

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 73

[www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)

Number 5/6

May/June 2016



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



Happy 100th  
Birthday  
to PNC  
Jim Cooper!

Election Issue! Ballot ~ inside back cover

# Tet 2016 ~ Nam Viet Restaurant



# May/June 2016

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Past National Commander Jim Cooper was born on May 16, 1916. He turns 100 years old this month!



Jim was National Commander in 2004-2005. During WWII, he was a navigator with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 448<sup>th</sup> BG. He was captured and held in Luft III and VII-A. Jim holds life membership number 7183, and has worked closely with various civic, professional, and veterans organizations, both before and after his retirement.

If you want to wish Jim a Happy Birthday, write: Jim Cooper, PO Box 65, Douglas, AZ 85608

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. To remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to "Taps."

AXPOW's National Convention is next month in Arlington, Texas. If you haven't made plans to attend yet, we encourage you to do so. It's a great opportunity to make new friends and meet up with old ones. Bring your kids and grandkids - there's plenty to do in Arlington!

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Alice A Booher

Deadline for the July/Aug issue is June 1, 2016

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

### UMB Credit Card

Every time a member – or member's family or friends – signs up for the new UMB credit card (which features our marching men on the face), AXPOW receives \$50.00. That's like making a \$50 donation to the organization when you sign up. We also get a percentage of every dollar spent if you use the card each month. You also get benefits from using the card...there is no annual fee and at the end of the year, you'll receive a statement of your annual charges, broken down by category. Makes filing your taxes easier!

So benefits for us and benefits for you. Won't you take a few minutes and apply for this card today?

EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published bi-monthly (six times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76010. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, "American Ex-Prisoners of War", October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement.



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## National Commander Edward DeMent

It is hard for me to believe that my term in office is close to the end.

A great year it was for me.

Our By-laws give a description of powers and duties of the National Commander. He/she is the spokesperson for the organization and represents the legacy and honor of the POW and the experience of captivity to all as the face and voice of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

The Commander shall be an ex-prisoner of war or former civilian internee and his/her role within the organization carries the highest honor and respect.

I believe I have fulfilled the description above.

Two trips to Washington, DC were the highlights to my term.

The first, for Veterans Day, 2015 began with breakfast at the White House, then the ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns followed by the annual program (this year hosted by MOAA) at the Amphitheatre. The second was to hear AXPOW's testimony before Congress in March. See picture at right.

I was honored on POW/MIA Recognition Day in September at

our museum in Andersonville, GA.

I was the speaker at Veterans Memorial Park, Tampa, FL on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

I spoke to many veterans at an assisted living facility and was very well received.

I also spoke at other functions.

I have been invited to the State Convention in Missouri and have been told it will be their last.

We are losing our World War II veterans at such a fast pace; we really need our next-of kin to carry on our legacy.

Past National Commanders: PLEASE make a special effort to come to the National Convention in Arlington, TX this June. We need your input.

We have many important issues to vote on and I look forward to seeing you in person.

God Bless our Military  
God Bless America  
Yours in Patriotism

*Edward L. DeMent*



*My son, Ed and I joined PNC Charlie Susino in DC for AXPOW's testimony before the Joint House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees*

## news from hq



It's summer in Texas and you know what that means?

It's convention time already!

At Headquarters, we've been planning for months...for you all it's coming up fast! The dates are June 23-25, 2016.

Check out the convention pages in this Bulletin and make your reservations quickly before the room blocks fill.

This issue of the Bulletin has the Election Ballot on the inside back cover. You must fill out the original and send it in to Headquarters for your vote to count. We also have a report and a request for decisions from the Strategic Planning Committee. That ballot is on page 19. The choices are basically to do nothing or to do something. If you have third options, please let the committee know them as well. You can mail in your response, or email it to Headquarters or call us. All members have important obligations to YOUR organization, so please let us know what you are thinking and what you want for our future.

As always, if you are traveling this summer, try and see if you can attend a state department convention. The next big one is in August in Ohio - always a friendly place to visit and you'll be warmly welcomed by all.

