

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

Volume 77

www.axpow.org

Number 4/5/6

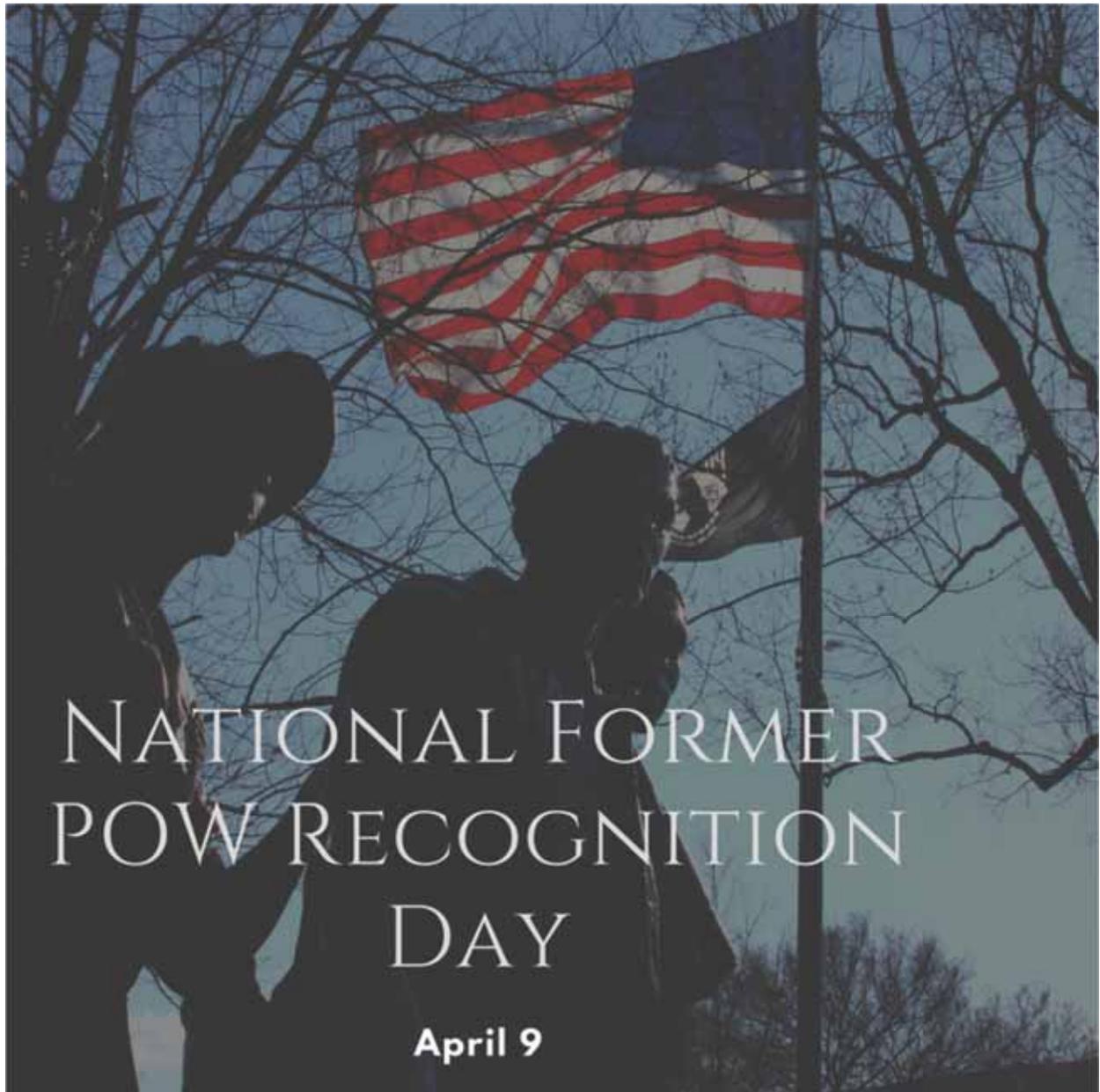
April-May-June 2020



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Memorial Day
Avenue of Flags, Andersonville National Historic Site



NATIONAL FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY

April 9

We remember the sacrifices of our former prisoners of war. Let us never forget their courage and heroism, as well as the principles they fought to defend.

table of contents

Officers/Directors	4
CEO	5
Medsearch	6
Testimony	9
Andersonville	13
NamPOW	15
POW/MIA	18
Civilian	19
Events	20
News	20
Then & Now	24
The Ride Home	25
New members	28
Contributions	29
Taps/Chaplain	30
Voluntary Funding	34

Publisher

PNC Milton M Moore Jr
2965 Sierra Bermeja
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
(520) 249-7122
tombstone490@gmail.com

Editor

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508) 394-5250
axpoweditor@comcast.net

Deadline for the July-Sept 2020 issue is May 31, 2020

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

April-June 2020

I had the nicest conversation the other day with Mrs. Rachel Wade of Ocala, FL – wife of Ex-POW Wallace. Wally served with the 106th Inf., 423rd BN. He was held in 4B for the duration of the war. What prompted the call was her concern about “solicitors”. She had received donation requests from organizations using professional fundraisers, and the last one who called her was rather rude when she asked questions. What she wanted to know was if her letters from AXPOW were from a solicitor. Or when she called the Headquarters phone – she was reaching a solicitor.

I had the pleasure of telling her no. She was hearing from one of us “kids”...children of Ex-POWs.

And any time she heard from us asking for a donation, she could rest easy knowing her money was going to help.

If you have any questions about how your organization is run, reach out to any of our board members. We are all listed on page 4 of each Bulletin.

National Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day on April 9 honors you and your sacrifices. On this day in 1942, the largest number of U.S. Forces were captured by Japanese troops in the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. After battling through extreme conditions and prolonged battles, the captured troops were forced to march 65 miles to the prison camp. Without medical attention, food or water thousands died. The mistreatment continued for those who survived the brutal journey. In the compounds, deep in the unfamiliar jungle, the hardships, brutality, and suffering lasted more than two years for those who could survive.

You are heroes and deserve a day of recognition. An annual presidential proclamation is signed for National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and government officials, veterans, civic and private organizations observe the day with ceremonies and events. Some states require the POW/MIA flag to be flown in this day.

Cover:

The Avenue of Flags is a display of state flags in the parking lot of the National Prisoner of War Museum, as well as hundreds of U.S. flags lining the roads of Andersonville National Cemetery. The Avenue of Flags reinforces patriotism and national pride with a visible, bold and proud display of flags. This display occurs five times a year around special days of ceremonial significance: National Former POW Recognition Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and Veterans Day.

EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published quarterly (four times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 2710 Charon Court, Grand Prairie, TX 75052. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, “American Ex-Prisoners of War”, October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement.

© 2020
American Ex-Prisoners of War



axpow board of directors

National Headquarters
PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445
(817) 649-2979 HQ@axpow.org

National Commander ~ Robert Certain
5100 John D Ryan Blvd, Apt 1801, San Antonio, TX 78245
(770) 639-3313 eagle@unchainedeagle.com

operations

Chief Executive Officer

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508)394-5250 - Home
(508) 360-4090 - Cell
axpoweditor@comcast.net

Chief Operations Officer

Clydie J Morgan
PO Box 3445
Arlington TX 76007-3445
(817) 300-2840 - Cell
hq@axpow.org

Chief Financial Officer

Marsha M Coke
2710 Charon Court
Grand Prairie TX 75052
(817) 649-2979 – Office
(817) 723-3996 – Cell
axpow76010@yahoo.com

board of directors

Edward "Ted" Cadwallader
Elk Grove, CA
(916) 685-5369
DCadwall@aol.com

David Eberly
Williamsburg, VA
(757) 508-8453
eberlydsl@verizon.net

Pam Warner Eslinger
Hammon, OK
(580) 821-1526
eslingerpam@gmail.com

Ben Garrido
Tulsa, OK
(951) 313-9838
bgarrido24@aol.com

Alan Marsh
Lizella, GA
(478) 951-9247
alanmarsh@bellsouth.net

Milton 'Skip' Moore
Sierra Vista, AZ
(520) 249-7122
tombstone490@gmail.com

Sally Morgan
Grand Prairie, TX
(972) 896-7252
sbmorgan@aol.com

Jim 'Moe' Moyer
Lake Wales, FL
(407) 448-1181
moehog@verizon.net

Mary Schantag
Branson, MO
(417) 336-4232
info@pownetwork.org

Charles A. Susino
Piscataway, NJ
(732)221-0073
charles.susino@gmail.com

Jan Williams
Guthrie, OK
(580) 821-2376
williamsjj72@ymail.com



from the CEO

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA
02664
(508)394-5250
axpowceo@comcast.net

78 years ago this month, two mothers had a vision. Their sons had just been captured on Bataan, conditions were terrible and they needed to do something to try to help.

The mothers were Mrs. Charles W. Bickford and Mrs. Fred E. Landon of Albuquerque, whose sons, members of the 200th Coast Artillery (CA) were captured by the Japanese. On April 10, 1942, these women spoke with the father of another 200th CA prisoner and asked him to preside over a meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to form an organization to send aid to the captured men on Bataan.

That historic meeting was held on April 14, 1942 and the Bataan Relief Organization was created. The name Bataan Relief Organization was suggested by Dr. V. H. Spensley, the first chairman of the organization. He pointed out that the initials BRO are a shortened form of the word "brother" and that all the imprisoned men were their brothers. The group adopted as its motto: "We will not let them down."

The Bataan Relief Organization was made up of the mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts of the captured men who very actively worked to get relief to their loved ones. They gathered every bit of information about the men that they could find and exchanged this information with others prisoners' families.

The BRO also made financial contributions to the US government. Money was brought in by BRO-sponsored state-wide Bond and Stamp sales drives; other contributions included aid to the American Red Cross and the National Red Cross.

78 years ago, I wasn't even born. By the time I was, the war was over; husbands, sons, and dads were home. And the BRO became the BVO and then in

1949, the American Ex-Prisoners of War – a family organization to this day.

And today, I am grateful to those who went before...those who instilled in us "pay it back; pay it forward." "Help those who cannot help themselves". And my dad's personal favorite: "If you see it needs doing, do it".

I am trying to do just that as your chief executive officer. I am only a phone call, a letter, an email away if you need me. As the daughter of an ex-POW, I've spent my adulthood in this organization, with most of you as my surrogate parents. Not a replacement for my mom and dad, but additions to my very extended family.

My focus is to reach out to help the widows in our group. If you look at our testimony beginning on page 9 of this Bulletin, our Commander spoke passionately to the subject of DIC, the very inadequate stipend given for decades of loving care.

I am convinced that Ex-Prisoners of War received the benefits they so richly deserved in the 1980s because we were activists. Buses descended on Washington, DC each year and hundreds of men and women walked the halls of Congress talking to anyone who would listen. Today, with the age and physical limitations of our members, this sort of action is not feasible. BUT. We could have a "virtual" march on Washington. Stories like the one given in our testimony by Commander Certain need to be made public. Write to your newspapers. Contact your local representatives. Tell them this is unacceptable treatment. If you do not know who your Congressperson is, call or write me and I will give you that information. There are two bills currently before this Congress...HR3221 with 14 cosponsors and S1047 with just 4 cosponsors. Unacceptable. And they need to be held to task.

