

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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May 2006



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Memorial Day at Arlington Cemetery

Inside...News...stories...events, NSO success stories...and more



Clockwise from top left: Clara Stillwell Dolbow holding ceramic centerpiece - one of 80 she made for the National Convention banquet in Denver. She's shown with San Antonio Chapter Commander Ray Howard; Steven Gentling at left with Pendleton Woods. Pendleton had just received the "Outstanding Member Award", given at the National Convention in Denver; Memorial flagpole, flags and tablet at the La Grange Free Will Baptist Church are in memory of AXPOW members Kendrick Harrison, Sr. and Earl Howell; PJVC Harley Coon was honored with the Wright-Patterson Veteran Volunteer Service Award for his contributions to this country.



national commander



Gerald Harvey

Spring has come. We all feel better when the sun is shining, the flowers and trees are blooming, and it is warmer. Our mid-year National Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. has come and gone. We are all looking forward to our department conventions. Getting together for fellowship and telling our stories is important for all of us. As we age, we live from day to day. We appreciate each day that God gives us.

In Washington we spoke before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. (Executive Director Les Jackson spoke before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee earlier this year.) Our testimony was well received. We still have to work on getting our last three presumptives passed into law. HR1598 and S1271 include (1) chronic liver disease, (2) diabetes, and (3) osteoporosis. We still need you to write your Senators and Representatives. Tell him or her how important the bill is and ask him/her to cosponsor the bill. Do not write to Washington. Write to their local offices or make phone calls. We need your help NOW before it is too late.

Most of you know that we lost a good friend and Jr. Vice Commander due to the death of JVC Isaac Ornelas this past November.

Nat'l. Director Bonnie Sharp was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the vacant position of Jr. Vice Commander, Western Zone. Jim Wells was appointed to replace her as Nat'l. Director for the Northwest Region. For health reasons, PNC Richard Throckmorton resigned the position of Judge Advocate. PNC Bill Schmidt has been appointed to that office. Robert Ball, Chairman of the Education Committee has also resigned because of serious illness. He has not yet been replaced.

I had asked the Strategic Planning Committee to make suggestions for downsizing our organization because we have fewer members able and willing to serve as officers. The Committee's report was excellent but the Board members were not ready to cut down on the officers. That means that we need to cut down on expenses and find more money to keep our organization in operation. In the last seven years we have spent \$500,000 dollars more than we took in during that time. Our reserve funds are down to \$284,000. If we continue spending more than we take in, we could be out of business in a couple of years.

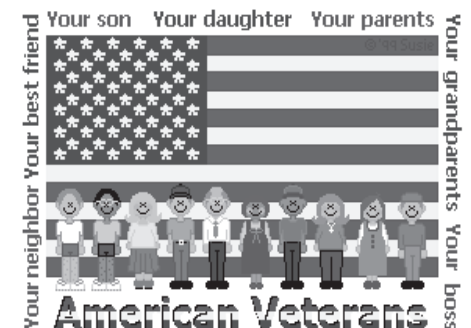
If you have an idea of a way we can earn more money, share it with the Ways and Means Committee. The committee knows what we can do and what we can't do as a non-profit organization. With the exception of membership dues, our other income producing programs have grown out of suggestions from members. We can all help by supporting the direct mail program, the 50/50 program, and by getting and using the AXPOW Credit Card.

We need money that we can spend on our Bulletin and our everyday expenses. These are big items in our budget. If you, your chapter, or your state department are financially able and want to help, you can send a donation to our National Headquarters in Arlington,

Texas. Checks should be made out to American Ex-Prisoners of War. If checks are designated to the General Fund, the money can be used wherever it is needed. Every donation helps whether it is large or small. Recently the Mahoning Valley Chapter of Ohio sent us a check for \$1500.00 designated for the General Fund, Legislative, and Med-Search. The chapter members raised the funds to help support our National Organization. Thank you Mahoning Valley!

AXPOW cannot give tax breaks for donations. If you know someone or some company that would like to help AXPOW, but they need a tax break, refer them to the Eagles POWER Foundation. Currently, if funds that come to them are designated for American Ex-Prisoners of War, our organization will get 100% of the amount given and the donor will get a tax break. These are just suggestions. Let's all do what we can to help.

Regarding the disagreements between AXPOW and the American Ex-Prisoner of War Foundation, the court case is now before a judge who has ruled that we go to mediation in an attempt to make a settlement agreeable to both parties. The AXPOW Board of Directors has approved a motion that a committee from AXPOW meet with representatives of the Foundation to try to agree on a settlement of the issues on which we disagree.



Ex-POW Bulletin
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The Fall of Corregidor

The 11,000 defenders of Corregidor held out against intense Japanese bombardment until May 6, 1942. With some 12,000 shells crashing onto the island every 24 hours, sleep for the exhausted defenders was virtually impossible. Even huddled deep underground in the Malinta Tunnel, women and children bled from the ears from the concussive effect produced by the earth-shaking explosions overhead. Food, water and ammunition had dropped to critical levels when the Japanese finally secured a beachhead on the island on May 5th, and landed tanks. On the next day, General Wainwright ordered the American flag lowered on Corregidor in the hope of avoiding a massacre. In a flagrant repudiation of international convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war, General Homma warned Wainwright during surrender negotiations that he would execute all prisoners of war unless the surrender applied not only to Corregidor but to all American and Philippine troops still resisting the Japanese on other islands of the Philippine archipelago. In the hope of avoiding reprisals against his troops, and the women and children under his care, Wainwright agreed.

**Soldier, rest, thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more.
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.**

Sir Walter Scott

Memorial Day began as a memorial for Civil War veterans. It has become both, a National Decoration Day of family graves, and the holiday that opens the summer season. It is celebrated with backyard barbecues, outdoor picnics, and parades.

No survivor of that war remains, but the memories of it grow longer. As do our memories of the parades with floats; civic organizations and drum majorettes twirling their batons; lines and lines of young veterans from The Gulf War and shorter lines of older men who saw service in the Second World War. As long as there are wars, there will be veterans and casualties. We will still decorate the graves of those men whose bodies came home and remember those who don't.

Today, most states officially recognize the May Memorial Day as a legal holiday, but it is not celebrated on May 30th in every state. Over time the holiday has expanded to encompass our other national wars. Although Veteran's Day is celebrated as well, Memorial Day has become the most important day of recognition of our armed forces.

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**Deadline for the July, 2006 issue
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**Please send all materials to the
editor at the above address.**

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
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on capitol hill



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Testimony by Gerald Harvey, National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War Presented before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee March 30, 2006

Chairman Craig, Ranking Member Akaka, Distinguished Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and Guests

I welcome the opportunity to again speak on behalf of American Ex-Prisoners of War (POWs). We are deeply grateful for all that Congress and VA have done for POWs over the last thirty years. As you know, prior to that POWs were an invisible part of this nation's veterans. It has been incorrectly stated we preferred it "this way" out of shame over being captured. This is not true, we are proud to have lost our liberty while defending the right of all Americans to be free. We were so happy to be free we simply wanted to again enjoy that freedom with our homes and families. As a result, we made few requests upon our government at that time.

Public awareness about the plight of aging POWs in general was reawakened by the plight of the Americans held for months and years by North Vietnam. Max Cleland, then VA Administrator and, later, Senator from Georgia - took the lead in correcting our country's failure to remember POWs from earlier wars, including WWII. For the first time, Total Captured, Repatriated, and Currently Alive were obtained from original military records.

VA then immediately took steps to identify all POWs receiving health care or disability benefits. Congress, too, responded promptly and directed VA to conduct a review of all policies and **Ex-POW Bulletin**

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procedures relevant to POWs and established a POW Advisory Committee to review and advise VA and Congress on matters related to POWs. In a very real sense, POWs were changed to a high priority group within VA and Congress.

Over the past thirty years many presumptives were established to simplify the process by which POWs could obtain needed disability benefits and medical care. The ongoing research conducted on POWs by the National Academy of Sciences provided the basis for these Congressional and VA actions. At present most of the long term health problems causally associated with the brutal and inhumane conditions of captivity have been identified and made presumptive.

We urge Congress to act on the several remaining medical conditions identified in current legislation. The first of these, "chronic liver disease" is simply a clarification of a current presumptive - "cirrhosis of the liver". The National Academy of Sciences has stated in writing, this more accurately reflects their findings - cirrhosis is simply the final stage of chronic liver disease.

The second is diabetes. It has already been established for Viet Nam veterans exposed to certain chemicals and other factors. POWs were similarly exposed to adverse factors while in captivity that are causally related to diabetes.

Third - osteoporosis. This is directly related to the absence of the calcium needed to maintain bone structure, a common situation for POWs. This condition becomes apparent after a bone break. Adjudicators typically already decide these claims for POWs. Making it a presumptive simplifies the process for adjudicators and POWs alike.

H. R. 1598 introduced by Rep. Michael Bilirakis and S. 1271 introduced by Sen. Patty Murray cover these presumptives. We ask the full committee to support these bills. We call to your attention that there is virtually no increased cost to any of these proposed presumptives. Costs are more than off-set by rapidly diminishing numbers of POWs already on the disability rolls or favorably acted on by VA adjudicators via a longer process of evaluation.

Senator Harry Reid introduced S2385 earlier this month known as the Combat Related Special Compensation Act. Rep Michael Bilirakis, a long-time advocate of concurrent receipt legislation, previously introduced the companion bill HR1366 in the House. It is currently before the Armed Services Committee. This legislation will amend some parts of The Combat Related Special Compensation Act, Chapter 61 of the Defense Authorization Act to an earlier effective date of January 1, 2006. With the current effective date of 2014 and their current advanced age, it is a statistical probability WWII military retirees will not live to receive this deserved compensation. Rep. Bob Filner introduced HR2369 to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity. We ask the committee to give their full support to these bills.

In closing, I want to again express our deep appreciation for identifying POWs as a high priority and worthy segment of the veterans' population. We are also gratified for VA's ongoing efforts to identify every POW and be processed for applicable VA benefits by adjudicators specially trained to handle POW claims.

Note: 1.) AXPOW receives no grants or funds from the Federal Government 2.) My curriculum vitae is that of service as a member and officer of AX-POW.

NSO



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CHAMPVA:

WIDOW(ER)

Remarriage: Eligibility for CHAMPVA ends at midnight on the date of remarriage if the widow(er) remarries prior to age 55. Effective February 4, 2003, a CHAMPVA-qualifying widow(er) who remarries at age 55 or older continues to be eligible for CHAMPVA.

Termination of Remarriage: A widow(er) of a qualifying sponsor who remarries and the remarriage is later terminated by death, divorce or annulment may establish CHAMPVA eligibility. The beginning date of eligibility is the first day of the month after termination of the remarriage or December 1, 1999, whichever date is later. To re-establish CHAMPVA eligibility, copies of marriage certificate and death, divorce, or annulment documents (as appropriate) must be provided. NOTE; TRICARE would not retain the individual that remarries after age 55.

There are a few people in the CHAMPVA program that were initially not allowed to be in CHAMPVA because they were TRICARE eligible under their first spouse. This spouse was CHAMPVA eligible sponsor. When TRICARE drops the remarrying

widow, they are then eligible to enroll in CHAMPVA.

MEDS BY MAIL:

If you have submitted a current CHAMPVA Other Health Insurance Certification (VA Form 10-7959C) that supports that you DO NOT have another health insurance plan with pharmacy coverage, you can use the Meds by Mail for your non-urgent, maintenance medication needs.

There are no CO-PAYMENTS, NO DEDUCTIBLE REQUIREMENTS AND NO CLAIMS TO FILE. Prescribed maintenance medication is mailed to your home. This program is a great benefit. Be sure to mail the renewal slip in the package back immediately so you don't misplace it. With this program, you do not need to sign up for the new PART D program.

MEDICATIONS OBTAINED FROM A LOCAL PHARMACY:

The CHAMPVA allowable amount for pharmacy services is the average wholesale price plus a \$3.00 dispensing fee. CHAMPVA pays 75% of the allowable amount after the deductible for the year has been met and you pay 25%.

