

Donald - B17; Smotherman, J.P. - B17; Snook, Earl B. - B17; Stevenson, Walter G. - B17; Thomas A. Putnam - B24; Thompson, Howard J. - B17; Townsend, Herman - B24; Ulsh "Doc", Robert L. - B17; Vindhurst, R.C. - B17; Wells, Harold F.; Wild, Edward C. - B24; Wildy, Wilson H. - B24; Yuhas, John A. - B17. **STALAG LUFT I:** Arkett, Eugene C.; Bailey, George R.; Ballard, Norris L.; Carr, Edgar W.; Catone, Orlando R.; Clark, Roger R.; Cunningham Theodore E.,; Fields, John D.; Ford III, John S.; Gonzales, Adolph M.; Gooch, Wm. W.; Grech, Albert; Hawkins, Luther H.; Lemcke, Jr., Ernest R.; Longo, Robert J.; Lowe, Gordon L.; Marucco, Leroy N.; Matlock, Dan V.; Matthews, Wm. F.; Michael - Kutga; Ovelletto, Dewey H.; Prince, Wade; Roock, Harold R.; Schnelpf, Cliff; Scull, Harold W.; Seidel, Robert S.; Sheehan, Kenneth E.; Siegel, Leonard M.; Thuesen, Paul J.; Waltho, Percy; Winegarner, Lloyd A.; Wolfe, Dempsey W. If anyone recalls my father, I can be contacted at the following address: Candy Brown. 6126 Sullivan Hollow Road, Kill Buck, NY 14748; (716)945-5208; cbrown6126@aol.com. I appreciate whatever you can do to help me retrace my father's WWII experience.

Do you have any info about a **Hospital POW Camp just outside of KOLN (Cologne)**? I had been wounded the day of the "capture" and was taken on one of my own weapons carriers to a Russian POW camp (they were working on a railroad keeping it open) thence to a German "stud" camp (Germans fathering children using Russian captive women for the glory of the Reich). I spent Christmas eve and day there, then onto this huge Haufenstahl outside Cologne. We were billeted with French, Russian, British etc. I actually had a bunk with sheets!!! The food was meager but good (with a decent variety). There were also some wounded Air Force officers there. Any hints????? Thanks, Jim Reiss, JARKiwi@cox.net.

Your Stories



WWII Bittersweet Stories

By Bill Singular
Box 232
Lyndon, KS 66451

Many acts of courage were never recorded, but these are worth mentioning:

During a raid over Berlin in 1944, a B-17 was hit by enemy flak and the tail, with the gunner in it, was shot off completely, but did not break up. Against all odds, the tail went into a glide and lit on a snowy mountainside and slid gently down the slope and the tail gunner survived.

On another occasion, a B-17 was bombing a ball bearing factory near Nuremberg and the plane was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire. The plane blew up. All but one crew member had his parachute on. As the men were going earthward, the man without the chute was caught by another crew member as he dropped by him. Both survived.

God is in his heaven. Believe in miracles.

It is tradition when an Air Force crew member is killed, he is buried in full uniform with his wings. We have to believe, when he enters Heaven, an Angel will award him new wings!

Many sacrifices were made and these men and women will never be forgotten.

Liberation Day

Craig A. Schoeller
112 Andrea Road
Cheltenham, PA 19012

In late April 1945, the prisoners of Stalag XIB at Fallingbomel, Germany

learned that the camp was to be evacuated the following day. Allied forces were approaching! We were filled with apprehension for we knew that a road march was fraught with physical hardship and danger.

Our spirits, however, were lifted that evening when at dusk we heard the roar of an aircraft engine and saw a British Spitfire. It flew low over the camp, waggled its wings and hastily departed. We knew something was up. The next morning, we heard explosions, the lights went out and the water stopped running. The Germans had blown up the power plant and water works.

Soon we heard cannon and small arms fire, followed by the arrival of British Cromwell and Churchill tanks rumbling up the road. It was liberation day!

There were cheers of joy and tears of emotion as we greeted our liberators, the men of the British 7th Armored Division. On each of their vehicles, little black rats were painted. They were at El Alamein and had chased Rommel across Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. After landing at Normandy, they fought across France, Belgium and into Germany.

The Germans, after retreating in haste, fired a few artillery rounds into the camp, but the British quickly silenced their gun. There were snipers in the nearby woods, so we waited until later in the day when it was safe to go out through the wire.