Our board is meeting this year on April 25 in Arlington, Texas. DIC will certainly be a focus of our efforts to help. And to put your experiences in the public eye, we are working with our National POW Museum in Andersonville, GA to keep the POW story alive for the future – through education and our "Victory from Within" portable museum.

We want to convey not only "We will not let them down", but "We will never forget". And as long as we exist, the POW experience will not be forgotten and America will never forget your sacrifices.

With love and fellowship,

Cheryl

Cold Injury

By Dr. Jerrod Johnson

NOTE: Dr. Jerrod E. Johnson, MD wrote the following article originally for "The Scuttlebutt" – a monthly newsletter for the men of Ammunition Company, 1st Ordnance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, in which most are veterans of the Chosin Reservoir. Dr. Johnson was a doctor with the Reno, Nevada VA Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. He was, in addition to being a authority on Cold Injury, serving as the POW Coordinator for the Medical Center. Our thanks to him for making this article possible.

Cold Injury has a long, military medical history. Of particular significance, is that both Napoleon and Hitler made tactical mistakes trying to take Russia, and lack of planning put them deep into Russia as the weather turned cold. Their armies suffered as much from freezing to death as anything else.

Medicine is still in the learning process about Cold Injury. Longitudinal studies of WWI, WWII and Korea survivors, and more recently the war in the Falkland Islands, have given better insight into the initial injuries, and the long term consequences. During WWII and the Korean War, thousands of United States military personnel

suffered Cold Injuries including frostbite, in other words a Freezing Cold Injury, and immersion foot which is also called Non-freezing Cold Injury. The winter of 1944 and 1945 in Europe, when the Battle of the Bulge was fought, was one of the coldest on record.

The winter of 1950/51 in Korea was bitterly cold, and the veterans of The Chosin Reservoir in Korea was recognized as having suffered especially high rates of severe Cold Injury. It was during WWI, that Non-Freezing Injuries were distinguished from those of freezing of tissues. Freezing Cold Injuries are designated as frostbite, whereas conditions usually referring to Non-freezing Cold Injury include: trench foot; immersion foot; paddy foot, which is described in soldier's whose feet had been immersed in warm water for long long periods, such as in Viet Nam; and shelter limb, which occurred in Londoners taking refuge in WWII, whose feet were neither cold or wet, but remained in a dependent or "hanging down position" for long periods of time. Many soldiers forget that they actually had frozen feet, and some of them never had their shoes of to recognize the frostbitten changes.

Generally, it has been easier to connect frostbite with the later

symptoms that develop over the years. On the other hand, in Non-freezing Cold Injuries where there is no freezing of the tissues, the afflicted soldier would not been aware of that anything had happened other that he had been miserable.

Later, when the symptoms develop, neither they nor medical personnel have been able to make a connection between their Non-Freezing Cold Injury and the later symptoms that happen. Consequently, these patients often have long careers following a progression from seeing a vascular or blood vessel surgeon, to a neurology specialist, and often end up with a psychiatrist.

Frostbite, on the other hand, goes through stages similar to a burn. In the first stage, the feet are cold and white. Then it goes to moderate, where people develop blisters as though they were burned. There can be clear fluid filled blisters, such as you see after a sunburn. And finally, if they had severe frostbite, they would have blood blisters in addition to toes turning black. But all this is very obvious, very miserable and easy to connect. Generally speaking, our military soldiers who have been exposed to cold injury can expect solution or disappearance of their

medsearch, cont'd...

symptoms in anytime from three months to 12 years. But many of them never get well, and as they get older have greater problems. Because Cold Injury is damage to the small blood vessels, this is a similar type of damage that would occur with both diabetes and smoking. Consequently, smokers and diabetics will have exaggerated results from their having had a Cold Injury many years before.

One other thing that doesn't occur with Non-Freezing is that those who suffer frostbite can not only lose toes, and have problems with their feet, but suffer loss of fingers, earlobes, and the tip of their nose. It is important to remember that even though the immediate effects of having had a cold injury can heal or appear healed, it does not prevent the development of a severe disability many years later.

Veterans with a history of Cold Injury can have the following signs and symptoms:

Chronic fungus infections of the feet, or athlete's foot
Abnormal, or thick and horny toenail growth
Excessive sweating called hyperhidradenous, chronic pain
Abnormal skin color or thickness of skin

They become very sensitive to the cold, in that minimal cold weather, which would have no effect on a normal person, will give them cold, white feet for a long periods of time
Joint pain and stiffness

They develop a problem called Raynaud's phenomenon, which means the toes or fingertips will turn chalk white on contact with a cool, damp object
They can develop weakness of the hands or feet
Night pain
Weak or fallen arches

Swelling of the feet
Numbness
Odd sensations in the feet
Development of ulceration of the cold injury scars
Shiny, atrophied or deteriorated skin
Loss of foot hair

In other words, in a person who has had frostbite the foot would be shiny, white, devoid of hair, and cool. They can also develop excessive pain, which is called peripheral neuropathy. They may develop skin cancers in the skin at the site of the scar from a cold injury. They develop arthritis, or other bone abnormalities, which appear as deformed joints, and osteoporosis which means thinning of the bone. There's no really good treatment for long term effects of Cold Injury, other than to keep feet dry, warm and clean. It is essential to take good care of toenails, stop smoking, and maintain good diabetic control.

A blood pressure medication called Nifedipine can cause blood vessels to open up or dilate. This can be useful in people who have Raynaud's phenomena, where the toes or fingers turn chalk white when they touch a cold surface. To control chronic pain in the feet, an anti-depressant drug called Elavil in doses of 25-150 mg at bedtime can be helpful. Another anti-depressant drug called Nortryptilene also works well.

Veterans suffering from long term, and delayed effects of Cold Injuries, frequently require continued medical care, as well as specialty consultations and periodic reevaluations. These patients, or veterans should enroll in a VA Primary Care program, and they should be encouraged to see a Veteran's Benefits Counselor to discuss submission of a benefits claim, if appropriate. Veterans, who previously have received some service-connected compensation

for the residuals of Cold Injury, may wish to reapply for additional benefits because extremities have been evaluated separately for the last several years. There can be additional service -connection for arthritis and development of cancers at the site of the Cold Injury.

In summary, the Veterans Administration recognizes that greater attention needs to be given for Cold Injury, and that sufferers are entitled more adequate compensation.

Unfortunately, as with a lot of other things in medicine, we do not have satisfactory cures. Control of diabetes, stopping smoking, and keeping feet warm and dry can go a long ways towards adding to an affected veteran's comfort.

The Veterans Administration offers a Cold Injury Protocol as part of the Compensation & Pension Examination.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded and clarified its internal guidance for evaluations of veteran cold injury, and most of all, these changes include an update to the chronic effects of exposure to 20 conditions.

Especially relevant are the November 29, 2016 change in the M21-1 Adjudication Procedures Manual.

Any veteran examined for residuals of cold injury should undergo a cold injury protocol examination if it has not already been carried out. If the veteran has already had a cold injury protocol examination, only an interval history is required, and the extent of the examination, laboratory tests performed, etc., will be determined by the examiner based on the history, and as requested.

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37

by William Paul Skelton, III, MD F.A.C.P.

All ex-POWs should keep these. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your own story as it relates to your problem.....

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma.

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration.

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human.

7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition.

8. PELLAGRA

It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet.

9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects.

10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities.

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress.

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

This is a category that is used for diagnosis when the affected individual appears to have an anxiety disorder that does not meet the criteria for entry into any of the other known anxiety disorders.

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes.

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord.

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gas, bloating, and changes in bowel habits.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or duodenum (the first part of the small intestine).

20. CIRRHOSIS

Scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension).

23. OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break.

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined by VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected. To be eligible for compensation, the Veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of eligible dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation (SMC). Disability compensation benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
U.S. SENATE/U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 3, 2020

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT G. CERTAIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CHERYL CERBONE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER CHARLES ANTHONY SUSINO

Chairmen Mark Takano and Jerry Moran, and members of the House and Senate Veteran's Affairs committee and guests, my name is Robert Certain, National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Thank you for the opportunity to express our comments today.

Our legislative agenda has been very consistent year to year. It is based on the earned benefits of the veteran for serving their country, never using the word "entitlements" in the same sentence as veteran. Its center is healthcare and fair compensation to the veteran and their family.

We are grateful for the efforts of this committee and this Congress over this past year. You have stepped up and passed several key pieces of legislation in support of our veterans. Your time is scarce and other major Congressional agendas often displace the attention on veterans' needs so we ask for your patience, persistence, and unwavering support.

Three major initiatives became law in 2019.

The first:

Full Military Honors Act of 2019. This act ensures that a veteran shall receive full military honors if the veteran (1) is first interred or

interred in Arlington National Cemetery, (2) was awarded the medal of honor or the prisoner-of-war medal, and (3) is not entitled to full military honors because of such veteran's grade. This was a long time coming and is just recognition for those heroes who gave so much for their country, regardless of rank.

The second allows this nation to live up to the promise that we will never forget those still missing in action. Prominent federal buildings and national war memorials will now fly the iconic POW/MIA flag alongside the American flag throughout the year thanks to legislation signed into law in November. The proposal, passed without objection in the House and the Senate earlier in 2019, is designed to help highlight the continued sacrifice of military families whose loved ones are still unaccounted for overseas, estimated at about 82,000 individuals.

And importantly for the surviving partners of our veteran heroes: The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 completely eliminates the Widow's Tax after three years. No changes will take place in calendar year 2020. In 2021, one-third of the SBP will be restored. In 2022, two-thirds will be restored. On January 1, 2023, the SBP will be completely

restored *and surviving spouses will receive their SBP and DIC payments in full.* Again, this was a long time coming and will positively affect nearly 65,000 surviving military spouses.

Thank you for your efforts.

Unfortunately, an equally important initiative has been overlooked by Congress for nearly three decades. The flat rate Dependency and Indemnity Compensation has not been increased since 1993. Compared to other Federal survivor programs, DIC lags behind almost 12%. The current DIC flat rate is 43% of the compensation of a fully disabled single veteran.

Other Federal survivor programs provide a survivor annuity of 50-55% of retirement pay to the surviving spouse. We propose a 12% increase once or a "Sunset Provision" of 3% each for 10 years for DIC to become equitable with other Federal survivor programs.

In 2020, DIC is \$1,340.14 a month, or about \$16,082 per year. Pretty close to the poverty level for our most fragile citizens.