THE AMOUNT CHAMPVA PAYS IS 75%, NOT 80% AS STATED IN MY ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY BULLETIN. Remember to show your CHAMPVA card every time you go to a local pharmacy to fill a prescription.

Answers to some questions:

Is there a time limit for submitting prior claims for medical expenses?

Claims for prior medical services/supplies must be submitted to CHAMPVA within 180 days of notification of CHAMPVA eligibility (date of postmark on envelope in which you received your CHAMPVA Authorization card).

Will Medicare and CHAMPVA cover all my health care needs?

Combined, these two programs will cover most medical needs. However, there are some benefits that

are not provided under either program, such as cosmetic services or eyeglasses are either not covered or covered in extremely limited situations.

Can I use a VA Medical Center to obtain my care if I am Medicare eligible?

No, CHAMPVA beneficiaries with Medicare cannot use a VA Medical Center because Medicare will not pay the VA Medical Center for the services provided.

If you are currently being seen at a VA Medical Center, but will become entitled to Medicare, you will need to find a different provider.

What is a Medigap policy?

Medigap policies are supplemental insurance policies specifically to cover health care costs that are not covered by Medicare.

If you have Medicare and CHAMPVA, do I need a Medigap policy?

The decision is really up to you. CHAMPVA has no premium costs or enrollment fees and provides essentially the same health care coverage as most Medigap policies. If your only insurance is Medicare, CHAMPVA becomes a secondary payer. Although CHAMPVA does not pay for your Medicare Part B premiums, it does pay most out-of-pocket expenses for benefits covered by Medicare and CHAMPVA.

Doris Jenks

NSO information: Gordon Thompson, 450 Ford Road, #130, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 (952) 540-9343.

Rudy Collins, 111 Whitman, #1B., Leavenworth, WA 98826; phone (509) 548-4107. He is also available to help POWs in Montana

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 Department of Veterans Affairs		Application for CHAMPVA Benefits			
VA Health Administration Center		CHAMPVA Eligibility	PO Box 469028	Denver, CO 80246-9028	1-800-733-8387 FAX 303-331-7809
Attention: After reviewing the reverse side, complete form in its entirety (print or typewritten only) and return with a copy of the veteran's DD214 (Report of separation from Active Duty) along with other required documentation. Please do NOT exceed the designated space (i.e., do NOT extend Last Name into First Name area).					
Section I - Sponsor Information					
Veteran's Last Name		First Name	MI	Social Security Number	VA File Number (Claim Number)
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number (include area code)		Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)		Date of Marriage (mm-dd-yyyy)	
Is veteran deceased?	☐ Yes ☐ No	If yes ? If no go to sect. II	Date of Death (mm-dd-yyyy)	Did veteran die while on active military service?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Section II - Applicant Information (if necessary, continue on additional 10-10d and complete in its entirety)					
Last Name		First Name	MI	Social Security Number	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number (include area code)	Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)	Children age 18 to 23 (see reverse)	Eligible for Medicare? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, attach copy of Medicare card	Relationship to the veteran (i.e., spouse, child, stepchild)	
Last Name		First Name	MI	Social Security Number	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number (include area code)	Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)	Children age 18 to 23 (see reverse)	Eligible for Medicare? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, attach copy of Medicare card	Relationship to the veteran (i.e., spouse, child, stepchild)	
Last Name		First Name	MI	Social Security Number	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number (include area code)	Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)	Children age 18 to 23 (see reverse)	Eligible for Medicare? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, attach copy of Medicare card	Relationship to the veteran (i.e., spouse, child, stepchild)	
Section III - Certification					
Federal Laws (18 USC 287 and 1001) provide for criminal penalties for knowingly submitting false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims					
I certify that the above information is correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief. (Sign and date on right.) If certification is signed by a person other than an applicant, complete the following.				Signature X	Date
Last Name		First Name	MI	Telephone Number (include area code)	Relationship to Applicant(s)
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code

Notice: Termination of marriage by divorce or annulment to the qualifying sponsor ends CHAMPVA eligibility as of midnight on the effective date of the dissolution of marriage. Changes in status should be reported immediately to CHAMPVA, ATTN: Eligibility Unit, PO Box 469028, Denver, CO 80246-9028 or call 1-800-733-8387.

Privacy Act Information: The authority for collection of the requested information on this form is 38 USC 501 and 1781. The purpose of collecting this information is to determine your eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits. The information you provide may be verified by a computer matching program at any time. You are requested to provide your social security number as your VA record is filed and retrieved by this number. You do not have to provide the requested information on this form but if any or all of the requested information is not provided, it may delay or result in denial of your request for CHAMPVA benefits. Failure to furnish the requested information will have no adverse impact on any other VA benefit to which you may be entitled. The responses you submit are considered confidential and may be disclosed outside VA only if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records number 54VA16, titled "Health Administration Center Civilian Health and Medical Program Records – VA", as set forth in the 2003 Compilation of Privacy Act Issuances via online GPO access at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/2003_pa.html. For example, information including your social security number may be disclosed to contractors, trading partners, health care providers and other suppliers of health care services to determine your eligibility for medical benefits and payment for services.

The Paperwork Reduction Act: This information collection is in accordance with the clearance requirements of section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. The purpose of this data collection is to determine eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits.

Application for CHAMPVA Benefits – Important Notes and Definitions

CHAMPVA Eligibility Criteria

The following persons are eligible for CHAMPVA benefits, **providing they are NOT eligible for DoD's TRICARE benefits:**

- the spouse or child of a veteran who has been rated by a VA regional office as having a permanent and total service-connected condition/disability;
- the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died as a result of a VA-rated service-connected condition; or who, at the time of death, was rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected condition; and
- the surviving spouse or child of a person who died in the line of duty and not due to misconduct.

Medicare Impact. If you are eligible for Medicare Part A and you are under age 65, you MUST have Part B to be covered by CHAMPVA. Effective October 1, 2001, CHAMPVA benefits were extended to beneficiaries age 65 or older. If you are eligible for Medicare Part A and you are age 65 or older, you are required to have Part B to be covered by CHAMPVA if your 65th birthday was on or after June 5, 2001, or if you were already enrolled in Part B prior to June 5, 2001.

Eligibility Definitions

Service-connected condition/disability – refers to a VA determination that a veteran's illness or injury was incurred or aggravated while on active duty in military service and resulted in some degree of disability.

Sponsor – refers to the veteran upon whom CHAMPVA eligibility for the applicant is based.

Spouse – Refers to a wife/husband or widow(er) of an eligible CHAMPVA sponsor - If the spouse remarries prior to age 55, CHAMPVA benefits end on the date of the remarriage. Effective February 4, 2003, if the spouse remarries on or after age 55, CHAMPVA benefits continue. Additionally, in some instances, a remarried surviving spouse whose remarriage is either terminated by death, divorce or annulment is CHAMPVA eligible when supported by a copy of the appropriate documentation (death certificate/divorce decree/annulment certification).

Child – Includes legitimate, adopted, illegitimate, and stepchildren. To be eligible, the child must be unmarried and: 1) under the age of 18; or 2) who, before reaching age 18, became permanently incapable of self-support as rated by a VA regional office; or 3) who, after reaching age 18 and continuing up to age 23, is enrolled in a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution---school certification required (see below).

NOTE: Except for stepchildren, the eligibility of children is not affected by divorce or remarriage of the spouse or surviving spouse.

School Certification

In order to extend CHAMPVA benefits to students age 18 to 23, school certification of full-time enrollment must be submitted by the college, vocational or high school, etc. Student status for CHAMPVA eligibility purposes is established based on school terms for up to one year. For high schools, this period is the normal beginning and ending school year. For colleges and vocational schools full-time enrollment requires a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester or equivalent number of credit hours on any academic calendar year.

School certifications must be on school letterhead and include the following:

- student's name
- student's social security number
- exact beginning and ending dates of each semester or enrollment term
- number of semester hours or equivalent (high schools excluded)
- certification of full time status

School generated forms are acceptable as long as they provide the above information. While certifications submitted in a foreign language are acceptable, additional time will be required for translation. Certifications may be submitted by mail to the address on the front or by FAX to 1-303-331-7809.

NOTE: It is important to notify the Health Administration Center of any change in student status such as withdrawal or change from full-time to part-time status. School vacation periods, holidays, and summer breaks* are not considered an interruption in full-time attendance and will not create a break in CHAMPVA eligibility.

*providing the student attends school on a full-time basis both before and after the summer break

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

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325-944-4002; fredrev@webtv.net
Committee members:
NSO Frank Kravetz (412) 824-2674;
ND Bill Richardson (910) 864-7318;

AXPOW Outreach FOR Former Prisoners of War & Spouses

OUTREACH to former POWs and/or surviving spouses continues in many ways:

VA POW Benefit Alerts still are getting results as they have been placed in various bomb group and infantry division newsletters, with several responses from the 451st BG, 94th Inf. Div., 45th Inf. Div. and others.

Our Ex-POW Bulletin is truly a much-read voice of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. It must continue as frequently as AXPOW can afford. Almost every day we get a call from someone who has read the Outreach, NSO or other articles that have sparked VA claim possibilities for someone, or a relative. So often the question is, "Could this apply to me?" or "Is my widowed mother eligible for a widow's benefit?" Thank goodness the 2004 VA heart/stroke ruling has opened many to retroactive VA benefits.

Using our AXPOW National Directory to call members in States where there are no AXPOW National Service Officers has produced many happy POW and especially widows' results. Over 185 phone calls to Oklahoma AXPOW members, among other results, 13 widows have received retroactive benefits for a whole year, plus ChampVA medicare supplement savings, with over 50 people sent

ChampVA information. We are working on Utah listed AXPOWs now and the Utah VARO POW Coordinator is helping tremendously Rudy Collins of Leavenworth, WA keeps working Montana with Allen in Lowell, Leonard in Livingston, Lester in Bozeman and Lyle in Anaconda getting 100% DC recently, with four more pending and a DIC application started for Mrs. S in Missoula.

Our country-wide AXPOW VA Outreach could not be effective without the wonderful cadre of NSOs under Doris Jenks' direction. When inquiries come, where possible they are referred to NSOs in their state, such as recently to Frank Kravetz in PA, Les Jackson in MD, Jack Messemer and Louise Dunham in Phoenix, Paul Dallas in NC and Irwin Stovroff of FL.

PLEASE: If you are a leader in an AXPOW Chapter, think about two or three of your members who would be comfortable calling every member on your roll. Be nosy...for their sake! ASK if they have 100% disability rating...DOES THE WIDOW HAVE THE VA WIDOW'S BENEFIT? Care! Reach out! We exist to help!

Success Stories

NSO Surprises that bring better lives

Pat H. in Crowley, TX, writes: "As the second anniversary of my husband Bob's death approached, I was still getting adjusted to daily life without him. So when neighbor Robert McAdam gave me an Ex-POW Bulletin with information about possible benefits for widows of POW veterans, I thanked him, but with doubting hopes. Then I gave my information to you, an industrious advocate for this program, and you helped me submit my application to the necessary channels of Widows of POWs Program. I felt

like my husband had given me an anniversary hug, which I really needed! That compensation benefit came so fast! My life has changed. The clouds of anxiety have stabilized. I've found a positive attitude about life again, and my children even notice. I marvel at what you people of American Ex-Prisoners of War are doing to make life better for so many. And now, WHAT can I do to help you all? (Signed) Grateful Pat H."

Now Pat is a new AXPOW member and Ft. Worth Chapter is about to have a new member.

The story goes on: Robert McAdam calls to say he only has a 50% disability rating. Wow! He helped us get Pat and now we get to help him get an upgrade too, to 100%.

A continued note: In the March/April 2006 Bulletin, DIC claim for Leota S. in Stringer, MS referred to POW Coordinator in Jackson VARO, Nancy Mullins, who called Leota and did the claim work. Now Leota has called to say, "I've gotten my first VA check, for over \$13,000 retroactive, and now I can put that new roof on my house after the storms. I feel like my husband is still taking care of me, even though he died 14 years ago. Thanks so much for your and Nancy's help."