It was a good feeling to view the camp from the outside looking in. We saw Russians carrying slaughtered hogs and chickens, and then we came across a little general store on the edge of town. It was well cleaned out, but we did find a large box of candles. We carried them back to our barracks, and soon hundreds of candles burned brightly in the miserable surroundings.

Men who had worried about their survival and if they would ever see loved ones again now found themselves free. Their feelings and emotions were slowly released by spon-

taneous song. One fellow started to sing God Bless America and over a hundred voices joined in. Then another started Home on the Range. The chorus continued with Amazing Grace, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, The White Cliffs of Dover, Roll Me Over in the Clover, Lili Marlene and many more. There would be a slight pause, someone would think of a favorite song, and the serenade would continue. It lasted for several hours. Finally the candles gradually burned down and weary, but happy men fell off to sleep.

It was one of the most memorable, unforgettable and emotional experiences of my life.

Praise Poem

By Rachel Lane
Submitted by
Grandmother A. Frances Lane
Biglerville, PA

My grandpa, Weldon, is as tall
as a White Oak tree.
His hair as blonde as butter.
His golden moustache is as
prickly as thorns.
He's as brassy as big band music.
When I think of him,
"In the Mood" comes to mind.
Yet being as strong as a falcon,
He's as playful as a child.
His music is as soft
as a summer's eve.
Some is fast and some is slow,
But all makes me happy.
I often wonder why
he's never sad.
He hides his feelings
like he's trapped.
But when he's mad,
you'll know it.
For he doesn't suffer fools.
He always tries to make
other people happy.
Never thinks of himself.
Out of all the many things that
I love about my Grandpa,
those are just some.

News Briefs

Elks Lodges to Fly POW-MIA Flag

From AXPOW member Joe Zelazny, of Indio, CA: A flag honoring Prisoners of War and soldiers still Missing in Action will officially become part of Flag Day ceremonies for the first time in June, 2006 at Elks Lodges nationwide. The POW-MIA flag will also be available at the Chicago Office beginning in May.

Aid & Attendance

For years, this VA program has provided monthly payments to veterans and their spouses who have high out-of-pocket medical costs, and who are disabled or homebound, to help them offset health care expenses. The eligibility formula balances income against medical bills, so middle-class vets could qualify for payments as high as \$1,744 a month. VA officials think more veterans might be eligible than are tapping into the program. A recent study commissioned by the VA suggested only about one-fourth of eligible veterans nationwide, and about 17% of eligible widows, are participating.

A doctor must certify that a veteran or spouse has conditions requiring the "aid and attendance" of another person or care center in order to live safely. About half of those receiving the benefit live in

nursing homes, with the rest in assisted living centers or receiving home care.

WWII

Merchant Marines May Gain Veteran Status

Merchant Marines who served in WWII were not given veterans status until 1988, causing many of them to miss out on earlier veterans benefits. A bill before Congress would give the remaining World War II mariners, or their surviving spouses, \$1,000 a month for the rest of their lives. More than half of the U.S. representatives have signed on to the bill (H.B. 23). An estimated 10,000 World War II mariners are alive today.

VA to Seek DNA of All Veterans

Researchers are mapping the human genome for the day when physicians will use a patient's genetic profile as preventive medicine. To that end, the Department of Veterans Affairs plans to create a genetic database from potentially millions of VA patients. The VA plans to collect the first 100,000 samples in October, 2007 and foresees a database as large as the number of veterans who are willing to contribute samples of their DNA. VA also plans to write rules regarding handling a person's genetic profile while using it in research.

Legislation Seeks to Repeal Civil War Era Prohibition on Lawyers

A bill which would allow veterans to hire lawyers to represent them in their efforts to obtain federal benefits from the U.S. Department

of Veterans Affairs has been introduced by U.S. Senators Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina).

The legislation (S.2694 - the Veterans' Choice of Representation Act of 2006), if enacted, would repeal restrictions flowing from a policy born nearly 150 years ago when attending law school was not required to become a lawyer and many practicing law were considered ill trained and unscrupulous. "I suppose that some would still warn that lawyers are not to be trusted, but the reality is that the laws are complex and I want veterans to have the option of hiring an attorney to help navigate the system, if they choose," said Sen. Craig, who chairs the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "A recent editorial put it this way, 'If American soldiers are mature and responsible enough to choose to risk their lives for their country, shouldn't they be considered competent to hire a lawyer?' I believe the obvious answer to that question is 'yes,' Simply put, the current paternalistic restriction is outdated."

