

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

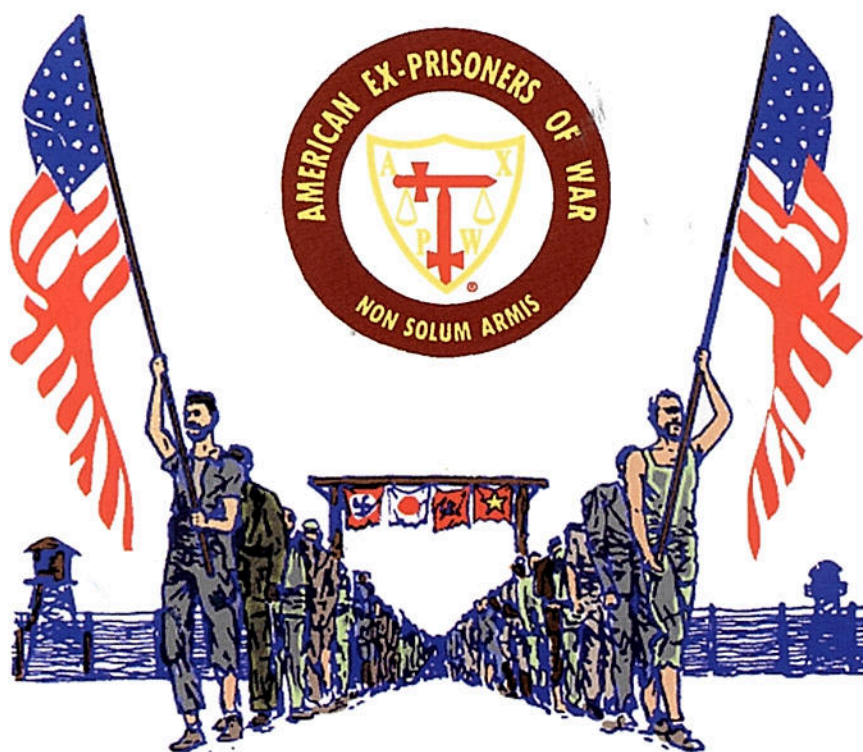
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 62

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July 2005



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves

HAPPY 4th of JULY

Inside: ..New threats to veterans' entitlements?..NSO Listing by state...stories...Andersonville...national convention information...news, events ... and more



Tennessee AXPOW
State Convention
April 4-7-2005
Pigeon Forge, TN

Clockwise from top left:
East Florida Chapter newlyweds
Blending and Paul Suchicki working
"donations for daisies" at the
Daytona Beach Wal-Mart; SVC Gerald
Harvey's grandson, 2nd Lt. Scott
Graves, receives his first salute after
receiving his commission - from
grandpa; Tennessee State
Convention; National officers at the
Texas Convention; Texas State
Convention - POW Advisory
Committee Chairman, Dr. Tom
McNish, addresses the crowd;
Tennessee State Convention collage
of photos.



national commander



James Cooper

April 27, 2005

Norman Bussel, President
Service Foundation
1739 Horton Avenue
Mohegan Lake, New York 10547

Dear Mr. Bussel,

I am the National Commander for the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization and this letter is submitted to you on behalf of that organization in my capacity as the group's highest National officer. On August 28, 1994, a motion was passed by the National Board of Directors and the general assembly convened at the National convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico to submit an application to the Internal Revenue Service for approval of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation. This action granted the use of the name "American Ex-Prisoners of War" to the foundation for the express reason of raising money to fund the programs of the organization.

In Atlanta, Georgia on March 9, 2002, a joint resolution was agreed to, again allowing use of "American Ex-Prisoners of War" by the foundation for the purpose of raising money to fund the organization.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation is no longer comporting itself to the letter and spirit of the agreement under which you were permitted to use our name. Specifically, it has come to our attention that the following acts, omissions, practices and course of conduct are being engaged in by your foundation:

a) In the terms of the joint resolution, dated March 25, 2002, the foundation and organization agreed to appoint a three member liaison committee which will attend directors' and budget committee meetings of the other organization. The members of this committee shall be designated as ex-officio members of the budget committee and board of directors of each party and will be allowed to participate in board and committee meetings without a vote on the respective boards and/or committees. The organization appointed three members of its board (the commander, senior vice commander and senior director) to this committee but the foundation did not.

b) The foundation and organization agreed to cooperate with regard to editorial content of both the Foundation Times and the EX-POW BULLETIN. The foundation agreed to provide the text of its bulletin to the organization's board in advance of publication. This was never done. As a result the Foundation Times printed many articles and editorials that were critical, libelous and demeaning to the organization and its members.

c) The foundation agreed to consider funding requests submitted to it, in good faith, based on the discretion of the foundation board with participation of the liaison committee members. The foundation held closed-door meetings, denying the entry of the liaison committee members.

d) The foundation has raised, in the seven years since its formation, \$3,756,451. It has spent \$3,359,298 in the same time period. A breakdown of the expenses shows that the foundation has spent 1% on programs, 7% on management and administration and 92% on fundraising costs. In 2004, the foundation was listed, by several sources, as an undesirable charity. One source went so far as to list the American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation, in a newspaper article, as a Scrooge charity.

Such conduct has caused, continues to cause at the present time and will cause in the future damage to our organization's reputation and good will because, due the similarity in name, the public will associate our organizations as being the same or so

affiliated as to be viewed by the public to be one and the same.

Formal demand is hereby made upon you that American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation immediately forthwith cease and desist from all use of the words or phrase "American Ex-Prisoners of War" in its name in any and all written or electronic materials of any kind or character to include, without limitation and by way of example only, letters, contracts, brochures, pamphlets, fliers, emails, solicitations, advertising and signage. Demand is also hereby made that your foundation immediately cease and desist from any and all oral or verbal use of the name "American Ex-Prisoners of War" in any verbal communications with the public to include, without limitation, any radio or television advertising or telephone solicitations.

Should the foundation and its agents, officers, directors, employees and other representatives not immediately cease and desist from any continued use of the name, words or phrase, "American Ex-Prisoners of War", then we shall retain legal counsel and vigorously pursue all legal and equitable remedies available to us under the law to include injunctive relief and claims for monetary damages for damage caused to our organization's reputation and good will, including punitive damages. We will further seek recovery of all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and court costs associated with the enforcement of our legal rights and remedies against you including pre-judgment and post-judgment interest.

This is a serious matter warranting your immediate attention. If your foundation agrees, comply with the demands to cease and desist set forth in this letter then confirm that in writing to me within ten (10) days of your receipt of this letter. If your foundation declines to comply, then it is recommended you seek legal counsel to defend you in litigation.

Respectfully,
James D. Cooper
National Commander

Ex-POW Bulletin
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The following is from the Editor.
It represents my views, and not necessarily those of AXPOW.

Divide & Conquer?

I've been listening to people talk about the possibility of "erosion of benefits" for the past twenty-some-odd years in AXPOW. Today, I'm very concerned - even frightened - about the possibility of the disappearance of benefits for ALL veterans, not just ex-POWs.

There is a new committee, formed by Congress, to examine - among other things - the "appropriateness" of compensation levels. You can read more about this committee elsewhere in this month's Bulletin. There is also a submission from Philip McIntyre, which can be found in the Members' Forum. Undersecretary of Defense David Chu is quoted as saying that benefits to retired military are "taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself". He also calls some VA healthcare and other programs "hurtful" to the US.

Please do whatever you can to ensure that current - and future - veterans are not irreparably harmed by short-sightedness today. Attend VSO meetings; write letters; talk to your congressmen.

If we pay for our future on the backs of our heroes, we are guilty of extreme cruelty to veterans of all wars.

Cheryl

AXPOW's Historian...

Welcome to Professor Gifford Doxsee, Ph.D., the organization's National Historian. He graduated from Cornell University in 1948 and began graduate study at Harvard. He received his M.A. degree in 1949 and a Ph.D. in 1966, having, in the interim, taught for 3 years at The American University of Beirut, Lebanon (1952-1955) and then at Ohio University beginning in 1958. Professor Doxsee retired from the University of Ohio where he chaired the Energy Conservation Committee in the 1970s and directed the graduate program in African Studies from 1983 to 1991.

Professor Doxsee has served as adjutant/treasurer of the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter since 1996 and as JVC of the Department of Ohio since 1998.

Professor Doxsee was a POW in Stalag IVB, Slaughterhouse Five and Gorbitz, Dresden. He was liberated on May 13, 1945.

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Ex-POW Bulletin
July 2005

sr. vice commander



Gerald Harvey

We all have birthdays. Every birthday is special. It may be celebrated with family and friends, or it may be a quiet day to reminisce — to think back over the years — to remember family, friends, and all the happy times.

July the Fourth will be Independence Day, the birthday of our nation. Along with the parades, the picnics, the get-togethers, and the fireworks, let us not forget the importance of this day. On July 4, 1776, in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Our forefathers had suffered much as subjects of the King of England. They wanted to be free from the tyranny of the British government. They did not want to pay unfair taxes, or to live any longer under laws that they had no part in making.

The colonies were already at war with the British. That war continued for years. They were up against an army and navy with more men, more experience, and more equipment than they had. With their smaller forces, they had to fight battles in the north, the west, the south, and at sea. The French, and others who believed in freedom, came to the aid of the American patriots. It wasn't until September of 1783 in Paris, more than seven years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, that the final peace treaty was signed and the American states were free to work together to build the free, democratic nation that we live in today.

I remember visiting Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Here is where the Continental Congress met; where John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the Continental Congress; where George Washington was put in command of the Continental Army. I had a new appreciation for those dedicated Americans who were willing to suffer, fight, and die if necessary, for a free America. I saw the flag outside and I stood there in awe. I looked at the flag and said, "Oh God, thank you for the privilege I have to be a part of this great nation."

When I was in high school, World War II was in progress. America was my nation. I was willing to give my life, my all to my country. I volunteered for the Air Force. Like all of our ex-POWs, I trained and went to war. I was a radio operator in a B-17. We were shot down and became prisoners of the Germans. I remember when the Germans told us that our president had died and that would be the end of America. We assured them that, no matter what happened, our nation would go on to victory. Victory did come and I felt that, along with those early patriots, I had had a part in keeping our nation free.

I am proud of our AXPOW organization. I am honored to be a part of the ex-prisoner of war family. Let us all make this Independence Day a special time. Let us remind others of the great price that our forefathers paid for our freedom. Let us remember our service people who are protecting our freedom and the freedom of others around the world. Let us talk to our young people. They will have to carry on the work of defending our nation and keeping it free.

LET FREEDOM RING! GOD BLESS AMERICA!

national adjutant



Clydie J. Morgan
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Happy 4th!

I'm sure many of you are planning to take part in Fourth of July celebrations across the country. Parades...picnics...quiet moments of contemplation about our wonderful country. "Oh beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain..." takes on a special meaning on this very special day. Make an effort to see friends and watch the parades and fireworks if you can.

We've had some questions about how to apply for the AXPOW credit card, since the company handling our program has changed. Here is

the toll free number to call. Every new card issued, as well as a percentage of your charges, are sent back to the organization. 1-866-598-4970.

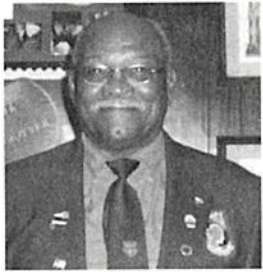
Happy Summer!
Clydie, Sally, Marsha & Donna
Your National Headquarters

Early Bird Renewal Notice!

Annual Members!

Take a minute and send your 2006 dues to National Headquarters.
Don't miss out on all the benefits membership in AXPOW offers!

jr. vice commander



Robert Fletcher
Central Zone

In this column I would like to share with you some of my continuing activities on behalf of ex-POWs.

Through my work on the congressional Advisory Board for EX-POWs, I have been able to establish a close working relationship with the VA's regional office in Detroit. As part of our joint activities, we regularly hold outreach programs around

the State of Michigan. During the year of 2004, through these programs we were able to reach 61 ex-POWs, all of them with old ratings of less than 50% disability. I am happy to say that they now all have a 100% disability rating.

I have also been contacted, either directly or indirectly, by several widows with long standing, but still unresolved, claims for DIC. Through working with either the regional VA office in Detroit or the national office in Washington DC, I was able to obtain DIC benefits for these deserving women.

In April, I represented you at the spring Advisory Board meeting in Washington DC. Our latest recommendation to Congress and Secretary Nicholson was to add two more presumptive illnesses to the list, diabetes and osteoporosis. We

are also encouraging the VA nationwide to adopt a new process used at the VA hospital in Detroit. When an ex-POW gives his last four, the first screen to come up on the computer asks if the person is an ex-POW. No more information comes up until the question is answered, thus making clear to everyone that they are treating an ex-POW.

Several weeks ago I attended the yearly State of Texas convention upon the invitation of Commander Morris Barker. I was able to speak to the attendees about the latest goals of the Advisory Board. I will be attending the Ohio State convention, among others, in August.

I continue to enjoy working for ex-POWs. If you are having trouble with a claim for disability or DIC, do not hesitate to call me.

civilian committee

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Liberation Plaque dedicated at the MacArthur Memorial

Sarah E. Harden Rosenberg and her mother, Esperanza P. Harden, were eating dinner at their home in Manila when Japanese soldiers stormed into their house and told them to pack three days worth of clothes.

Three days turned into nearly four years in cramped living spaces with about 4,000 internees at Santo Tomas, one of three World War II internment camps in the Philippines. The Japanese turned the Catholic college into a house of horrors for the prisoners.