Just now as I was writing this, the mail came. A letter from Willis Young in Hanna City, IL, with copy of the 1997 death certificate for James W., along with phone number of his surviving spouse. I called Mrs. W. and told her since her husband had died of a stroke, the Oct. 7, 2004 VA ruling for former POWs on heart and stroke surely make her eligible for the widow's benefit, as well as a benefit for her handicapped son. Thanks to sensitive Willis Young, this widow and son will finally get the VA benefits due them.

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Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
Kandace_Muller@nps.gov

Andersonville Holds Living History Event

By Kim Humber, Park Ranger

On March 11 and 12, Andersonville National Historic Site held its 21st annual "Andersonville Revisited." The event was a two-day and one-night living history program designed in a way that visitors of all ages could experience what prison life was like at the infamous Camp Sumter. Over 40 volunteer reenactors and park staff portrayed Union prisoners and Confederate staff. Through the weekends



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events over 1100 people attended the various programs.

The event kicked off Saturday morning at 10:00 am with the arrival of prisoners into the prison site. Other activities took place in the northeast corner of the prison site where replicated shebangs are located. This area is also where a replica of the stockade wall stands. Scenarios that were recreated by the prisoners and guards included guard drill, artillery demonstrations, issuing of rations, guard inspection, prisoner escape and punishment, raider attack, and shebang building. In order for prisoners to protect themselves from the elements, shebangs were erected. These make shift structures were constructed from materials that were available such as tree limbs, rope, tent halves, gum blankets, and/or clothing. The raiders were Union prisoners who preyed upon their fellow prisoners who were defenseless and stole their belongings.

Former prisoner John Ransom, 9th Michigan Cavalry, (portrayed by volunteer Al Johnson) was available during the day to talk with visitors about his experiences and attempts to escape from Camp Sumter.

Volunteer Kevin Frye was in the Andersonville National Cemetery during the day to recount to visitors some of its history.

The park was excited to have a celebrity on site. Martin Sheen and his daughter Renee Estevez flew in on Friday night just to attend the event. Mr. Sheen talked with staff and volunteers after going on a candlelight tour and posed for pictures. He has had an interest in Civil War history since he portrayed Robert E. Lee in the Gettysburg movie. He also played a small role in the Andersonville Trial television play shown on PBS in 1970.



Candlelight tours were offered to the public on Saturday night. Visitors were met by a former Union prisoner who escorted them along the north end of the prison site while explaining the hardships that prisoners endured. Visitors were eventually led to the area where the prisoners were camped. The prisoners again reenacted scenarios which had a greater impact among the public during the dark.

Guidelines developed by volunteer coordinator for the event, Mark Stibitz, ensured that the event was authentic. Reenactors were required to wear uniforms that conformed to those issued to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or the Georgia Reserves. No modern jewelry or watches were allowed, eyeglasses had to be of that era, smoking of cigars and pipes only (no modern cigarettes with filters were allowed), and only one ration of period food was issued, cooked, and eaten.

Through the years, this popular program is a favorite among visitors and is an effective way for those visitors to understand the hardships suffered at Andersonville.



NamPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
804.675.5213 (o)
804.675.5218 (fax)
804.389.1668 (cell)
pgalanti@comcast.net

Gotcha

Capt. John Thornton, WWII fighter pilot, recalled by the Navy for the Korean conflict as one of the Navy's first operational helicopter pilots, was one of the Navy's living legends. He might have been the role model for Mickey Rooney's role in *Bridges at Toko-Ri* except that he was captured and kept for nearly three years by the North Korean and Chinese Communists. Ever irascible, Thornton completed a Navy career after repatriation in 1953 and became known for his lecturing on his POW experience to mostly Navy and Marine Corps personnel whose duties might cause them to be held captive.

I distinctly remember his coming to my about-to-graduate jet flight training class at Chase Field in Beeville, Texas in October 1963. Like a leprechaun in uniform, then CDR Thornton regaled us with stories of his experiences in the Navy and in POW camp. And then he got seriously somber.

The silence was deafening as Thornton looked around the room at each man then, in a voice that dripped gloom, said, "One of you will be a POW some day." Oh, wow. Bummer. Yeah, right, Commander. Let's all go to Happy Hour!

Once, during a lecture on the Code of Conduct, I was fortunate to share the stage with VADM Jim Stockdale, MOH and Capt. Dick Stratton, two of my fellow Hanoi jailbirds and with then retired Capt. John Thornton. As the junior man (It was ever thus), I went last and deviated from my planned comments to remind Capt. Thornton of his prediction to that eager class of young, cocky F-11 student pilots. And then corrected him, "You said one of us would be a POW some day. Well, Captain, you were wrong."

"You see, two of us in that class became POWs for a total of 13 years... Thanks for getting us prepared."

But I digress. Imagine my surprise when 25 years later, Captain Thornton shows up at my local VA hospital as a patient. We got together and reminisced and had a camaraderie that few in the Richmond, Virginia VAMC comprehended. We even had the same dentist, a legitimate character, Dr. Larry Masters. Larry used to chuckle at Capt. Thornton's bawdy, politically incorrect jokes and together, we decided to put one over on the good Captain.

Thornton was due to come in for a rather lengthy procedure on 12 October 2001. Your humble scribe got there early and "suited up" in scrubs and a face mask and became Luigi, the Italian exchange student at our local dental school. Luigi was a terrible dental student. The school required him to do one last procedure and he'd finally graduate and go home to Sicily. His final act was to assist in the preparation for Capt. Thornton's dental procedure this morning.

The scene: Thornton is in the chair. In walks Dr. Masters who explains that Luigi will assist today and, don't let the photographer bother you, we need to take some photos for our national accreditation. Luigi comes over and in his best Tony

Soprano dialect, sings out, "Hey-a T-ornton. I'ma Luigi. I'ma gonna fixa you right up." Dr. Masters asked me (Luigi) to take Capt. Thornton's blood pressure. Luigi put the cuff on and pumped and pumped and pumped.

"Hey, Doc. This thing's a-broke." Dr. Masters tightened the seal and inflated the cuff. Capt. Thornton, in the chair with things sticking out of his mouth glanced nervously over his shoulder.

"Hey, doc. I'm a wanna pull that toot'." mumbled Luigi, reaching for the tongs.

"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"Not this one," said Dr. Masters, "This one."

"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"Say, Luigi, did you pass that AIDS check, yet?"

"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"No, I'ma think the lab is bad," says Luigi while bending over and kissing Capt. Thornton on the top of his balding pate.

Off comes the mask, out come the tubes and Thornton leapt to his feet like a sprite. He turned around, looked and saw who Luigi really was and totally cracked up. "Gal-anti, you son-of-a-bitch, you got me!"

I cocked my index finger like a pistol, pointed it at him and said, "Gotcha. Finally!"

Captain John Thornton, one of my heroes, died of heart complications in Richmond, Virginia in 2005.

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

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

U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING FROM THE VIETNAM WAR: Since February 1st, the number listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is still 1,807 - 1,382 in Vietnam, 364 in Laos, 54 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. Some 63 Americans were accounted for pre 1975 in areas where the US had access, for a grand total of Vietnam War accounted for personnel of 839, but these were accounted for without cooperation from the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Over 90% of the 1,807 still missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese wartime control.

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AIR FORCE OFFICER ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR:

The Defense POW/MIA Office announced February 1st that Col Harold B. Lineberger, USAF, from Austin, TX, listed as missing in Cambodia on January 29, 1971, is now accounted for. His remains were recovered from an isolated grave site March 11, 1997, identified December 5, 2005, and accepted by the family January 19, 2006.

ACTING DPMO LEADER CONTINUES TO SERVE: Since early January, Mr. Bob Newberry has worked as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for POW/MIA Affairs, replacing Jerry Jennings who resigned in December following an absence from his office of over seven months. Col George Gagnon, USAF, was named the Principal Director of DPMO. Mr. Newberry is charged with addressing and correcting problems within DPMO in preparation for the appointment of a permanent DASD for POW/MIA Affairs. No specific time has been given, but in the interim, scrutiny is being applied to all aspects of DPMO's operations, including policies, strategy, plans, budget, personnel, travel, conferences, communication with the families and the POW/MIA community, etc.

JPAC OPERATIONS STALLED BY LACK OF FUNDING: POW/MIA Consultations took place in Laos in late

February, and Vietnam in mid-January. In both instances, the foreign governments were informed that unless additional funds came through immediately, joint operations would be severely reduced. As a result, the current field operation in Laos was reduced to only one team, excavating one site, despite the backlog of nearly 100 cases previously identified for excavation. This problem is due to Defense Department failure to ensure adequate funding to sustain operations, not due to any backing off by the Lao Government

To his credit, Acting DASD Bob Newberry has been actively pushing to get Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) fully funded for FY06. Some funds were already pushed into the gap, though too late to reschedule the multiple Lao operations, and more effort is required. Field operations took place in Cambodia January 12th - February 13th, but despite earlier plans to resume February 14th and conclude March 18th, the second segment was canceled, also due to lack of funds, and an investigation team was also cancelled. Funding for JPAC is insufficient to fully support previously planned field operations. Thus, ongoing joint activities in Vietnam have also been scaled back. Only three excavations are taking place, though a double team will excavate one site due to its size and the number of unaccounted for personnel involved.

**AXPOW
59th
National
Convention
Oct. 3-8, 2008
Nashville, TN
"Music City
USA"**

see pages 24-25
for more
information



civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman
9501 Nut Tree Ct.
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Victims of Circumstance 2006 Documentary of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp

by Lou Gopal

The title of our documentary seems quite appropriate in describing the tragic story of 3700 souls who were interned at the University of Santo Tomas during the Japanese occupation of Manila.

These were people like you and I; working at an office, going to school, shopping, and dining out; ordinary, every day people who through no fault or plan of their own, were thrown into a situation, a set of circumstances, which would lead many to sickness and starvation and even death. Many lost their businesses, their fortunes, their homes, and even their loved ones.

They paid the price of being at the wrong place and at the wrong time.

I was born in Manila right after its liberation in April 1945. Having been brought up by parents who survived the Battle of Manila, I was to hear many stories throughout my childhood of their hard times

but of course, as a child, these stories went in one ear and out the other. It wasn't until I was much older that I happened to read some entries from a diary my great-uncle had written during his internment at Santo Tomas. They were given to me by my cousins; daughters of Raymond Leyerly. He died just a week after liberation due to malnutrition and starvation. Reading his account brought my wife and me to tears.

This sparked us to tell this story; a story of civilians, not of military personnel and not of military strategy; of battles, defeats and losses. No, this is a story of how people survived three years and one month under the dictates and

from the American School. We went back with Sascha Weinzheimer Jansen and about 40 other former internees, ex-POWs and their families. It was an amazing trip. Special memories came flooding back, each of us remembering something unique about the Manila we knew. At every turn, we were greeted by familiar sights, sounds, and smells, and for those of you who have been to Manila, you know what I'm talking about.

We may have started our project a little too late as so many of these folks are passing away every year at an alarming rate. There are also the disturbing stories of people re-writing history; Japanese journalists who don't believe the stories of terror and atrocities.

So it is our responsibility to ensure that the truth is told by those who lived it.