Under current law, all 24 million living veterans are prohibited from hiring a lawyer to help them navigate the Veterans Affairs system. It is only after a veteran has spent months and even years exhausting the extensive VA administrative process that the veteran then may retain counsel - a process that often takes 3 or more years to complete.

"This overdue change will significantly improve veterans' access to the VA and expedite just outcomes," said Sen. Graham, who also serves on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "In today's complicated world, legal assistance in navigating the system is more timely than ever. I thank Chairman Craig for his leadership in this effort."

news briefs cont...

Under the current appeals system, about 85 percent of veterans choose to be represented by Veterans' Service Organizations or state veterans agency personnel.

"I want to be clear that I am not suggesting that attorneys should be considered necessary in order to obtain VA benefits," Chairman Craig said.

"We must ensure that the system continues to serve veterans in a friendly, non-adversarial manner - regardless of the presence of an attorney or any other representative. I also want to be clear that, although I believe veterans should have the option to hire attorneys, they should not be discouraged in any way from utilizing the valuable free services now provided by many dedicated representatives of veterans' service organizations."

VA Alert on VAS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has put out a warning regarding involvement with an organization calling itself Veterans Affairs Services (VAS). This organization is gathering personal information on veterans under a VA services look-alike website www.vaservices.org.

This organization is not affiliated with the VA in any way and in reality is a private company based in California. It describes itself as a nonprofit veteran's service organization but they are actually affiliated with the Military Financial Planning association.

They may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. VA's legal counsel has requested installations be informed of this organization's activities and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. In addition, anyone having ex-

amples of VAS acts such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, is requested to pass these on to VA Staff Attorney Michael.Daugherty2@va.gov, (202) 273-8636.

VDBC Studies SSI and VA Disability

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) wants to study if vets should get VA compensation and Social Security disability at the same time. The commission's Chair, General Terry Scott, has asked Congress for clarification of the intent of Congress in the Charter that was given to the VDBC and has requested that clarification for the Commission public meeting May 19, 2006. If approved he intends to launch the study. It appears the VDBC is about evenly split on the idea of studying the SSDI issue. General Scott's request has raised major concerns among the veteran organizations.

Veterans' benefits are separate and distinct from Social Security, so receiving payments under both programs is not dual compensation for the same disability, as some have tried to argue. That argument could open the door to cutting off VA compensation when a disabled veteran becomes eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. If so, it could lay the groundwork for cutting or eliminating veterans' benefits as a way of saving the government money.

The VDBC was established by Public Law 108-136 and signed into being by President Bush in November, 2003. Its charter states they are to study "whether a veteran's disability or death should be compensated" and at what level if any. The Commission is independent of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. It is made up of 13 political appointees. Four were appointed by

Democratic Members of Congress, four more by Republican Members and the other five by President Bush.

They can be contacted at veterans@vetscommission.intranets.com or (202) 756-7729/0229 Fax or by writing the Commission's Executive Director at 1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004. Remaining schedule includes visits to San Diego (June), Seattle (July), Boston (August), and Atlanta (September). Interested veterans, retirees, survivors, and currently serving members are encouraged to attend and be heard. Additional information on the Disability Commission and upcoming field hearings can be found at: www.vetscommission.org/index.htm.

Bataan Memorial March Draws Thousands

The 2006 Annual Bataan Memorial Death March was conducted March 26 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The event drew nearly 3,900 servicemembers and civilians to the Army test range in southern New Mexico. Marchers represented all 50 states as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and Korea.

Now in its 17th year, the memorial march honors a special group of World War II heroes who were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines.

The next Bataan Memorial Death March is scheduled for March 25, 2007. For more information, visit the Bataan Memorial Death March website at <http://www.bataanmarch.com/>.



59th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
Oct. 3-8, 2006
Nashville, TN
"Music City USA"
Convention Registration



Registrant's Name _____ Nickname _____

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

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Unit When Captured _____ Theatre _____ Camps _____

REGISTRATION (per person) until September 3 ~ \$65.00 after Sept. 3 - \$70 no refund after Sept. 7

Payable to: 2006 Convention Fund

Mail to: Ruth Gronbeck-Klump

2817 Lera Jones Drive

Antioch, TN 37013

Saturday Night Banquet Choice:

Chicken Wellington _____

Slow Roasted Prime Rib _____

Choose One

American Ex-Prisoners of War
59th National Convention
October 3-8, 2006
AGENDA

Tues. Oct. 3

National Service Officer Training
Tours

Wed. Oct. 4

National Board of Directors Meeting

Thurs. Oct. 5

Opening Ceremonies
National Legislation Program
Medsearch Seminar
Commander's Reception

Fri. Oct. 6

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

Sat. Oct. 7

Continuation of General Assembly
Banquet & Installation of Officers

Sun. Oct. 8

National Board of Directors Meeting

Ex-POW Bulletin
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AD ORDER FORM

Overall page size is 8 1/2" x 11"

AD PRICING

Full page.....\$200

Half page.....\$125

Quarter page.....\$75

Business card.....\$35

Deadline for submissions: Sept. 1, 2006

Name _____

Organization
(if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Ad Size _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks or Money Orders
payable to:
2006 CONVENTION FUND

Mail order form with ad materials and
check to:

AXPOW Convention-Program Ad
1015 Mitchell Road
Nashville, TN 37206

Total Registration: \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon, Friday Oct. 6

Cost: \$21.00 _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

We're planning a number of tours and other activities. Right now, we're still making plans, but more information will be in the Bulletin as plans are finalized.

The PNC Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 6th.

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct. 6th.

For further details, check at the AXPOW Registration Desk at the hotel once you check in.

59th National Convention
October 3-8, 2006
HOST HOTEL ~ Millennium Maxwell House Nashville
2025 MetroCenter Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37228-1505
tel: 615 259 4343 fax: 615 313 1327 reservation: 866 866 8086
email: maxwell@mhrmail.com

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
Number of Beds in Room 1 2 Smoking Non-Smoking
Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club
Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____
Special Needs _____

ROOM RATES: \$79 PER NIGHT~Ask for AXPOW Convention Rate
Please make your reservations prior to Sept. 3, 2006.
Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon
complimentary continental breakfast, parking, airport shuttle,
as well as complimentary shuttle within a 5 mile radius of the hotel
Traveling I-40 (West) through downtown Nashville to exit #208 which is 65 North. Take 65 North,
exit #85, MetroCenter Boulevard. Turn left, and at the second stoplight turn left again.



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2006



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

Military Service Organization (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or civilian):

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years.

Submit To:
Jim Clark, Chairman
214 Oakdale
Bastrop, LA 71220
(318) 281-5505
jaclark@bayou.com

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contributions



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

Contributions are not tax deductible

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Frank Kravetz, by F J
Brunner

In honor of William Wade House,
by Northeast Louisiana Chapter

In memory of Betty Carlson, by
Mid-Iowa Chapter

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Catherine Dow

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Mary Marone

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Joseph Glydon

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Ruth Malfitano

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Audrey Lemkan

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Barbara Thompson

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Lucia Uibelhoer

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Barbara Reynolds

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by M/M James Frungillo

In memory of Charles Tedesco,
by Dolores & Nick DelSpina

In memory of Lloyd Hester, by
Joe & Irene Scaglione

In memory of Ray Tartaglia, by
Myrtle Miller

In memory of Raymond
Newbauer, by Tere & Bill

Newbauer, Jr.

In memory of Ruth Ainsworth, by
Norma & Domer Miller

MEDSEARCH FUND

Mahoning Valley Chapter, Ohio

In memory of Agnes Roberts, by
William & Margery Nichols

In memory of Dorothy Kelch, by
Greater St. Louis Area Chapter

In memory of Stewart Cooper, by
William & Margery Nichols

In memory of Dorothy Stumpf, by
the Department of Maryland

In memory of Ethel Wiitala, by the
Department of Maryland

In memory of Frances Cockrell, by
Cen-Tex Chapter #1

In memory of Kenneth Littlejohn,
by Cheaha Chapter of Alabama

In memory of Patricia Head, by
Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter

N.S.O. FUND

In honor of Fred Campbell, by
Robert & Grace McAdam

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

In memory of Mario DeLisi, by
Connie DeLisi

In memory of Thomas
McDermott, by Cathy & Pete
Ferrero

In memory of Thomas
McDermott, by Howard & Debra

Perlmutter, Bryan & Jaimee

In memory of Thomas McDermott,
by Joanne Maughan

In memory of Thomas
McDermott, by Al & Gen Folmar

chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

1609 S. 23rd Street

Rogers, AR 72758

(479) 636-2287

Cannot help but be just a bit excited as I sit down to write the June 2006 devotion. Found that in our Chapter, there is a POW who was

in the same camps as I and was liberated April 29, 1945. He saw the same things and perhaps felt the same way I did to see that gate crashed open by one of our tanks. Added to those thoughts of long ago, we are making plans for a celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary in May. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the true and living God put His arms about me during those 43 aerial combat missions over German-held territory and during those months as a POW. Those hellish times still linger in the back of my mind, but the love that I have received and enjoyed since has been the greatest of blessings. I have found that most of those very special comrades that I meet have the same beliefs in the true and living God who allowed us to live through these times and return to a very special life here in the USA. May we always give Him praise and glory for His goodness, mercy and the blessings that come our way.