See you at Convention!  
Clydie, Marsha, Donna & Sally

## from the CEO



David Eberly

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## A Call to Arms

Throughout history there have been a variety of references to the phrase “*A Call to Arms*”: In *Angels and Airwaves*, the lyrics reference fears and beliefs while in the more famous 1940 British propaganda short film, the target was *women*—urging them to sign up for war work. Common to both is an appeal to undertake a particular course of action.

As of this writing, we only have two AXPOW members registered for the annual convention in June. My challenge to you in the theme of this Bulletin article is to carefully consider the work of the Strategic Planning Committee reflected in ND Charles Anthony Susino’s article and determine if you personally are ready to take up arms as an active participant in the work of our organization. To stay viable, we need committee chairpersons, committee members, and volunteers. And, even

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as our Greatest Generation base declines, we need to continue to expand our membership.

Consider this: Sixty years ago, recognizing the inevitability of their numbers, the Doolittle Raiders established *The Last Man Standing* tradition. In this tradition, they set aside a prized bottle of brandy to be opened by the last surviving member of their historic squadron. In like manner, at our recent 25 year freedom reunion, we the members of The 5<sup>th</sup> Allied POW Squadron from the 1991 Gulf War recently signed and set on display in The Royal Air Force Club in London, a bottle of Grand Marnier Quintessence. In both cases, the organizations hoped to establish some sort of legacy—a story line to recognize the members and to focus attention on the unit camaraderie and accomplishment. These symbols, however are without sponsorship or benefactor funds, and decades later the memories and the historic significance may fade away.

Similarly, several years ago on the Fourth of July, I was invited to speak at a VFW celebration. Before being introduced, the commander acknowledged a special benefactor and the family’s estate gift to their unit. His acknowledgment specified that now they could build the addition on the bar—how meaningless that legacy and how possibly disappointing to the next of kin. So, how does this all relate to the AXPOW and our future? Our headquarters is operating at a significant deficit, and I as I have mentioned, fewer and fewer members are attending our meetings and taking on leadership responsibilities. However, as you may recall from The Bulletin or our meeting minutes, we have been blessed with a significant windfall from the Lemkan family in honor Joseph Lemkan a WWII POW. This nearly half million dollar gift not only challenges us as beneficiaries but creates a unique opportunity to go beyond honoring the last prisoner of war or expanding a bar.

To paraphrase the eloquently penned words of George Peele in his poem *A Farewell to Arms*: His golden locks hath silver turned; His helmet now a hive for bees. A man at arms must now serve on his knees; His Saint is sure of his unspotted heart. And when he saddest sits in a homely cell, blest be the hearts that wish this sovereign well. Goddess, allow this aged man his right to be remembered as your knight.

So, I ask you to step forward to answer this call to arms. What will be the legacy for your knight? A faded memory lost in the generations along the road traveled by the last man standing or a vibrant legacy enjoyed by generations of girls and boys—it’s your call.

David

### LAST CALL!

We’re putting the finishing touches on the 2016 Convention Booklet and need your ads in as soon as possible.

Please see page 15 for details.

And if you haven’t yet registered for the convention, fill out the registration form on page 14. You’ll have a great time making new friends and greeting old ones!

1949~2016  
AXPOW

National Convention  
Arlington, TX  
June 23-25, 2016

## What is colonoscopy?

Colonoscopy is a procedure that uses a long, flexible, narrow tube with a light and tiny camera on one end, called a colonoscope or scope, to look inside the rectum and entire colon. Colonoscopy can show irritated and swollen tissue, ulcers, and polyps—extra pieces of tissue that grow on the lining of the intestine. A gastroenterologist—a doctor who specializes in digestive diseases—performs this procedure.

This procedure is different from virtual colonoscopy, which uses a combination of x rays and computer technology to create images of the rectum and entire colon.

### Why is a colonoscopy performed?

A colonoscopy is performed to help diagnose:

- changes in bowel habits
- abdominal pain
- bleeding from the anus
- weight loss

A gastroenterologist also performs a colonoscopy as a screening test for colon cancer. Screening is testing for diseases when people have no symptoms. Screening may find diseases at an early stage, when a health care provider has a better chance of curing the disease.