That was more than 60 years ago, during World War II, when the Japanese invaded the Philippine Is-

lands. Liberation came Feb. 3, 1945, following these orders by Gen. Douglas MacArthur: "Go to Manila... Free the internees at Santo Tomas."

On April 23, 2005, Rosenberg, 78, of Long Beach, Calif., sat among more than 60 other former internees and some of the veterans who rescued them. They gathered in Norfolk, VA at the MacArthur Memorial for the dedication of the **Liberation Plaque**. Presented to the Memorial by the Manila Liberation Reunion Committee, the 20 x 24 red bronze plaque was dedicated to the memory and sacrifice of the internees and liberators of Bilibid, Los Banos, and Santo Tomas Internment Camps.

The plaque now serves as the centerpiece to the MacArthur Memorial's special exhibit **Behind Barbed Wire: Japanese Internment Camps in the Philippines, 1941-1945**. After February 2006 the plaque will be mounted on a granite slab donated by the family of Santo Tomas internee Earl Carroll. It will be located near the

entrance of the MacArthur Memorial in perpetuity for all to see.

The MacArthur Memorial has never held a reunion for a more exuberant group of people than the former internees and veterans. Their energy and spirit is infectious and we are all better off for the experience.

The association between General MacArthur and the liberation of Santo Tomas has long been highlighted at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA. The MacArthur Memorial, final resting place of General and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, first opened its doors in the year of the General's death, 1964. Since that time the MacArthur Memorial has collected documents, photographs, memoirs, oral histories, and memorabilia concerning the story of Santo Tomas and its internees. Many of these materials are on display in the MacArthur Memorial's museum gallery dedicated to the liberation of the Philippines.

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on capitol hill



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"Did you say you were a POW for 25 years?"

"Yes, when I was shot down in September 1978, my son was a small baby. Now he is a man bigger than me."

A graphic example of how long he endured torment, torture, mutilation and starvation at the hands of his captors. This was told to me by one of six recently released Moroccan prisoners of war at a news conference on May 17th. Senator John McCain hosted the event and invited the American Ex-Prisoners of War to participate. Senator McCain said, "This is a gross violation of international law and a travesty of human rights. Let us hope the Polisario can be swayed, not by political pressures or promises, but by what is undeniably just and humane in the eyes of the world community."

These Moroccan former POWs spoke about seeing their fellow prisoners murdered, tortured, forced to perform slave labor and forced to give their own blood to their enemies. They explained that they came to America to plead for the active support of the United States in helping to free those they were forced to leave behind. Most of them have been POWs, enduring these hardships for over two decades. Most people tend to think of POWs as young men in their early 20s. These men are now in their 50s.

When the Senator invited me to the podium, I told them that "our purpose is our motto: 'We exist to help those who cannot help themselves.' We are an American organization.

American is in our name. Our members are Americans; our focus is on helping American former prisoners of war. So why am I here today? The POW cause is not about WWII, Korea, Vietnam, or, for that matter, the Sahara Conflict or about aggression of any kind. Our concern is the treatment of prisoners of war anywhere in the world. Basic human rights, respect for human dignity and humane treatment is enshrined in the Geneva Accords."

I told these six brave Moroccans: "I don't know much about your war, but I do know it ended by formal cease fire in 1991, 14 years ago. I don't know much about your captors, but I assume they understand international law; that in the Geneva Accords, the community of nations agreed that all prisoners of war be unconditionally and immediately released when a formal cease fire occurs. So I am here today on behalf of our members and their families to join with Amnesty International, The International Committee of Red Cross, the United Nations and the Secretary General, the United States Department of State and Senator McCain in calling for the leadership of the Polisario Front to release the remaining 408 POWs now". If you would like to participate, you may sign their online petition at www.freethemnow.org.

Background

Western Sahara has been the subject of a territorial dispute between Morocco, which annexed the territory in 1975 and claims sovereignty there, and the Polisario Front, which calls for an independent state in the territory and has set up a self-proclaimed government in exile in refugee camps in southwestern Algeria. Armed conflict ended with a formal cease-fire in 1991. The agreement provides for the liberation of all POWs once the identifica-

tion process is completed. Because of delays in processing, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2000 called on the parties to settle this problem independent of the political aspects on a purely humanitarian basis. Today these men are still being held prisoners of war.

LES

Time Marches On! Yes, we are all getting older and slowing down in getting things accomplished. But we all must push on with our service to former prisoners of war! What I am saying is just this - I cannot understand why only an additional six new cosponsors to our HR 1598 have been added since it was introduced on April 13, 2005. They were: Representatives: Ginny Brown-Waite (FL), E. Clay Shaw (FL), Bart Gordon (TN), Michael Michaud (ME), Lee Terry (NE) and Heather Wilson (NM). Is YOUR Representative's name listed as a cosponsor? Mine isn't - yes, I take responsibility for this and I intend to work on this! Will you? All of us must join together and immediately contact your Representative in either their Congressional Home office or here in Washington! WE MUST REALLY WORK HARD AND GET THESE REMAINING TWO PRESUMPTIVES - Diabetes and Osteoporosis legislation passed.

Another bill in the House, HR 2369, introduced by Rep. Bob Filner (CA) and Rep. Michael McNulty (NY) provides "for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart". (Full text in News Briefs.) Korean War POW Wilbert (Shorty) Estabrook from California has written, asking us to work hard on this non-partisan bill. We thank him for his message.

Mary

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nso



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All Former Prisoner of War National Service Officers and Former Prisoners of War or their wives or widows are not aware of VA pamphlet 21-01-1 "Keeping the Promise", dated November 2004.

This pamphlet is essential for NSOs to have on hand, especially when filing a claim for a Former POW who has never filed. The pamphlet covers all "Benefits and Services for Former Prisoners of War".

Part 1 covers "Definition of a Former Prisoner of War".

Part 2 covers Health Care: "The VA health care system affords priority treatment for former POWs."

Former POWs who have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA health care. This includes hospital, nursing home, and outpatient treatment. Former POWs who do not have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA hospital and nursing home care - without regard to their ability to pay.

They are also eligible for outpatient care on a priority basis - second only to veterans with service-connected disabilities. While Former POWs are receiving treatment in an approved outpatient treatment program, they are eligible for needed medicines, glasses, hearing aids, or prostheses. Former POWs are also eligible

for all needed dental care. There is no co-payment requirement for Former POWs at VA pharmacies."

Part 3 covers Disability Compensation: "Former POWs are eligible for VA service-connected disability compensation to the same extent as other veterans. Certain conditions, however, are presumed to be related to time in captivity. These presumptive disabilities are based on studies of the long-term effects of captivity, deprivation, trauma, and cold injury on Former POWs. For first-time claimants, there must be a special POW Protocol Examination conducted at a VA medical facility to determine the existence and degree of these disabilities.

Former POWs who are diagnosed for any of the conditions in the five categories below are presumed to be service-connected for those conditions, regardless of their length of time in captivity:

- 1) Neuro-Psychiatric - a) Psychosis, b) Dysthymic Disorder (Depression Neurosis) c) Any of the Anxiety States (e.g. PTSD).
- 2) Cold Injury
- 3) Traumatic Arthritis
- 4) Stroke. Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke
- 5) Heart Disease. Includes atherosclerotic heart disease and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease and hypertension), ischemic heart disease, coronary artery disease, and complications of atherosclerotic heart disease. Complications may include myocardial infarction, ("heart attack"), and arrhythmia ("irregular heart beat"). Hypertensive vascular disease refers to disease associated with elevated blood pressure and includes complications caused by hypertensive vascular disease. Diseases arising from viral or bacterial causes are not included.

The following additional conditions are presumed to be service-connected for Former POWs who were

captive for 30 days or more.

- 1) Nutritional: a) Avitaminosis b) Beriberi c) Malnutrition d) Pellagra e) Any other nutritional deficiency
- 2) Helminthiasis
- 3) Gastrointestinal Disabilities. These include: a) Peptic Ulcer Disease b) Irritable Bowel Syndrome c) Chronic Dysentery
- 4) Peripheral Neuropathy
- 5) Cirrhosis of the Liver

Part 4 covers Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is payable to the surviving spouse of a former POW who:

- a) was a service member who died on active duty; or
- b) died from service-related disabilities; or
- c) died on or before September 30, 1999 and was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual employability) for at least 10 years immediately preceding death; or
- d) died after September 30, 1999, and was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 1 year immediately preceding death.

DIC is terminated for a surviving spouse who remarries, but is resumed if the remarriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment. Generally, DIC entitlement continues for a surviving spouse who remarries on or after attaining age 57.

This is a short version of this pamphlet. To obtain copies, send your request to your VA Regional Office to the Publications Dept. or of course you can call me or our office (727) 319-5914 to request one.

Doris Jenks

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PACKET #5 (What Every POW Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) includes the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet (approximately 110 pages) may be purchased from National Headquarters. The cost of the packet is \$11.00 plus shipping.

PTSD Turns 25

By Dana Charles

Dana Charles is an Orlando, FL-based freelance writer. His father, H. Robert Charles, is a US Marine survivor of the USS HOUSTON (CA-30), whose 3 1/2 years as a POW of the Japanese, included some 13-months of forced labor on the infamous Burma-Thailand Railway. H. Robert Charles described his war experiences in his book, "Last Man Out," which was published in 1988.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the official classification for a very old problem for some former prisoners of war: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Today, the total number of books, articles and research papers available on PTSD and other effects of traumatic experiences is in the thousands. But, such was not the case twenty-five years ago.

Prior to 1980, people who had faced and survived emotionally and psychologically overwhelming circumstances, such as POWs, were likely to find afterward that an understanding of those with sleep-depriving nightmares, intrusive thoughts, anxiety, and other problems was not only elusive, but also that some considered such problems as faked, or as a sign of character weakness, or of insanity.

Unable to forget their traumatic experiences, some people would simply keep their nightmares to themselves. Some became isolated.

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Some turned to alcohol or drug abuse, or to other forms of addiction, which caused other problems. Then, in 1980 the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) publication of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, or "DSM-III," included the new classification called "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)." Here, the American Psychiatric Association formally acknowledged that traumatic experiences, including rape, battering, child abuse, and war experiences can cause certain psychological problems - later on - which, is where the word "Post" came from in the name.

The official description of PTSD made it clear that those who suffered from the disorder were not "crazy," or "weak," or "less than" other people; but rather, that what they were feeling was a normal reaction to extraordinarily abnormal traumatic circumstances. People suffering from certain symptoms, and those professionals who would treat them, now, at least had something to go on - an official diagnosis, PTSD.

Due to a Congressional mandate, a National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD), was created in 1989 in White River Junction, VT. Since then, as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the NCPTSD has served as a major resource center for information not only on war-related PTSD, but also on many kinds of traumatic experiences.

Today, a visit to the NCPTSD's Internet website (<http://www.ncptsd.org/>) can provide a vast amount of information on

PTSD, including a large collection of articles and studies on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other trauma-related psychological problems. (For those AXPOW members who do not have a home computer with Internet access, consider making a trip to your local public library, which may not only have free access to the Internet, but also may have a staff member willing to help.)

Also, at the NCPTSD website is a list of "Recommended Books on PTSD for the Non-specialist Reader," which includes the following books:

Trauma and the Vietnam War Generation (Brunner/Mazel, 1990, \$21.95, ISBN 0-87630-573-7).

Coping with Trauma: A Guide to Self-Understanding by Jon Allen (American Psychiatric Press, 1995, \$23.95, 0-88048-720-8).

Trauma and Recovery by Harvard psychiatrist Judith Herman. (Basic Books, 1992, out of print hard, 0-465-08765-5; 1993, \$14.00 paper, 0-465-08766-3).

Traumatic Stress: The Effects of Overwhelming Experience on Mind, Body, and Society by Bessel A. Van Der Kolk, Alexander C. McFarlane, and Lars Weisaeth (Editors).

I Can't Get Over It: A Handbook for Trauma Survivors by Aphrodite Matsakis (New Harbinger Publications, 1992, \$24.95 hard, 1-879237-26-1; \$12.95 paper, 1-879237-25-3), **Vietnam Wives: Facing the Challenges of Life with Veterans Suffering Post Traumatic Stress** by Aphrodite Matsakis (Sidran Press,

medsearch continued

1996, \$19.95 paper, 1-886968-00-4. This is a new edition of her 1988 book).

Recovering from the War: A Guide for All Veterans, Family Members, Friends and Therapists by Patience H.C. Mason. (Viking, 1990, out of print hard, 0-670-81587-X; Penguin, 1990, out of print paper, 0-14-009912-3; copies still available from Patience Press, P.O. Box 2757, High Springs FL 32643. Formerly called: Recovering from the War: A Woman's Guide for Helping Your Vietnam Vet, Your Family, and Yourself). www.patiencepress.com.

Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character by Veterans Affairs psychiatrist Jonathan Shay (Atheneum, 1994, \$20.00 hard, 0-689-12182-2; Touchstone Books, 1995, \$12.00 paper, 0-684-81321-1).

Soul Murder: The Effects of Childhood Abuse and Deprivation by Leonard Shengold (Yale University Press, 1989, out of print hard, 0-300-04522-0; Fawcett, 1991, \$12.00 paper, 0-449-90549-7).

So, 25 years after "PTSD" first became an official diagnostic category, information on the effects of traumatic experiences seems more available than ever before.

But, as those who have gone through a healing process know, understanding PTSD is one thing, healing is another. To heal from this disorder, it takes courage, commitment, and effort on the part of the sufferer. Happily, along with 25-years of PTSD research on survivors of traumatic experiences, better ways of helping people with PTSD have been developing, too.

So, happy 25th anniversary, PTSD...! To all who have dedicated themselves to helping those former prisoners of war with PTSD and their families: We salute you. And may all who suffer from PTSD find healing.