We receive calls from widows who, because DIC is so low, they must abandon the homes where they lived with their veteran spouse. We get calls from our surviving spouse members who want to "cancel the magazine. I can't afford to pay for it". When we tell them that the

Testimony, cont'd...

magazine is paid for by their life membership dues, they are grateful. For most, the magazine is their only connection to the Ex-POW experience. We also get calls from the children of ex-POWs. They want to know what benefits are available over the stipend they get through DIC. Their mothers are nearly destitute. That is not fair to all veterans and certainly not fair to widows of EX-POWs.

Below is a letter received as this testimony was being written:

Dear Cheryl (CEO Cheryl Cerbone)

As a dependent of a former Ex-POW, I am reaching out to you after reading your most recent letter in the bulletin.

My mother, Theresa Hoffmann is a widow and soon to be 98 years old. My dad, Edward I Hoffmann was a POW for 42 months during WW II. He was with the 59th Coast Artillery and captured on Corregidor. Dad passed away in February 1998 from malignant tumor behind his eye. He was 100% disabled Veteran.

I moved my mom to Scottsdale, AZ from Omaha, NE four years ago when she could no longer care for herself. Here in Phoenix we have "assisted care homes" which are much more affordable than those larger care facilities. Mom ran out of her Long Term Care Insurance in 2018. At that time I had to negotiate with the owner of the care home a cost that mom could afford which then I had to move her into a shared room. Mom had some money in her savings which I have been supplementing to cover her room, board & care.

In August, I had to find a different assisted care home because the owners decided to build a bigger brand new home on the same site. The cost was going from \$3,600/month to \$5,500/month, so I no choice but to find another care

home that would care for her at \$3,600/month.

Mom is bedridden and although she is somewhat mentally aware, her body has given up on her. Fortunately, the new care home is just around the corner from where my husband and I live. My brother also lives with us who has multiple myeloma and we transport him to doctor appointments and kidney dialysis 3x a week. I walk over daily to help feed mom dinner.

Currently, I am supplementing mom's monthly care from her remaining savings of \$8,900. Her current DIC is \$1,956.00; SS is \$1,180 and she has a small pension of \$285.00/month which = 3,421.00/month. The difference is \$179.00 a month. She will run out of her savings in 49 months. Upon her death, I will most likely need most of that savings to transport her body back to Omaha to be buried with my dad at the cemetery where he is placed. No cremation as she wishes.

My plea is an increase in her DIC for \$179.00 a month more for her. I had to move her from Omaha to one assisted living home and three different rooms negotiating costs. Then negotiating again with another assisted care home because she doesn't have the funds for the care she needs this time in her life. This shouldn't be the scenario for a widower of a former POW.

My parents were very involved and volunteered their time at the VA hospital as well as organized the POW Chapter in Omaha. Mom was adjunct secretary of the POW Chapter as well as chairperson for many, many years. Both are life time members.

In hopes of Congress listening at your March testimony, perhaps this letter will help. All she needs is \$179.00 a month to continue her care. If this plea should fall on someone else's ears, please let me know. I'm afraid Congress couldn't care less as they are more involved with impeachment

hearings than a 97 year old widow of a former POW and disabled veteran.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out and for all that you do for our Ex-POW's.

Sincerely, Mary (Hoffmann) Rumer

Do your mothers have to live like this? Could your mothers live on this?

I don't think so.

There are two bills currently before this Congress...HR3221 with 14 cosponsors and S1047 with just 4 cosponsors. Both of these bills were referred to YOUR committees in April 2019. One year ago, with no action except shuffling to subcommittees. You owe it to these most vulnerable of our citizens to do more and do it now. We should not and can not be a nation who abandons the surviving spouse of its veterans.

And along this line, did you know that in order to be eligible for DIC, the veteran must have been rated as 100% totally disabled for a period of 10 years? Many years ago, this requirement was changed for ex-POWS to 1 year, but the vast majority of the 778,000 who currently are rated at 100% still had to meet that 10-year requirement. It takes years – sometimes decades – to increase disability ratings to 100%. And by that time, the veteran is usually in poor health overall. We want this Congress to look at reducing the period from 10 years to 1 year for ALL veterans.

There are other concerns we have as well.

In 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-37 entitled "Former Prisoners of War Benefit Act." This law accomplished several things. It established an Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of

War and mandated medical and dental care.

As Past Chairman of the Advisory Committee, I am concerned that the FACA (Federal Advisory Committee Act) term limits has resulted in the VA Advisory Committee on Former POWs being populated by well-meaning people with no real understanding of or passion for former POWs. That, coupled with the virtual lack of attention from the last several VA Secretaries, has relegated this Committee to the back burner of VA attention back burner of VA attention by moving it from the Secretary's office and placed several levels down under the Veterans Benefit Administration. That placement has made it easy to ignore and its recommendations easy to lose. Some of the unresolved issues when I timed out as Chairman:

The failure, inability, or unwillingness of the VA to coordinate its list of "former POWs" with the DoD list, with many more names on the VA list than is justified

The poor outreach efforts of the VA to find and include known (by DoD) POWs into the VA disability and healthcare system

The failure of the VA to insure the initial and ongoing training of a medical team (to include MD, PA, NP, RN, social worker) to treat and care for former POWs in each and every VAMC

The failure of accountability of the VA for APPROVED VAPOW Committee recommendations made over the course of the last 25-30 years.

Every committee member with long experience and strong connection to the former POW community has been removed from the Committee, along with their corporate knowledge. I never received any report from the VA about the

approved recommendations and where they stood in current practice and enforcement. In our opinion, the Committee should be exempt from term limits and its membership should be limited to former POWs, their spouses or children, members of the Pensacola Mitchell Center team, and a certified VA POW doctor.

We strongly recommend that Congress pass legislation (possibly titled the John S. McCain Disability Act) to declare all former POWs, as verified by the DoD, to be rated by the VA at 100% disabled from the point at which the legislation is enacted, without further protocol exams. This is totally consistent with the POW list of presumptives passed by Congress over 30 years ago.

For the veteran population as a whole, I would also ask for assistance.

Decades ago, Congress looked to increase the disability compensation percentages for World War I veterans as they became aged. It is time to again look at this for veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. All veterans rated at more than 50% disability would automatically be rated at 100%. This Congress is young for the most part. There are only two members of this Committee older than I am; only four members who are my age. The average age of the World War II veteran is 97. Korean War veterans are 88 and Vietnam veterans are well past retirement age at 73. From nearly 25 million who served during these three conflicts, fewer than 3 million are still alive. We need to look closer at "caring for those who have borne the battle".

Additionally...the veterans' means test for access to health care must be eliminated. Should a veteran

who worked two or three jobs to provide better for his family later be deprived of healthcare? Each has served his country and earned the same benefits so let us not deprive any deserving veteran of healthcare.

It is most insulting to us when we hear the use of the word entitlements regarding any benefits to the veteran. These are all earned benefits where the veteran has served and sacrificed. Calling them "entitlements" relegates the program to a handout and needs to be eliminated from the language used for veterans.

During wartime, there have been civilian POWs held in enemy prison camps, often side by side with our military prisoners of war. In WWII, wives and children were also held with their husbands and fathers. The parents were often individuals working on government contracts building facilities for the military which lead to their capture. To date, they do not receive any compensation nor health benefits other than dental resulting from their imprisonment. Over time, the numbers of these individuals has reduced dramatically yet, there is time to do the right thing and include them within the VA healthcare system. This is deserving treatment for those civilians imprisoned because they were supporting our military operations. It has been decades since a bill has been introduced to correct this long overdue injustice. We ask that you take action in this Congress.

We are a small organization. Since our founding on April 14, 1942 after the Fall of Bataan, we have worked to bring attention to and support for Ex-Prisoners of War. At the height of our membership, we had 33,000...today it is less than 9,000. In fewer years than we would like,

Testimony, cont'd...

our concerns will not be heard...our needs will not merit attention by Congress.

Looking toward that future, The American Ex-Prisoners of War chose Andersonville National Historic Site and the National POW Museum at Andersonville, Georgia as our legacy. We have been intimately involved with the creation of the museum since the 1980s and are the lead organization in providing assistance – both financial and physical – to that site. In 1994, we lobbied Congress to legislate authorizing the US Mint to create a commemorative silver dollar. The proceeds went to construction of the National POW Museum, with an endowment for the future. The museum is one of the largest in the National Parks system. Along with the National POW/MIA Memorial at Riverside, California, we feel secure that the sacrifices made by American prisoners of war will never be forgotten. And we thank past Congresses' actions in designating these as national sites, assuring they will serve unique positions in history honoring our heroes.

Additionally, we strongly support the efforts of Honor-Release-Return and The Ride Home, but challenge you to increase results. Since the early days of the 20th Century (WW I) the United States has left more than 100,000 Military personnel either in the hands of our enemy or unaccounted for on the field of battle. Despite the well-publicized/ verbalized policy 'Leave No Man Behind', we have only accounted for approximately 10,000 of those over the last eight decades. Honor-Release-Return is committed to bringing the accounting of the remaining Missing in Action to a close. The Ride Home,

Inc. pays tribute to Former American POWs and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the third Friday in September, reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make for our country every day and our responsibility to let them all know that WE WILL NOT FORGET. Combined conflict totals in the last century equal more than 120,000 prisoners of war repatriated and more than 83,000 still listed as MISSING IN ACTION.

Efforts in North Korea have stalled; the last unilateral turnover of remains was in 2018. There were 10 recovery missions in Southeast Asia in 2019 – 4 in Vietnam, 5 in Laos, 1 in Cambodia – but the work is slow and time is running short. It has been 45 years since hostilities ceased.

The vast majority of those missing from World War II may never be recovered. And we don't even pursue World War I.

We can and must do better. You must make it so.

We also work closely with the P.O.W. Network. The P.O.W. Network was originally formed 30 years ago as an educational group to maintain the focus on the POW/MIA issue. Over the years, maintaining the almost 4000 biographies of those prisoners or missing during Vietnam has taken a backseat to answering daily questions on false claims of heroism or POW captivity. The mission now is to see that those recording history will be held accountable. Facts, not cover-up or fairy tales must be the most important basis for these historical efforts – be it POW/MIA or veterans military claims. According to *The New York Times*, the Department of Veterans Affairs paid disability benefits to more than six hundred people

falsely claiming to have been POWs in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars. The number of stolen valor cases reported to the FBI has tripled in the last decade. In fact, more imposters lie about earning high military declarations for battlefield bravery than the actual number of real-life hero recipients. These imposters trade on tales and the trappings of military valor to secure privileges such as career advancements and even unearned veterans' benefits.

This is unacceptable on virtually every level. Before awarding benefits to anyone claiming to be recipients of military medals, particularly Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, or Prisoner of War, the VA must check first with the Department of Defense for verification of such claims. Only after verification shall benefits be granted.

Several pieces of new legislation are important and continually improving all facets of the Veterans Administration operation is necessary. We often speak at this hearing about how the VA needs to improve and model its methods about particular successful and efficient industries. We need to get to where we use the term operational excellence and VA in the same sentence. For an organization that large it takes time, but we need to focus on select areas to build some successes to point at. As an attachment to this statement, I am including the latest VA Pocket Guide. I don't know how many of the members of this committee have seen or read it. Please take a few minutes and imagine the people who depend on both the VA system and you.