### How is a colonoscopy performed?

A gastroenterologist performs a colonoscopy at a hospital or an outpatient center. In most cases, light anesthesia and pain medication help people relax for the test. The medical staff will monitor people's vital signs and try to make people as comfortable as possible. A nurse or technician places an intravenous (IV) needle in a vein in the arm to give anesthesia.

For the test, the person will lie on a table while the gastroenterologist inserts a colonoscope into the anus and slowly guides it through the rectum and into the colon. The scope inflates the large intestine with air to give the gastroenterologist a better view. The camera sends a video image of the intestinal lining to a computer screen, allowing the gastroenterologist to carefully examine the intestinal tissues. The gastroenterologist may move the person several times so the scope can be adjusted for better viewing. Once the scope has reached the opening to the small intestine, the gastroenterologist slowly withdraws it and examines the lining of the large intestine again.

For the test, the person will lie on a table while the gastroenterologist inserts a colonoscope into the anus and slowly guides it through the rectum and into the colon.

The gastroenterologist can remove polyps during colonoscopy and send them to a lab for testing. Polyps are common in adults and are usually harmless. However, most colon cancer begins as a polyp, so removing polyps early is an effective way to prevent cancer.

The gastroenterologist may also perform a biopsy, a procedure that involves taking a small piece of intestinal lining for examination with a microscope. The person will not feel the biopsy. A pathologist—a doctor who specializes in diagnosing diseases—will examine the tissue.

The gastroenterologist may pass tiny tools through the scope to remove polyps and take a sample for biopsy. If bleeding occurs, the gastroenterologist can usually stop it with an electrical probe or special medications passed through the

scope. Colonoscopy usually takes 30 to 60 minutes.

### What can a person expect after a colonoscopy?

After the colonoscopy, a person can expect the following:

- People may need to stay at the hospital or outpatient center for 1 to 2 hours after the procedure.
- Cramping or bloating may occur during the first hour after the test.
- The anesthesia takes time to completely wear off.
- Full recovery is expected by the next day, and people should be able to go back to their normal diet.
- A member of the health care team will review the discharge instructions with the person—or with an accompanying friend or family member if the person is still groggy—and provide a written copy. The person should follow all instructions given.
- A friend or family member will need to drive the person home after the procedure.
- If the gastroenterologist removed polyps or performed a biopsy, light bleeding from the anus is normal.

Some results from a colonoscopy are available immediately after the procedure. After the anesthesia has worn off, the gastroenterologist will share results with the person or a designee. Biopsy results take a few days to come back.

### National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

2 Information Way Bethesda, MD 20892-3570 Phone: 1-800-891-5389; [www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov)



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



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



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



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



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



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



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



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



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

## POW Photos Order Form

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

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 11. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_

Set of 12 photos \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to AXPOW

Mail to: AXPOW National Headquarters

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, TX 76010. PH: 817-649-2979; fax 817-649-0109

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed or Charged

(\$5.00 per picture/\$50.00 for set of 12) \_\_\_\_\_

# legislative



## PNC Charles Susino Jr Chairman

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Metuchen, NJ 08840  
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On March 16, 2016 I had the privilege of representing all of you and the AXPOW with legislative testimony to the Senate VA subcommittee in Washington DC. I was joined by Commander Dement, his son Len, and Charles A Susino, Board of Director. The following are comments we submitted. If you wish to view additional information regarding the testimony and Q&A session during the 2 hour hearing, please access them on the Senate VA subcommittee website. There you will be able to view the video of the entire proceeding which contains the abridged verbal testimony as well as the more detailed written comments submitted by each of the Veterans service organizations.

*Chairmen and members of the House and Senate Veteran's Affairs committee and guests, my name is Charles Susino Jr., Past National Commander of the American Ex- Prisoners of War and Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Thank*

2015-2016 Legislative  
Committee  
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.  
ND Charles Anthony Susino  
charles.susino@gmail.com

*you for the opportunity to express our comments today.*

*Last year at this time, we publicly stated that we supported Secretary McDonald's efforts to change the VA culture and reorganize to obtain better access, treatment experience, and understanding for the veteran without compromising efficiencies and accountabilities. Recently, the Secretary outlined to you his plan to transform the VA into a high performance organization. Again, we support his efforts but remind you a year has passed. Years where waiting for medical appointments have decreased only through a one-time costly overtime, but lines are still long. A year where the*