POW MEDSEARCH PACKETS

Packet 1	
VA Claim Information	\$8.00
Packet 2	
Stresses of Incarceration & After Effects Extreme Stress	
Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs	\$8.00
Packet 3	
After Effects of Imprisonment	
Covers arthritis, alcoholism, visual, ulcers, varicose veins, impotency, brain damage, etc	\$8.00
Packet 4	
After Effects of Imprisonment	
Part 1 - covers the heart, arteries and veins; Part 2 covers cancer	\$8.00
Packet 5	
What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow	
Revised Feb. 2004	
Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy	\$11.00
Packet 6	
Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese	
Possible help in locating POW records	\$3.00
Packet 7	
Micro-Film Index: European Theater - Germany	
Possible help in locating POW records	\$3.00
Packet 8	
The European Story, History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects	\$8.00
Packet 9	
The Korea Story, History of POWs in Korea, and after-effects	\$8.00
Packet 10	
The Japanese Story History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects	\$10.00
Packet 11	
NSO Director Answers Your Questions	\$11.00
Presentation Set (consists of Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)	\$60.00
The Modern Day Tragedy	
medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37	\$4.00
POW: The American Experience	
overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics	\$6.00
Map of Location of German POW Camps	
shows location of 76 camps	\$3.00
Map of Location of Japanese POW Camps	
21" x 32" with camps featured in red	\$4.00
Check packets you wish to order and send, with payment, to: MEDSEARCH, 3201 East Pioneer Pkwy., #40, Arlington, TX 76010	
Name _____	Phone () _____
Address _____	
City, State, Zip _____	
Amount enclosed \$ _____	(includes shipping/handling*)
*Shipping / Handling fees:	
In U.S.A.: 1-3 packets, add \$4.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$6.00; 7 or more packets, add \$10.00. In Canada: 1-3 packets, add \$6.00; 4 -6 packets, add \$8.00, 7 or more packets, add \$12.00. Overseas: 1-3 packets, add \$12.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$18.00, 7 or more packets, add \$25.00 MasterCard and Visa accepted (circle one) (\$5.00 minimum charge)	
Card Number: _____	Ex-POW Bulletin
Expiration Date: _____	July 2005

Members'

forum



Veteran's Benefits...

When they agreed to relax the ban on concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability compensation, the House Republicans insisted upon a compromise....the establishment of a commission to review veterans' disability benefits.

At their very first meeting, earlier this month, the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission angered the veterans representatives by planning to tighten disability benefits in the future to help only those whose injuries resulted from "performance of duty."

They leveled another major attack upon awards of "Individual Unemployability" (I.U.) which raise vets having high levels of disability to the "unemployable" 100% level. They also questioned whether veterans should continue receiving their 100% after they reach retirement age when they wouldn't be working anyway.. (The I.U. status is certainly not being abused; out of the millions of veterans, there are only 214,000 in this category.)

These are critical issues. But this Administration continues to pound away at veterans' benefits at the same time that it talks about supporting us. Any change in the

benefits mentioned above might affect only future veterans, but we old-timers have to care about them too.

As far as we're concerned, if unemployability benefits ceased because we have passed retirement age, there would be a significant reduction in payment. For example, a veteran with a 60% percent disability plus I.U. would drop from \$ 2,299 per month to \$ 839 per month.

That's a difference of \$ 17, 520 per year.

We have to choose our battles in this world, but this battle is for everyone, including future generations, like those now in Iraq who don't even know about this, but would certainly be affected by it. We need to make sure that our local veterans organizations are on top of this, and that their "nationals" are fighting it in every way possible. Our representatives also need to be alerted.

Dr. Duncan Trueman
(Dr. Trueman is a member of the 106th Inf. Div. This came via John Kline).

Dear Cheryl:

The following is an article in the Worcester, MA, Telegram and Gazette of Thursday, 2 Jun 05, and was written by Paul G. Bernard, a U.S. Army veteran.

With the recent observance of Memorial Day, veterans everywhere are sharing profound disappointment that the Defense Department is setting up military retirees and veterans as great threats to national security.

Defense is calling these men and women "an awkward problem" and saying that now it is "irresponsible" to deliver on the nation's promise to veterans for veterans' entitlements and benefits.

Undersecretary of Defense David Chu was quoted in the Wall Street Journal saying that benefits to retired military are "taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself". Mr. Chu said that a new round of weapons cuts are necessary so that money can go to veterans' education, VA health care and other post-service programs. He called this "hurtful" to the U.S.

All veterans' organizations agree that this direction taken by Defense is a naked and unprecedented preemptive strike on veterans' benefits. For the first time, Defense is saying that the very people who fought valiantly to protect America are now a security threat.

The promised benefits provided to those who fought and wore the uniform for 20 to 30 years are not gifts. These are benefits that veterans earned by their sacrifice and that they have relied on to be there when they need them.

Mr. Chu is out making the case that "rising veterans' benefits are a big factor behind the billions of dollars in weapons cuts to be imposed (in the 2006 budget). New retiree entitlements are also crimping the Pentagon's ability to increase incentives for new enlistments at a time of dangerous yearlong Iraq deployments".

So the Defense Department is trying to set the average American citizen against all veterans, encouraging the public to urge their representatives to reduce or eliminate veterans' benefits in favor of more weapons spending.

This approach is diabolical on its face, but it is further discredited by pointing out that some veterans' benefits are not even paid from the Defense Department budget. They are paid from governmental general funds.

Thus, only partially could veterans' benefits affect war-making.

members' forum continued...

If the Pentagon brass is concerned about morale in the field - and they are - and if they are concerned about soft recruitment - and they are - what effect do they think cutting vets' benefits will have on morale and recruiting? Of course, this will devastate both, as well they should.

And what will the soldier in the field think of a Defense Department and what will the man or woman checking into enlisting think of a Defense Department that is embarking on a strategy of falsely blaming its own alumni for its inability to afford new weapons and equipment. Very little, is the answer.

As we pass another Memorial Day, consider the tragedy of a country that portrays as "hurtful" to national defense the very people who stood up to serve and sacrifice for our national defense.

The American public will not be fooled into turning on our veterans. They know, and they should let their Washington representatives know, that we are free and we enjoy an abundant way of life because of our veterans. Tell them that it is not "irresponsible" to keep our benefits promises to them; it is honorable and essential.

Philip McIntyre
Western MA Chapter

To the Editor:

In California which has one of the highest vehicle registration fees in the country, an ex-POW can get a POW license plate and pay no registration fee.

I have recently gone through the process and it is quite simple. You fill out a fairly simple form, get a letter from the VA confirming you are an ex-POW and turn this in with your

old plates to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

This all may have been noted in the Bulletin previously, but I don't remember seeing it. I would imagine if California is doing this, many other states may be doing the same.

My registration fees on my three-year old Toyota were almost \$200.00. It is quite a nice saving.

Sincerely,
Norman J. Marshank
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Cheryl,

I don't understand the aggrandizing of life membership. I have been paying yearly dues for my wife and myself since 1980, which adds up to about \$800. The United Airlines retirement group I belong to discontinued life memberships years ago, resulting in more income from yearly dues payers. We should have cap patches denoting years of dues-paying membership, i.e. 25 year member, to recognize the long term commitment of financial support to our organization.

Respectfully yours,
Joe Glydon
Avenel, NJ

Cheryl Cerbone:

I was shocked when I read Jim Cooper's superb analysis of the Service Foundation.

When the POW coin sales failed to achieve the sales required to establish a \$1 million endowment as required in the coin bill, a private endowment was established by the Friends of Andersonville. We have about \$950,000 toward this \$1,000,000 goal. We have no professional fund raisers to rip us off, no expenses, wisely managed, and only the interest on the corpus is used to benefit the National POW Museum and Memorial.

The endowment known as The Andersonville Trust will serve the museum in perpetuity long after the last one of AXPOWs are dead and buried.

I have written Norm Bussel, president of the Service Foundation requesting a generous grant to the Andersonville Trust. It will be at the museum when AXPOW no longer exists that the phrase "You are not forgotten" will apply to us departed ex-POWs.

Carl F. Runge
Life Member, AXPOW
Trustee, The Andersonville Trust

Dear Paul, (PNC Dallas)

Upon arriving home from the Georgia Convention, your letter of May 10th, mailed May 26, 2005 and delivered on May 31st, was a surprise since the subject of your letter was thoroughly discussed without the subject of the Foundation even being on the Agenda. As you noticed, most of those in attendance slept through the presentation and were unimpressed.

On that subject you are pro and I am con, and I thought we agreed that each of us were entitled to our opinions, but could still be friendly and gentlemanly. The next to last paragraph of your letter has destroyed our agreement since the attack is on my person as being dishonest.

Since you have provided all Departments and Chapters with copies, I will simply forward a copy of this to the EX-POW Bulletin as a letter to the editor. If the editor chooses not to include this letter than I can and may purchase an ad and include your attacks on the National Headquarters personnel.

members' forum continued...

We of AXPOW do not need a Civil War among ourselves, including the Foundation. I kindly ask you to cease and desist your personal vendetta especially on your fellow POWs and those who work their hearts out for you.

Sincerely,
Bill Fornes
Valdosta, GA

Dear PNC Paul;

Thank you for your letter to Chapter and Department commanders relating to the Foundation. The conversation between PNC Roberts and yourself is less relevant than the figures the Foundation reported to the IRS but did not report to the last few National Conventions of our organization.

The Foundation had raised \$3,756,451 with \$3,076,130 going to the telemarketers.

Why should our good name be used by telemarketers to enrich themselves?

I could question the way the 8% that went through the Foundation's treasury [Lawyer \$81,215 and bank charges \$16,696, for example], costs never revealed in any Foundation report that I saw at any of the recent conventions of the Organization.

Many of these expenses were shocking to me, and they were in the thousands of dollars.

Most unconscionable is the three plus million dollars the Foundation allowed the telemarketers to collect using our good name.

That, rather than any remark by PNC

Roberts, is reason enough to distance the organization from the Foundation.

Sincerely, PNC Bill Schmidt

Dear Cheryl,

I am dismayed that the National Board of Directors has decided to revive the mean-spirited and misguided action of PNC John Klumpp and demand that the National Service Foundation cease and desist using "American Ex-Prisoners of War" in its title and to return the National mailing list to National Headquarters.

It is obvious to me that this move is in retaliation for opinions expressed in the pages of the Service Foundation Times which the BOD considers offensive, divisive and hostile. Be that as it may, the Times has always made ample space available for rebuttal, debate and comment on its editorial and reportorial policies and content - unlike the Bulletin which has had a history of denying reaction to its own policies and opinions by refusing to provide a Letters to the Editor column in its pages until Charlie Hill, you and I agreed to establish the present Members Forum this past year. Ironically, some of those who opposed such a column now find it a convenient venue for continuing to make their voices heard even after their official access to column space has expired.

It is most disturbing to me that people who profess to having made cruel sacrifices in defense of Freedom and Democracy, now want to muzzle an instrument of communication with whose content they disagree, in violation of one of the greatest components of Freedom and Democracy: Freedom of Expression. This is not only unconscionable, it is positively Un-American!

It has been publicly inferred by some that members holding dissident, opposing or minority points of

view are largely those who are neither long term members nor people who have held leadership positions in our Organization. Actually most of them have been members for many years and they include many former and present National, State and Chapter officers who are dedicated to the good of the Organization and its Motto: "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves". To consider their differences of opinion to be worthy of suppression is an insult to the meaning of Democracy.

Sincerely,
Gene Powell
(Gene is a director with
the Service Foundation)

Cheryl:
Words escape—but some that express how I feel are — appalled, angry, shocked, confused, disgusted but most of all concerned. It should be fair to assume that the PNCs would work as diligently as possible to keep unity among the membership. Not so since the founding of the foundation! Those on that board have stooped to a new low by upholding the trash that is printed in the newspaper they publish.

This same group of PNCs newest member has the gall to attack our National Adjutant, a person that knows the by-laws backward and forward and will not do anything adverse to the dictates there in.

In the recent past we have been totally bamboozled by this group of razzle-dazzle experts. Let's see to it that they cease and desist NOW! As a person serving your country, even during your time of captivity, you knew your enemy. Now you are never certain.

Eva Moore
Widow of NC Milton Moore
PDC, Department of Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late

NSO Fred Campbell, Chairman
3312 Chatterton Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-944-4002; fredrev@webtv.net

Committee members:
NSO Frank Kravetz (412) 824-2674;
ND Bill Richardson (910) 864-7318;
ND Bonnie Sharp (253) 565-0444.

AXPOW must be about Caring ACTION with Integrity!

"We exist to help those who cannot help themselves" is on the front of every EX-POW Bulletin. That's a great purpose, great words. What makes them have meaning is when there is ACTION to address the needs of former POWs and their spouses/widows.

1960: AXPOW SVC George Coates in January 1960 XPW Bulletin, "A Personal Message to all American Ex-Prisoners of War. One of the major problems we are facing today. "Does the Ex-Prisoner of War wish medical care, through the Federal Government? Is he aware of the disease he may have contracted, while captured?"

The National Academy of Sciences: 'A question of special interest is whether those who have survived such conditions as ex-prisoners of war...fear lasting residuals of the experience severe enough to affect their survival unfavorably in the long run.'

Robert Levering (former Japanese POW, then congressman) opened the door, reading for congressional records... 'Proof is 24,992 Americans were held captive in Japan and only 16,358 were recovered from the camps. The mortality rate for 1946 to 1951 was 31.7%, compared with an expected actuarial mortality

rate of 14.2%. Relief for this problem must of necessity be by statute...the principle of presumption must be utilized.'