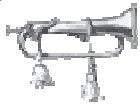
Let us pray: Great is Your name above all others and may we humbly bow before Your Holy throne giving thanks for Your kindness, love and grace. May we always lift our hearts and minds to Thee, O Lord, as we face each day knowing Your love and caring is with us. May we in our own way reach out and show Your kind of love to all who are in need of Your blessings. Let Your will be done in our lives as we enjoy life here on earth and look forward to a life everlasting in Your Holy kingdom. Touch those who are hurting in any way, but most of all, may Your will be done in our lives so we might honor and glorify You as our true and living God.

Thought for the month: I cannot help but praise God for His blessings that come my way. Perhaps one of the greatest is those kind, considerate and very precious people who show God's kind of love.

Ex-POW Bulletin

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taps



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

ARMSTRONG, Robert Cleveland, of Lockhart, TX. He was 87. Bob was serving as a B-29 engineer and bombardier when he was shot down over Yokohama in 1944. He spent 7 months in solitary confinement before liberation. Bob was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Fay, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

BRIERE, Esther D., widow of Past National Treasurer Randall Briere, passed away March 11, 2006. She lived in New Braunfels, TX and was a member of the San Antonio Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and many friends and extended family.

CARLSON, Betty L., 79, of Newton, IA died March 30, 2006. She was the widow of BF Carlson who was a POW in 17B. She is survived by 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren. Both Betty and BF had been members of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, AXPOW.

COOPER, Roy L., 84, of Malden, CO passed away April 5, 2003. During WWII, he served with the 106th Inf. Div., 422nd Reg., Co. B. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalags IVB, IXA and IVA. He was liberated near Helmstadt, Germany. He is survived by one sister, several nieces and nephews and good friend Joe Cucarola.

COPPING, Richard, age 87, of Talcotville, CT died May 20, 2005. He served with the 45th Div., 157th Inf., Co. B in North Africa, then Italy. He was a POW at Stalag 11B. He was a life member of AXPOW and the CT Chapter. Survivors include his wife, Mabel, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

CLEMENTI, Evelyn, of Beloit, OH passed away in Feb. 2006. She was a member of the Steel Valley Chapter #13, AXPOW. Evelyn was the widow of Ex-POW James Clementi.

DOBBS, Byron A. "Barney", of Birch Run, Michigan, died February 14, 2006 at age 86. In Korea, Barney flew 22 night intruder missions in the B-26 during his first month on station. He was shot down and taken prisoner by the North Koreans and Chinese forces. He remained "missing in action" until his release in the very last prisoner of war exchange on September 5, 1953. He was a POW for 19 months in Camp 2. He is survived by a sister, 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

FULKERSON, Robert D., of Centennial, CO died April 13, 2006. He was 84. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 100th BG. He was shot down and held in Holland and Germany. His wife, Micheline, 2 step-children and 6 grandchildren survive him.

GARRETT, James, of Pocatello, Idaho, died March 21, 2006. He served with the 15 AF, 454 BG, 737 BS, and was a POW in Luft 4, Dulag Luft and Stalag 9C. He is survived by two daughters.

GILTZ, Pauline, a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, died January 14th in Pinellas Park. She enjoyed crafts, especially quilting. Pauline is survived by Arthur, her husband of 59 years; 2 sons, a daughter, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

GORDY, Bernie, 83, died May 1, 2006 in Bay Pines, FL. He was a WW II Army Air Corps veteran, with service in the 8th AF, 701st BS, 445th BG. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III, IV, and I. Bernie was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by Mary, his wife of 46 years; 2 daughters, 3 brothers, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GRIFFIN, Norman Beryl, of Salem, OR passed away Nov. 24, 2005. He was nearly 87. Norman was captured while serving in the Philippines. He

spent more than 3 years as a Japanese POW, seeing the results of the atomic bombing before being liberated. He is survived by friends and family.