*discussion at the top levels has changed but veterans' experience has not. From our perspective, it is important to empower and leverage the local management at the VA facilities.*

*I have personally dealt with the New Jersey VA system for decades. While I have had my share of frustrations with the VA system and its bureaucracy, I applaud the leadership and efforts of Director Ken Mizrach. Over the past 2+ decades he is accessible, conducts informative and open meetings with veterans groups, and takes action on issues raised by the veterans' community. Are things perfect in New Jersey, no, but we see improvements largely due to strong leadership inside a challenging VA environment. In this regard, among the other initiatives, the Secretary needs to attract and retain top leaders in these key roles. This local level of management is the face to the veterans, veterans' service organizations, the local community, and policy makers at treatment facilities, impacting staff and patients alike.*

*With respect to Memorials in Washington, it is gratifying to hear the progress of the WWI memorial with its targeted completion to coincide with the centennial of the end of "The Great War", where 5 million Americans served. As time passes there are less and less of us that remember how life in our country changed in support of a large scale war.*

## legislative, cont'd...

*We need high visibility and informative Memorials to continue the public awareness and education so that history might not repeat itself.*

*Regarding legislation, work needs to continue addressing the needs of our nation's veterans.*

*Please support us:*

**S. 290:** *Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015.*

**S. 223:** *Requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing.*

**S. 627:** *A bill requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in list manipulations, and for other purposes.*

*I ask that you give special attention to the amendment to The North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act. The amendment aims to protect efforts to recover the remains of American service members in North Korea since sanctions alone could otherwise hamper recovery.*

**H.R. 1670:** *National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015 directing the Architect of the*

*Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/ Missing in Action.*

**H.R. 677:** *American Heroes COLA Act of 2015 so that the COLA increases are automatically provided to our veterans and DIC recipients. In addition as I stated last year, DIC has not been increased, aside from COLA, in decades and we ask for your support to correct this long standing inequity.*

**H.R. 2974:** *Veteran Continuity of Care Act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to increase the duration of follow-up care provided under the Veterans Choice Program.*

**H.R. 3980:** *Veterans Freedom of Healthcare Act eliminating the sunset date for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to expand eligibility for the program.*

**H.R. 993:** *Veterans' Independent Living Enhancement Act to repeal the limitation on the number of veterans authorized to be enrolled in programs of independent living services and assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

*During this election year, there have been calls from some candidates to shift VA from its primary role of directly providing care to that of simply paying outside providers. We ask that Congress not waver from its responsibility to protect any intrusion that threatens the*

*promises made to those heroes who serve their country.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration on these matters.*

*God bless our troops  
God bless America  
—Remember—  
Charles Susino, Jr.  
Past National Commander/  
Legislative Director  
American Ex-Prisoners of War*