We must draw up a new Bill, which will at least provide better recognition in hospitals and perhaps provide pensions."

(Thanks to Robert Levering & Civilian Internee George Coates, next AXPOW National Commander, toward future VA POW benefits.)

1980: Public Law 97-37 was passed, with Post Traumatic Stress, Frostbite, etc. as first recognized presumptives, AND it mandated the VA POW Advisory Committee to keep the VA apprised of former POW needs. Due to their ACTION, with Chairmen Flynn, Stratton and currently Dr. Thomas McNish (Vietnam POW), over 20 presumptive conditions are recognized.

1993-2001: Realizing concerted help was needed for former POWs to present valid VA claims, Steve Yarema developed NSO Training Seminars to build an ACTION resource.

2001-2004: Outreach ACTION in AXPOW Bulletin, Dear Abby, VFW Magazine, 8th & 15th AF and other military publications.

2005: AXPOW National Directory Outreach, over 50 NSOs, ACTION direct contact to make sure members have their VA Benefits.

Because we know...Not all POWs and Widows have their due benefits, just because they are listed in AX-POW directory. And you?

Success Stories

An appeal! NSO SUCCESS STORIES come from you, NSOs who let us know, and those who are pleased recipients of welcome VA Benefits. So, please send them to Outreach

Chairman Fred Campbell or Bulletin Editor Cheryl Cerbone.

A good word from Betty Harlan in Texas:

On our way home to Lubbock from AXPOW State Convention in Killeen, Homer and Jo Jones and I stopped in Comanche to go to church. The lady in front of us turned to welcome us after the services were over, and she asked about our group. She looked startled and said "my husband was a POW in WWII." I immediately asked her if she was getting her benefits and she said no, when she had filed after he died of a heart attack in 1994, she was turned down. So I took her to the car and gave her all the forms to file. She will fill them out, send them to me and I will get them posted promptly to Ginger Raney, our POW Coordinator in Waco VARO.

But more! When I got home, I had a message on my machine from an ex-POW who lived down the road from me. I never knew before that he was a POW in WWII. All the times we had said hello, and he knew my husband Nolan was a POW, he never mentioned it! Now his wife called me for help. So I'm starting another new claim.

Do you know former POWs out there who need to come out of hiding...at least for their wives' sake???

Rudy Collins is covering Montana in the Outreach program like this: Ed in Missoula with 20%; Loren in Great Falls with 10%; Rob in Miles City with 30%; plus Van in Polson with 30% (he missed exams - no way to get 100%). And already...Alvie in Helena up to 100% from 10%; A.L. in Billings up to 100% from 30%; and Bill in Whitefish up to 100% from 50%. And Rudy's got 11 other new claims because he called through the AXPOW Directory.

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pow-mia committee



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

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

Vietnam War MIA Serviceman Identified

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office (DPMO) announced May 20, 2005 that the remains of a US serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is Air Force Major Robert Harry Schuler Jr., of Wellsburg, NY.

On October 5, 1963, Schuler was flying his F-105 *Thunderchief* as part of a four-ship flight north of Hanoi when the lead aircraft was hit by enemy fire. Schuler remained in the area to provide support to the downed pilot where the two other aircraft departed for aerial refueling. When they returned, Schuler was no longer on the area and they

could not establish radio contact with him. An extensive aerial search of the entire flight route met with negative results.

Between 1993 and 1998, joint US and Vietnamese teams conducted seven investigations, including unilateral archival research by Vietnamese officials. The final investigation in Nov. 1998 led the teams to a Vietnamese army officer who recounted his unit shooting down an F-105 on the day and in the area where Schuler went down. That team surveyed the crash area, found fragments of an F-105, and recommended the area for excavation.

Teams led by joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) excavated the site on four occasions between Sept. 1999 and Mar. 2001, recovering more wreckage as well as human remains. In addition the other forensic tools, JPAC scientists used mitochondrial DNA comparisons to confirm the identifications of Schuler's remains.

Remains of American MIAS Found in North Korea

Specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) have recovered remains believed to be those of American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War. The remains will be repatriated to U.S. control at Yongsan Military Compound in Seoul on May 26.

From Seoul, the remains will be flown to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where the forensic identification process will take place in the JPAC laboratory to determine the precise number of recovered American soldiers. This is the first repatriation of remains from this year's recovery operations in North Korea, and marks the beginning of the 10th consecutive year for the mission there.

Since 1996, 33 joint operations have been conducted in North Korea, during which remains believed to be those of more than 220 sol-

diers have been recovered. Of the 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

The JPAC specialists' consisted of a 27-man U.S. element divided into two recovery teams. The first team operated near the Chosin Reservoir where the 1st Marine Division and the Army's 7th Infantry Division fought Chinese forces November-December 1950. Approximately 1,000 Americans are missing in action from battles of the Chosin campaign.

The second team recovered remains in Unsan County about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. This area was the site of battles between communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry divisions in November 1950.

The joint remains recovery work resulted from negotiations with North Korea led by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office.

U.S. Halts Search for Its War Dead in North Korea

On May 25, 2005, the Pentagon suspended United States efforts inside North Korea to find remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, accusing the government in Pyongyang of creating an atmosphere dangerous to American searchers.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld recommended the suspension of efforts that began in 1996 to recover the remains, said Lawrence Di Rita, chief Pentagon spokesman.

Mr. Di Rita cited the "uncertain environment created by North Korea's unwillingness to participate in the six-party talks" on North Korea's nuclear program, its recent declarations regarding its intentions to develop nuclear weapons, and its withdrawal from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

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news, events and information



July 12-16, 2005. The 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division Reunion will be held in Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Pete Pettus, 1121 N. Desloge Dr., B1, Desloge, MO 63601; 573-431-6184; jrpazir@juno.com.

July 13-16, 2005. Second Battalion (2/4) Fourth Marines Association Reunion will be held in San Diego, CA. All or any attached personnel are also invited. Contact: Becky Valdez, 8221 E. Birch Tree LA., Anaheim Hills, CA., 92808; (714) 281-2846; fxala@hotmail.com.

July 17-23, 2005. The 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Assn. National Reunion. Contact: Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path R-4, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077; www.4thinfantry.org.

July 21-25, 2005. The WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 41st Annual Reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, Wichita, KS. Complete information may be obtained at PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; ptboats@ptboats.org.

July 28-31, 2005. Co. "B" 9th AIB 6th Armored Division 60th Annual Reunion will be held in Asheville, NC. Contact: Dee R. Williamson, 714 8th St., Newport, TN 37821; 423-673-5191.

August 18-21. Ohio Department AXPOW convention will be held at Comfort Inn (740-775-3500) in Chillicothe. Registration \$30. Registrar DJVC Eleanora Morrow; 134 Kanawha Rd.; Lancaster, OH 43130-3476.

August 24-27, 2005. The 86th Annual Convention of the 80th Division Veterans Assn. will be held at the Marriott North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43229; (614) 885-1885. Chairman: Walter

Spangler, 8275 Hagerty Rd, Ashville, OH 43103; (740) 474-5734.

August 26-28, 2005. Department of North Carolina Annual Convention will be held at the Woodlawn Inn and Conference Center, 212 W. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC 28120. Room rate is \$55.50 plus tax. For reservations, call 704-525-8350. Contact Roy Hudnall, Dept. Commander, 704-841-2174.

Aug. 27-31, 2005. The 42nd and final Annual Reunion for Survivors of Bataan, Corregidor and Former Prisoners of War of the Far East will again be held at the Fontana Village. Reservations: 800-849-2258. For information, please contact Wayne Carringer, PO Box 46, Robbinsville, NC 28771; (828) 479-6205.

Aug. 27-30, 2005. The 84th Infantry 'Railsplitter' Division 60th annual reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703; ph: 217-529-7777. For information, contact: Troy Mallory, Chairman, 217-223-9062; fax: 217-223-9065.

Aug. 31-Sept. 4, 2005. The 59th Annual Reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 300 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA; 800-562-5110. Contact: Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510; attn. 106th Inf.

Sept. 7-11, 2005. The Mukden Survivors Annual Reunion will be held in Kingston, NY, at the Ramada Inn. We are working on a visit and possibly a seminar at West Point, as well as a Boat ride up the Hudson and a tour of Historic Kingston, First Capitol of NY state during the Revolutionary War. Our banquet dinner will be Saturday evening. For additional information- please contact: Sheldon Zimble 845-339-9960; email address: Shelzanne@aol.com, or write to: 90 Fairview Avenue, #7-8, Kingston, NY 12401.

Sept. 15-18, 2005. The Third Infantry Division Society and attached units will hold their 86th reunion at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108; 800-882-0858. Contact: Bruce Monkman, 818-343-3370; brucemonkman@earthlink.net, or Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521; info@TheReunionBrat.com.

Sept. 20-25, 2005. 390th BG (H) Veterans Association annual reunion will be held in Washington DC. Contact: Ken Rowland, PO Box 28363, Spokane, WA 99228; 509-467-2565; rkenrow@msn.com.

Sept. 21-25, 2005. USS Abanki AFT 96 Reunion will be held in Bowie, Maryland. Contact: Adolph Channell, R.R. 1, Box 246A, Marlinton, WV 24954; (304) 799-6442; achannell@marlintonwv.com.

Sept. 27-Oct. 2, 2005. AXPOW National Convention will be held in Denver, CO at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St. Registration forms and additional information will be in the Bulletin until convention.

Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2005. The 48th FS, FIS & FTS Association annual reunion will be held in San Antonio, TX. For information, contact: Joe Onesty, 455 Galleon Way, Seal Beach, CA 90740; 562-431-2901; jonesty2@adelphia.net.

September 29-Oct. 1, 2005. The New England Chapter of the Chosin Few Annual Reunion will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Milford, MA. For more information, contact John Gutermuch, 23 Kettering Road, Norwood, MA 02062; 781-769-5656.

Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2005. The 45th Infantry Division Association (Thunderbirds) Reunion will be

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news, events, information continued...

held in Oklahoma City, OK. Please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; (210) 681-9134.

October 2-5, 2005. The Korean War Veterans Association Annual Reunion will be held at the Isle of Capri Hotel, Bossier City, LA. Hotel reservations: 877-465-3711. For more information, contact Steve dePyssler, RAO@barksdale.af.mil; 318-456-5976.

Oct. 19-22, 2005. 35th Infantry Division Reunion will be held in Springfield, MO. Contact: Bob Dalton, 785-267-3295. Children and orphans of 35th Division members are invited to join and spend time with their fathers' WWII comrades.

looking for



I would like to hear from Jerry Goff, daughter of the late Marshall and Berneice Goff. I have photos Berneice sent us during our years of corresponding. I would like to send them to Jerry. Maxine Cupp, 1325 Richwood Dr., Sumter, SC 29153; 803-775-9738.

I was just a very young lad, in 1944 when an American serviceman used to bring his laundry to my mother for washing. When he, and his aircrew, found out just how poor our rations were, things changed - a lot! Every time they brought their kitbags with laundry to be done, inside there would be items such as butter, eggs, sweets (candies) and

various other items that were in short supply for us Britons. This American was Capt. Peter Val Preda. I have always remembered his name. I came to Canada in 1967. Two years ago I was on my way to Florida when I found the "Home of the Mighty Eighth" at Pooler, GA. It was the insignia that I remembered, and I've been on a "mission" of my own since then to try to know just what happened to Peter and his crew. Sadly, I discovered that he passed away, in 1995, the same year that my mother died. At present I'm still trying to locate any relatives of his - just to say a very belated "Thank

You" for his thoughtfulness and the kindness he showed to a little boy and his mother all those years ago. Also it would be wonderful to know if any of his aircrew are still living. His aircrew, as far as I know that survived the war are: Carey J. Walton, Jr., Rudie C. Bartel, Juan S. Rodriguez, Nello Centore, Walter J. Kean. Unfortunately four members were KIA, they were: Miles L. Toepper, Arthur M. St. Pierre, Jack S. Reed, Douglas E. Pierce. Perhaps if you publish this letter, I might be lucky enough to get a response. Peter Mills, 316/655 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax, Ontario L1S 3M1 Canada.



National POW/MIA Memorial

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

A Living Memorial
Riverside, California

Dedication Ceremony
September 16, 2005

MEMORIAL

Honoring 607,000 American prisoners of war and 173,000 servicemen and women listed as missing in action since the Revolution. More than 88,000 Americans remain MIA.

Sculptor: Lewis Millett Jr.
of Idyllwild.

Cost: \$750,000.



For donations or information contact:
Riverside National Cemetery
Support Committee
Attn: POW/MIA
Memorial Project - Paul Adkins
22495 Van Buren Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92518
(909) 957-3982 cell or
(909) 820-1577 work
email:
compcomp@earthlink.net
website: <http://www.rncsc.org>

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*The Support Committee is all Volunteer.
100% of any gift will go towards National POW/MIA Memorial
construction, repairs and maintenance.*

Andersonville



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Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
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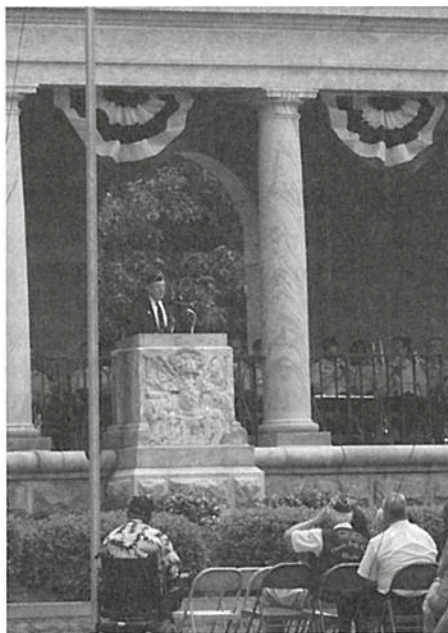
Memorial Day at Andersonville



The Friday before Memorial Day over a hundred Boy Scouts and leaders gathered at Andersonville NHS and began placing American flags throughout the National Cemetery. Two days later the 18,000 flags shone in the May sun as over 500 people gathered on a beautiful day at Andersonville to pay tribute to American soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The slightly overcast day provided a relief from the usual extreme heat of late May as the annual observance continued a tradition dat-

ing back to Decoration Day.