Thank you for your time and attention in support of ex-POWs and all veterans – deserving heroes every one.

Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Steve Theus
Acting Superintendent



Greetings! My name is Steve Theus, and I am currently the Acting Superintendent at Andersonville National Historic Site. As you may have heard, former Superintendent Charles Sellars left Andersonville for a position at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in August. We are in the process of refilling the vacant

position, and hope to have a new, permanent Superintendent on board sometime this summer.

I am currently the Site Manager at Fort Frederica National Monument in Saint Simons Island, Georgia, but I will have the honor of serving as Andersonville's Acting Superintendent until early June. Previously, I worked at nearby Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, so I am familiar with Andersonville and its mission. I look forward to working with the American Ex-Prisoners of War and other valued partners over the next few months to advance the park's mission of preserving and sharing the stories of Andersonville and of all American prisoners of war.



Wreaths arrived and set

The park has experienced an unusually wet winter this year, but despite the rain the recent Wreaths Across America event was spectacular. With the support and partnership of Bennett International, the Taylor Family Foundation, the Friends of Andersonville, and others, the event was a rousing success. A new record of 15,705 wreaths graced headstones in Andersonville National Cemetery, creating a beautiful scene. Over 840 volunteers helped unload and place the wreaths. Our goal for 2020 is to decorate each of the over 20,000 graves in the national cemetery

with a wreath. Those interested in helping us reach that goal can get

more information at: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/ga0213.

The Victory From Within traveling exhibit spent the fall on display at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. It is currently on display at Georgia Southwestern State University in nearby Americus. Park staff are taking the opportunity to inspect the exhibit, make any needed repairs, and replenish missing parts and supplies. We are searching for venues for the exhibit beginning in April. Please contact Charles Barr at charles_barr@nps.gov or 229-924-0343 ext. 112 with any suggested or potential venues.

Spring brings thousands of students to the park on field trips, where they learn about what happened at Andersonville and about the experiences of all American prisoners of war. This year, thanks to the support of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Friends of Andersonville, the park is initiating two new education projects. The first will focus on program evaluation and development. State standards for Georgia schools changed significantly last year, and our existing education programs may no longer meet the state standards that teachers must satisfy. We will partner with one or more local teachers to evaluate our existing programs, modify them as needed to meet the new standards, and create at least one new education program focused on POWs of a modern war that will also meet the new standards. A second initiative focuses on educating students at low-income (Title 1) schools, which typically do not have the funds for bus transportation for field trips. The park will partner with multiple Title 1 schools to conduct a series of programs, both in the classroom and at the park. This project will pay the cost of bus transportation

Andersonville, cont'd...

for these underserved students to visit the park and National Prisoner of War Museum. Partner schools will participate in a pre-visit program in the classroom, a field trip to the park, and a post-visit program in the classroom. This series of programs will much more effectively teach students about the concepts and history associated with American prisoners of war.

Park staff are also preparing for upcoming events. Living History Weekend will take place March 7-8. The event will include a blacksmith demonstration, cannon and infantry firing demonstrations, and portrayal of Union and Confederate soldiers by living historians. In April, the park will raise the Avenue of Flags in honor of National Former POW Recognition Day. This

dramatic display of full-sized American and POW/MIA flags is always popular with visitors. In May, our Memorial Day commemoration will include placement of small American flags on over 20,000 graves in Andersonville National Cemetery, in addition to the Avenue of Flags, and a special ceremony to honor those who have died in service to our country.

Park entrance and all activities are free and open to the public. We hope you and your family will visit and join us for one or more of these special occasions.



Your donations at work



Education/Andersonville Chair Alan Marsh met in January with Andersonville National Historic Site Acting Superintendent Barbara Hatcher (in photo), Jody Mays, Jennifer Hopkins, Charles Barr and James Taylor.

Picture of Alan presenting checks for educational projects approved in April 2019.

AXPOW plans future donations to help fund the "Victory from Within" exhibit as well as other needs at Andersonville as they arise.

This is our legacy.

namPOW news

The following is from a talk given to Wounded Warriors by NamPOW Col. Carlyle Harris on the Tap Code.

Beak Stratton writes that "Without that means of communication I doubt if we would have been able to return with honor; for sure, some of us would not have survived. There is still a lot of confusion even today about what the code really is and where it came from (the Greeks). Claude Watkins, one of ours, was the prime catalyst in the Hanoi transfer.

It is an honor for me to be asked to address a group consisting of Wounded Warriors, their families, and supporters. The combat wounds sustained by our Warriors is living proof that they put their own lives on the line to preserve the values of this great nation and the freedoms we as Americans enjoy. There is no greater sacrifice that can be asked of a citizen and these men and women, all volunteers, accepted that challenge willingly. I salute all members of our military and especially those who bear the scars of their service to our country.

There are choices we make in life about who we are and what we want to do. Consequences attach to those choices. When you volunteered to serve your country, you know you put everything on the line. Precisely what that entailed was not clear. You were willing – that is what matters. I became a POW on April 4th, 1965. After shutdown, torture, isolation, and near starvation you find resources you never know you had. You Wounded Warriors know what I mean.

Today I will talk briefly about my captivity in North Vietnam, and



*Drawing by Mike McGrath;
Courtesy Naval Institute Press*

some of the most important ways we were able to counter the North Vietnam attempts to break our will and to exploit us for their propaganda needs.

At first, I was held in solitary confinement and interrogated daily. When I gave them name rank, serial number, and date of birth they became angry knocked me from my stool and threatened me with everything up to and including death for my crimes.

Let me talk a little about torture. It involved creating intense pain with tight ropes; leg and arm irons tightened down; beatings; manipulating broken arms, shoulders, and legs; and other methods which would not leave too many obvious scars

such as branding, etc. Usually the most intense pain was induced after a POW had been worn down by being forced to kneel for hours or days, or chained to a stool, and/or being denied food and water. Their purpose was to intimidate, extract propaganda statements, punish rules violations, and gain compliance to their wishes. They failed. They got some useless statements and temporary satisfaction.

In retrospect their torture was a big mistake and we gained from that mistake. Once grossly mistreated no POW was ever again fooled by their propaganda, brain washing, or lies. Never could our captors let the International Red Cross or other unbiased outsiders visit and report on our good treatment – the propaganda they desperately desired. Their mistreatment hardened us and as we fought back we developed a great pride in ourselves, our leaders, and the others who, after each torture session vowed to try harder next time. Our unity and steadfast resistance gave us strength and singleness of purpose which some believe is the main reason that we came home without emotional and mental problems which were expected from our ordeal.

Now some words about POW communication. From the beginning our captors forbid any communication between POWs. They went to almost insane efforts to keep us from even seeing another POW. Punishment was quick when we were caught.

tap code, continued...

At Stead Air Force Survival School I heard an instructor tell about POWs in a German camp during World War II communicating between buildings by tapping on a common water pipe. After class I asked the instructor, "How did they send the dashes?" The instructor then explained to me that they were not using Morse code but were tapping out the alphabet from a five by five matrix (using C for K). He drew out this pattern on the chalk board:

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z

To use the code one would first tap one through five times to identify the AFLQ or V row. Then tap one through five times to identify the letter in that row. Thus the letter S would be tapped AFLO pause QRS.

Unexpectedly, in June of 1965 four of us were pulled out of solitary confinement and placed in a larger cell together. That was great. We stayed up all night talking. I remembered the Tap Code and shared it with the others. After a few days our captors put us all back in solitary confinement and Bob Shumaker and I, in adjacent cells, immediately tried out the Tap Code. It was a little slow at first but we used the code successfully. Soon the others in the cell block were using the code and extraordinary efforts were made by all POWs to see that every POW knew the Tap Code. Soon, tapping on a cell wall was not the only way the tap code was transmitted. Almost any sound the POWs could make was in tap code. Sweeping down a cell corridor, chopping wood, hoeing down weeds, snapping a towel, and coughing were all in code. These noises would be carried from one building to another without our captors being aware that any communication was being done.

We tapped about anything and everything. One time, at a camp we called Briarpatch, I was in solitary in a small building which had two occupied cells. During the days our hands were tied securely behind us. Knowing it was Thanksgiving day, I backed up to the wall and tapped to Rob Storz in the next cell. I described a Thanksgiving dinner in great detail. It took most of the morning as I described everything. Ron responded with questions about which wines I would serve, etc. Finally, I asked Ron if he would come over and join me in the feast. Ron responded immediately, "I would Smitty, but I'm all tied up today".

The North Vietnamese became incensed when they finally realized how well we were communicating. They went to almost insane efforts to stop it, including torture. But they were never successful. We could send the tap code silently with our hand or a piece of paper through the cracks under our cell doors. We used rough toilet paper and makeshift pens to write out notes which were hidden in a commonly used wash area. We developed our own mute code using one hand to form letters. If we could crawl up to a barred window which could be seen from another cell block up to 50 or 75 feet away we could communicate silently and swiftly. With the cooperation of other POWs who could give warning of an approaching guard we found that we could talk directly through an eight to twelve inch brick wall. We would press our tin drinking cup against the wall and with our head wrapped with a cotton blanket and talk loudly into the cup. A POW in the next cell would press his cup opposite the exact spot and listen. Whenever our captors tried to stop one form of communication we just developed another more secure method.

The importance of communication between POWs cannot be overstated. It was a morale booster. It provided a vehicle for the chain-of-command to be utilized. It provided for shared information to counter the efforts of the enemy to divide the POWs, and for POWs to form a common resistance to their aims. It provided information from friends and family back home and in our units (from later shoot-downs). That's how I found out that my wife had given birth to our son after my shoot down and that she had moved from Okinawa Japan to Tupelo, Mississippi. It provided educational opportunities from a wealth of knowledge (all POWs shared a need to make some productive use of time spent in prison). Communicating, clearing for guards, and all efforts to assist the communication process (not just the tap code) used a great amount of time each day – it helped pass the time. Through the tap code POWs gained the strength of unity. Shared information of torture and mistreatment created a peer pressure for every POW to resist to the best of his ability. When POWs were depressed from recent torture or for any other reason the tap code provided a means of group

tap code, continued...

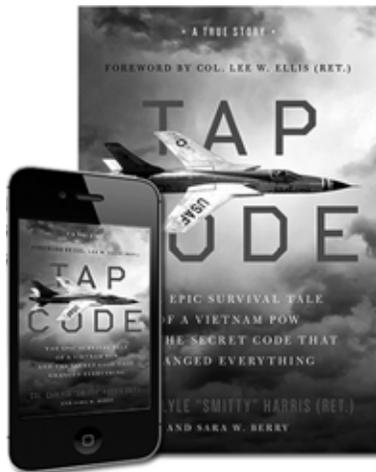
support. We, under difficult circumstances, operated as an effective organization to counter our captor's efforts to exploit us. Communication helped us to come home with honor, knowing that in the end we prevailed over a brutal enemy.