Changes in legislation have the largest impact on veteran's benefits so please stay active on political issues by contacting your Congressman!

~~~~~

You can research the status of any Bill in Congress by accessing the website govtrack.us and search by Bill number or subject. Politicians must hear from us to take action!

### **House Veterans Affairs Committee**

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Corrine Brown, Florida  
*Ranking*  
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(202) 225-0123

### **Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

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# andersonville



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As we move into the beautiful springtime in South Georgia, we continue with the recurring theme of staff changes at Andersonville National Historic Site. As indicated in our last installment, Kevin Bentley, our Acting Chief of Facility Management has moved on to Ocmulgee National Monument, just up the road in Macon, GA. We hope to have a selection made real soon on Kevin's replacement. We have made some selections on other positions. James Taylor is our new Maintenance Supervisor and he is responsible for day-to-day maintenance operations in the park. James is not new to the park as he has served in the Maintenance Mechanic position here for several years.



If you visit the National Prisoner of War Museum, you may run into our newest Park Ranger, Jennifer

Hopkins. Jennifer has worked for us in the past as a seasonal employee, but was recently selected to fill one of our vacant positions.



Daniel (Jake) Koch is the latest addition to our staff. Jake has accepted the position of Lead Park Ranger, overseeing the POW Museum operations and our Volunteer Program. Jake comes to us from Vicksburg National Military Park where he has served as a Park Ranger.



We are very excited about these recent staff changes and look forward to filling the remainder of our vacant positions.

In commemoration of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, the park held a special interpretive program on the Prisoner of War Experiences during the Vietnam War and, with the help of the Robins Riders, exhibited the Avenue of Flags. The park's facebook® page included a posting of an episode of *A Story in Stone*. The park's

facebook® page can be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/AndersonvilleNPS/>

The Living History Weekend was held on March 12-13 and was a great success with nearly 70 Civil War reenactors and 1,000 visitors to the park and the National POW Museum. The park hosted a memorial service for Marine Lance Corporal Squire "Skip" Wells who, on July 16, 2015, was one of five military service men killed by an active shooter at the Naval Reserve support center in Chattanooga, TN. Skip was a Civil War reenactor who had participated in Andersonville NHS's Living History Weekend and was a member of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's cannon crew. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. from Georgia's 2<sup>nd</sup> District memorialized Skip for his service and unselfish dedication to his country.

The Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City, UT has extended the display of the traveling exhibit, "Victory from Within" until May 27, 2016. Discussions continue with several venues as we finalize its next stop. If you are in the Salt Lake City area, we hope that you visit the exhibit before it moves on.

We would like to continue to remind everyone that 2016 is the year of the National Park Service Centennial and we invite everyone to "Find Your Park." Whether it is Andersonville National Historic Site or any of the 409 other NPS units, we hope that you are able to visit us over the course of our year of Centennial celebration.



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# civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

## The Importance of “Talking Story”

by Sascha Jean Jansen  
[Mabuhayma@aol.com](mailto:Mabuhayma@aol.com)

The importance of story-telling bears great significance and portends to release and generate information germane to any subject we wish to remember and share with others. They say the art of story telling has gone by the wayside - it's magic and wide eyed dreamy state of adventure and lore replaced by the raucous hammer of media and electronic attention. That is sadly true, but we, who speak with the great knowledge of our subjects, have a responsibility to bring that era back into focus.

Man is responsible to gather tales from our historical past and share these with the universe. Who better, than the American military POWs and Civilians who were prisoners of the Japanese of WWII, to do the honors.

What I am getting at is simply this. When we are asked by schools, military and business groups to relate our stories of war, don't decline the invitation. Anyone can do this. Even *you* can do this. Who better to relate such an experience than you? Who better to know your own interesting story than you?

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Forget about the image we have of standing at a podium, scared stiff, in front of so many people, with that terrible light shining up at our face from below, and our jittery knees the main focus of attention. Forget about the sweaty palms and dry mouth that seems to be cured by knocking back a quick brandy to give us the strength to make it happen. Let's try a new tactic - one that works every time for me and it is *the* best solution of all times.