The Memorial Day program began with music by the Fort Benning Infantry Center Band and was followed by the advancement of colors by personnel from the Marine Corps Logistics Base. After a welcome by Andersonville Superinten-



dent Fred Boyles, Charles Hill, AX-POW National Director (Southeast Region), recognized all veterans in attendance.

Brigadier General Eugene G. Payne, Jr., Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command in Albany, Georgia served as the keynote speaker. General Payne's address was well received as he spoke of the similarities of today's soldiers with soldiers from past wars. He provided examples to illustrate the

dedication, devotion to duty and sacrifices that continue to be made by our military personnel. General Payne, Jr. entered the Marine Corps in 1970.

Following the General's address, the observance continued with the traditional laying of wreaths by patriotic and civic organizations, each escorted by Americus High and Sumter High School JROTC. The rifle salute was provided by Robins Air Force Base.

The written program for this year's Memorial Day Service recalled the final year of World War II and the sacrifices of the men and women who served during the most devastating war witnessed by humanity.

May 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of VE Day.



Pictures:
Brigadier General Eugene G. Payne;
ND Charles Hill, AXPOW;
Robins AFB Rifle Salute;
The crowds at
Andersonville National
Historic Site for Memorial
Day 2005.



News Briefs

MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING IN VETERANS BENEFITS HISTORY ...

Veterans Disability Commision begins work

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, established by Congress to review benefits going to disabled veterans and the survivors of deceased veterans, held its first meetings May 9 and 10 in Washington, D.C.

The 13-member panel, chaired by retired Army Lt. Gen. James Terry Scott, is scheduled to issue its final report to Congress in 15 months.

In setting up the commission, Congress instructed it to examine three specific issues:

* the "appropriateness" of compensation and other benefits for disabled veterans and for the survivors of veterans who died from causes related to military service;

* "the appropriateness of the level of such benefits"; and

* "the appropriate standard . . . for determining whether a disability or death of a veteran should be compensated."

The commission will take testimony at public meetings, oversee studies

of the United States' disability compensation systems, and receive input from other organizations, including the Institute of Medicine and the Department of Defense.

Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act (Introduced in House)

HR 2369 IH
109th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 2369

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER (for himself and Mr. MCNULTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act'.

SEC. 2. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART FOR PRISONERS OF WAR WHO DIE IN CAPTIVITY.

(a) Persons not Otherwise Eligible for the Purple Heart- Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

'Sec. 1135. Purple Heart: members who die while prisoners of war that are not otherwise eligible

under the circumstances causing death

'(a) For purposes of the award of the Purple Heart, the Secretary concerned shall treat a member of the armed forces described in subsection (b) in the same manner as a member who is killed or wounded in action as the result of an act of an enemy of the United States.

'(b) A member described in this subsection is a member who dies in captivity under circumstances establishing eligibility for the prisoner-of-war medal under section 1128 of this title but not under circumstances establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.

'(c) This section applies to members of the armed forces who die on or after December 7, 1941. In the case of a member who dies as described in subsection (b) on or after December 7, 1941, and before the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary concerned shall award the Purple Heart under subsection (a) in each case which is known to the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this section or for which an application is made to the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary requires.'

(b) Clerical Amendment- The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

'1135. Purple Heart: members who die while prisoners of war that are not otherwise eligible under the circumstances causing death.'

New Medicare Handbook

Federal health officials are revising the draft of this year's Medicare handbook to give a clearer explanation of new rules on benefits, particularly on prescription drugs, before it is sent to millions of elderly Americans. An early draft to a wide range of policy experts outside the agency, ranging from insurers to liberal advocacy group resulted in feedback asking for clearer explanations of the new benefits. The

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handbook will be revised to make a more clear distinction between Medicare programs administered through private health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations and the more traditional fee-for-service Medicare programs used by millions of people. The draft of the handbook did not provide details about the gaps in prescription drug coverage. After the beneficiary pays a \$250 deductible, Medicare pays three-fourths of the next \$2,250 in drug costs. There is no benefit between \$2,250 and \$5,100, a \$2,850 gap in coverage. But once a beneficiary has spent \$3,600 on drugs out-of-pocket, including the deductible and copays, the government pays all but 5% of additional drug costs. Now, more details about payments and coverage on prescription drugs will be included. Some groups have questioned whether the handbook should make claims that private plans offer a better value than traditional Medicare. The guidebook also says the new drug benefit will be superior to coverage available under existing insurance policies that supplement Medicare, a claim some critics dispute. The handbook is being tested in focus groups of beneficiaries to make sure it is clear before it is sent out to all Medicare beneficiaries in the fall. [Source: Associated Press Washington, DC 21 May 05]

VA Seeks Exposed Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) announced a national outreach campaign to locate veterans who were exposed to mustard gas or the chemical weapon Lewisite during their service. Most of these veterans participated in chemical testing programs during World War II. They were exposed to mustard agents, which includes sulfur mustard and nitrogen mustard and

Lewisite, which is a blister-producing chemical that contains organic arsenic. The VA is mailing information to veterans and survivors within the first group of participants identified by DoD. VA is continuing to seek addresses for additional veterans and survivors, and the VA invites veterans to file disability compensation claims for any condition-related to service, including exposure to mustard agents and Lewisite. Veterans or their survivors with questions about these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-749-8387 or visit VA's benefits website at <http://www.vba.va.gov>.

CRDP Update

Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) introduced H.R. 2368 to allow immediate and full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA Disability Compensation for retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability. In the interim Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA) introduced a discharge petition to force a House vote on H.R. 303, Rep. Mike Bilirakis' (R-FL) bill that would end the disability offset to military retired pay for all members otherwise entitled to retired pay, independent of any disability. Under current law (which was influenced by a similar discharge petition Rep. Marshall filed in 2003), members with at least 20 years of service and a 100% disability rating or a combat-related disability rating receive their full service-based retired pay. Those with 50% to 90% ratings (and those rated "unemployable" by the VA) will have their retired pay restored on a phased basis over the next eight years. Those with 40% or lower disability ratings lose \$1 of their earned retired pay for each \$1 in VA disability compensation. As of 26 May, 162 House members had signed the new discharge petition, which is actually greater than the number of current H.R. 303 cosponsors. Currently, H.R. 303 has 159 cosponsors - 40 Republicans, 118 Democrats and 1 Independent. To date, all 162 signers

of the discharge petition are Democrats.

DoD and Rising Medical Costs

For the first time the Defense Department has decided for financial reasons to drop a licensed medication (Nexium) which is a harbinger of many difficult choices Pentagon officials envision as they try to rein in a \$5 billion-a-year pharmaceutical budget that has exploded by 500% in the past four years. Taking a cue from the corporate world and a direct order from Congress, the Pentagon is in the early stages of implementing a program that discourages use of expensive "me, too" medications that have been found to provide no major medical advantage and yet are priced significantly higher than competing drugs. This mini-rebellion against a drug that generated \$4.8 billion in U.S. sales last year is part of the more aggressive tactics health care purchasers are employing in the ongoing battle over soaring medical bills. Nexium, a proton pump inhibitor, cost \$4 a pill when you can get over-the-counter Prilosec for 67 cents. As the Pentagon's second-costliest class of drugs — at \$379 million last year — proton pump inhibitors were a prime target. A team of doctors and pharmacists reviewed 15 studies and concluded there were "no significant differences clinically in those drugs."

By switching patients from Nexium to one of four cheaper medications for heartburn and ulcers, the Pentagon expects to save tens of millions of dollars a year. DoD also intends to tighten access to the more expensive versions of drugs that treat such illnesses as skin infections, hypertension and erectile dysfunction. As of July 17, people insured by the Pentagon will be of-

news briefs cont...

ferred the four other heartburn drugs — Zegerid, Protonix, Aciphex and Prevacid — for a \$9 co-payment per prescription. Patients, with the backing of their physicians, can request an exemption if the other drugs fail to bring relief and only Nexium works. Or the patient can pay the Pentagon's negotiated price of \$22, still a bargain compared with the retail price of more than \$120. And the military will save money not only by dropping Nexium but also as a result of lower prices offered by AstraZeneca's competitors. AstraZeneca did not bid on the military contract because the Pentagon based its decision exclusively on price.

New Wisconsin Veterans Home

Veterans in Wisconsin will have greater access to long-term health care, thanks to a \$13 million grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to build a another state nursing home and activities center. The \$13 million grant will pay up to 65% of the cost to construct and equip a 120-bed state veterans home and activities center in Union Grove. Overall cost of the project is estimated at \$20 million.

Wisconsin also operates a Veterans Home located on Rainbow Lake near Waupaca that includes four licensed nursing care buildings and cottages for married couples who can care for themselves.

The homes are available to veterans who served on active duty for two or more years or the full period of their initial service obligation, whichever is less. They also are eligible if they served on active duty for at least 90 days, one day of which must be within a wartime period. Spouses of eligible veterans

may also become members. Residents must have lived in Wisconsin for 12 consecutive months and have honorable discharges or been a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into military service. Veterans living in state veterans homes can access federal benefits that significantly reduce their cost of care.

Compared with similar facilities in the private sector, veterans may pay 30% to 40% less per month for their care at the Home. The Home will work with veterans and spouses during the application process to find the best options for financing their living arrangements and cost of care.

BRAC

The head of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Anthony J. Principi, has indicated he expects their assessment of the Pentagon's proposed list of domestic base closings will result in sparing some installations but could add others that are not on the list now. He noted that testimony from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the civilian secretaries and uniformed chiefs of the armed services effectively presented the Defense Department's argument for closing 180 installations and offices, including 33 major bases. Mr. Rumsfeld warned the panel against unraveling the interlinked decisions that Pentagon analysts made after two years of study and tests of some 1,000 different approaches.

If approved as is, the Pentagon proposal, would shut, reduce or reorganize more than 800 facilities in all 50 states and would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years.

In interviews, commission members said they would scrutinize the Pentagon's military rationale and estimated cost savings. State and local community leaders will get their turn to rebut the military's recommendations in 16 field hearings, to begin on June 7, 2005 in St. Louis

and Salt Lake City and run through mid-July. The hurdle for changing the Pentagon's plan is high. The commission must show that the Defense Department "deviated substantially" from its guidelines to change or remove a site from the list. A simple majority of the nine-member panel can drop a site; seven members must approve adding a site for closing. Commissions in four prior base-closing rounds changed about 15% of the Pentagon's recommendations.

In the testimony, the panel members poked skeptically at many parts of the plan.

They expressed concern that the Army's proposal to close 176 Army Reserve centers and 211 Army National Guard facilities, and to build 125 new, multiservice Reserve centers, could hurt recruiting.

They challenged the Navy on whether a rural county in Georgia was capable of handling an influx of thousands of sailors and their dependents from the submarine base in Groton, Conn., which the Pentagon proposes closing.

And they questioned why the Air Force wants to keep Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska and Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota up and running, largely for training purposes, even though thousands of civilian and military jobs would be sent to other installations.

Panel members also asked why the Pentagon did not go beyond the proposals to merge functions like medical operations and truck-driving school, moving to consolidate other functions, like undergraduate pilot training and the war colleges for each of the armed services.

Just before Memorial Day, the House Armed Services Committee defeated two measures to slow or cancel the base-closing process.

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GUAM

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A Truly Wonderful & Heartwarming TV Show

Taking Care of Each Other and the Anachronism of "Reality" TV

By Alice A. Booher



This is *not* intended to convert readers to anything including being in favor of women in combat. In an ideal world, there would be no war casualties or injuries or MIA/POWs of either gender. But your own military experiences including as POWs made you realists; you have a unique perspective on life, and most of all, what it means to be a service comrade, to care deeply for your fellow POWs, and *your uncompromising commitment to take care of one another*. This is the story of two young soldiers and a special bond, perhaps told from an alternative perspective.

They were just frugal mountain kids, one from a small Hopi enclave on a Navaho reservation abutting Grand Canyon called Tuba City, AZ (where the poverty rate is 3x national average), the other from a tiny town in WV with a fortuitously Middle-Eastern Biblical name, Palestine - places where no one ever expects to get something for nothing. They were hard workers; naive, charmers, shy,

doing silly stuff and sometimes sort of serious, but nothing fancy. One's dad was a soldier in Vietnam and grandfather a soldier in WWII. Like for many teenagers, local options for jobs and a better life were limited, so they enlisted in the all-volunteer Army to get some experience in life and make some money for school. Both were close to their families, became friends, double dated to Taco Bell and bowling lanes; became each others family in basic training, tent mates, deploying together as support staff in a maintenance unit. In long talks in tents in a foreign desert, they tell each other of their love for little kids; one dreams of being a kindergarten teacher; the other dreams of bringing her fellow Native American tribes together and building her family a house. Funny how things work out.



In that strange, remote place, their unit is ambushed; 3 hours later, many in the unit are separated, but these two friends are wrapped in white sheets in filthy adjacent hospital beds, POWs of the enemy. One soon died in the bed next to the other; one is rescued to return CONUS in a condition that would not have survived prior conflicts - a veteran of so many things - still a private kid whom, no thanks to anything of her making, the whole world thinks they now know and can and do judge. Neither wanted to be a media star with spotlights on their families, needs, or lives. Neither wanted to set the world on fire; certainly not be anybody's hero. It never dawned on either to be or even meet a celebrity.