The film is now complete and being readied for distribution. It will be available on DVD which will also include many photos and interview clips which are not in the film. We have

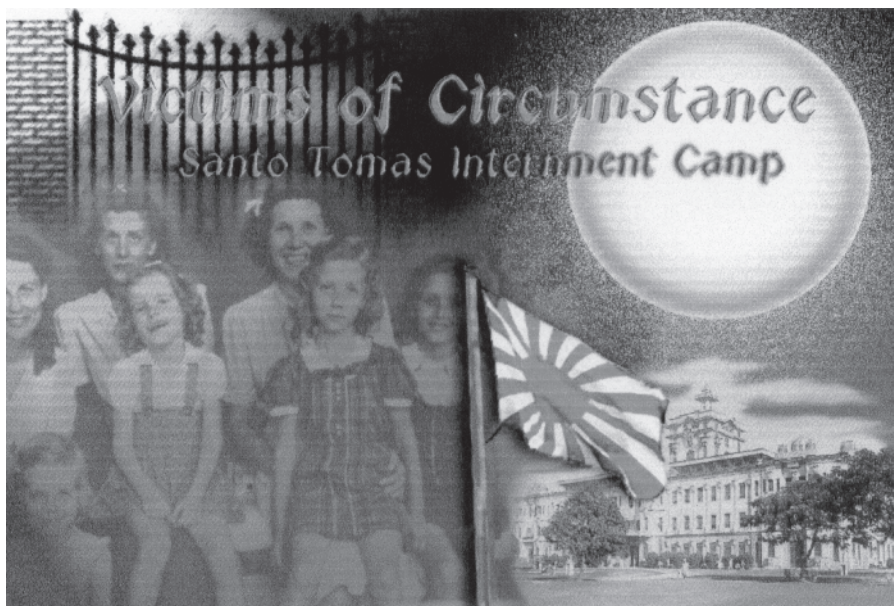
committed to donate all profits to various former internees and ex-POW organizations to ensure no one forgets what happened 60 years ago.

Website: www.Lougopal.com
Email: lougopal@hotmail.com

whims of the Imperial Forces of Japan.

We started interviewing one internee and then another who would recommend we talk to yet another, and so on. The word spread and soon we found ourselves with several dozen interviews and more importantly, meeting wonderful people with extraordinary stories.

My wife Michelle and I decided to take a "balikbayan" tour back to Manila where I had left over 40 years ago in 1962 after graduating



events and information



May 5-7, 2006. The Dept. of South Carolina convention will be held at the Clarion Hotel, Charleston, SC. Hotel reservations may be made directly by calling 843-572-2000. Ask for POW convention discounted rate. Contact Commander Reginald B. Salisbury, 2097 Cypress Campground Rd, Ridgeville, S.C. 29472 or phone 843-688-5372.

May 9-11, 2006. The Dept. of California will hold its 34th annual convention at the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, CA. Contact: Commander Ted Cadwallader, (916) 685-5369.

May 9-11, 2006. The Department of Minnesota will hold its 20th annual State Convention at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. For registration/reservation information contact Kenny Hanson at 1-952-888-2703.

May 10-12, 2006. The New England Chapter of the Chosin Few will hold a reunion to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the battle at the Radisson Hotel, Milford, MA. A full schedule of events is planned. For details contact President Terry Mcguire 781-326-3215, 82 Westwood Rd., Westwood, MA 02090; or membership chairman John Gutermuth 781-769-5656, 23 Kettering Rd., Norwood, MA 02062.

May 16-20, 2006. The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor National Convention will be held at Embassy Suites Phoenix

North; for hotel reservations, 800-527-7715. A registration form was printed in the Aug. 2005 Quan. Contact editor: Joe Vater, 18 Warbler Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136; 412-771-3956.

May 18-20, 2006. Department of Texas Annual Convention will be held in Odessa, Texas at the MCM Grande Hotel 866-362-2311. Contact Ruby Williams, Adjutant, 254-773-3542 for more information.

May 20, 2006. The Biggest POW and Purple Heart Luncheon in our Nation will be held again at Hoban Hall, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. Contact Steve dePyssler, 318-456-3520; RAO@Barksdale.AF.mil.

May 25-26, 2006. The Dept. of Georgia will hold their Annual State Convention at the New Perry Hotel in downtown Perry, Georgia. For further information, contact Cmdr. Ray Reiersen at 912 925-7073 or Lloyd Pate at 706 556-9413.

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.

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July 20-24, 2006. The WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 42nd Annual Reunion will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Spokane, WA. All Hands who served in the US Navy PT Boat Squadrons, Bases, Tenders, Supply, Communications, FEMU, Medical, as well as family and friends are welcome. Information may be obtained at PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; ptboats@ptboats.org.

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; jbshirley@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. 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.

looking
for



I need some information about my father who was in **Stalag 9B Bad Orb 50-09 Hessen-Nassau, Prussia**. My father suffered terribly after the war, then passed away at the young age of 38. I was just 12 when he died. I just recently found that my father had received 3 bronze stars, a purple heart, and a number of ribbons. My brother and I had no idea. Nothing was ever told to us. Everything we pull up for Bad Orb is a brick wall. Nothing is on his tombstone. I have his discharge papers and military papers, but that's it. I'd love to see a picture of him even with his unit. We need to find out what unit he was in. Any help at all is greatly appreciated. His name was **Pvt. Kenneth Warren**, from Baltimore, MD, #33375319, Camp 089. Thank you, Mark Warren, 74th Ave. S.W., Glen Burnie, MD 21061; 410-760-4927; Overworked622@aol.com. Barbara Warren, Dixiestampede@aol.com.

So far as I know there are only two members of our WWII B17 crew who are still living. Our pilot, Dr. Rudolph P. Froeschle, and I. I was reading the Bulletin and it hit me that I never tried locating the one crew member that we never heard from after the War, through the Bulletin. His name is **John W. Tripp**. He was our Ball Turret Gunner. The last time I saw him was at Stalag 17B. We were shot down September 6, 1943 over Stuttgart Germany. Bob Stahlhut, bstahlhut@juno.com; 6706 West Ralston Road, Indianapolis, IN 46221-9686.

I am a professional historian - my books include *Microcosm* (2002) and *Killing Hitler* (2006) - and my current research project centers on Berlin during WWII. I would like to tell the story of the city as much as possible from memoirs, diaries and eye-witness accounts. Though I already have many German accounts - military and civilian - I am lacking 'other voices' from the time. For this reason, I am contacting you with a view to finding **American ex-POWs who were in Berlin** during the war, who might be willing to be interviewed about their experiences for the book. Interviews could be done by post or email. My contact details are below. I do hope you will be able to help me. Roger Moorhouse, 7 Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9EY, UK; roger@rogermoorhouse.com.

I am stymied in receiving VA approval regarding health issues I have had since 1944. In basic at **Camp Blanding** I was overcome by exposure to **Lewisite gas**. During field training out of doors, a quantity of Lewisite was released for my platoon to experience. We were told to go into the gassed area until we could smell geraniums. The Department of Defense has an SOP for such tests, but claims recruits in training at Blanding were never subjected to these training exercises. They flatly say Lewisite was not used at Camp Blanding. The only gas experience according to the DOD was the familiar indoor tear gas exposure. Please inquire of all association members. It will be very much appreciated. Arthur W. Potts, 2553 Heathrow Lane, Wall Township, NJ 08736.

As an Ex-POW out of the Philippines, I received the following request from my doctor: "Mr. Richards (Richards Antiques, Main Street, Camden, ME 04843) lost a brother in the Philippines after the

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looking for continued...

Bataan Death March. His brother's name was **Gilbert Richards**. If anyone knew him, please write to Mr. Richards at the above address. Thank you, Joseph DeMott, 2185 Kolb Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Can anyone recall **Armando DeVito**? After basic training at Camp Blanding FL, he joined the 106th at Camp Atterbury. In late summer 1944, he boarded the Aquatania to England. He was taken prisoner Dec. 19, 1944 and was incarcerated at 4B. Mandy was married with four children when he was called to serve his country. Reason for trying to get some one to identify him is as follows: His DD 214 reads he was with the 109th Inf. Div. There never was 109th Inf. Div. He definitely was with the 106th, but needs to be remembered so he can have his DD214 corrected. He is very small, approximately 5'1" in height and weighed about 135 lbs. when he went into the service. He is now 88 years old - older than anyone in his company. Please respond to Frank Molinari at mo106422@msn.com.

I was wondering if it would be possible to find any of these men, all former POW's. I have come across some German records with their names and photos and other POW related information. The names are **Alexander, James L.** ASN 14140555; **Nicholson, William H.** 33475685; **O'Neill, Thomas E.** 33467067; **Gonzales, Carmel** 37702714; **Kline, Everett W.** 33041554; **Gatewood, Raymond L.** 38479101. They all ended up at Stalag 7B. Thanks, Brian Siddall. 607-275-8080.

I was wondering if anyone would know of two men who knew my father quite well. I only know their surnames, but both I believe were

interned at **Santo Tomas**. The names were **Pratt and Aldridge**. They were both American, and both survived the internment, though Dad said Mr. Pratt was so weak upon repatriation he had to be carried from the camp on a stretcher. Both men were Seventh-day Adventist pastors. I would be interested in hearing from any family members of these men if possible. Thanks. Graham Coles (son of Douglas Phipps Coles); Grahamco@dodo.com.au.

Looking for help!! My name is Hans Wijers, I'm from The Netherlands. I'm doing research on WWII, ETO and Pacific battles, fighting in Normandy, The Battle of the Bulge, and also trying to find veterans who saw action during the early parts of the Pacific war. I'm looking for **WWII veterans, Air Force and Army** from both mentioned WWII Theatres who can help me with the following. I'm looking for those who became a Prisoner of War during combat, or in the case of Air Force, were forced to jump or after a crash-landing. Can you remember that moment what happened, and how you did you get caught by the enemy, and how did that go in the first couple of hours (interrogation, questioning, did you have to give away your (personal belongings, but also for those on the Islands in the Pacific, maybe overrun by enemy troops, in what way, etc. (Bataan, Corregidor, etc). My address: Hans. J. Wijers, Zegerijstraat 27, NL-6971 ZN BRUMMEN, The Netherlands. e-mail: wijers@planet.nl.



M Members' forum

To the Editor:

While standing in line recently at a local bank I felt a tap on my shoul-

I was stunned. Sixty-one years ago, I was indeed incarcerated in Stalag Luft 1. It was located on the Baltic Sea near the town of Barth.

I replied, "Yes, that's where I was, but how did you know?"

"The New Hampshire POW license plate and the sticker on the back window of your car, 99th Bomb Group. Men we were supposed to fly out.

It was time to get acquainted, so we moved aside, shook hands and introduced ourselves. He was Howard Tunstall, and apparently his 381st BG of B-17 Flying Fortresses had received orders in early May 1945 to fly their planes from a base in England to northern Germany in order to pick up "kriegies" and then to fly us to Rheims, France.

I told Howard my name, but then had difficulty finding adequate words to express my thanks for what his group had done for us.

In May 1945, the end of WWII in Europe, our prison camp held 9,000 American and British flyers who had been shot down.

Earlier in May, our camp had been liberated by a unit of the Russian Fifth Army. All our German captors had fled. But, then we waited, wondering how best to return westward to our American and British allies. Soon thereafter, the American 8th Air Force solved the problem.

Howard and I made a date then and there to get together. I feel confident we can become good friends.

Bill Smallwood
10 White Oak Drive
Unit Z109
Exeter, NH 03833
603-778-7179

Y our Stories



Happy Birthday, George Small!

On Friday, February 24, 2006, from 12 noon to 1:00PM, the Reno VA Regional Office hosted a birthday celebration for the oldest known former POW in the state of Nevada, and quite possibly in the entire United States, Mr. George Small. The festivities were held at the Air National Guard Base in Reno, Nevada.

Mr. Small was born on February 26, 1908 in Montreal, Canada, after his parents had moved there from New York City. At age 12, he and his three brothers and his parents moved back to New York City to be closer to the rest of the family. George enjoyed attending school in New York City and went on to graduate from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in Brooklyn, New York in 1935 with a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree. After graduating from college, he looked for a job, but could not find one during the depression.

He went on active duty with the U.S. Army on April 25, 1941. After a month's training at a Chemical Warfare school, he became Base Chemical Officer at the airbase in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In early October, he was told that he was being sent to another airbase, Ma-

nila, Philippines. He arrived at Manila, PI six weeks before WWII began. He was taken to Clark Airbase and stayed there until ordered to Bataan on December 24, 1941. On Bataan, he was assigned to the 31st Infantry and fought with that unit until the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

Prior to his capture, he had just been released from the hospital due to problems with malaria and malnutrition related to the malaria. He was discharged from the hospital on April 6, 1942, and was captured on April 9, 1942. He reported having a difficult time on the Bataan Death March, because he was already malnourished secondary to the malaria. He has stated that he was in very poor physical condition when he started the march and it "tested his ability to keep going."