Think “Talking Story” in the comfort of your own living room. You are relaxed, at home with these friends of yours and the flow of conversation comes easy. You sit in a big easy chair and the strains of the formality of standing in front of strangers vanish. Now, then. Isn't that a lot better?

When you accept the speaking engagement, and you will, just make a few requests to benefit your status as a “story teller” not a “speaker or a lecturer.”

Ask for a big easy chair with arms, to be put on the stage or on the floor in front of the group. Have the microphone adjusted to your height and curved into your head arena. Leave your hands free to gesture and hold items of interest. Now sit back and make yourself comfortable. Ask for a small table besides you to hold a glass of water and props.

Remind them to regulate the lighting to suit your preference - not a glaring spot light. Come early and try it all out ahead of time.

I tell stories that hold their interests, which gives them a learning lesson. Chronology in story telling is not necessary. It becomes boring. Small personal tales and vignettes laced with some humor keeps their attention and carries the points across, leaving them wishing for more. Leave ample room for the Q&A period so you won't be rushed trying to wrap up your session. Know

your audience ahead of time so you can gear your topic to suit the last thrust of your session by incorporating their field of interest into your story.

For example, when I “talk story” with teachers groups, I make it a point to concentrate my stories about how the teachers taught their students without school books and how our subjects were monitored by the Japs. When I speak to military groups, my thrust is to let them know the level of importance they carry in the rituals of war. This way, they know first hand from someone like me how much all of us appreciate what they did to give us freedom, and that their chosen careers are of great importance to the world.

I can't say enough about speaking to the kids in schools. They are silent and focused as I relate my story as a child when the war began in Manila, and what it was like when the bombs were falling. They listen intently, wide eyed, as the reality sets in that this really happened to me - a child, the same age as some of them in this classroom.

We need to continue our personal stories to those who have never heard them. We need to be ahead of the historical revisionists, and let the world know where we have been and how we coped. The next time someone is looking for a speaker, just tell them you know a great story teller who would love to do the honors. Then accept with grace and ease. Have Fun!

Now...you can have that Brandy!



pow/  
mia



### Accounting Agency "Fully Operational"

In the year since being established as a Defense Agency on Jan. 1, 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has accomplished a critical milestone, reaching "full operational capability" or "FOC" on Jan. 8, 2016. This declaration signifies the completion of the reorganization of the Department of Defense's legacy past conflict accounting organizations into a single, unified defense agency.

During the reorganization efforts of 2015, the DoD never ceased its efforts to account for missing personnel from past conflicts and provide information to the families of our missing, but the full establishment of DPAA as a defense agency now enables the mission to be done more effectively and efficiently.

"I'm very excited about achieving FOC status as it postures the [Defense] Department's accounting community in a better position to fulfill our noble and important mission," DPAA Director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington, said. "Now is the time to sharpen our focus, increase our efforts, and maximize all aspects of our accounting efforts to better provide answers to the families of our missing."

### Next Generation DNA Sequencing

The DoD DNA Registry, Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), which is part of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) at Dover AFB, Del., is working with the newest

innovation in Forensic DNA science, Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Hybridization Capture and Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS).

Utilizing this new technology and process, scientists will be able to obtain mtDNA sequencing results from severely degraded DNA samples that previously failed with traditional sequencing methods.

"Over the past 15 years, AFDIL has been working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to sequence mtDNA samples from 100 of 800 unknown Korean War service members interred, or buried, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, also known as the Punchbowl," said Dr. Timothy McMahon, Deputy Director of Forensic Services, Contractor with the American Registry of Pathology Sciences LLC. "The problem is that the mtDNA within the cells has been damaged by the environment and preservation methods used in the 1950's."

McMahon explained that in 1953, as part of Operation Glory, North Korea turned over 4,167 deceased U.S. and NATO service member's remains, 849 of which were not identified. The remains were sent to Camp Kokura, Japan where they were prepared for burial using chemicals that were harmful to the mtDNA. Using new instrumentation, AFDIL was able to identify that the mtDNA obtained from these samples is far smaller than their current mtDNA sequencing testing capabilities. Once AFDIL was able to determine the size of the mtDNA, the scientists were able to develop a custom testing method using NGS technologies.