Each generation of warriors has been challenged by constantly changing ways and foes but they are always met by strong, willing defenders, men and women like you Wounded Warriors. You have prevailed. You have come home with honor. Clearly we all know the scars you bear whether visible or in your hearts and minds. The choices you have made bring you great honor and this country is gifted by your sacrifices. I know too that each of you have had time to reflect and appreciate even more on your relationships with others and the life and freedoms of life here in the United States.

I salute you. God bless you and the United States of America.



Carlyle S. Harris
COL (Ret) United States Air Force
Pilot – 45th Tactical Fighter
Squadron
Shot Down: April 4, 1965
Released: February 12, 1973
carlyles_harris2bellsouth.net



When decorated Air Force pilot Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris was shot down over Vietnam on April 4, 1965, he had no idea what horrors awaited him in the infamous Hoa Lo prison—nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton." In *Tap Code: The Epic Survival Tale of a Vietnam POW and the Secret Code that Changed Everything*, Smitty records his time as a POW and the bravery of other POWs who became his brothers.

Smitty was the sixth American Prisoner of War (POW) captured in the air war over North Vietnam. For almost eight years, Smitty, along with hundreds of other American POWs—including John McCain and George "Bud" Day—suffered torture, solitary confinement and abuse.

But before being shot down, Smitty by chance learned an old, long-unused WWII communication code, called the Tap Code. Once imprisoned, he remembered the code and covertly taught it to many POWs, who then taught others as it quickly spread throughout the prison and became the most covert way for POWs to communicate without their captors' knowledge. Simple but effective, the Tap Code quickly became a lifeline to hundreds of airmen during their long internment.

www.tapcodebook.com

SERE

Survival. Evasion. Resistance.
Escape.

The program provides training in evading capture, survival skills, and the military code of conduct.

The Code of Conduct provides guidance for the behavior and actions of members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Article I: I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

Article II: I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

Article III: If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

Article IV: If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

Article V: When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

Article VI: I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

pow/mia

Mary Schantag, Chair
POW Network
info@pownetwork.org

Remember the past

We spend a lot of our days buried in history. Preserving it; correcting some of it; questioning other parts; shedding tears sometimes.

Maintaining almost 4000 Vietnam era biographies of those that remain unaccounted for (not all are "missing,") came home alive, or whose remains have been identified over the decades is a very somber endeavor.

So is our effort to note each and every service member's loss in our military efforts since Vietnam, whether by death, capture, or hostage situation. Hundreds of non-combat incidents involve missing as well.

Working on cases every day that involve false military claims only cements our mission to make sure the sacrifice of our military and their families is recorded, and false heroes do not receive the accolades they desire for exaggerated or imagined military feats.

We have all heard, in one form or another, the infamous quote about the past:

'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' (George Santayana-1905). In a 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Winston Churchill changed the quote slightly when he said (paraphrased), 'Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.'

We shudder at the loss of history classes, and the failure to study and know the constitution. Most

students are not stupid nor ignorant – just uneducated.

We see that when we deal with the local, Christian based college in our area. Those students give us hope the future is bright, and our values and history is not only taught, but will be shared for generations to come.

Few teachers dare to step outside prescribed curriculum though, to study Vietnam, or take senior trips to the Memorials in Washington, DC.

We wish everyone would read the biographies of the POW/MIAs on our site, and tell their story. There are amazing notes of courage, sacrifice, live sightings, government denial, and family notes of grief and frustration.

And no, we have no bios for earlier losses. Not because we don't care, but because the case files and incident reports were not the same, and not available to us as were those from the Vietnam War. The lack of those historical notes and stories, is what drove us to our effort to "record" for all what we could of the Vietnam era history before those stories were lost as well.

No family deserves to wait decades for answers to what happened. Why is he not home? The answers may be illusive – but are not impossible.

This issue will not go away. While many of us working on the POW/MIA issue, have no one missing, and had no one in captivity, we do care. When presented with fact, and historical evidence, we can gather an army of warriors, fighters, researchers, and lobbyists to make sure this effort is not in vain.

For the families of the missing – we urge you to stay in touch with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. DPAA officials and your personal casualty officers are your

official lifeline to new information, or the need to gather more information from you. Check the website and the biographies posted there regularly. Make sure email and address are current, so they can reach you if need be. Make sure your family's primary next of kin is correctly noted.

Encourage friends and family to speak with the press – not only on Memorial Day, or Veterans Day, or POW/MIA recognition Day – but tell your families story on your loved ones loss date, or special day – birthdays, Christmas, a new grand child's birth. Share your family photos, and educate your area on the fight you face. Make the bracelet more than a band of metal for strangers – share your joys, your tears, your fears. Let them see his face and share your memories.

Stay in touch with elected officials – both local and national. Don't be afraid to call or stop by their office – they do work for YOU.

In September at The Ride Home in Macon Georgia, we are taking a stroll down Memory Lane. We will be seeing, and hearing history from those family members that are willing to share the stories, the memorabilia, the successes, the heartbreaks. We can question, and learn, as we will encourage the local residents, press and students to do as well.

We'll immerse ourselves in the past before we move on to pay tribute, and recognize these heroes and their families. For some, this may be a first time. For others, the time is a "family" reunion and we are proud to be a part of that.

We can help educate. We can continue to record history. Numbers are growing. We are the army of warriors, willing to maintain the focus on this issue until all the families have the answers they seek. We will not be silenced.

Civilian

26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts)



In mid-1941, President Roosevelt called General MacArthur out of retirement and appointed him to head the newly organized U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) in preparation for war with Japan. Throughout Asia, American diplomats were warning U.S. citizens of the threat of war and advising them to return to America for their own safety. In the Philippines, the American Governor General behaved to the contrary, advising Americans not to leave as the Philippines was the safest place to be in Asia, and enforcing this advice by withholding their passports so they could not leave voluntarily. Meanwhile, the American armed forces were repatriating military dependents to America to keep them safe. It wasn't until many years after the war that declassified communications between the State Department and the Governor General showed the duplicity of the diplomats that doomed many Americans to imprisonment, starvation, and death at the hands of the Japanese conquerors.

General MacArthur had a pitifully small force to stop a Japanese invasion. His U.S. troop strength was slightly more than 31,000, which included about 12,000 Philippine Scouts. The Scouts had American officers and Filipino non-commissioned officers and men. They were tough, well trained and

highly motivated and considered among the most elite troops in the U.S. Army, and were MacArthur's most effective force against the Japanese invasion. Also incorporated into USAFFE was the Philippine Army, which consisted of 2 active divisions and 10 reserve division with about 120,000 men, most of whom were undertrained and ill equipped.

The 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts) was an elite unit of 840 men armed with the new Garand M1 automatic rifle, and carried the 1911 model 45 caliber pistol as a side arm, a deadly weapon at close quarters, while the other US troops were still armed with the WW I era Enfield and Springfield bolt action rifles. Their horses were imported from New Mexico and each trooper was assigned a personal mount, which he maintained and trained on until horse and rider were a team that could almost read each other's minds. The Cavalry did not fight on horseback but was mobile and didn't need to wait for motor transport when assigned to a new sector, which was extremely useful during the defense of Bataan where the American Army had numerous defense lines that it would fall back on as the Japanese Army would break through the front line. This strategy delayed the Japanese plan to conquer the Philippines and resulted in its inability to invade Australia. The Cavalry was billeted at Fort Stotsenburg, adjacent to Clark Field about 40 miles north of Manila and was immediately deployed to face the Japanese landing at Lingayen in Dec. 1941.

Lt. Edwin Ramsey commanded a 27-man troop when, on January 16, 1942 near Morong, Bataan, they encountered a larger force of Japanese infantry supported by tanks. Mounted, they charged the enemy who broke and fled in confusion. This was the last charge in history by a U.S. cavalry unit. The troop held its position for 5

hours until reinforcements could be brought up, and for his action, Ramsey was awarded the Silver Star and Purple heart.

The cavalry continued to fight as the Japanese pushed the USAFFE forces towards the tip of the Bataan Peninsula, and when food supplies became desperate, the troopers were commanded to kill their horses to provide meat for the troops, an extremely emotional occasion for them as they had to destroy their long-term friends and companions. The battle for Bataan ended on April 9, 1942 when General King surrendered the American and Filipino forces on Bataan. This was followed by the Bataan Death March, where thousands died on the march to Capas and transportation to Camp O'Donnell. Lt. Ramsey escaped into the jungle, avoiding capture and joined with other officers who had escaped to form guerilla units.

The survivors of the Death March were held in two separate parts of Camp O'Donnell – Americans in one and Filipinos in the other. Conditions were horrific and deaths continued from diseases and lack of medical care, and by the end of the year about half of the Filipinos had died. The Japanese then decided to release the Filipinos in an attempt to persuade the populace that they were their friends, just trying to free the Philippines from Western domination and to embrace them in their Greater Asian Prosperity Sphere. The Filipinos were not fooled and upon release, many joined the guerilla units being formed, especially the Philippine Scouts who were highly trained fighters.

Ramsey was operating in Central Luzon and was promoted to Major. When two of his former commanders of the East Central Luzon Guerilla Area were captured and killed, Major Ramsey assumed

civilian, cont'd...

command and by the time General MacArthur landed at Lingayen Gulf in early 1945 he had almost 40,000 guerillas under his command. MacArthur personally awarded him the distinguished Service Cross for his guerilla operations. By that time, he had lost half his weight and was suffering from malaria, dysentery, and acute malnutrition. He was shipped back to the U.S. as a Lt. Colonel and spent nearly a year recovering before he resigned from the Army.

The story of Ed Ramsey encompasses the full cycle of the war in the Philippines – struggle against a superior force, surrender, death and humiliation, refusal to submit to a hated conqueror, and finally victory. The remarkable cavalry charge is just one small part of the dauntless spirit of the troops and civilians who persevered through the cruel regimen imposed on them.



April 25, 2020. AXPOW National Board Meeting will be held in Arlington Texas. For more information, contact Clydie Morgan Chief Operating Officer; HQ@axpow.org.

SEPT. 9-13, 2020. The 74th reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. This is a combined reunion with: 106th Infantry Division Association and 104th Infantry (National Timberwolf Pups Assn.) For information,, <http://106thinfdivassn.org/reunion2020.html> or contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 WayneDunn@comcast.net.

news & information

Editor's Note: The following story is being reprinted with the permission of Stars and Stripes, which retains all rights.

Trump's signature extends full honors at Arlington to enlisted MOH recipients and former POWs

By Matthew M. Burke, Stars and Stripes staff writer



Former prisoners of war and enlisted Medal of Honor recipients are now eligible for burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, according to a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act signed recently by President Donald Trump.

The bill's passage capped a 20-month odyssey for Kanda Fletcher, whose father, former Korean War POW and Army Pfc. Robert Fletcher, was buried there but denied those honors after he died in February 2018.