Once he reached Camp O'Donnell, the first of five different POW camps he would be held captive in, he became very ill with malaria attacks and dysentery. He was transferred to Cabanatuan and received medications which seemed to relieve the malaria problems.

He was then transferred to Japan by way of the "Hell Ships". George has stated that the most difficult and horrible experience during his Prisoner of War experiences was on the ship from the Philippines to Japan for 17 days. He has described the conditions as horrible, "too horrible to describe". In the POW camp, his weight declined to

approximately 98 pounds. He was held as a Prisoner of War by the Japanese for 3 years and 5 months in five different camps until he was finally liberated on September 10, 1945.

Mr. Small was awarded the following medals for his meritorious service: American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars; Distinguished Unit Badge with Two Oak Leaf Clusters; Combat Infantry Badge; Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star; WWII Victory Medal; POW Medal.

After his discharge from the Army on November 26, 1946, he stayed in the Army Reserves. In 1954, he married and subsequently had two daughters, Gail and Wendy. In 1962, he went to work as a civil engineer for the State of California and helped to design the aqueducts for carrying water. He retired from the Army Reserves on March 1, 1968, obtaining the rank of Major. Mr. Small currently resides with his daughter, Gail, and her husband, in Reno Nevada.

A group of former POWs who attended the celebration pose for a group photo with other VA members.

back: Joe Scamihorn (Amvets representative), Dr. Kurt Schlegelmilch (VAMC Director), Rita Andreola (POW Coordinator), Gary Utterback (POW Coordinator); middle: Ed Smith, John Perkowski, Paul Durckel, Carol Higgenbotham, Charles Schmidt, Sr., Donald Iddings (VARO Director); bottom: William Michaely, George Small, Douglas Northam, Ralph Levenberg (POW Consultant).

stories, continued...

POWs' benefactor never wanted any thanks

By KATE WILTROUT

The Virginian-Pilot

© February 2, 2006



ABOARD THE BATAAN — The five World War II veterans who climbed aboard this amphibious assault ship early Wednesday are survivors twice over: First they endured deprivations at the hands of their Japanese captors. Ever since, they've foiled time and fended off disease. They mark each passing month with breakfast at Bunny's Restaurant in Suffolk — where, for the past five years, a man they had never met has paid their tab.

On Wednesday, the veterans, members of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, finally got to thank William Blair. They repaid the favor with the help of the Bataan. The Norfolk-based ship is named for the Philippine peninsula on the island of Luzon that saw fierce fighting and the deaths of thousands of Allied prisoners on a forced jungle march.

After breakfast in the chief's mess, the former POWs presented their bashful benefactor with a number of gifts, including an American flag flown above the ship for a day.

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"It's an honor," Blair said, adding that the men are his heroes.

Blair, owner of a Suffolk asphalt business, never wanted any thanks for picking up the ex-POWs' breakfast bills — the sum of which he insists he has never calculated.

He said he saw the prisoner of war license plates on cars in the restaurant's lot some time back and decided to do something symbolic. Blair served in Germany with the U.S. Army in the late 1950s and said he felt that World War II veterans of the Pacific campaign never got the recognition that their comrades in Europe did.

Blair himself never wanted recognition from the veterans. Even after they learned his name, he declined to join them. He changed his mind, with some prodding, after they planned the breakfast with him on the ship.

The Bunny's Restaurant gang is shrinking in number but not camaraderie. Only a half-dozen of the group remains, down from 20 or 30 who have attended in the past 30 years.

The food at Bunny's is fine, and the coffee hot, but something else keeps them coming back: the freedom of not having to explain themselves. Of sitting beside someone who understands what forced labor is, what it's like to lose so much weight that men's frames resemble skeletons.

Survivors that they are, they don't talk much about that; it's the laughs that got them through, said 85-year-old Jenro Lambaiso.

"We found out that a good laugh was like a shot in the arm," said Lambaiso, captured in the Philippines on Christmas Eve 1941. He endured three years and four months as a POW. The final 13 months were the worst, as he worked in Japanese bauxite mines

and subsisted on three cups of rice or grain a day. His weight dropped to 98 pounds.

David Topping of Chesapeake, an Army Air Corps veteran, survived the Bataan death march. Sixty years later, he struggles when asked to convey the experience. "You just can't describe it," said Topping, 84. "Some of us made out pretty good, and some of us didn't."

Like Lambaiso, Topping had his most wretched days after Japan pulled out of the Philippines and began moving POWs elsewhere on so-called hell ships. Topping said he lived a version of hell in the hold of a ship stuffed with more than 1,000 prisoners. He spent 40 days aboard, listening to the pinging of U.S. submarines and Allied planes whose bombs could kill — and free — them instantly. In such cramped, disease-ridden conditions, 39 prisoners died.

Stanley Woody of Norfolk was 19 when he was captured. He told his stories with sparkling eyes and hearty guffaws. Stephen Wilson, a petty officer first class on the Bataan, listened raptly to Woody's account of dog paddling 30 miles to shore after his ship was sunk off Jakarta, Indonesia. Internment followed there, in Singapore and in Burma, where Woody helped build the famous railroad bridge over the River Kwai.

"What kept you going, sir?" Wilson asked.

"I was young," Woody said. "The older people more or less died."

Turk Turner spent 3½ years in various POW camps in Indonesia. He never gave up hope of being rescued.

"I said, 'They'll be here tomorrow.' I said that for 1,294 days."

Reach Kate Wiltrout at (757) 446-2629 or kate.wiltrout@pilotonline.com.

News Briefs

VA Identification Cards

About two years ago, new VA cards were made available to all veterans registered under the VA system. The POW wording was left off the new cards. POWs protested the removal of the POW notation, and as a result, new cards are being issued during the first 10 days of May, 2006. They will include the words, "Service Connected" and "POW". In addition, those veterans awarded the Purple Heart will also have this designation on the card. I want to thank Mr. Tony Guagliardo, Director of Policy, for the Central VA office in Washington for his efforts in working with POWs toward this goal. Currently, the VA central office is reviewing records of veterans who were POWs, and who were awarded the Purple Heart, to verify status. I would recommend that if you have not received your new VA card by the end of May, that you contact Mr. Guagliardo's office making this fact known. His e-mail address is tony.guagliardo@va.gov; by phone 202-245-0406. Also, Mr. Roscoe Bennett of Mr. Guagliardo's office can assist you in this matter.

~Morris Barker, National Director

Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act Update

Facts about HR 2369 and S2157, Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act, now in the House and the Senate of the United States of America.

This legislation will amend the current regulations regarding the award of the Purple Heart to include those who died in captivity from causes not otherwise covered in the regulations such as sickness and malnutrition.

I have been informed that some members want this proposed legislation amended to include all who were ever Prisoners of War.

I want to inform everyone that the current Purple Heart Regulations currently include all Prisoners of War who survived captivity and who were beaten or mistreated.

A Former Prisoner of War needs to submit an application and include all the necessary information regarding the incident he is claiming a Purple Heart for. It is advised that a buddy letter of a witness also be included.

The bills now before the House and the Senate covers only those who died while a Prisoner of War from causes not now covered in current regulations.

The American EX-Prisoners of War (AXPOW) did endorse a resolution at their last National Convention.

It is hoped that all of us can get behind these bills and honor those brave souls who died the terrible death in Prisoners of War Camps.

~Shorty Estabrook

210-267-5243

Life Member AXPOW

Founder of the Tiger Survivors

Author of the bills

Congressman Lane Retiring

Statement of Congressman Lane
Evans on Future Plans
March 28, 2006

This is a tough day for me. I am announcing that I will not run for reelection and will retire at the end

of my current term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

When I announced in 1998 that I had Parkinson's Disease, my doctor said that this condition would not interfere with my work and that I would be able to perform at a high level for a number of years. That window of opportunity is now closing.

I fully expected that I would continue my work for the foreseeable future following this current break from the office. But I have come to recognize that the time needed to address my health makes it difficult to wage a campaign and carry out my work as representative. I will return soon and to the best of my ability complete the important work of this term in my roles as representative and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This decision is especially tough because this job means so much to me. I believe strongly in serving people and working to make a positive difference in their lives. Every day has been rewarding and I'm proud of what I've been able to accomplish and the fights I've made.

I thank my family and everyone who has worked with me — great friends, terrific colleagues, a dedicated staff, fellow vets. And I appreciate the support of people I never met before who would ask how I was doing and tell me to keep up the good fight. I'll be doing that in the weeks and months ahead and look forward to thanking every one of you personally for all you have meant to me.

To my constituents and veterans across this country, it is an honor and privilege to represent you.

~Semper Fi,

Lane Evans

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news briefs cont...

New Bill for

Atomic Veterans

The Recognition of Forgotten Atomic Veterans and their Surviving Spouses Act of 2005 (HR 4183) was introduced in the house by Rep Bob Filner (D-CA) in NOV 05. Its purpose is to improve the availability of benefits for veterans and the surviving spouses of veterans who were exposed while in military service to ionizing radiation, and for other purposes. It directs the Attorney General to:

- (1) Obtain from the files of the Operations Office of the Department of Energy in Nevada records showing the identity of all atomic veterans;
- (2) To use the service serial number of those veterans identified to obtain the veteran's social security number;
- (3) Use that veteran's social security number to locate the veteran and, if living, advise that veteran of the provisions of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, including the right of the veteran to file a claim under that Act;
- (4) Use that veteran's social security number to locate the surviving spouse of the veteran (if any) and advise the surviving spouse of the provisions of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, including the right of the surviving spouse to file a claim under that Act.

Rep Filner also introduced the You Were There, You Get Care Act of 2005 (HR 4184) to expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include radiation exposure presumptions for veterans who served in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and subsequent conflicts. It further requires that medical research be done on the depleted uranium (DU)

problem by organizations not connected with the DoD or DVA to determine cures for DU exposure and any diseases caused by DU exposure.

Both bills were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for action in their respective areas for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker. As of MAR 06 HR 4183 has only 2 cosponsors and HR 4184 has 4 cosponsors. Action on these two bills is doubtful unless veterans and other concerned parties contact their representatives to encourage them to cosponsor the bills.

WWII Event in Boston

Nazi Concentration Camp Liberators to be Honored at Holocaust Liberator Event.

WWII Army Combat Vets to be Re-United with Concentration Camp Survivors.

On June 15th, in Boston, World War II veterans of eleven U.S. Army Holocaust Liberator divisions will be honored in a unique event. Never before have such a large group of the men who broke into the Nazi Concentration camps been so feted. Never before have so many been reunited with survivors of Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen, Nordhausen and other notorious Nazi death camps.

The event is the annual benefit tribute dinner of the Holocaust Center Boston North, an educational foundation that works to teach about and document all genocides, including the Nazi Holocaust.

Though half of the WWII combat divisions that liberated the camps have since been inactivated, serving soldiers of seven of those units will join their elders at the event.

All of the vets and soldiers have been 'adopted' by patriotic corporations, individuals and veterans

posts. These benefactors pay for their adopted soldiers' and vets' dinners, host them at the dinner table, and co-present their awards.

Greeting speaker for the event will be Mrs. Joanne Holbrook-Patton, past president of the Army Emergency Relief Fund, and daughter-in-law and widow, respectively, of two Patton generals. Her father, World War II Brigadier General Willard Holbrook, led the 11th Armored and 26th Infantry Division combat teams that liberated Mauthausen & Gusen concentration camps in May 1945.

The 26th Infantry Brigade and the YDVA will attend this event. Please contact BGMangone@aol.com or 978-531-1771.

VA Medical Records and Your Rights

While visiting your local VA medical care provider you are entitled to view any and all medical records concerning your care. If you believe there are errors or omissions contact the VA Eligibility Office and have them corrected or added. During VA medical appointments the veteran is entitled to ask questions and receive satisfactory answers and explanations. If the Veteran has impairments such as hearing, vision, etc. that may result in misunderstandings the veteran is entitled to have a person along during the visit who can understand such as a spouse, family member, etc.