"Since 2000, one hundred of the unknown service members have been disinterred from the Punchbowl by DPAA," said McMahon. "Thanks to NGS technologies, AFDIL will be the first forensic laboratory in the U.S. to utilize a laboratory developed mtDNA NGS sequencing method to conclusively sequence the smallest, most degraded forensic samples. "



**Aug. 12- 13, 2016. The Ohio State AXPOW Convention** will be held at the Drury Inn & Suites Columbus South, 4109 Parkway Centre Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123. Please make your room reservation by calling 1-800-325-0720—Group No 2255454 before July 10, 2016. The state organization will pay for all food and rooms, however, you must reserve your room with your personal credit card. Send your convention registration to Patty Myers; pattyrcp@yahoo.com or mail to 1138 Hawthorne Ave, SW, Canton, Ohio 44710-1414.

**Sept. 7- 11, 2016. The 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion.** The 70<sup>th</sup> annual reunion of the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division will be jointly held with the 104<sup>th</sup> ID in Arlington, VA. For details, please visit <http://106thinfdivassn.org/events.html#annual> or email Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org, or call Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141.

**Sept. 15- 17, 2016. The Ride Home, for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.** Events will be held at Andersonville/Americus, GA. All POWs are honored guests of The Ride Home. Room accommodations, Heroes Dinner and Ground Pounder & Fly-Boy Luncheon is included. For more information, please see pages 22-23 of the March/April issue, EX-POW Bulletin or contact: Jim "Moe" Moyer, The Ride Home, 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859; Phone: 863-324-7268; [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net). [www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com)



# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 23-25, 2016



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 25

Arlington Hilton  
(817) 640-3322  
2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

POW Camps \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel provides free shuttle to/from DFW Airport. Upon arrival, contact hotel at (817) 640-3322

In addition to the customary functions,  
Registration Fee also includes breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked by June 13) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

**↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓**

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after June 13) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$140 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington Texas 76010

(817) 649-2979



# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 23-25, 2016



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 25  
**Arlington Hilton**  
**(817) 640-3322**  
**2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas**

## Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503  
Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430  
Room Rate \$122 night/free airport shuttle/free parking  
Hilton Arlington is located 10 miles south of DFW Int'l Airport in the entertainment district of Arlington.



## Attractions:

Area attractions include Cowboys Stadium, Ranger Ballpark in Arlington, Six Flags and the Arlington Convention Center. Situated in a suburban business area, the Hilton Arlington is located within walking distance of many area restaurants.

## AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2016

|                 | Black & White | Color |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| Full Page ..... | \$275         | \$500 |
| Half Page...    | \$200         | \$300 |
| Quarter Page... | \$130         |       |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks Payable to:

**AXPOW**

Mail Form with Ad materials and check to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkway,  
Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010

## Short Agenda:

### JUNE 23

### THURSDAY

BOARD MEETING

### JUNE 24

### FRIDAY

OPENING CEREMONIES  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
LADIES LUNCHEON  
MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR  
CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER  
COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

### JUNE 25

### SATURDAY

BUSINESS SESSION CONT'D  
NEW BOARD MEETING  
BANQUET/INSTALLATION

### JUNE 26

### SUNDAY

CHECK OUT

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# The POWs Called It Hellmira

by Alice A. Booher



At first, there may have been a handful of folks who thought the plan did not look all that bad: located on the bank of the Chemung River (in the county of the same name) and slightly more than a mile from the city limits of Elmira, NY and about 6 miles from the PA border, the potential location was level, had two wells and was seemingly well drainable, near a canal and railroad for facilitating transport. In truth, any such positive viewpoint to include these specific observations was totally inaccurate. The POWs knew the Elmira POW camp was dreadful from the start, and their captors knew it nearly as quickly - but for a variety of reasons, it would take a hundred years to sort out truth from fiction, deceit, publicity and inference; and even today,