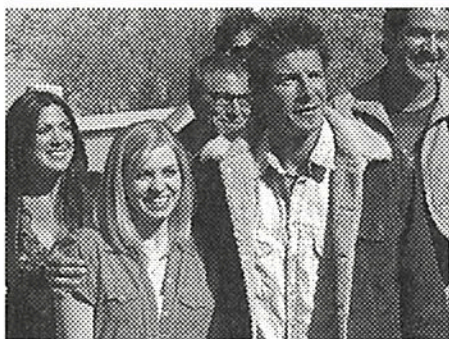


Start to finish, only 2 years have passed but the whole world thinks they know them and their story. A mountain peak has been renamed for one; the other has a *NY Times* best seller, proceeds from which were used to start a Foundation to help the other's kids and other kids of war casualties and veterans. For both families, a lot of tears, of loss and pain ongoing. For one, a daughter lost and two small grandkids to raise. For the other, a life of never ending therapy which can mercifully now be done at home because her own small community pitched in to renovate the family home. There is more pain and love here than one can almost bear to watch.

So with barely enough strength for the trip, but because there are things yet unsaid and undone, the survivor journeys to AZ to pay homage. "Closure" can be an insulting concept when it assumes things broken can be fixed and tidied up - "healing" is closer to it - so maybe the trip is to heal and be healed. Healing equals peace, and it is sometimes found in peculiar circumstances and opportunities. A frail Jessica Lynch, with excruciating foot dragging limp is approached by a newly returned OIF combat hard-



A former POW and "Reality" TV continued...



ened Marine who gives her an eagle feather for her hair. She visits the grave of her service comrade and best friend, Lori Ann Piestewa, feels the embrace of a unified larger cultural family that her friend had so wanted to bring about in life; is welcomed in the great tradition of the Native American for whom families and sacrifices are sacred. The Native American Veterans Council award of the warrior's medal of valor is not just to her but for everyone concerned. She is embraced by her lost friend's family, particularly the kids, who may now become sort of stand-ins for some of her own. The family, for whom her friend had such future hopes, lives in a small old rented mobile home on the Reservation's school district area but they graciously share everything they have, best of all affection and warmth. In the "real" world, however, middle-aged hardworking grandparents have become custodians of 2 young smart rambunctious kids who may soon not even remember their mother.

But we can step into the time-warp of 2005, the surreal age of "reality" TV shows including "Extreme Makeover-Home Edition", in its second season of building houses for deserving people. Recipients are always families who have experienced hardship of one kind or another, but are also people who give back within the community. Nothing wrong with that premise. So the surviving former POW, who would rarely raise her hand in a classroom before, gathers her nerve and records a video petitioning for a

redo - an environmentally friendly, All-American residence where 2 little kids can be safe, secure, a special place, in Hopi/Navaho/Mexican-American traditions, surrounded by artifacts and comfort, just like her friend wanted for them. It would not have been possible even when they deployed, but now companies like Sears and ABC and local stores are eager to contribute. A commercial venture, obviously, but one with good intent. And after months of planning, in a week's time, a dream home is built; the entire Native American community has mobilized. WWII Navaho Code Breakers march in the parade; Eagle dancers and medicine men bless the effort; many tribes are united. One Native American tribe in CA, newly casino-rich, buys the land in Flagstaff.



It is a lovely home in good taste and steeped in American Indian culture and heritage, housing remembrances of a lost soldier and nurturing 2 tiny heirs, Carla Lynn Piestewa (and her new beloved turtle terrarium) and Brandon Whiterock, helping them to remember their mom.

Since it is anachronistically called "reality TV", but with moderation rarely a consideration, the place has huge monetary value, but fortunately also has solar panels and other things to keep costs down. Since the TV show is in the business of "fixing" stuff, the crew also builds a traditional Hogan on the Reservation for all returning veterans; and a brand new, desperately needed Vets Center.

Is it fair that one soldier dies and another does not; is it fair that one family got a free house and others did not; is it fair that one family in hundreds of dead soldiers gets all this special publicity and "treats"; is it fair that some will look at this as opportunism and manipulation; is it fair that young military men and women are dying and being maimed every day. *Absolutely not -but fairness is not part of the equation.*



Good people and things can and often do happen, even if war stinks.

As you know too well, being a POW, even for a brief time, has lifelong, painful reminders of a lot of things, including friends lost. Making life better is right up there with commitment to care for one another. And in the meantime, we can all enjoy it when something good happens to the most needy among us on any level.



NamPOW news



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Somebody asked me at church yesterday why I always wear my little Naval Aviator lapel wings... I fumbled through an answer and then this morning I got this from one of my squadronmates, former Blue Angel, leader of our four-plane flight the day I got shot down, one of the finest men I have ever known, retired admiral Lew Chatham... I'm going to print it out and give it to the 1960s era Marine to try to explain what I fumbled through yesterday...

Change of Command Dinner speech by CDR "Beef" Wellington, former VFA-203 Blue Dolphins CO...

Woody, Fingers, PX, Spanky,

Two days ago I closed out my career as a Naval Aviator. The realization is just now starting to hit me as I'm sure it will the rest of you some day. What follows are my remarks at my farewell dinner. Several of the guys in my squadron had asked me for a copy of what I had written and because it had been jotted down on the back of a cocktail napkin in my weird assed hand writing and because these things came from my heart, I debated for a while whether or not to do write it down, but the response from all the guys and their wives was so humbling and overwhelming, I thought..... why not.

I share them with you because the 4 of you have been a constant through out my years in the Navy and I have no doubt will remain so for the rest of my life. Your friendship, personal advice, and dedication to our honored pro-

fession is all over these words. I look forward to hearing of your leadership exploits as you move past your CO tours and into Major Command positions. You guys rock! BEEF

Being an F18 pilot and an airline pilot at the same time gives you an interesting and different perspective. Unlike others, at my airline (NWA) they do not have a history of hiring Single Seat Naval Aviators and as such we are definitely in the minority.

On every trip when you first sit down next to a guy, the first volley of questions in getting to know each other always includes "what is your background?" Based on 3 years in the airline industry, I have recently decided to flat out lie and stop telling guys that I am a Naval Aviator and an F18 pilot. You might be asking yourself, why would anyone do that? There are 3 reasons.

One...Because everything that the uninformed population knows about Naval Aviation they got from the movie Top Gun. A credible and reliable source of information if there ever was one.

Two...Because when I tell guys that I am an F18 pilot, the machismo and bravado that immediately comes from the left side of the cockpit becomes somewhat intolerable and I am forced to sit and listen to stories for the next 4 days that go something like..."Mike, did I tell you about the time when I landed my C5 on a 15,000 foot runway with only 30,000 pounds of fuel in the tanks, with the weather at mins..... and oh, oh yeah, did I say it was at night." You gotta be shittin' me!!!

Three...Because, in their state of curiosity, invariably questions get asked about what flying the F18 is like and what this business of Naval Aviation is all about. It is in my futile attempts to answer these question that I have finally decided that it is impossible to do so. How can anyone possibly explain Naval Aviation?

How do you explain what it has been like to have seen the entire world

through the canopy of an F18 like a living IMAX film?

How do you explain what is like to fly an engineering marvel that responds to your every whim of airborne imagination?

How do you explain the satisfaction that comes from seeing a target under the diamond disappear at the flick of your thumb?...on time.

How do you explain cat shots ...especially the night ones?

How do explain the exhilaration of the day trap?

How do you possibly explain finding your self at 3/4 miles, at night, weather down, deck moving, hyperventilating into your mask, knowing that it will take everything you have to get aboard without killing yourself?

How do you explain moons so bright and nights so dark that they defy logic?

How do you explain sunrises and sunsets so glorious that you knew in your heart that God had created that exact moment in time just for you?

How do you explain the fellowship of the ready room where no slack is given and none is taken?

How do you explain an environment where the content of a man's character can be summed up into two simple 4 word phrases..."He's a good shit" or "He's a fu—ing idiot."

How do you explain the heart of maintenance professionals like Rudy and Frank who's only enjoyment comes from taking care of our young sailors and providing us with "up" jets to execute our craft?

How do you explain the dedication of our young troops who we burden with the responsibilities of our lives and then pay them peanuts to do so?

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How do you explain the type of women who are crazy enough to marry into Naval Aviation, who endure long working hours and long periods of separation and who are painfully and quietly forced to accept the realization that they are second to the job?

The simple fact is that you can't explain it. It is something that only a very select few of us will ever know. We are bonded for life by our proprietary knowledge and it excludes all others from our fraternity. As I will, no matter where you go or what do, you should cherish that knowledge for the rest of your life.

For when I am 90 years old sitting on my porch in my rocking chair and someone asks me what I have done with my life. I will damn sure not tell them I was an airline pilot, but rather I will reach into my pocket, pull out my Blue Dolphin money clip and tell them I was a Naval Aviator, I worked with the finest people on the planet, and that I was the Commanding Officer of the Blue Dolphins.

chaplain's corner



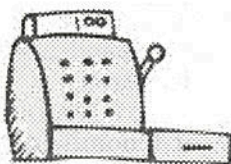
National Chaplain

John Romine

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

After just celebrating my 60th POW liberation anniversary, and trying to put some of those hellish reminders out of my feeble mind. I cannot help

contributions



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Thank you!**

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Ruth Pickens, by
Midsouth Chapter, AXPOW
In memory of Arthur Corbitt, by Bill
& Nancy Fornes
In memory of Charles T. Lyon, by
Adeline Robinson
In memory of Doc Sheppard, by
Hiawatha Chapter
In memory of Ed Intihar, by
Hiawatha Chapter
In memory of Ed Sexton, by Ralph
Lavoie

In memory of Eunice Rogers, by
Mary Ann Korbel
In memory of Harold Ihrke, by
Hiawatha Chapter
In memory of Joe Parry, by
Hiawatha Chapter
In memory of Leo St. Hilaire, by
Ralph Lavoie
In memory of Paul Bloom, by Mary
Catherine Bloom
In memory of Paul Schuster, from
Richard & Martha Carroll
In memory of Paul Schuster, by
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Ney

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In memory of Walter Mohrmann, by
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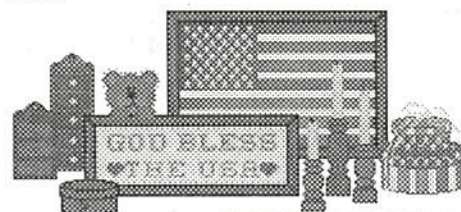
In memory of Ella Rose, by PNC
John & Loretta Krejci
In memory of George Reynard, by
John & Ann Krupinski

but look forward to the celebrating of our great nation's birthday. To many people, it is just another day. But to me, it is a time to praise the true and living God for showering so many blessings upon us and our great nation. Sometimes things happen and I wonder if it was all worth it. Crime in almost every community. Murder, rape and almost every kind of hideous things are happening. Then I look around and see children playing unafraid. Laughing and enjoying the freedoms known only to America. It is then that I bow before the creator of Heaven and earth and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

Let us pray: Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all that there is or ever will be. Grant us forgiveness when we fail to give you praise and glory for your love and goodness. Thank you for blessing America in special ways. May we always remember your mercy and kindness that

comes our way each and every day of our lives. In Your holy and blessed name we ask that You continue to be with those standing in harm's way as they try to show the USA kind of love, freedom and happiness, for which we give our thanks. AMEN

Thought for the month: Most if not all have heard the statement, we have a "fly in the ointment" when something is bad. It comes from Ecclesiastes 10:1. I understand we have removed ours. Thanks be to God.



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Please submit taps notices to: Cheryl Cerbone, 267 Main St. South Dennis, MA 02660

ALLEN, William E., 80, of Trotwood, OH died April 24, 2005. Bill served with the 82nd Airborne during WWII. He was a POW in Germany. He was a member of the Dayton Chapter, AX-POW. Survivors include 5 daughters, 1 son, 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and special friend, Irene Allen.

ARNOLD, Dixon J., of Clairemont, CA passed away April 18, 2005. He was 93. His B-17 was shot down over Germany and he was held prisoner in Luft 1, Barth. His wife, Hazle, predeceased him; there are no immediate family survivors.

ASTARITA, Joseph J. 85 of Deltona, FL., Passed away June 28, 2004. He was captured on Wake Island and was held prisoner for 3 1/2 years in five different Japanese prison camps. He was a member of the Dept. of Florida, AXPOW. He is survived by wife of 55 years, Theresa, one sister, three brothers and many nieces and nephews.

BAPTIST, Russell E., of Liverpool, NY died April 23, 2005 at the age of 79. He served with the 34th Inf. Div. during WWII. He was captured by the Germans and spent 9 months in Stalag VIIA. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Antoinette, 1 son, 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren.

BARRY, Raymond F. died April 18, 2005. Born in Duluth, Minnesota, he served in the Pacific during World War II. He was assigned to the 803rd Engineer Battalion, was captured when Bataan surrendered to the Japanese, and was one of the few remaining survivors of the Bataan Death March. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Jane, 3 sons and a daughter.

BEARY, Martin C., of Lovilia, IA died Dec. 2, 2004. He served in WWII and was a POW for 14 months. He is sur-

vived by his wife of 59 years, Dorothy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

BEVINS, Francis H., of Bloomfield, NJ passed away Feb. 11, 2005. He was 81. He served in the Army during WWII and was a POW in Germany. He was a member of New Jersey Chapter 3, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

BORNEO, John R., 88, of Ocean Township, NJ died April 27, 2005. He was a ball turret gunner with the 8th AF. He was a POW for one year in Europe. His wife of 64 years, Ann, survives him; he also leaves 2 sons, 1 sister, 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He was a member of NJ Chapter One, AXPOW.