In instances where the explanations are not satisfactory go to the Patient Representative to clear things up. The Patient Representative is the veteran's go between in the VAMC. If the problem is not resolved by the Patient Representative the veteran is entitled to file a written grievance and explanation to the VAMC Administrator. If this communication does not satisfy the grievance the veteran is entitled to take it to VA in Washington, DC.



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

AD ORDER FORM

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

AD PRICING

Full page.....\$200

Half page.....\$125

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Deadline for submissions: Sept. 1, 2006

Name _____

Organization _____

(if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

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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 we get closer.

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

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct. 6th.

Check the June Bulletin and/or Registration at the hotel once you check in.

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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!

Thank you! to the Bill Rolen
Memorial Chapter for their very
generous donation in honor of
Mary Rolen, Les Jackson and Dr.
Charles Stenger.

GENERAL FUND

Antonio Alagao, Long Beach, CA
Mahoning Valley Chapter, Ohio
Melvin & Maxine Parks, Florence, MS
In honor of Frank Kravetz, by Francis
Brunner
In honor of Marjorie & Harold Perkins,
NE NY Chapter, by Phyllis Dunning
In honor of our chaplain and his wife,
John & Vera Romine, by Bill & Nancy
Fornes
In honor of Sam 'Sal' Malfitano, by Lou
Loevsky
In memory of Bill Zion, by Bill & Nancy
Fornes
In memory of Carolyn Phelan, by Mid-
South Chapter

In memory of Dale Grow, by Jackye
Ray, by Mid-Iowa Chapter
In memory of deceased chapter mem-
bers, by the Minneapolis-St Paul Chap-
ter
In memory of Emmett Lee Bigelow, by
Betty Bigelow
In memory of Harold Magnuson, by
Betty Chamblin & Marla Bottemiller,
by Col. Louis Ford, by Conrad Thomp-
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H Pillie and Family, by Maxine Reamer,
by Paul Magnuson, by Will Ervin
In memory of Harry Carroll, by Julie
Kudzia-Serilla, by Julie Kudzia-Serilla,
by the employees of the VA Outpatient
Clinic, Lubbock, Texas
In memory of J.D. Clark, by Sarah
Chandler
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Erv & Shirley Lange
In memory of John Hawk, by Charlene
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Shelley & John Howard
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Reimel, by Department of Surgery,
Jefferson Medical College, by Helen
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by Maury & Sara Rosenberg, by Rich-
ard Williams, by Rudy & Mary Lou
Krukar, by Tara Coates, by Tom &
Sheila Glonfield
In memory of my husband, Donald
Enslow, by Eleanor Enslow
In memory of my husband, James
Hensley, by Faye Hensley
In memory of Paul Schuster, by Mar-
garet & Wesley Eckblad

In memory of Raymond Newbauer, by
Anita Newbauer, by Anne & Randy
Dieckman, by Barbara & Rudolph
Mastroianni, by Barbara Barker, by
Brian & Leslie Grover, by Catherine
Hiriart Kubic, by daughter Lynn's
friends and colleagues at Sikorsky
Aircraft, by Debbie Kruitbosch and
Laurie Birdsey, by Dresser Retirees
Club, by Edna Burby, by Edna Healy,
by Emily Andreano, by Gene & Pat
Harkins, by Gloria Murcko, by Helen
& David Skirkanich, by Janet & Howard
Howes, by Janet Warren, by Joseph
Quinlan, by Joyce & Joseph Newbauer,
by Karl Newbauer, by M/M Al Graham,
by M/M Brian Krieger, by M/M Rocco
Morcone, by Madeline Quinlan, by
Mark Valentine, by Marshall Kochiss,
by Paul & Sherri Kelley, by Ruth Doyle,
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BULLETIN FUND

Paul Greenman, Kihei, HI

chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

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

In 1863, there was a very long day
of battle between the Federal and
Confederate armies along the
Rappahannock River. As evening fell,

two bands at the same hour by
chance happened to start playing
from either side. From the North
bank came such tunes as "Star
Spangled Banner", "Hail Columbia"
or other "Yankee" songs, greeted by
lustly yells from the "Boys in Blue".
These were answered from the South
bank by "Dixie" or "Bonnie Blue
Flag", and the approval came in the
form of the Confederate yell. Then
one of the bands struck up a tune
familiar to both sides. "Home Sweet
Home". And as the poem says,
"something down the soldier's
cheek, washed off the stains of pow-
der." Most members perhaps do not
realize the battle to keep our orga-
nization intact, with our ladies as full
members. Our commander and other
special people have taken far more
than their share of hatefulness and

troubled times. Please let them know
they are appreciated. God would
have it so.

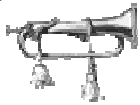
Let us pray: Almighty God, forgive
our sinfulness and misunderstand-
ings. Bless our officers in special
ways as they make policies and plans
for the good of our membership.
Now let Thy will be done in all things
great and small and may all praise
and glory be unto Thee, o Lord, our
strength and our redeemer. AMEN.

Thought for the month: We are told
that one tree can make a million
matches while one match can de-
stroy a million trees.

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taps



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

Feb. 13, 1921- Jan. 30, 2006

PNC Charles Perkins Towne, Sgt. Major (Ret.) of Tacoma, WA



Chuck was raised in Salem, OR and joined the Army in 1938. He was a POW for 3 ½ years after being captured at Corregidor; he was also a survivor of the infamous Japanese Hell Ships. After the war, Chuck settled in Tacoma and raised his family.

Chuck volunteered in the mid 60's as a Little League coach, and was also a Red Cross volunteer for many years at Madigan General Hospital. He was a great salmon fisherman, and loved gardening, woodcrafts, going to church, going to meetings with his brotherhood, and helping others. Charles was a past Master of Masonic Clover Lodge of Tacoma, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons of Washington, Former Washington Commander of the American Ex-prisoners of War, and National Commander of the American Ex-prisoners of War from 1968 to 1969. During the mid 80's he was also appointed by Governor Gardner as head of the Veteran's Advisory Panel. He was the creator of the Former Prisoner of War vehicle license plates for the state of Washington.

He was preceded in death by his wife Irene, daughter Jacqueline, and wife Lauretta. Charles is survived by, daughter Janice Rogich, and son Kenneth (Barbara) Towne, 4 grandchildren Dan, Jon, Jody (Rob) and Charlene, 6 great-grandchildren, sister Jenny Letz, many nieces, nephews and friends, and very special friend Alvina Pero.

ALBANO, Salvatore D., 84, passed away Feb. 21, 2006. Sam was a Merchant Marine during WWII and a POW in Italy for 2 ½ years. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Lake Monroe Chapter. His loving wife, Louise, and 2 sisters survive him.

ALLEN, Fred, age 86, of Navarre, OH died Sept. 14, 2005. Fred was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. He was a member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by wife of 60 years, Virgil, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.

APPLEGATE, Donald, of Satellite Beach, FL died March 15, 2005. He was captured while serving with the Air Force during WWII. He was held in Stalag Luft III. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Patricia; he is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 1 sister.

ARGY, Charles G., 76, of Pembroke Pines, FL died Aug. 19, 1996. He served with the 28th Inf. Reg. in France.

He was captured and spent one month as a POW before escaping with the help of the French Underground. He is survived by his wife, Fay, and 1 daughter.

BARRON, Elizabeth, 81, of Massillon, OH passed away June 26, 2005. Betty served as Adjutant of the North Central Ohio Chapter #8, AXPOW. She was editor of the newsletter and very active in the chapter. She is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 1 sister, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Her husband, ex-POW Chester.

BARTHEL, Sylvester, Albert, of Yakima, WA died Feb. 12, 2006. During WWII, he was attached to the 357th Reg., Co. L, 90th Inf. Div. He was captured 10 weeks after the Normandy Invasion and spent 11 months in a German POW camp. He leaves his wife, Catherine, 1 son, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter.

BENSCOTER, Sheldon "Scooter", of Macungie, PA passed away Jun 8, 2005. He was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 98th BG, 345th BS and

held in Stalag VIIA. He leaves his wife, Marilyn, 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

BOROS, Steve, member of the North Central Ohio Chapter #8 passed away Jan. 14, 2006. Steve served with the 1st Armored Reg., 1st Armored Div. He was captured in the area of the Kasserine Pass and held for 27 months. His wife, Josephine, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren.

BRODERICK, Harold, "Joe", member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, AXPOW died Jan. 16, 2006. He was taken prisoner in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106th Inf. Survivors include his wife, Verdelma, 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters.

BROOKE, Curtis, of Deltona, FL passed away Nov. 8, 2005. He served with the Air Force during WWII and he was a POW of the Germans. He was a member of the East Central FL Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Betty, survives him; he also leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 brother, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

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BROWN, Daniel H., 86, of Newark, OH died Feb. 20, 2006. He served in Co. B., 168th Inf. during WWII. He was captured and held in 7A and 3B work camps. Daniel was chaplain in the Moundbuilders Chapter, AXPOW. He was also a member of Chapter 1, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

BUCKHOLZ, Charles M. of Granger, IN died Jan. 30, 2006. He served with the 3rd Bn, 8th Cav. in the Philippines. He was captured April 9, 1942 and endured the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. He leaves his loving wife, Donna, 2 daughters, 2 sons and 7 grandchildren.

BUCHHOLZ, Wayland, of Fox River Grove, IL died in 2005. He was a waist gunner with the 466th BG during WWII.

CAPURRO, Umberto, of Daly City, CA passed away in Feb. 2006. He served in the 25th Div. 14th Reg., 3rd Bn., Co. I, 1st Platoon and was captured in the Kumhwa Valley on 10/6/51. He was held in Camp 5, Pyokdong. He is survived by one daughter and son-in-law.

CARROLL, Harold William, of Owensville, MO passed away Feb. 11, 2006. He was 81. During WWII, he served with Co G, 36th Div. He was a POW in Stalag 2B. Harold was a member of the Central Missouri Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

CASANOVA, Antonio C. of Springfield, MA passed away February 23, 2006. He was captured at the Battle of Bataan and survived the Bataan Death March. Tony was Commander of the Western Mass Chapter, AXPOW; he also served as Dept. Commander. He leaves his beloved wife, Mary, 4 sons, 1 daughter, 9 cherished grandchildren and 1 sister.

CASCIO, Paul J. Jr., 84, of Baltimore, MD passed away Jan. 29, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 5th AF, 64th BG, 43rd BS; he was held prisoner in Ashio and Ofuno for 27 months. Paul was a life member of AXPOW and member of Maryland East Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Wanda, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 sisters and 7 grandchildren.

CASSELMAN, Ralph, 84, of Geff, IL died Feb. 12, 2006. He served with the 82nd Airborne, 325th Inf. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Ralph leaves his wife of 65 years, Georgie, 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 1 beloved great-grandson.

CONNOR, JOHN M. of Attleboro Falls, MA. passed away January 1, 2006 at the age of 85. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, B-17 bomber pilot who was shot down over Germany in March of 1945 and was a POW at Barth, Germany in Stalag Luft I until liberation. He flew 116 missions as part of the Berlin Airlift from September, 1948 to May, 1949. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Mildred (Midge), two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

CUNNINGHAM, Theresa, of Camillus, NY passed away recently. We have no further information.

DAUB, Gerald, 81, of Upper Grandview, NY passed away Jan. 17, 2006. Gerry was assigned to the 100th Inf. Div. and shipped to France. While on patrol near Rimling, he was captured and sent to Stalag 9B. Identified as Jewish, he was transported to Berga to work as slave labor. He later became a source for the PBS documentary "Berga". Gerry was past commander of the Hudson Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Joan, 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

DeALCUAZ, Jeanne Louise "Pomponette" died Feb. 6, 2006. Jeanne was interned as a POW in Santo Tomas IC, Manila. She aided her husband-to-be, the late Dr. Louise De Alcuaz, in smuggling food and supplies to the internees. She is survived by her 7 children and 21 grandchildren.

DELISI, Maro J. of Flagler Beach, FL passed away July 16, 2005 at the age of 81. He was a life member of the East Central FL Chapter. During WWII, he served in Company E, 920th TSU. He spent 9 months in a POW camp until liberation. He leaves his wife, Connie, 1 daughter, 1 son and 1 grandson.