GROW, Dale, 88, of Begley, IA died March 11, 2006. He was wounded and captured while serving with the 33rd Armored Division during WWII. After 10 months in hospitals and POW camps, he was liberated by British forces. Dale was a life member of AXPOW and the Mid-Iowa Chapter. He is survived by Annabelle, his wife of 63 years, 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 grandson and 1 great-granddaughter.

HASTIN, James D., of Mt. Vernon, WA (formerly Anacortes) died March 21, 2006. He served in the 374th FS, 361st FG during WWII. He was held POW at Fresnos Prison, Buchenwald, Stalags Luft III and VIIA-XIIID. James was a member of the Fourth Corner Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Bette, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

HECK, John, of Hyde Park, NY, a member of the Hudson Valley Chapter, AXPOW, died March 20, 2006 at age 79. John served in the Army with Co. B, 22nd Inf. Reg., 5th Inf. Div. He was wounded and captured in Germany on March 7, 1945. John leaves his wife of 47 years, Marjorie, 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

HAFF, Alverta (Sipes), 81, died March 19, 2006. She and her husband, Ex-POW Gene, were active members in the Central OK City Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 2 daughters, 7 stepchildren, 17 grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

taps continued

INTOCCIA, Victor, age 85, passed away Feb. 23, 2006. He was a member of the Brooklyn Key Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, Victor served with the 100th BG, 8th AF. He was interned in Stalag 17B until liberation. Survivors include 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandsons and 1 great-grandson.

KAPMEYER, John, 83, of Harpers Ferry, IA died Feb. 25, 2006. He served in the Air Force as a B-17 pilot during WWII and was a POW in Germany for 19 months. His beloved wife of 53 years, LaMarr, survives him; he also leaves 1 sister, numerous extended family and many, many friends.

KELLY, Charles P., of East Haven, CT passed away March 15, 2006 at age 85. He served with the 30th Inf. Div., "Old Hickory", 120th Reg., Co. G. He was captured at Malmedy, a mile from the massacre site. Charles was a life member of AXPOW and the CT Chapter. He leaves his wife, Margaret, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, 1 brother and 1 sister.

KLARE, George, of The Plains, Ohio, died March 3, 2006. A B-17 navigator, serving with the 8th AF, 100th BG, he was shot down near Hamburg Germany. He is survived by his wife, Judy.

LUOMA, Edwin O., 86, of Eveleth, MN passed away April 6, 2006. Edwin was a member of Arrowhead Chapter, AXPOW. He had served with the 106th Inf. Div. "Golden Lions". Edwin is survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MAGNUSON, Harold C., of Bellevue, Washington, died March 7, 2006. He served in the US Army with the 526th Armored Inf., Co. B. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge, and was

held in 12A and 10C. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Lou.

McDILL, Rosemarie D., of Virginia died March 12, 2006. She was the widow of Ex-POW Thomas McDill; both were life members of AXPOW and the Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter, Hampton, VA. She is survived by one son and one granddaughter. Family, friends and POW buddies will miss her.

McEVOY, James A., 86, of Andover, MA passed away Nov. 20, 2005. James was on the crew of the PT boat that evacuated MacArthur from Corregidor. He was later taken prisoner by the Japanese. He is survived by his beloved children - 1 son and 1 daughter - and many friends and extended family.

McGILL, John J., age 84, of Norwich, CT died March 14, 2006. He was a B-17 pilot with the 301st BG, 32nd BS, 15th AF, flying out of Italy. He was a POW in Luft 1, Barth. John was a life member of AXPOW and the CT Chapter. He is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 1 sister, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MILLWOOD, Haskell, 83, of Columbia, SC passed away Feb. 23, 2006. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was a member of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW. His loving wife, Hazel, survives him.

NAAB, Florence, 86, widow of Ex-POW Lawrence, passed away March 26, 2006. Both Florence and her late husband were members of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW.

NASH, Loren H., of Loveland, CO passed away March 20, 2006. He was 85. Loren was captured while serving with the Third Div., 15th Inf., Company K. He was held in Stalag 7A until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Merna, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

NAUMAN, Donald Leroy, 88, of San Diego, CA died March 26, 2006. He was captured in the Philippines while serving in the Army Air Corps; he spent 3 ½ years in Japanese prison

camp. He is survived by his wife of 66 years (Edith and Donald met in the Philippines before his capture), 2 daughters, 5 grandsons and 8 great-grandchildren. He was an active member of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

NEWBAUER, Raymond F., of Stratford, CT passed away Jan. 27, 2006. He was 81. He was shot down while serving with the 8th AF, 351st BG, 508th BS. He was held at St. Wendell, Dulag Luft and Luft 4. He was a life member of AXPOW and the CT Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Theresa, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter and 1 brother.