BRIDGES, Auston, 88, of Deatsville, AL., passed away May 9, 2005. During WWII, he was attached to the 16th Field Hospital, US Army, ETO. He is survived by his wife, Violet, and two sons. He was a former member and Past Chapter Commander of the Montgomery Chapter, AXPOW.

BURNSIDE, Julian, 81, died April 8, 2004 in Tampa. He was a member of Fl. State Chapter #1. He was captured and wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife, Lidia, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

BYCHOWSKI, Robert "T-Patch", of Kerrville, Texas, died November 16, 2004. He served with Company E, 143rd Inf., 36th Div, fighting in three major European battles. He was captured, never put in a camp, but was forced to march. "T-Patch" is survived by his wife of 58 years, Annabelle, and four children.

CANFIELD, Esther A., 87, of Canandaigua, NY, beloved wife of ex-POW Leslie, died March 6, 2005. Esther and Leslie were members of the Greater Rochester Chapter, AX-POW. Leslie preceded her in death; she is survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 4 sisters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be truly missed.

CAPPIELLO, Dante, of Schenectady, NY passed away Aug. 20, 2004. He served with the Army during WWII and participated in the African/Middle Eastern Campaign. He was a member of AXPOW. Dante leaves his loving wife of 57 years, Virginia, 2 daughters, 1 son, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

CASTILLO, Herman, 84, of Clawson, MI died April 7, 2005. Herman served with "H" Company, 31st Inf. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 1/2 years of captivity. His wife, Lydia, 1 son and 2 granddaughters survive him.

CHASE, Frederick B., 87, of Halfmoon, NY died Jan. 8, 2005. He served with the 106th Inf. and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Northeast NY Chapter. He is survived by 2 daughters, 1 brother, 1 sister, 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

CRADEN, Sol, 85, former member of the Clarence Beltmann and Barbed Wire Chapters, AXPOW, passed away May 18, 2005. He served with the 384th BG, USAF. Survivors include 4 children and 6 grandchildren. His wife, Virginia, died in March 2003.

CRAGO, Charles R., 80, of Cillicothe, OH died April 14, 2005. He was a life member of AXPOW and the 388th BG Association. During WWII, he was shot down over Germany and held for six months in Lufts 4 and 1. He leaves his loving wife, Fay, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

CRAIG, Dorothy B., beloved wife of the late George, passed away April 24, 2005 in Santa Fe, NM. She is survived by her granddaughter, Janice Craig Lucero.

DASCOULIAS, Peter J., of Warren, OH died May 16, 2005. He was 84. Peter served with the AAF during WWII. He was captured and held at Stalag 17B. He leaves his wife,

taps continued

Vasiliki "Bessie", 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 brother and 4 grandchildren.

DelMONTE, Frank, of Audubon, NJ passed away April 14, 2005. He served with the 8th AF, 384th BG, 544 BS. He was a POW in Stalag 17B, Barracks 36B. He is survived by his loving wife, Minnie.

DICKE, Willa M., of Ocean View, Hawaii died Feb. 9, 2005. She was the wife of Vernon (POW in Luft 1). Both were members of the Air Capital Chapter, Wichita, KS. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 3 children, 2 step-children and 10 grandchildren.

DRAKE, Dolores Mumm, 82, of San Angelo, TX died May 18, 2005. Dolores was an active member of Concho Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Her late husband, Howard, served as Commander for nine years before his death. She leaves nine children, 20 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

DYE, Leona May passed away on April 23, 2005 at the age of 80 in Olympia, WA. She is survived by her husband, Tacoma Chapter SVC Charles, two daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Leona was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and a faithful member of the Tacoma, WA. Chapter. She was a loving, caring lady and will be deeply missed.

ECKENRODE, John, 82, of Warren, OH passed away May 5, 2005. He served with the 527th BS, 379th BG. He was shot down and held in Luft 4. He was a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rose Marie Wiles, 3 sons, 3 grandsons, one granddaughter, one sister and one brother.

EDWARDS, Lynda Sue, died Feb. 122, 2005 in Las Vegas, NV. She and her husband William "Bill" were life members of AXPOW and the 7-11 Chapter. Bill served with the 91st Inf. Div. he spent 9 months in Stalag 7A. In addition to her husband, Lynda Sue is survived by one son and one daughter.

ERICKSON, Gladys, member of the Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter, AX-POW, died March 22, 2005. She is survived by her loving husband, Harold, 4 children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

FABAC, THOMAS E., 87, died April 27, 2004 in New Port Richey, FL. He was a member of FL State Chapter #1, 501st Airborne Association and was a life member of the VFW. Survivors include a son Blair from NC, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

FISCHER, Donald A., 82, died Feb. 1, 2005. He was an active member of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 456th BG, flying out of Italy. He was captured over Germany and held POW. Donald leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Lois, 1 son, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

FISHER, Robert W., of Pittsburgh, PA passed away Nov. 24, 2004. He was a flight engineers with the 92nd BG. After being wounded and bailing out over Germany, he was sent to hospitals and finally Stalag XVIII. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, June and 2 sons.

FORD, Mason Eugene (Gene), of Snellville, GA died May 12, 2005 at the age of 79. He served with the 423rd Reg., 106th Inf. Div. and was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Gene was a member of the Greater Atlanta Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lois, 1 son, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

FORETICH, Gerald, 88, passed away March 18, 2005. He was a resident of Gulfport, MS. He served with the AAC and was shot down over Germany. He was held in Luft IV until liberation. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 2 great-grandsons, 2 sisters and his brother, John, who was his caregiver in the last few years of his life.

GARCEAU, George C., Sr., 81, of Barre, VT died April 28, 2005. He served with the 45th Div., 179th Reg. and was wounded in the Mediterranean in 1943. George was a POW in Stalags VIIA, VIIB and Augsburg. He

escaped from Augsburg, was recaptured and held for the duration of the war in Dachau concentration camp. His beloved wife, Mary, survives him; he also leaves 3 sons, 1 daughter, 13 grandchildren and 3 sisters. He was a good friend to all he knew.

GATZMAN, Ralph L., passed away Nov. 26, 2004 at the age of 81. He was a waist gunner with the 8th AF, 384th BG. His was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He is survived by his wife, Edna, 2 sons, 4 daughters, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

GERSTNER, Isadore, of Mission, TX died April 21, 2005. He was a member of the Rio Grande Chapter, AX-POW. Survivors include his beloved wife, Joy.

GOFORTH, J.D., age 72, of Claremont, NC passed away Aug. 16, 2004. He served during the Korean War in the 7th Div., 31st Reg., Co K, in the Inchon invasion. He was captured in 1950 and liberated in 1953. He leaves his wife Billie Sue, 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

GREEN, Hoover, of Lincoln, NC passed away Jan. 2, 2005. He served in the Army during WWII and was captured crossing the Mose River. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ethleen, and one son.

HALL, Cheston H., 80, of Havertown, PA died Dec. 3, 2004. He served with the 457th BG. He was shot down on Nov. 2, 1944 and held in POW camps in Germany. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Betty Hall, a daughter, a sister, and 2 grandchildren. He was a member of AXPOW.

HEIL, Ruby, of El Paso, TX passed away May 7, 2005. Ruby was a member of the El Paso Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband Dick Heil, Chapter Past Commander, who passed away on May 31, 1985, served with the 30th Inf. Div. He was held in Oflag 64 in Poland. She is survived by one son, two daughters and two grandchildren.

taps continued

HICKMOTT, Edward, of Amarillo, Texas, died December 18, 2004. A member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, he served with the 8th AF, 92nd BG, 325th BS. After capture he was on the 600 mile march. He is survived by his wife, Ruth.

HUFSTUTLER, Raymond, 84, of Ingram, TX died Oct. 15, 2004. Raymond proudly served with the US Marine Corps during WWII and Korea. He was a POW. Raymond is survived by his wife of 58 years, Iva Dell, and one sister.

JANSEN, Marshall, of Waterford, Michigan, passed away May 4, 2005. Marshall served in the 106th Inf. Div., 589th FABN. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his beloved wife of 57 years, Patricia, and one daughter.

JACKSON, Francis B., widow of the late Harry S., Jackson, US Army Inf., POW in Stalag 4B.

JACOBS, Jerome, member of the Gold Coast Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 25, 2005. Jerry was a P-51 pilot with the 357th FG. He was shot down during the Market Garden offensive. He was a POW in Luft III and other prison camps. He will be missed by his many friends.

JOHNSON, Worth, of Clemmons, NC, passed away Dec. 12, 2004. He served in the Army during WWII with the 106th Div. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured. He was held prisoner at Stalag 4B. He was very proud to serve his country. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, ReElla, 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

KELLER, Robert W., 86, of Charlottesville, VA died May 10, 2005. He served with the AAF, stationed in England. He was shot down over France and captured by Germans. He was sent to Stalag Luft III. His wife, Irene, and one son survive him.

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KRALLMAN, Leroy D., of Great Bend, KS, passed away May 10, 2005. He was 81. During WWII, he served in the Army with the 90th Div. He was a POW in Stalag 8A for 9 months. He leaves his wife Maxine, 1 son, 2 sisters, 3 grandsons and 7 great-grandchildren.

LEONARD, Joe A., 87, of Lincolnton, NC died Nov. 28, 2004. During WWII, he served with the 45th Div., 179th Inf. He was captured at Anzio and held POW in Germany until liberation. He leaves his wife, Ruth, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was a life member of the Catawba Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

LOVE, Leona M., of Amherst, OH died May 19, 2005. She and her husband, ex-POW Kenneth, were both active members of AXPOW. Kenneth was captured in Italy and held in Stalag 7A. Additional survivors include 4 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

MANKIN, William H., 83, of Chrisman, IL passed away Dec. 6, 2004. He served in the Army during WWII. He was taken prisoner in the Battle of the Bulge and held in 4B, 4C and another camp on the German/Czech border. Survivors include his wife, Myrtle, two daughters and six grandchildren.

MARSHALL, William, 82, of Rotterdam, NY died Jan. 1, 2005. During WWII, he was a machine gunner with the 94th Div., 301st Inf. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Northeast NY Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Gloria, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

MARTINEZ, Jesse, of Colorado Springs, CO passed away March 25, 2005. Jesse was a POW in Germany. He was a longtime member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW and was proud of his service as Sgt.-at-Arms. He is survived by his wife, Theresa, 2 sons and 2 daughters.

McCLURE, Charles "Clint", 82, of Tulsa, OK passed away May 6, 2005. He served proudly in the 106th Inf. Div. in WWII. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and interned in

Stalag IVB in Germany. Clint was Commander of the Tulsa Chapter, AXPOW for four terms. He also served as Department of Oklahoma commander. Both he and his wife Peggy (current chapter commander) were active members - locally and nationally. In addition to Peggy, Clint is survived by 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 stepson.

McKEEGAN, Rothery, "Mac", 86, of Burlington, WI died April 10, 2005. He served with the AAF during WWII and was a POW in Germany at Stalag Luft 3. Mac is survived by his wife, Jean, 2 daughters and numerous grandchildren.

MEADS, Bruce W., 91, of Spring Arbor, MI passed away Oct. 11, 2004. He served with the Army during WWII and was captured at the Battle of Kasserine Pass. While in camp, he became the chaplain for his fellow POWs and was part of the POW exchange in March, 1945. His loving wife of 59 years, Rose, survives him; he also leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MELTESEN, Clarence R., of San Francisco, CA died May 7, 2005. He joined the 3rd Ranger Bn in Italy and was captured at Anzio/Cisterna. He was held in hospitals, then moved to Stalag VIIA and Oflag 64. He was a member is the Luzviminda Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Helena, 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MILLER, Walter Francis, of Aiken, SC, died May 29, 2005. He served in the 8th AF. He was captured and held in Germany. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Joan.

MITSDARFFER, Dorothy, 80, of Champaign, IL died March 31, 2005. She was the widow of ex-POW James. Survivors include 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

MOHRMANN, Walter, of St. Louis, MO passed away April 21, 2005. He was a life member of the Greater St. Louis Chapter. While serving in the Army's 4th Division, 12 Infantry, Company H, he was taken prisoner during the Battle of The Bulge. He is survived by his wife Pat, three

taps continued

sons, one daughter, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

NAGLE, Edward J. Jr., age 81, died May 16, 2005 in La Crosse, WI. He was a charter member and past commander of the Coulee Region Chapter, AXPOW. Ed served with the 106th Div., 81st Eng. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, 10 children, 14 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

OLSON, Georgia A., of Orangeville, CA passed away March 29, 2005. He was 86. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 94th BG. He spent 13 months in Stalag 17B.

OSBO, JOHN, 81, of Jupiter, FL, passed away April 25, 2005. He was a US Army veteran of World War II serving in Europe. He was an outstanding member of the Florida Sun coast Chapter of the American Ex-POW. Survivors include his loving wife of 61 years, Dorothy, one son, one daughter, a sister, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

OSBORNE, Karl F., 85, of Colonie, NY died Nov. 8, 2004. He was a paratrooper with the 82nd Inf. Div. and the 101st Airborne Signal Corps. He was captured on D-Day and held until liberation by the Russians. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Northeast NY Chapter. Survivors include his wife of 54 years and 1 daughter.