DERR, Valentine H., of Hampden Township, PA died March 5, 2006 at

the age of 87. He was captured while serving with the Army during WWII and held until liberation. Survivors include his loving wife, Mary, 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

ERICKSON, Leif, of New City, NY passed away March 4, 2005. He was 88. Leif was captured and held in Romania while serving with the AF during WWII. He leaves his beloved wife of 61 years, Mary, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

EVANS, Loretta, 71, of Binger, OK died Nov. 29, 2005. She was the loving wife of Howard, who served in Korea until being wounded and captured. She also is survived by 4 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

FRY, Alvin L., 85, of Hood River, OR died Oct. 31, 2005. He was a medic at Hospital 2 on Bataan when he was captured. He spent 3 ½ years in Cabanatuan and Bilibid. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW.

FULLERTON, Albert L. Major USA age 92 of Lake Park, FL. passed away on Jan 6, 2006. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. He is survived by his spouse of sixteen years, Alice Louise Fullerton and a brother James, also an Ex-POW in Germany, and many nieces and nephews. While Major Fullerton had no children, he considered Alice's family as his "adopted family" with six surviving grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

GABRIEL, Robert, of Vero Beach, FL died Jan. 7, 2006. He was 81. He served in the Army with the 99th Inf. Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner for five months. Survivors include his wife, Melody, 2 daughters, 1 son and 12 grandchildren.

GERBA, Joseph, of Fords, NJ passed away Nov. 30, 2005. He was a mem-

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ber of Garden State Chapter #1, AX-POW. He was captured while serving with the 8th AF and held in Stalags IV and VI. His wife, Helen, predeceased him; he leaves 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GIACCHERO, Camilo F., of Veneta, OR passed away Jan. 14, 2006. He was captured while serving in the Army Infantry and held in Stalags 5A and 7A. He is survived by a nephew, cousins and many godchildren.

GUNKELMAN, Betty, 82, of Lodi, OH died Sept. 7, 2005. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Ralph; both were active members of the North Central OH Chapter #8. Betty is survived by her husband, 1 daughter, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, 1 sister and 1 brother.

HANNAH, Howard C., beloved husband of Claire, died Jan. 6, 2006. He was 83 and lived in Tempe, AZ. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF. After being shot down, he was held in Luft IV. Howard was a member of the East Valley Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to his wife of almost 60 years, Howard is survived by one son.

HAWK, John H of Garden City, Kansas, died January 27, 2006. A staff sergeant and B24 tailgunner, he was shot down over Austria and captured June 9, 1944, and held at Luft 3, south of Berlin. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marilyn.

HEAD, Patricia, 82, of Spokane Valley, WA died Jan. 23, 2006. Her husband, Donald, served with the 106th Inf. Div., 423rd reg. in Europe. Pat was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

HENSLEY, James, of Johnson City, TN, died December 27, 2005. Jim, or "J.H.", was one of four remaining men from the legendary group known as the "Erwin Nine", a group of Erwin,

Tennessee, men who were captured at different times, but wound up together in Stalag Luft 4. Hensley was a tailgunner shot down on February 22, 1944. "He was an artist," recalled Dick Franklin, another of the "Erwin Nine". "One of the things we had the most of in the camp was soap, and he carved a beautiful chess set out of it." Hensley even dissolved laxative pills to color half the pieces brown. "One thing he warned me about was that you couldn't keep your hands on the pieces too long or they would melt," Franklin said with a chuckle. Hensley is survived by his wife, Faye and 1 daughter.

HERMAN, Robert A., member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW, died recently. He was a POW in WWII, serving in the Army. He is survived by 2 daughters, 1 brother, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

HEUER, John A., 90, of Crookston, MN died Nov. 9, 2004. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Red River Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Doris and several nieces and nephews.

HOLDEN, Daisy Mae, 78, of Carmichael, CA died Dec. 27, 2005. She was an active member of the Sacramento 49ers Chapter, AXPOW, serving as Treasurer and Historian. She is survived by her loving husband, Chuck, 2 daughters, 1 son, 3 stepchildren, 4 grandchildren and 2 siblings.

HONEYCUTT, Charles, of Hampton, TN died on Jan. 26, 2006 at age 75. He was a POW during the Korean War. He suffered severe wounds during his captivity. Charles was a member of the East TN Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Bernice.

HOUGH, Joseph W., of Lubbock, TX passed away Jan. 28, 2006. Joseph was serving with the 60th CAC on Corregidor when he was captured. He was a POW for 3 ½ years. He was a member of the Dept. of Texas, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Jimmie, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

ISAAK, Emil, 89, of Spokane Valley, WA passed away Dec. 28, 2005. He served in the 59th Coast Artillery Corps and was captured on Corregidor. He was held in Cabanatuan 1 and 2, Nichols Field, Bilibid and Ft.

McKinnley. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Leona, 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

JONES, Eugene 'Gene', of Garland, Texas, died February 1, 2006. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He is survived by his wife, Billie.

KARNOPP, Clarence, of Rolla, ND passed away Feb. 18, 2006. He was assigned to the 15th AF, 342nd BS, 97th BG on a B-17G. His plane was shot down and he was captured and held in Luft III, then marched to Stalag 7A. Clarence leaves his wife, Irene, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

KAZEBEE, Josephine Sleneak, of Conneaut Lake, PA passed away Feb. 16, 2006. She was the widow of Robert, who was captured and held in Stalag Luft 1. She was a member of Barbed Wire Assoc. of NW PA, serving as adjutant of the chapter. Survivors include her husband, 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 4 brothers and sisters.

KIERNAN, Joseph, of Rhinebeck, NY passed away Jan. 1, 2006 at the age of 81. Joe served in the Army and took part in the Central Europe, Rhineland, Rome/Arno and Southern France campaigns as well as the Battle of Anzio. He was captured in France and held in Stalag 12A, then 7A. He is survived by his wife Irene, 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

KINSEY, Claude R. Jr., 86, a "flying sergeant" who became one of the earliest US aces of WWII and who escaped a POW camp by walking 100 miles across Italy, died Feb. 4, 2006. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, of Springfield, VA, 2 sons and 3 grandchildren.

LAING, Martis, 85 of Peoria, AZ passed away Jan. 27, 2006. Her husband Jim preceded her in death, May 21, 2004. Jim served with the 352nd Fighter Group and was interned in Luft 1. Marty is survived by 1 son and 2 daughters. Jim and Marty were members of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona.

LARSON, Clarence, "Butch", of Fergus Falls, MN died May 24, 2005 at age 84. In 1938, he joined the Army and was sent to the Philippines. He was

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captured on Bataan and held for 3-1/2 years as a prisoner of the Japanese. He was a member of the Red River Chapter, AXPOW. Two sons and 2 daughters survive him.

LEWIS, Edwin, of Venice, Florida, died January 20, 2006. He was 82. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106th Inf, 423rd Reg. He was a POW in Stalags 12A, 4B, 3B and 3A. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Dorothy, two sons, 1 sister and 4 grandchildren.

LITTLE, Minnie, member of the North Central Ohio Chapter #8 passed away Sept. 20, 2005. She was 84. Minnie and her husband, Lester, were active members of the chapter. In addition to her husband, she leaves 2 daughters, 4 sons, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LUTHER, Henry W., 86, passed away Dec. 28, 2005 in Fergus Falls, MN. He was a member of the Red River Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the AAC and was shot down in Italy and held POW in Germany. His wife, Joyce, 2 daughters and 2 sons survive him.

MAERAN, Kenneth V., of Englewood, CO died Feb. 2, 2006. He was 83. He was captured while serving with the 97th BG, 342nd BS and held in Lufts 1, 3, Dulag Luft, 17B and 17A. Ken was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Helen, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MAGNUSON, Harold C. of Bellevue Washington died on March 7, 2006. He was 84. He served in WWII from August 13, 1942 until October 10, 1945 with the 526 Armored Inf. Div., Company B. He went ashore in France on D-day and delivered a classified night fighting tank to the British forces. Then his company, made up of special-forces squads, fought mostly behind enemy lines.

MAHER John G. of Mukwonago. died October 7, 2005, at the age of 84. Beloved husband of Mildred for 58 years. Loving father of 3, Dear Grandpa of 7. Fond brother of 3. Dearly missed by other family and friends. Jack served as Commander and a member

of the Milwaukee Barbed Wire Chapter, Wisconsin Dept. Commander, Past National Director.

MARKLAND, George Ed passed away in Elizabethton, TN on Feb. 18, 2006. He was 86. He served in the Army during WWII and was a past commander of the East TN Chapter, AXPOW. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda.

McEVOY, James A., 86, of Derry, NH passed away Nov. 20, 2005. He was captured on Bataan while serving with the Navy during WWII. He spent 3 ½ years as a Japanese POW. James was past president of ADBC and member of AXPOW. He is survived by his beloved children - James and Mary Jo, nieces and nephews.

McKEE, John H., of Michigan City, IN died Sept. 8, 2005. He was 84. On Aug 8, 1944, John bailed out of "My Peach". He was captured and was held in Luft 4, then marched across Germany. His wife, Anita, 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren survive him.

McKUSICK, Joseph, 86, of the Eight Mile House, CA died Feb. 5, 2006. He was serving with Co. C, 194th Tank Bn. in the Philippines when he was captured on Bataan. He spent 3 ½ years as a Japanese POW. He leaves a host of family and friends, including children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

McLAUGHLIN, Charles D., of Honolulu, HI died Feb. 24, 2001. He served in the Air Force during WWII; he was a POW for 22 months in Stalag 17B, Dulag Luft 3, 7A. Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn, 2 sons and 1 stepdaughter.

MOORE, Velma Street, of Johnson City, TN passed away Aug. 16, 2002. She was 74. Velma was the widow of Roy Moore, who was a POW in Germany during WWII. Both were active members of the East Tennessee Chapter, AXPOW.

MOTZ, Philip G., of Columbus, OH died Dec. 5, 2005 at the age of 92. He served with I Company, 30th Reg., 3rd Inf. Div. He was captured in Holtzwihr, France and held in Stalag XVIIC until liberation. Survivors include his son, Gary.

MURPHY, Wade R., of Aiken, SC passed away July 6, 2005. He was 79. He was shot down while serving with the 15th AF during WWII. He was a POW in Stalag VIIA. Wade was treasurer of the local AXPOW chapter. He is greatly missed by his wife of 57 years, Hazel, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

NARBONE, Arthur J. Sr., 80, died Jan. 3, 2006. He was a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, AXPOW. Art took part in the Normandy invasion during WWII. He is survived by his wife La Nolla, 3 daughters, 3 sons, 5 stepchildren, 17 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

NEWBAUER, Raymond F., of Stratford, CT passed away Jan. 27, 2006. Ray served with the 508th BS, 351st BG during WWII. He was flying out of England when he was shot down and imprisoned. Ray leaves his beloved wife, Tess.

O'HARA, Robert M. Jr. "Red", age 81, formerly of Crafton and Bridgeville, PA died March 11, 2006. Robert served as a radio operator/gunner/medic before being shot down over Berlin. He was a POW in Stalag 17B. Survivors include his loving wife of 51 years, Grace, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 1 sister.

OWENS (Omonskey), John R., 86, of Whitehall, PA died Feb. 15, 2005. He was serving with the 548th BS, 385th BG when he was captured. He spent 15 months at Luft 1, Barth. John was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 59 years, Eileen, 2 sons and 1 grandson.

PEARCE, Edwin A., of Milford, PA passed away Dec. 31, 2005. He was 83. Edwin was shot down while serving with the 390th BG (H). He was held at Stalag 17B. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Rosemary, 5 children and 10 grandchildren. His oldest son, Jack, is still MIA in Southeast Asia.

PONEMONE, Seymour J., 85, of Randallstown, MD passed away Feb. 9, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 12th AF, 97th BG, 414th BS. He was held

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POW in Italy and Germany. Seymour was a life member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley, 3 daughters, 1 son and 7 grandchildren.