Fletcher was so incensed that her father was not eligible for the same honors afforded some troops with no combat experience that starting in April 2018 she campaigned to extend them to men like her father. Her work was highlighted by Stars and Stripes, which caught the eye of several congressmen, resulting in a bill introduced in February by Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif.

"It's been a very emotional journey," Fletcher said this week after unveiling the news to her family on Christmas.

news, continued...

The provision for extended military honors was folded into the annual defense authorization act a year after Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Mich., introduced a bill to correct what he perceived as a slight.

Bishop lost re-election in 2018 but Panetta reintroduced the bill and it made its way into the authorization act. Trump signed the act Dec. 20, 2019.

"Full military honors ceremonies remind us of the service and valor demonstrated by those who have defended, protected, and sacrificed for freedom and democracy," Panetta said in a statement Dec. 23 to Stars and Stripes. "I am humbled and honored to include my bipartisan legislation into the National Defense Authorization Act."

Any former POW who served honorably and died on or after Nov. 30, 1993, can be buried at Arlington. Recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star or the Purple Heart are also eligible for burial there.

In August 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs counted 5,017 former POWs living in the U.S. However, that number only includes POWs in the VA system.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society counts 71 living Medal of Honor recipients of many ranks, according to the society website.

Kanda Fletcher said the family had to convince her father to agree to burial at the nation's most hallowed veterans' cemetery. They were later stung when they found out that he would not be afforded the horse and caisson of full military honors at his June 2018 interment.

He instead received the minimum honors for eligible enlisted service-members at the time, according to Army regulations: a casket team, a firing party, the playing of taps by a bugler and a chaplain.

"It still hurts very badly but I can't fix that," Kanda Fletcher said about the legislation coming too late for her father. "I could only move forward and try to ensure that this didn't happen to too many other people."

Commissioned and warrant officers and senior noncommissioned officers who are eligible for burial at Arlington may also receive "full honors," which includes an additional escort, a marching element, a band and the horse-drawn caisson.

Robert Fletcher was a Buffalo Soldier who endured starvation, freezing temperatures and physical and psychological torture during his three years of captivity, first at the hands of the Chinese and later with the North Koreans. Out of 8,000 prisoners taken with him, he would later tell documentary filmmaker James Militzer in 2013, only 3,000 came back alive.

"A lot of guys froze to death; a lot of guys starved to death; a lot of guys died from wounds," Fletcher recalled in the film. "I was 180 pounds and I went down to about 90 pounds... I don't know why I survived."

PHOTO CREDIT: The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment Caisson Platoon and a Marine escort conducts a military funeral for Marine Col. Jaime Sabater at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA Nov. 6, 2019. ELIZABETH FRASER ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

"Widows Tax" on its way Out

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 completely eliminates the Widow's Tax after three years. No changes will take place in calendar year 2020. In 2021, one-third of the SBP will be restored. In 2022, two-thirds will be restored. On January 1, 2023, the SBP will be completely restored and surviving spouses will receive their SBP and DIC payments in full. Again, this was a long time coming and will positively affect nearly 65,000 surviving military spouses. There is still work that still needs to be done. Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) will now begin to calculate what is owed to these families, an undertaking that will likely require a significant amount of work and time.

POW/MIA Flag



The National POW/MIA Flag Act, which will require the POW/MIA flag to be displayed alongside the American flag at certain federal buildings and memorials to honor all POW/MIAs, was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on November 7, 2019.

Previously, the POW/MIA Flag was required to be displayed by the federal government on certain prominent federal properties only six days per year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day. The National POW/MIA Flag Act ensures that the

News, continued...

POW/MIA Flag is displayed whenever the U.S. flag is displayed, effectively ensuring that both flags are displayed concurrently every day at federal locations already designated under existing law.

This legislation was introduced in the House on March 7, 2019 and passed without objection in October. Companion legislation passed the Senate with unanimous consent in May.

The bill was endorsed by American Ex-Prisoners of War; Rolling Thunder, Inc. National; the National League of POW/MIA Families; Veterans of Foreign Wars; The American Legion; National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen; and AMVETS.

Blue Water Navy update

As of Jan. 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs began processing Agent Orange disability claims for Blue Water Navy veterans.

The American Legion-supported Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, affects Blue Water Navy veterans who served within 12 nautical miles offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 6, 1962, and May 7, 1975, as well as veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone between Jan. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971. According to a VA press release, these veterans can now apply for disability benefits if they have since developed one of 14 conditions that are presumed to be related to exposure to herbicides.

AL Amyloidosis
Chronic B-cell Leukemias
Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
Hodgkin's Disease
Ischemic Heart Disease
Multiple Myeloma
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Parkinson's Disease
Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset
Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
Prostate Cancer
Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)
Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Blue Water Navy veterans have waited nearly 50 years to receive disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure

The VA press release also announced that survivors can file claims for benefits based on a veteran's service if the veteran died from at least one of the 14 presumptive conditions associated with herbicides such as Agent Orange. The law also provides benefits for children born with spina bifida if their parent is or was a veteran with certain verified service in Thailand during a specific period.

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for an herbicide-related disability can use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

Eligibility Expanded

The Department of Defense is proud to have expanded commissary, exchange and morale, welfare and recreation retail eligibility to:

- Purple Heart recipients
- Former prisoners of war
- All veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans

Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The DoD, VA and the Department of Homeland Security have collaborated to implement Section 1065 of Title 10, United States Code, for those who are eligible for this benefit. Facilities like these are open to newly eligible patrons:

- Commissaries*
- Military service exchanges
- Golf courses
- Bowling centers
- Recreational lodging
- RV campgrounds
- Movie theaters
- And more!

*DoD is required to charge a small fee to new users who are eligible solely under Section 1065, to cover any increase in costs to the U.S. Treasury for processing commercial credit and debit cards.

Disabled Vets on Space-A flights

When congress signed the *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act* last year, 100% service connected disabled Veterans became eligible for Space Available Travel. Better known as 'Space-A' or military hops, Air Mobility Command (AMC) maintains an extensive network of flights throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. Supplementing this network, several Air National Guard and Naval Aviation Units have flights available.

To be eligible for Space-A flights, Veterans must have a permanent and total service-connected disability rating. These Vets must also obtain a DD Form 2765, "Department of Defense/Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (TAN).

News, continued...

The Space-A Program fills surplus capacity and seating on DOD aircraft. A popular perk among retirees, now eligible Veterans can take advantage of the program and fly for free. So, whether the Veteran is looking for a getaway to Hawaii or a trip to catch-up with their Veteran brothers and sisters on the other side of the country, the Space-A travel program can fly you there.

Some things to know before flying Space-A:

- Disabled Veterans, along with retirees, are in priority group 6. This means active service members on emergency leave; post deployment respite and other important transportation needs will have priority.
- A contingency plan and resources, including commercial airfare, need to be available in case of a scheduling change or sudden unavailability.
- Dependents of disabled Veterans are not eligible for Space-A travel.

Eligible Veterans looking for flights should review schedules at AMC passenger terminals. Most AMC terminals, on military bases or at commercial airports, have a Facebook page that posts flight schedules and seat availability. Once a flight and destination are selected the Veteran can register in person at the terminal, or by email/fax.

Disabled Veterans, with a little flexibility and patience, are taking to the sky for free with Space-A travel and seeing more of the country thankful for their service and sacrifice.

Albuquerque Fisher House



After several years of anticipation, a year of construction and countless hours of preparation, the Albuquerque Fisher House has officially welcomed its first family. Paula Parker and Linda Eastman, both of Carlsbad, New Mexico, made the five-hour drive and now have a safe, comfortable home to stay in. The house is within walking distance of Paula's husband, who is recovering at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center. "The Fisher House really is a home away from home. There is a family atmosphere here and that's what makes it so special," said Eastman, the Veteran's sister. "I have also enjoyed making new friends with the other guests that share the house."

Fisher House accommodations depend on eligibility and availability. Fisher House staff consider families who meet eligibility requirements. It also considers who a Veteran's health care team refers to the facility. A Fisher House is NOT a temporary residence, treatment facility, hospice, or counseling center. It is a place where family members can be closer to their hospitalized Veteran. Criteria for admittance is established locally by hospital or installation commanders. Families do not pay to stay at a Fisher House. Fees at Army, Navy, and Air Force Fisher Houses are underwritten by Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses have

full-time salaried managers, but depend on volunteers and voluntary support to enhance daily operations and program expansion. A list of current houses and contact info can be found at <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/house-locations>.

Build for Veterans

The Build for Veterans Act (S.3089), a bipartisan bill introduced December 18, 2019 in the Senate, seeks to better match the availability of VA facilities to its patient-care needs, an issue that has been the subject of numerous reports and proposals in recent years pointing to under-supply in some areas but over-supply in others. "Too often, veterans—and the dedicated VA employees and medical providers who serve them—find VA facilities outdated or cramped for space. And unfortunately, the process for updating or replacing that space is inundated with red tape," said sponsor Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

The bill would expedite Congress' approval process of VA medical facility leases; provide the department with more flexibility to lease unused VA property and facilities for veteran-focused services and operations; require that VA regularly collect the views of veterans and VA employees and use that information to plan for how to improve or build facilities; study vulnerability of existing facilities to extreme weather events and take steps to lessen those risks; and study space and other needs related to the VA's electronic health records initiative. The bill also would require each major VA facility employ staff responsible only for facility planning and management of construction projects.



Then & now... His story

Bob Teichgraeber, of Collinsville, IL, turned 99-½ on Feb. 22, 2020.



He was in a new B-24 bomber that flew to England in 1943 to join the 445th Bomb Group twenty miles from London.

On Feb. 24, 1944, he was in a group of 25 planes on a mission to Gotha, Germany to hit a Messerschmitt ME 110 fighter factory. The group missed the rendezvous with the large Second Wing made up of 200 planes

He was at Camp Lucky Strike in Le Havre, France for two weeks before getting a ship ride home and close to the "lady in the harbor" when the war ended. After the war, four of the ten man bomber crew who were killed were moved by the US Government from Germany and reburied in a cemetery in France.

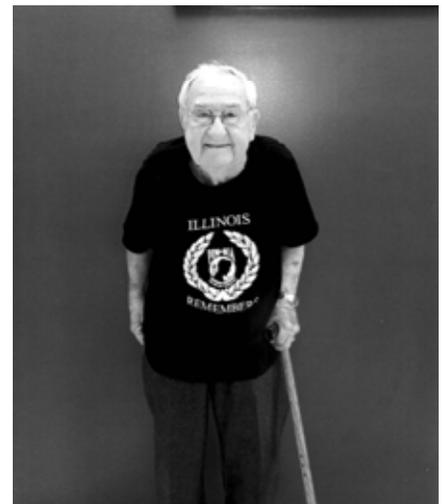
with fighter protection. Flak was extremely heavy. When the flak lightened, there were a lot of enemy fighters. The enemy shot down 12 of the 25 planes before reaching the target.