PACER, Henry J., member of Western NY Chapter, AXPOW, died March 3, 2005. He was 85. Henry was serving at Fort McKinley in the Philippines when he was captured. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Alice, 4 sons, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

RIDDLE, Lloyd Guy, of Rogers, TX, passed away Sept. 3, 2004. He was 83. Lloyd was flying his B-17 over Germany when he was shot down and captured. He spent the duration of the war in Stalag 17B, Barracks 34. He had a band in camp - the Barbed Wire Mountaineers. Lloyd is

survived by his wife, Gene, 1 daughter and 2 sisters. He was a life member of AXPOW.

ROBERTS, Jon, 86, of Jackson, MO died March 1, 2005. He served with the AAF during WWII. He was shot down, captured and held 13 months in Stalag XVIII B. Jon was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Frances, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

SCHWIETZ, Stephen L., 86, of Maplewood, MN died Jan. 7, 2005. He was wounded and captured by the Germans at Kasserine Pass, North Africa. He was hospitalized, then sent to Camp 59 in Italy. He escaped, was recaptured and sent to Stalag 2B. Stephen was a member of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, one son, one daughter and one grandchild.

SENSENBRENNER, Georgia, 80, of Urbana, IL, widow of Ralph (died Nov. 6, 1985) passed away recently. She was a member of the Illiana Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by two sons.

SHORT, Edward L. Jr., of Thornwald Home, PA passed away May 19, 2005. He was 80. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was a POW in Korea. Edward is survived by his wife, Vina Mae, 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the PA Capital Chapter, AXPOW.

SIMMONS, George, of Oklahoma City, OK passed away March 30, 2005. He served with the AAF, 405th FG. He was shot down over Haslach, Germany and held in Luft 1. George was a member of the Central OK Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Carol, predeceased him; he is survived by 4 children and 1 grandchild.

STEVENSON, William "Bill", 87, of Danville, IL died April 25, 2005. Bill served in the 8th AF. He was a POW in Luft 1 for 16 months. Bill's wife, Lois, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 4 daughters, 16 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

STOUT, Donald, past commander of San Fernando Valley Chapter, CA, passed away April 23, 2005. During

WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 305th BG (H), 366th BS. He was captured on Jan. 27, 1943 and held in Oflag XXB, Luft III (North and South) and VIIA. Donald is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Ercell, 1 son, 2 daughters and many friends.

SZUDLO, Joseph W., of Phoenix, AZ passed away April 8, 2005. He was 81. During WWII, he served with the 303rd BG. He was a POW in Germany. He leaves his loving wife, Lucy, and 2 daughters.

TUCKER, Helen E., 72, of Millville, MN died April 22, 2005. She was Commander of the Hiawatha Chapter, AXPOW; past SVC, Dept. of Minnesota. Helen was the widow of Merle - ex-POW (Bataan Death March). She is survived by 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

WAGNER, Alvin Clay, of Salinas, CA passed away March 8, 2005. Alvin served with the 2nd Div. during the Korean War. After the Chinese entered the war, his unit retreated to Wonju and he was captured just north of Hongson Valley. He was a POW for 31 months. Survivors include his loving wife, Ruthann.

WEBSTER, Theodore "Ted", of Toldo, OH died April 28, 2005. He was 80. Ted served with the 95th Inf. Div. He was captured near Metz, France and held in Stalags 12A, 3A and 2B. Ted was SVC of the Maumee Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Pauline, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandsons.

WILLIAMS, Edwin, 83, of Champaign, IL died Dec. 6, 2004. He served in the 22nd Inf. Reg., 4th Inf. Div. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his wife, Margaret and 2 daughters.

ZIEGLER, H. Maxine, 84, of Allison Park, PA passed away May 27, 2005. She was the wife of R. Sterling Ziegler, 95th BG, 412th BS, POW in Frankfurt, Luft III, 7A. Both were members of the Pittsburgh Chapter, AXPOW. She is also survived by 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.



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A continental breakfast, with oatmeal, is included in the room rate.

Complimentary transportation to and from Denver International Airport

Complimentary Transportation between the Doubletree Hotel and the Red Lion Hotel if needed

**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 2, 2005**

TUES SEPT 27

WED SEPT 28

THU SEPT 29

FRI SEPT 30

SAT OCT 1

SUN OCT 2

NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING - TOURS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OPENING CEREMONIES-NATIONAL LEGISLATION PROGRAM-

MEDSEARCH SEMINAR-COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

MEN AND WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS-EDUCATION SEMINAR-LADIES'

LUNCHEON-NATIONAL CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER-REUNION NIGHT

CONTINUATION OF GENERALASSEMBLY

BANQUET AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Ex-POW Bulletin

July 2005

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"America The Beautiful"
58th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
September 27-Oct. 2, 2005
Denver, Colorado



Convention Registration

Registrant's Name _____ Nickname _____

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

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Unit When Captured _____ Theatre _____ Camps _____

REGISTRATION (per person) until September 1 ~ \$55.00

after September 1 - \$60 no refund after September 15

Payable to: 2005 Convention Fund

Mail to: Mrs. Phyllis Hutchins, Registration Chairman

3191 South Leyden Street

Denver, CO 80222

AD ORDER FORM

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

AD PRICING

Full page.....\$200 Quarter page.....\$75

Half page.....\$125 Business card.....\$35

Deadline for submissions is Sept. 1, 2005

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Ad Size _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:
2005CONVENTION FUND**

**Mail order form with ad materials and check to:
AXPOW CONVENTION - PROGRAM AD**

**3191 S. Leyden Street
Denver, CO 80222**

Saturday Night Banquet Choice:

_____ **Roasted Pork Tenderloin**

_____ **Atlantic Salmon**

Total Registration: \$ _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**1. Tour to Air Force Academy and
Garden of the Gods**

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$37.50 per person

Number _____ x \$37.50 \$ _____

2. Tour to Central City/Blackhawk

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$24.00 per person

Number _____ x \$24.00 \$ _____

3. Ladies Luncheon

Friday, Sept. 30 @ \$21.00 per person

Number _____ x \$21.00 \$ _____

Registration and Activities

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

**Ex-POW Bulletin
July 2005**



American Ex-Prisoners of War

Candidate for National Office 2005

Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please include picture):

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

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

The Battle for Corregidor

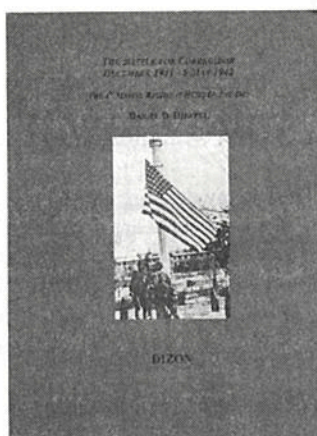
December 1941-6 May 1942

The 4th Marine Regiment

Hung Out to Dry

by Daniel D. Howell

The 6th of May 1942 was the first time in Marine Corps history that a regiment had ever surrendered. For three years following the surrender, the Defenders of Corregidor continued fighting. The battle against starvation and disease was, for many POWs, more deadly than actual combat with the enemy.



This well-researched hardbound book is written by the curator of the Pacific War Memorial Museum on Corregidor. The 293-page first edition is complete with maps and photos.

For your signed copy, send \$40.00, plus \$4 shipping (CA residents, add \$3.10 sales tax) to: T. Cadman WWII Books, 5150 Fair Oaks Blvd. #101, Carmichael, CA 95608; (800) 540-0053 or visit www.cadmanbooks.com. ISBN 0-9742215-0-3



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945
active since 1946

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.
Annual Dues \$10.00 < > LIFE Membership \$75.00

The CUB Magazine has been published every quarter since August 1946.

Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/membership.htm>

Or contact John Kline, Membership Chairman
Past President '97-'98; Editor, The CUB since 1987

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: jpk@mm.com

106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

50/50 drawing

Latest winners drawn in Washington, DC

1st Place - \$1136.20

Jay G Coberly, Lexington KY

2nd Place - \$852.15

Thomas Carrick, Wellington FL

3rd Place - \$568.10

Bert Robinson, Mission Viejo TX

4th Place - \$284.05

Joe Cucarola, Sterling CO

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

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

These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing

3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40

Arlington, TX 76010-5396.

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project

Solid Bronze Grave Medallion

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

weight: 1 pound

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



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

Outdoor grave medallion, drilled, tapped, & studded
\$30.00 each _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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

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

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

Ex-POW Bulletin

July 2005

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**American Ex-Prisoners of War
50/50 Drawing – October 2005**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.

Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

Mail your donation **American Ex-Prisoners of War**
and entry to: **50/50 Drawing**
 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
 Arlington, TX 76010-5396

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible.
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.
Thank you for your support.

**American Ex-Prisoners of War
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Address: _____

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Ex-POW Bulletin

July 2005

40

**American Ex-Prisoners of War
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City/State/Zip: _____

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50/50 Drawing – October 2005**

PLEASE PRINT

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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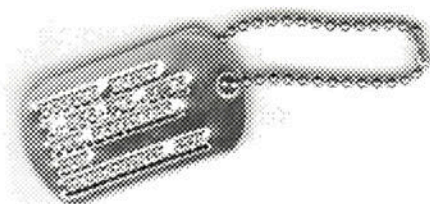
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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and entry to: **50/50 Drawing**
 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
 Arlington, TX 76010-5396

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible.
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.
Thank you for your support.

new members

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



New Annual Members Welcome Home



James R. Lowe
M. Elizabeth
Sun City West, AZ
15 AF 449 BG
Luft 1
11/22/44-5/5/45

John A. Ronco
Yountville, CA
357 Inf Reg 63 Inf Div
12A 9B Prussia
1/24/45-4/2/45

David C. Loomis
Kent, CT
USNR Air Corps
Kyushu Japan Ofuna
Omori
3/18/45-8/29/45

Morris "Chick" Chase
Ina
Coconut Creek, FL
1010 AAF Base Unit
Luft 1
10/6/44-6/45
Last name was
Chakansky

O'Neal Jacobs, Jr.
Eileen
Clearwater, FL
Army
11B
3/2/45-4/18/45

Edgar F. Parks
Safety Harbor, FL
106 Div 3 Bn CO I
9B
12/16/44-4/25/45

John E. Washburn
Margaret M
Warner Robins, GA
15 AF 455 BG 342 BS
Hospital in Bucharest
8/17/44-8/31/44

Dominic "Mike" Montagna
Windsor Mill, MD
USAAF
17B
4/22/44-5/3/45

Neil G. "Bud" Duell
Oswego, NY
550 BS 385 BG
Abandoned Factory,
Stalag 5
3/2/45-4/26/45

New Life Members Welcome Home

*denotes new member

John J. Thompson
*38938
Austin, TX
401 BG
Luft 1
3/18/45-5/15/45

Kristine Stafford *38939
Columbia, SC
Daughter of Walter
Sundling, ETO

Wendy Jansen *38940
Novi, MI
Daughter of Marshall B.
Wenslow, ETO

Albert Dixon *38941
Orangeburg, SC
HQ Btry 503 FA 2 Inf Div
Camp 5
1950-1953

Joseph Charles Engers
Elaine Kreiner *38942
38943
Baltimore, MD
35 Div 134 Inf
12A 3C Luckenwalde
9/11/44-5/9/45

Earl Neumeier
Verna *38944 38945
Lakewood, WA
31 Inf Reg
O'Donnell Cabanatuan
Niigata Tokyo Wakasser



Susan McQuilkin
Jonathan
Columbia, MO
Daughter of Earl
Duckworth, ETO

Robert Godfrey
W Long Brach, NJ
422 Inf 106 Div
4B 3B 3A

Neal W. McIntyre, Jr.
Bobbie Jean 3869 38936
Fitzgerald, GA
388 BG 560 BS
Stalag Luft

Lindsay Nielson *38937
Ventura, CA
Civilian
Santo Tomas, Manila
1/42-2/45



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Name Badge Order Form

Choice of attachment
(check one or we choose)

- ☐ Pin-on
☐ Clip-on



JOHN DOE

Chapter/City

Actual size of badge – 2" x 3"

Print information below

First name _____

Last name _____

City or Chapter _____

Name Badge with name & chapter or city..... \$ 8.00*

Cost of additional lines (\$1.00 each)

*includes shipping/handling

Total cost of name badge \$ _____

Ship to:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

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

Now accepting Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$2.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$6.00

For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$8.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$10.00

For orders over 100.00, add \$15.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handlng/Insurance:

Total: \$ _____

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

MAIL TO:

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

817-649-2979

axpowqm@aol.com



Former POWs Recognize their Commander
The members of the San Diego Chapter 1, AXPOW have chosen to recognize and memorialize their Commander Francis "Frank" L. Burger, by awarding him with a bust of his likeness. The presentation was May 12, 2005, the 60th anniversary of his liberation from Stalag Luft 1. The presentation was made in the lobby of the VARO, San Diego, by Gary Rossio, Director of the hospital.

The effort to recognize Frank Burger for his leadership came from a committee of Chris Zazas, Peter Ternasky and Ralph Kling, who worked with the artist, Richard Becker.

What a wonderful surprise, Frank!



Far left: Oregon State Cmdr. Richard Crow and PNC Maurice Sharp stand behind Camillo Giacchero, 87, of Milwaukee, OR, shortly after he was presented the Silver Star which Camillo had earned 60 years ago; Near left: Col. Rhonda Cornum (Desert Storm POW) at "Rolling Thunder XVIII" in Washington, DC; Dr. Cornum is also a member of the POW Advisory Committee and is currently completing her command at Landstuhl, Germany.

Magnetic Ribbons!

This magnetic support ribbon is perfect for your car or refrigerator. Display your message for supporting the Troops... AXPOW... America with these support ribbons. Beautifully rendered, easily applied and removed, and best of all - they're RE-USABLE! Each Weather Resistant Magnet is

\$5.00



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

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members
\$20.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions
\$30.00 per year

Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

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

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