REECE, Hayward Jackson, member of the Mountaineer Chapter, AXPOW died March 3, 2006. He was a WWII veteran and POW in the European Theatre. He left his wife of 54 years, Ellen, 3 daughters and 1 son.

REIGNER, Paul, of Pottstown passed away Nov. 30, 2005. He was 82. He was captured while serving with the 26th Yankee Division, 104th Reg, Company K and was held in Stalag 2A. He leaves his loving wife of 56 years, Jane.

REIS, George H., 88, of Seattle, WA died January 23, 2006. George served in the 2nd Battalion ("The Lost Battalion"), 131st Artillery, 36th Division of the U.S. Army. Captured on Java, he spent 3.5 years as a POW on the Bataan Death March. George was preceded in death by his beloved wife, "Dindy," and is survived by 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a great-great grandson.

ROOKSTOOL, Melvin, 72, of Prairie City, OR died Feb. 16, 2006. He served in the 24th Division and was one of the 21 survivors of the Suncheon Tunnel Massacre. He was a member of the Willamette Valley Chapter. Survivors include his wife of 4 years, Vivian, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

SALAMON, William A. passed away Nov. 22, 2005. He was a rifleman with the 168th Inf. Div., Co. F. He was captured in Italy and held in Stalag IIB for 19 months. He also did farm labor while interned. He is sadly missed by his wife, Charlotte, 1 son and 1 daughter.

SATHER, Clinton Angelo, of Moorhead, MN passed away Jan. 28, 2006. He was 85. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 452nd BS. He was shot down and imprisoned in Luft

4 for 1 ½ years. Clinton leaves his loving wife, Eleanor, his 2 sons, 15 grandchildren, 7 step-children, and his beloved dog, Sadie. He will be remembered as a good man, good father and good soldier.

SCHMIDT, Nicholas James, Jr., 84, of Winter Park, FL passed away Jan. 29, 2006. He was captured while serving with the 303rd BG as a navigator. His beloved wife, Mary, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and 1 sister.

SCHNEIDER, Clayton H., of Hinckley, OH died Dec. 9, 2005. He was 87. He served in the 15th AF, 350th BG out of Foggia, Italy. He was shot down over Vienna and held in Luft 4 until liberation. He was a member of Barbed Wire Buckeyes Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Sheila, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive him.

STIGLIANO, Joseph J., age 83, of Wethersfield, CT died Jan. 8, 2006. He served with the 45th Div., 179th Inf., Co. B and was captured at Anzio. Joseph was a POW at Stalags 2B, 10B and 7A. He was a life member of CT Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Florence, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

STUMPF, Dorothy M., 83, of Catonsville, MD passed away Jan. 28, 2006. Along with her husband, ex-POW Robert, she was an active member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to Robert, she is survived by 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter.

SWANBERRY, Patrick D., 82, of North Conway, NH passed away Nov. 7, 2005. He served in the AAC during WWII; he was shot down over the Ploesti oil fields and captured. His wife, Leona, survives him. He also leaves 4 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and 1 sister.

TARDIFF, Joseph L., age 85, of Plainville, CT died Jan. 30, 2006. He served with the 28th Div., 112th Reg. in France, Belgium and Germany. He was a POW at Stalag 2A; he also worked the railroad shack for 5 months. He was a life member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Regina, 3 sons, 3 daughters,

1 brother, 3 sisters, 17 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

THOMAS, Lloyd H., of Miller, MO passed away Dec. 5, 2005 at the age of 89. He served with the 8th AF, was shot down over Germany and held 32 months in Stalag 17B. He leaves his wife, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

TOOMEY, George E., Jr., of Alexandria, VA died Feb. 9, 2006. He was 85. While serving with the 8th AF, he was shot down over Belgium and captured. He was a POW for 15 months. George was a member of AXPOW. He was predeceased by his wife, Pat; survivors include 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

TUNIS, Jerome, 84, of Bolivar, MO passed away Aug. 18, 2005. During WWII, he served with HQ Co., 3rd BN, 110th Inf. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner at Stalag IVB. His wife, Myrtle, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 daughters.

VERNON, Anthony H. "Huck", 86, of Sebek, MN passed away Feb. 14, 2006. He served with the 38th Field Artillery, 2nd Inf. Div. in Korea. He was a POW for 33 months in Camps 5 and 3. He leaves his wife, Emma, 5 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

VINCENT, Eva Mae, of Kershaw, SC passed away Nov. 7, 2005. She and her husband LJ were charter members of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW and very active in AXPOW. In addition to her husband, Eva Mae is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 sister. She will be missed by her many friends.

WALKER, Austin W., 83, of Seagrove, NC died July 17, 2005. He served with Co. K, 361st Inf. Reg., 91st Inf. Div. He was first wounded at Pondera, Italy and later captured in Livergnano. He as a POW at Stalag 7A. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Jennie Bell, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WANN, Richard, of Elwood, IN passed away June 27, 2005. While living in Ohio, he was PR officer for the North Central Ohio Chapter #8. During WWII, he served with the AF and was captured after parachuting behind enemy lines after his plane was shot down. Dick leaves his loving wife, Ruth.

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50/50 drawing

**Latest winners drawn in Washington, DC
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1st Place \$945 Pearl Mydland, Independence MO
2nd Place \$708.75 Keith Behr, Youngstown, AZ
3rd Place \$472.50 Warren King, Nashville, TN
4th Place \$236.25 Keith Behr, Youngstown, AZ

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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:

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Make all checks and money orders payable to:
Stalag Luft IV. Send orders to: Grave Medallion,
Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St. Lawrence, IN
46226-2018.

The Board of Directors has given me approval to make and sell
these grave medallions.

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



**Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2006**

American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation and entry to: American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396 You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support.	American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation and entry to: American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396 You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support.
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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!

Earl William Newton, Jr.
Tucson, AZ
8 AF 891 BG 854 BS
Luft 1, Munich

Richard C Berney
Palm Desert, CA
8 AF
German Airbase

Robert L Holeman
Los Angeles, CA
Army
Korea

Kenneth E Norwood
Berkeley, CA
8 AF 453 BG 735 BS
Brussels, Frankfort,
Wetzlar, Luft 4, 13D, 7A

Norman M Brust
Lake Worth, FL
Battle of the Bulge
4B

Albert B Kerekes
Debary, FL
751 Tank BN
Transit camp in 2B, others

Henry W. Wolcott III
Rosemary A
Niceville, FL
AAC
Brussels, Belgium, St. Gilles,
Prison

Chester H Aszklar
Chicago, IL
3 BN 504 H Co 82 ABN
7A, 2B

Basil A Coats
Thibodeaux, LA
AAF
Buchenwald, Luft 3, 7A

Lloyd W Reese, Jr.
Joanne B
Elida, OH
44 BG H
Rumania

George F Leymeister
Pauline
Pittsburgh, PA
AAF
Breslau, 7A

Primo V Lusardi
Tyrone, PA
15 AF 376 BG 512 BS
Luft 3, 7A

George W Rogers
Barbara
Lynchburg, VA
4 Sep CO
Cabanatuan & Japan

Wanda Pew
Ward Cove, AK
Daughter of Leroy Gurganis

John D Knappenberger
Shirley
Orlando, FL
Co D 110 Inf 28 Div
4B

Jack Sorkin
Clayton, MO
USAAC
Luft 3, 7A

Dale E Albright
Bluffton, OH
775 BS 463 BG
Forced March

Tom Murphy
Toledo, OH
Grandson of Tom Cole

Harold Power
Rita
Houston, TX
106 Inf Div 422 Reg Co C
2A

Teresa Pittman
Vienna, VA
Grandaughter of Ira
Anderson Shelton

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

Ben D Waldron

Geraldine R 2312 39111
Orangeville, CA
C Btry 60 CA
Bilibid, Cabanatuan,
Nichols Field, Ft. McKinley

Don K Wallace
Mavis E 12052 39112
Dallas, TX
53 Med Btn
12A, 2A

Horace E. Feezell
Naomi 16307 39113
Athens, TN
8 AF 390 BG
Stalag 12, 4

Gerald D Fullom
Doris O 28083 39114
Centerville, PA
394 Inf 99 Div
4B, 4F

Frederick G Fink
Ruthe R 30389 39115
Surfside, FL
8 AF 94 BG
Luft 1

Harold Leavitt
Charlotte G 38172 39116
Naples, FL
20 AF 505 BG 483 BS
Kempai Tai HQ Omori

Benny Mark Rayborn
Bobbi A 39092 39117
Lumberton, MS
Son of Mark Rayborn, ETO

Virginia I Ester 39118
Cincinnati, OH
Widow of Ernie I Ester
Luft 4 BK 4 RM 4

Marjorie A Feedback 39119
Fort Wayne, IN
Widow of Allen P Feedback
Luft 3, 13D, 7

Anne A Wills 39120
Fresno, CA
Widow of Norval C Wills
12A

Sarah Louise Draper 39121

Nashville, TN
Widow of Beverage Draper
Germany

Mildred H Pascoe *39122
Pittsburgh, PA
Widow of Paul R Pascoe
12A, 9B

Althea Figuracion *39123
Tacoma, WA
Widow of
Feliciano Figuracion
Japan

John W. Bower *39124
Overland Park, KS
15 AF 98 BG H
Shuman Bulgaria

Hyman Nutkis *39125
Bayonne, NJ
8 AF 446th BG
Luft 1

John Andrade *39126
Palm Springs, CA
Rainbow Div (42nd) Co B
11B, 5A

Ernest M Hill, Jr. *39127
Angels Camp, CA
23 Armrd Ind BN 7 Div
12A, 8C

William Massie *39128
Roscoe, IL
USS Pueblo Fireman
Apprentice

Robert T Littlefield
Jodi *39129 39130
Port Orchard, WA
Son of Thad Littlefield, ETO

Billy B Peyton
Jeanette 39131 39132
Zephyrhills, FL
8 AF 305 BG 364 BS
17 B

**Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2006**



Magnetic Ribbons

\$5.00

AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	7.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	6.00
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Travel Alarm Clock with case	10.00	Aluminum License Plate	3.00
Eagle Sport Cap	9.00			3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	3" Blazer Patch	3.50	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire pin	2.50	4" Blazer Patch	3.50	8" Vinyl Decal	5.00
Life Member pin	4.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	4.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	2.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"	1.50
Brooch pin	4.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		Bumper Sticker "Freedom – Ask us"	1.50
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Logo pin	4.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Memorial Seals	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	State Department Commander		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW Daisies (dozen)	1.50
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)	1.25
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	7.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		Wall Clock (battery included)	20.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		Service Officer · Legislative Officer		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	20.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)				AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	12x18 inch American Flag	5.00	Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	18.50	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag		POW Medal Poster Print	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	10.00		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord	9.00	3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo		POW Videotape – ETO or Pacific	11.00
Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00	"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	4.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00

We accept Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$3.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$7.00

For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$10.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$13.00

For orders over 100.00, add \$18.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpowqm@aol.com



A replica of Paul Galanti's A-4 was pieced together in Richmond this spring. Paul's reaction? "It was a weird deja-vue emotion seeing this airplane again... I almost felt like the hangar floor was throbbing just like Hancock's flight deck as the Captain cranked up the turns and the ship turned into the wind. I regarded the bird carefully, wondering whether it would bring me back to the boat again after a hairy mission. Or whether it - and I - would end up at the bottom of a smoking hole in North Vietnam. The hair on the back of my stood up creepily and I felt a slight chill even though it got to 87 deg. here yesterday. In the back of my mind, I heard the bos'n's pipe's shrill whistle. Then the bos'n's mate of the watch on the IMC PA circuit announced, "Now flight quarters, flight quarters. All hands man your flight quarters stations." And the time machine took me back 40 years... Replete with formation-flying butterflies in my stomach."



AXPOW Vests!

The uniform of the American Ex-POWs consists of the military cap and the vest. These vests are custom-made with your name on the front, and your chapter and logo shield on the back. Orders take approximately six weeks to complete. Order now to wear at National Convention!

\$50.00 each, includes shipping/handling

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



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

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members
\$20.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions
\$30.00 per year

Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

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

American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