NORWOOD, Elmer M., of Bixby, OK died Feb. 6, 2006. He was 81. Elmer served with Patton's 3rd Army, Unit 714. He was held in Stalag XIIA for 7 months after capture. He leaves his beloved wife, Wanda, 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Elmer was a member of the Tulsa Chapter, AXPOW.

O'BRIEN, James P., of Superior, WI passed away Feb. 15, 2006 at the age of 87. James was shot down over Munich and held 5 months until liberation. He was a member of the Wisconsin Arrowhead Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Evelyn, 1 daughter, 3 sons and 6 grandchildren.

PARKS, Paul, of Colorado passed away March 24, 2006. During WWII, he served in the Air Force and was shot down over Germany. Paul was held in Dachau for 3 weeks then transferred to Stalag Luft 4. He was a member of the Western Slope Chapter, Grand Junction, CO. He is survived by six children and many friends and family.

PECKHAM, Irvin W. Sr., of La Cross, WI died July 30, 2005. He was 87. Irvin was serving with the 106th Inf. Div., 422nd Reg. during WWII. He was captured in the Ardennes Forest and imprisoned in Stalag IXB, Bad Orb. Survivors are his wife, Laura, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

taps continued

RICE, Arthur, age 89, of Austin Texas died April 2, 2006. He was serving in the Philippines when the Japanese attacked early in 1942. His unit was surrounded and he was captured in the Fall of Bataan. He spent 3 ½ years in Japanese POW camps. His loving and devoted wife of 60 years, Minnie, survives him; he also leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, 2 sisters, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

SCHROTTER, J. Harold, 85, of Royal Palm Beach, FL died March 7, 2006. He served in the 385th BG, 8th AF as a B-17 radio operator. He bailed out over Germany and upon landing, he was nearly killed by villagers. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 58 years, Beatrice (Bea). He is survived by his son, Craig, a grandson, two nephews and two nieces.

SMITH, George O., of Lexington, SC, died March 19, 2006. He was a member of the Palmetto Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and 376 Heavy Bombardment Group Veterans Association of the 15th AF. A flight engineer on a liberator aircraft, he was a POW at Stalag Luft 1 in Barth. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Hellon, and two daughters.

SUPRI, Theodore F., age 91, of Menomonie, WI died Feb. 23, 2006. Ted served with the 36th Inf. during WWII. He was captured during the invasion of Salerno and held for 19 months in Stalag IIB and a farm at Hammerstein. He was a member of the Wisconsin Arrowhead Chapter, AXPOW. Ted leaves his wife of 63 years, Lela, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

TIEFENBACH, Rogger, 87, of El Cajon, CA passed away March 22, 2006. Rogger served in the Navy during WWII. He was captured on Corregidor and held in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Margaret, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 stepsons and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

VERNON, Anthony H., 86, of Sebeka, MN died Feb. 14, 2006. He joined the Army in 1943 and was stationed in Germany in the Occupation Army before being transferred to Korea. Anthony was captured after being wounded in June 1950. He was a member of Lakes Region Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Emmi, 5 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 6 siblings.

WAGNER, Robert M., of North Hudson, WI died July 17, 2005. He was 85. Bob was an active member of the Wisconsin Arrowhead Chapter, AXPOW. He was captured while serving in the Army during the North Africa/Italy campaigns. He managed to escape from an Italian POW camp after 8 months. Survivors are his wife, Hattie, 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WARREN, Richard, member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, AXPOW died June 27, 2005.

WATTS, Henry C. Sr., of Ashville, NC passed away July 25, 2005 at the age of 86. He served in the Army during WWII and was captured in North Africa. Survivors include his son, Henry, Jr.

WEIL, Melvin S. Jr. Lt Col, 86, of Clanton, AL. died February 21st, 2006. He was a pilot assigned to the 342nd BS, 97th BG, 15th AF, flying out of Italy/North Africa. He was shot down near Ploesti, Rumania, imprisoned in Bulgaria, and liberated by the Russians. Melvin is survived by three sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren.

WIEDMAN, Allen, of Roscommon, MI passed away in 2005. He was a

bombardier with the 466th BG during WWII.