Ten minutes after dropping their 2-½ tons of bombs on the factory, an enemy ME 109 fighter made a frontal attack and hit Bob's plane's oxygen tank in the bomb bay. The plane caught fire and went down.

Thirteen out of 25 planes lost! Nine of the 12 that returned had battle damage. The group received credit for 21 enemy planes shot down with excellent bombing results. Our plane shot down a twin engine German ME 210.



Bob was held as a prisoner of war for 421 days before escaping. Notice his picture as an American serviceman in another country's uniform – a rare sight! Bob was with the British Army and in one of their uniforms after escaping the Germans on Apr. 15, 1945. He was with the British for five days before being returned to the Americans.



PHOTOS: 1: Bob is front row, second from right without a cap. He says "I'm the only guy hanging around for some years now."

2: Bob in British uniform

3: Bob now at 99

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The RIDE HOME 2020

Did you know that there are only two (2) days on our Julian Calendar that we set aside to recognize all Americans, civilian and military, who have been held against their will by enemies of the United States?

The first date is 9 April, Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. Why 9 April you ask, because that is the day the largest number of American Military personnel were taken captive by an enemy during combat operations. Remember the Bataan Death March? After a three-month heroic battle in the Philippines, Major General King, Jr. surrendered all troops under his command to Colonel Mootoo Nakayama of the 14th Imperial Japanese Army. The total number varies by reporting source, but it is safe to say the total exceeded sixty thousand (60,000) combat troops were taken as Prisoners of War.

The second date, The Third Friday of September, came about more as a compromise than any historical significance to the date. It was Commander in Chief Jimmy Carter who initially requested a Joint Resolution from Congress annually to which he provided a Presidential Proclamation. The Recognition Day was held in April, to the liking of the American Ex-POW organization, or in July from 1978 through 1985. The debating parties, American Ex-POW and the Vietnam POW/MIA Families reached a compromise and starting in 1986 the day has been the Third Friday of September in which we recognize all former Prisoners of War (POW) as well as those who are still classified as Missing in Action (MIA).

For well over a decade a small group of POW/MIA advocates from across the country have been extending an invitation to Former Prisoners of War, civilian & military, and to the Families of those who

are still classified as Missing in Action with the goal of fulfilling the Commander in Chief's proclamation, which notes:

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

In their effort to meet the President's request this group, appropriately named "*The RIDE HOME*" will be working in conjunction with; The National Prisoner of War Museum, located on the grounds of Andersonville Historical Site, Andersonville Georgia; The Museum of Aviation, located at Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia; corporations, private organizations as well as individual patriots from the communities of Warner Robins, Perry and Andersonville Georgia and across this great Republic.

The Itinerary for this national event begins on Thursday, 17 September 2020, with honored guest checking in early afternoon followed by a Recognition Day Service conducted by the Robins POW/MIA Committee, open to the public, commencing at 1500 hrs. at the History of Flight Hanger. Friday morning, 18 September, following a Law Enforcement escorted ride, service at the National Prisoner of War Museum, open to the public. Friday evening the Hero's Banquet will occur at the History of Flight Hanger. (Dinner requires pre-paid reservation for everyone except the Honored guest.) KEEPING the PROMISE and Candlelight Services follow the dinner and are open to the public. Saturday, 19 September, Recognition Service at the History of Flight Hanger

followed by the FLY-BOY – GROUND-POUNDER Lunch, open to the public, followed by open socials at participating hotels/motels in the Warner Robins market.

For all former Prisoners of War, the Next of Kin of our Missing in Action who wish to attend *The RIDE HOME 2020*, go to our website, <http://www.theridehome.com/> and on the home page you will see a link for the invitation letter and registration form. Due to the fact this is a National event all registration applications will be vetted prior to acceptance. If you mail your application to *The RIDE HOME* Corporate address, noted at the top of the form, we will start the process and you'll be contacted acknowledging your participation at this year's event. Due to popularity of the event all applications will be addressed on a first come first served basis. If you wish to have some of your family or friends join you at the event *The RIDE HOME* Team will be happy to help you obtain/arrange room accommodations as well as reservations for the two meals for your guest/friends.

We look forward to saying 'Thank YOU!' face to face, for not just your service to this great Republic, but for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make on our behalf.

This is a National Event and all services are open to the Public. Heroes Banquet requires reservation.

Hope to see you in Georgia this September for National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2020

For Questions or Concerns feel free to contact: Moe Moyer-407 448 1181 or moehog@verizon.net

Until they all come home.....



The RIDE HOME

3818 Litchfield Loop Lake Wales, Florida 33859
www.theridehome.com



Dear Former Prisoners of War and Families of our Missing in Action,

We respectfully request that you join us as our guest at the *National POW/MIA Recognition Day* event, **The RIDE HOME**, to be held 17- 19 September 2019 in **Warner Robins, Georgia**. Our goal is to answer the call of every sitting President since 1978;

“I call upon the people of The United States to join me in Honoring and Remembering all former Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action who valiantly served our great nation.”

It will be our privilege to provide your room accommodations, seating for two at both the Heroes Dinner and Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy luncheon, Military styled recognition for your service, transportation for you and a guest/spouse while you are in Warner Robins as well as fellowship and camaraderie you can only find with those who served this great nation with you.

Take a moment, please, and complete the information sheet enclosed, drop it in the envelope (add a stamp) to the address at the top of the information sheet and we'll handle the arrangements. If you have a question or concern or perhaps would like to confirm your participation this year verbally, call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in September.

Until they all come home.....

Warm regards,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for The RIDE HOME, INC.,

Jim 'moe' Moyer

407 448 1181

www.theridehome.com

info@theridehome.com

407 448 1181

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The RIDE HOME

3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, Florida 33859-5410

17, 18, 19 September 2020

YES, I will attend **NO, I will not attend**

Please return this form by June 30, 2020, to the RIDE HOME address above.

POW or MIA Name: _____

Have you been awarded/received a POW Medal? Yes No (Circle One)

MIA Rep Name: _____

NOK Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Branch: _____

Rank: _____

Area of Capture: _____

Date of Capture: _____

Date of Release: _____

Area at time MIA: _____

Date of MIA: _____

Remains returned: _____

Room Accommodations: We will try our best to accommodate your room preferences; however, we *cannot guarantee* your request. Room accommodations will depend on availability at the hotel/motel you are booked in at the time your information is received. Your lodging is offered Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights courtesy of The Ride Home.

Please reserve a room for the following (check all that apply):

Thursday, September 17 _____ Bed Size: Queen/King: _____ Two Doubles: _____

Friday, September 18 _____ All Rooms are Non-Smoking!

Saturday, September 19 _____

Special Requirements: (Handicap accessible, handicap shower, etc.?)

Are you interested in being a passenger on a motorcycle at either of the Escort Rides? Yes ___ No ___

Concerns or Questions – Contact Ginny; moegin@verizon.net or moe; moehog@verizon.net – 407 448 1181

new members



Mary Schick
Edwin Brown
Vancouver WA
Daughter of John Schick, ETO

John R & Lynn Deanne Beam
Greenville SC
Grandson of John C Diedrich,
ETO

Antonio Carmona
Harlingen TX
Associate Member

National Headquarters
PO Box 3445
Arlington, TX 76007-3445
(817)-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com

Request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name:
Address:
City:
State/Zip:

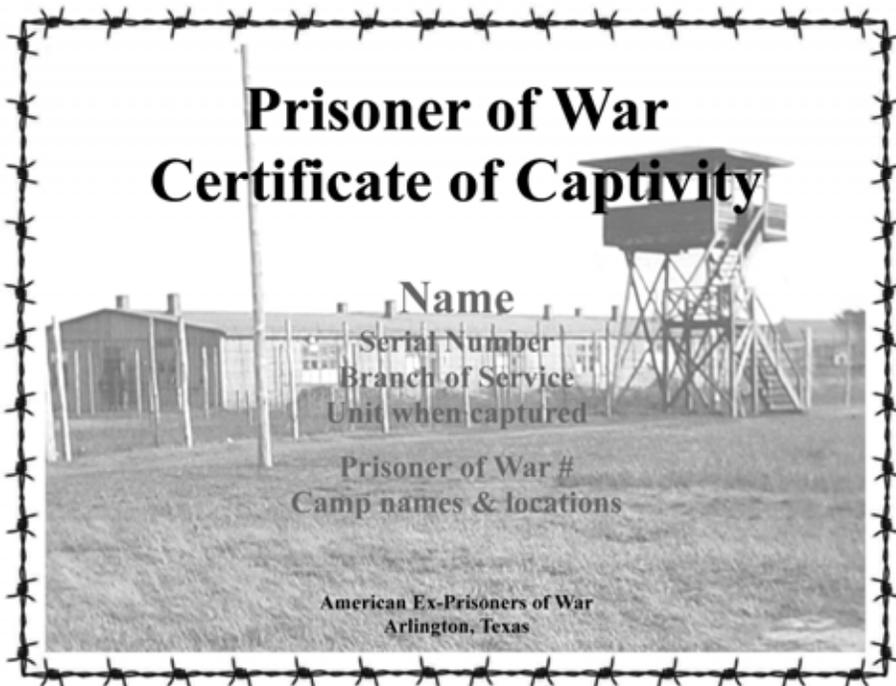
Membership is open to US Military and Civilians captured because of their US citizenship and their families/descendents.

DO NOT send dues with this request for an application.

Mail to: American Ex-Prisoners of War PO Box 3445 Arlington, TX 76007-3445 (817) 649-2979
email: HQ@axpow.org



Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity



Certificate of Captivity

\$25.00

Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½ x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war.

Each certificate background is personalized to the theatre of operation. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You may also include a picture with your order. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters by calling 817-649-2979 or email: axpow76010@yahoo.com.



Contributions

please send donations to:

National Headquarters, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445. Checks must be made payable to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War.

The Meaningful Gift

A number of years ago, one of our members made the decision to establish a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly that he truly cared about our future and wanted to leave a legacy to us. He and his wife are now gone, but their generous gift enabled them to demonstrate in a very meaningful way their commitment to AXPOW. More recently others have done the same. Support for our programs became the beneficiary of their generosity.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War remains through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we continue our transition to a true legacy organization.

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

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445, the sum of \$_____ or _____(named investment) or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. Please take a few minutes of your time to help ensure our future. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at axpow76010@yahoo.com, or CEO Cheryl Cerbone at axpowceo@comcast.net. Phone #817-649-2979.

Thank You!