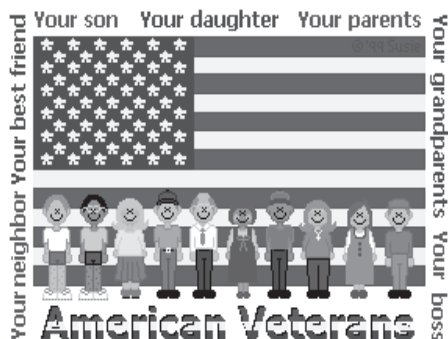
WIITALA, Ethel G., 82, of Baltimore, MD passed away March 26, 2006. Her husband was captured while serving in the 8th AF; he was held in Stalag Luft IV. Ethel was a life member of AXPOW and member/historian of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Eino (Stacy), 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

WILEY, Eugene M., prolific writer for the EX-POW Bulletin and former member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW died March 6, 2006. He was 85. Gene served with the 92nd BG, 407th BS during WWII. He was held in Stalag Luft III until liberation. He leaves his wife, Virginia.

WORKMAN, Mildred, 81, of Lima, Ohio died Jan. 8, 2006. She was the wife of the late Calvin Workman, organizer of the Northwest Central Ohio Chapter #7, AXPOW. Milly is survived by 1 son, 1 sister and 2 grandsons.

YATSKO, John Albert, of Mission Hills, CA passed away Jan. 31, 2006. He served with the 8th AF, 448th BG, 715th BS, flying B-24s out of England. He was held in Stalags 6, 11A and Luft 4. His devoted wife of 60 years, Laura, survives him; he also leaves 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

YOUKER, William C., 80, of Dolgeville, NY died Oct. 10, 2005. Bill was a member of Central NY Chapter, AXPOW. He was captured while serving with Co. B, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Inf. Reg., 82nd Airborne Div. of the Army. He was captured and held in Stalags XII, IVB. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Maxine, 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



new members

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

New Annual Members Welcome Home!

Eugene
Grashorn
Mattawan, MI
4 Inf Div
12A 2/22/45-
4/15/45

Chris Sand
Willmar MN
Daughter of Gunnar Sand, ETO

James M. Walker
Riverside, NJ
Army
Namwon, KOREA

Jack Warren Courtin
Evelyn H.
Albuquerque, NM
USAF
Bucharest Romania
4/4/44-9/20/44



Charles G. Rickenbach
Shirley A.
Shillington, PA
24 Div 19 Reg M CO
KOREA
1/1/51-2/10/51

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Walter Zaluzny
Vernon, VT
143 Inf 36 Div CO K
School Building, Marched,
Liberated on a dairy farm
2/10/45-4/27/45

New Life Members Welcome Home! *denotes new member to AXPOW

Lawrence W Ward
Donna **39133 39134**
Springfield, OR
8 AF 100 BG
Luft 1

Barbara J Thompson **39135**
Mt. Pleasant, SC
Widow of William Thompson
Luft 1

Garry C Fornalczyk ***39136**
Erie, PA
USAAC
Nurnburg, 7A

Ralph Edward Wilson ***39137**
Palm Springs, CA
8 AF 855 BS 491 BG
Dulag Luft , Luft 4, 357

Melisa Barker Benham ***39138**
Lorena, TX
Daughter of Morris Barker, ETO

Elizabeth S. Godfrey ***39139**
Alpine, CA
Widow of Grover Godfrey
3B

Darrel D Hornsby ***39140**
Tucumcari, NM
AAC, Stalag 1

Patricia B Hannaman ***39141**
Crowley, TX
Widow of Robert Hannaman
7A, Bavaria, Munich

Mark L Schaefer
Eleanor L **39142 39143**
Savannah, GA
401 BG 91 BG
Dulag Luft, Luft 3, 1, 7A, 17B

David D Morgan
Evelyn ***39144 39145**
Carnegie, PA
5006 PIR 101 ABN Div
Tesse, Sur, Virey, Alencon,
Memmingen, 7B

Raymond Arias
Belva C **33379 39146**
Lake Havasu City, AZ
7 Inf Div 32 Regt CO I
Camps 1 & 5
1950-1953

Violet Bridges
39147
Jemison, AL
Widow of
Auston Bridges
Germany
4/1/45-4/8/45

Annie Watson
39148
Purlear, NC
Widow of Fred H Watson
Germany
12/20/44-5/8/45



50/50 drawing

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

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

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes.

The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
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Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2006**

31

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2006**



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