GENERAL FUND

Charles A Susino, Piscataway NJ
In memory of Edward J Cooper, by Edward & Patricia Argue
In memory of Francis plumly, by Guy Atkinson
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Process Plus, LLC
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Gordon & Jean Beattie
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Kathleen Jordan
In memory of Frank Koehler, by M/M Mark Bailey & Family
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Loux Family, Wayne, Nancy, Wayne Jr, Jessica, Sawyer, Kristin, Zane & Brylee
In memory of Frank Koehler, by LuAnn & Paul Novak
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Mark & Susy Anacker
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Gregg & Laura Anacker
In memory of Frank Koehler, by Scott & Lorraine Anacker
In memory of George Sterler, by his family
In memory of Jacob Roy Rush, by Louisa Huyge
In memory of Robert Austin Chittenden, by Marianne Roenna
In memory of Robert Fred Roenna, by Marianne Roenna
In memory of James Orsini, by Floran J Boland
In memory of James Orsini, by Arnold Menchel
In memory of James Orsini, by Brenda Peceovich
In memory of James Orsini, by Erin Maurice
In memory of James Orsini, by Kristin Kautz
In memory of James Orsini, by Janet Camilleri
In memory of James Orsini, by Dennis Pillion
In memory of James Orsini, by M/M James Emmet McBrien
In memory of James Orsini, by Sheila & Meyer Frankel
In memory of James Orsini, by Terri Schaffrick
In memory of James Orsini, by Christine Filanda
In memory of James Orsini, by Christos Alexandris
In memory of James Orsini, by Raymond Haywood
In memory of James Orsini, by Kathleen Dellabella
In memory of John C Major, by his wife, Peggy Major
In memory of John Schick, by his family
In memory of my dad, John Schick, by Mary Schick
In memory of Joseph Jacob 'Jack' Bernstein, by Florence Bernstein

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Irving Lautmann, Audubon PA
William Schickler, Sarasota FL
Mrs. Howard Wilson, Sioux City IA



taps



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

BERGBOWER, HAROLD A., 99, passed away Nov. 2, 2019 in Peoria, Arizona. In 1939 Harold joined the Army Air Corps becoming an aircraft mechanic. He was sent to the Philippine Islands with the 28th Bomb Squadron. On December 8th he joined his comrades fighting the Japanese: three missions in the air as a gunner, on horseback in Bataan and in the infantry on Mindanao where he was captured, spending 39 months as a POW. After 30 years of active duty service, he retired. He was an active member of AXPOW Agua Fria Chapter Sun City, AZ and American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. He is survived by two sons and one daughter, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren.

BREITE, VICTOR W., 96, of St. Louis, MO died Nov. 4, 2019. Victor was a proud Army veteran, serving with the 106th Inf. Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, then sent to Stalag IXB in Bad Orb, Germany. After retirement, he spent 15 years as a volunteer at the Jefferson Barracks Medical Center. His wife of 66 years, Avis, predeceased him; he leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and their families.

CHAPMAN, FRANKLIN JACK, of Santa Fe, NM passed away Jan. 17, 2020. He would have been 88 on January 24. He was 16 when he joined the Army. After training, he was sent to Japan and assigned to Company "D" (Heavy Weapons), 31st Inf, Reg, 7th Inf. Div.. The Division was ordered to Korea in September 1950, where he was captured near the Chosin Reservoir

on December 1, 1950, and held 32 months and 20 days. He was active in the Korean War Ex-Pow Association and, was their President from 2003-2006. Surviving is his wife, Claudette, 2 sons, 2 daughters and their families.

CHILDS, DAVID, of The Dalles, OR died Dec. 23, 2019 just 11 days short of his 97th birthday. Through the ROTC program, he was called to duty soon after Pearl Harbor. He served with the 9th AF, 362nd FG. His plane was shot down, he was captured and held in 4 different POW camps in Germany. David leaves his beloved wife, Peggy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 grandson and 1 great-grandson.

DOSS, DALE W., of Tallahassee, FL passed away Dec. 11, 2019. He was 83 years old. He was serving as an A-6A bombardier/navigator with VA-35 at NAS Oceana and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) in the Gulf of Tonkin when he was forced to eject over North Vietnam on his 54th mission. He was taken prisoner of war on March 17, 1968. After spending 1,824 days in captivity, he was released during Operation Homecoming on March 14, 1973. He remained active in various posts until his retirement from the Navy in 1983. He then served as Director of Veteran Services for 19 years. He is survived by his wife of twenty eight years, Stephany, 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and their families.

GOUGH, JAMES W., a 27-year veteran of the US Air Force, passed away on Dec. 30, 2019. He was 85

years old. James served as a gunner on a Douglas B26 Invader bomber from the 17th Bomb wing in Korea. He then served as a tail gunner during the Vietnam War in a B-52, Stratofortress bomber. He was shot down over Hanoi, North Vietnam on Dec. 28, 1972 & became a POW, being released in Spring of 1973. James served as Treasurer of the Fresno Chapter #1 for many years. A very articulate man of few words,

GRANT, JOHN WHITE, of Jay, ME and Summerfield, FL passed away Jan. 12, 2020 just before his 73rd birthday. He was captured on the USS Pueblo while serving in the Navy and he remained in captivity in North Korea for 11 months, returning back to San Diego, when the crew was released. He is survived by Deborah, his wife of 47 years, 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and their families.

HOKR, FRANK V, 95, passed away on Nov. 26, 2019. Frank was a navigator on a B-24, 461st BG flying his first mission out of Italy, shot down on Dec. 17, 1944. He was held in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany until liberation. He was recalled in 1950 for the Korean War. Frank was Chapter Adjutant of Fresno Chapter #1 for many years & will be missed.

JASPER, PAUL L. of Winfield, IL died Jan. 21, 2020 at the age of 94. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the US Army, and was held until liberation. Paul's wife, Lois, predeceased him; he leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 5

taps, continued...

grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and their families.

KIDDER, CICERO, 83, of Houston, died July 19, 2003. He was a World War II veteran and POW. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters, 1 gret-grandson, and their families, and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

KOOB, ELDON F., 95, of Sacramento, CA passed away Nov.22, 2019. In WW II Eldon served in the 28th Infantry Division in the ETO. He was captured and became a POW until liberated. His wife of eleven years, Beverly, survives him. Preceding him in death was his son Robert, as well as his first wife Blanche of 49 years, and his second wife Whaneeta. Surviving family members are one daughter, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren and several step-children. The Koobs were life members of AXPOW. Eldon and Beverly were active for years in the 49ers Chapter in Sacramento. Eldon will be greatly missed by his

family, friends, and others who knew him for his warm hospitality.

LOCKHART, RICHARD, of Chicago, IL passed away Nov. 21, 2019 at the age of 95. In 1944, he enlisted in the Army with the Anti-Tank Co., 423rd Inf., 106th Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 9B, Bad Orb, Germany. Dick is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son and their families.

LONGIOTTI, CORDINO, of Medford, OR died June 13, 2019. He was 96. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was captured in Germany and held for 11 months before liberation. Cor leaves 3 sisters, 1 son, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and their families. He was a frequent contributor to the EX-POW Bulletin and he will be missed.

McCORMICK, SHIRLEY, of Park Ridge, IL, long-time member of the Fox Valley Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Jan. 26, 2020. She was the widow of ex-POW Donald (US Army, 3rd Ranger Bn, held in 2B). Shirley is survived by two sons and their families 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

PAUL, EDWARD JOSEPH, SR., of Norristown, PA died Dec. 19, 2019. He was 99 years old. In 1940, he began his military career with the US Army Signal Corps, 1st Aircraft Warning Company, Philippines Dept. He was captured on Corregidor in May 1942 and held in Cabanatuan Camp 3, Hoten and Mukden POW camps in Manchuria for nearly 3 ½ years. He was a life member of AXPOW and ADBC. Survivors include his beloved wife of 72 years, Carmella, 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and their families.

REYES, PASQUAL, life member of AXPOW and Fresno Chapter #1 passed away Dec.18, 2019 at the age of 96. Pasqual was a combat Infantryman in the 36th Infantry Division, entering combat near Salerno, Italy in Sept. of 1943 and involved in the liberation of Italy. In August of 1944 his division landed in Southern France and he was captured in Sept. 1944. He was held in Stalag 7A until liberation. Pasqual & his wife, Ramona were very active members of the chapter participating in annual Veterans Parade and veteran events.

A firing party from Charlie Company, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) stands by at a funeral ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. (Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez)



chaplain



Benny
Rayborn
1111
Highway
29
Wiggins,
MS
39577

HELLO!

I am sure almost every one has received a sweepstakes promotion in the mail at some point in their lives (For some of us, many times). I recently received a letter that stated in very large type, "You have definitely won \$25,000".

Not having been born yesterday I read the material carefully. Finally

on page 4 I learned, "You have definitely won \$25,000 if your name is drawn from all entries..." A really different story from the headline of page one.

There are some people you cannot trust. You need to read the "fine print" to see the true story. The company that sent me the mailing intended to earn money when/if I ordered their products.

When the chips are down, when no one else is trustable, when there is no one to talk to, there is one you can rely upon.

There is God.

Our Ex-Prisoners-of-war learned that the hard way. I have heard several stories of our loved ones finding God in the prison camp and never losing Him. A bold statement but within 2 Peter 3:9 we find that God is "...not willing that any should perish.". These words hold a

number of promises for us including, God is not against you. Rather, He is "for you" and He wishes you good not evil. It is no wonder that many people in times of war turn to the Lord God for protection. In these days of "peace" can we do any less?

My prayer for you is, May God bless you and keep you safe.

Benny



 <p>The National 4th (IVY) Division Association</p> <p>Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.</p> <p>Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units.</p> <p>Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.</p> <p>"Steadfast and Loyal"</p>	 <p>The 106th Infantry Division Association</p> <p>Organized at Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active since 1946</p> <p>If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.</p> <p>The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946. Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.</p> <p>Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman 121 McGregor Ave. Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856 973-663-2410 E-mail: jsc164@aol.com</p>
---	--



American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION
To honor a loved one or a former member
(Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law)



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

IN MEMORY OF:

Date of Death _____

GIVEN BY:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

To be contributed to the _____ Fund

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE SENT TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Contributions should be sent to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
PO Box 3445
Arlington, Texas 76007-3445

All Checks must be made payable to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Voluntary Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute. All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each issue.

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

\$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other
 Name
 Address
 City/State/Zip
 Phone #

Please make checks payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding
 Mail contributions to: National Headquarters, American Ex-Prisoners of War
 PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445



JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM
 JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM

N is for Never Forget is a child -friendly book that takes readers on a compelling journey through wartime history. Poignant illustrations and stories capture key people, concepts, and memorials to help readers understand and honor the sacrifices endured by men and women prisoners of war and missing in action on behalf of freedom .

Proceeds from books purchased through JBPM, Inc. (501c3) go directly to restoring \ renovating the former 1896 Officers Quarters Building into the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum. \$21.95 including S/H. Contact Paul Dillon at rpdcw@sbcglobal.net; 314-609-9037.

MEMORIAL DAY



VIEW OTHER ART AND PHOTOS AT WWW.AF.MIL



PRODUCED BY AIR FORCE NEWS AGENCY



Challenge Coins

\$13.00 includes S/H/I



Bronze Grave Medallions

\$100.00 includes S/H/I

All orders for products sold by AXPOW, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to: American Ex-Prisoners of War, National Headquarters, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445; axpow76010@yahoo.com

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 below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address changes.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445. Email: HQ@axpow.org