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150 years later, historians on all sides are trying to assess relative blame. Many of the better informed details that eventually emerged came from the writings of the POWs themselves [See, e.g., Janowski. *In Their Honor: Soldiers of the Confederacy. The Elmira Prison Camp*, 2009, NY History Review Press, Elmira].

The initial purpose of the land development was to secure a Union military recruiting depot called Post Barracks (one of 4 recruit camps around Elmira), where soldiers would undergo basic training. The plan quickly morphed into Barracks #3 (AKA Camp Rathbun) becoming a “draft rendezvous” site, where all volunteer recruits from western NY State were processed and then sent to Washington, DC. (See, <http://www.wadehamptoncamp.prg/histp-eny.html> ) Finally, it was converted into a Confederate POW camp. Surprisingly, for all of the notoriety it would eventually generate, the POW camp activity lasted only a few days more than a year, e.g., from July 6, 1864 to July 5, 10, or 11 depending on the source, the last POW leaving on September 27), 1865 – nonetheless an interminable period of time to those who were held prisoners therein. [See, <http://www.chemunghistory.com/prisoncamp.html> ].

It was a 30 acre plus plot of ground surrounded by a 12-foot wall with a rampart near the top and on the outside of the wall. Every 100 feet there was a so-called shelter to protect guards from the wild vicissitudes of NY weather. Elmira would have some other similar “natural” geophysical problems to other POW camps, e.g., like Camp Morton in Indianapolis, the flat fairgrounds area was not easily drained and well water (and also from a nearby canal) was unfit and had to be hauled. [See Lonnie R. Speer’s *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*,



Stackpole, 1997.] A one acre lagoon, the Pond called Foster’s, a river backwash, served as a latrine and garbage dump; prison buildings were in the northern bank of the Pond, and the lowest southern area which flooded easily became the site of the hospital and thus a direct conduit for smallpox and diarrhea. [See, <http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc12/elmiral.ht>].

The history of how the camp went from a location with barracks ready in July for about 5,000 to housing 9,600 by mid-August is somewhat convoluted, and in part due to lack of chain-of-command communication (or possibly a deliberate lack of listening). There are myriad stories of willful and negligent actions that made Elmira worse than it would have been anyway, e.g., involvement of Secretary of War Stanton (plus several off- and on-site associates and more remote well-known commanders as Meigs, Hoffman, Eastman) in retribution or retaliation.

Some 12,122 Confederate POWs were eventually housed there, of whom 25%+/- died. The stark realities of this horrific statistic were “glossed over” for decades. [See, i.e., <http://www.joycetice.com/military/prison.htm> ] The city residents would say that they were ill informed about the horrors of the place. However, in July 1864, a first and then a second observation platform were erected across from the camp; the entrepreneurs who built the platform took newspaper advertisements and for an admission fee of 10 or 15-cents, folks could sight-see the Rebel POWs. Wooden booths were built selling lemon pop, ginger cakes, beer and hard liquor were sold; the shacks and one tower did not last, but one “observation tower” remained throughout the war. POW were housed in tents in addition to the some 35 buildings; there were a few small officer

## hellmira, cont'd...

homes. The lack of vegetables in the POWs diet resulted in 793 cases of scurvy by August. With the cold winter, stoves were purchased as were some blankets. The water sources became increasingly stagnant, the river flooded, the sinks all dumped into the Pond along with bodily wastes, and disease became rampant. The chief surgeon, MAJ Eugene Sanger from September-December 1865 was utterly notorious (and there had been no medical staff at all until the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the camp's short life) [See also Horrigan, *Elmira: Death Camp of the North*, 2002, Stackpole]. Efforts to get the POWs medicine, clothing (many of the Southerners had been captured in stifling heat of summer, and then transported to the freezing winter North without adequate clothing, shoes) blankets and other amenities were undertaken, and several public collections were undertaken to buy these items (and to buy supplies and ship them north), but few of these actually made it to the POWs for a variety of reasons, some willful and some simply negligent. [As noted by Civil War buff, and NamPOW Dr. Hal Kushner, in a note to the author in May 2015, the South sent bales of

simple transaction, by which time the war was almost over and the Dix Hill exchanges had been reinstated].

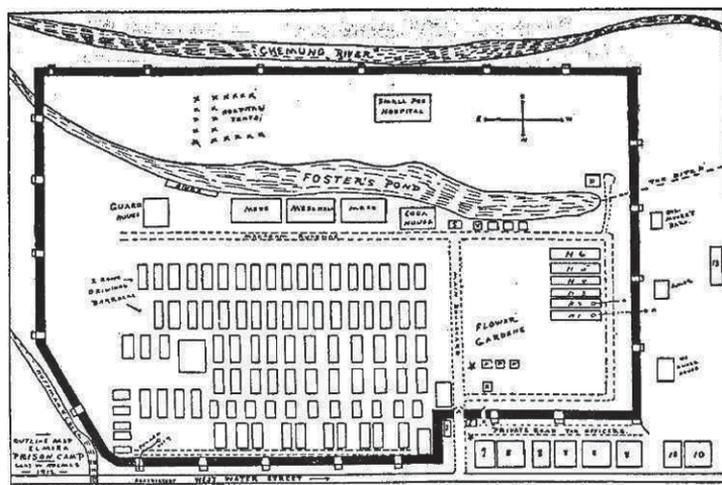
The Elmira POW Camp's OIC on duty on July 1, accounted as follows: 8,970 of the POWs were released; 218 were still in hospital; 2,917 died; and 17 had escaped through a spectrum of audacious and laborious means. Other figures show that of the 12,122 POWs (enlisted and non-commissioned officers) held there, 2,963 died of exposure and illness to include pneumonia, smallpox, typhoid, extreme dysentery, etc.). [Gillispie's *Andersonvilles of the North*, 2008, Univ. of North Texas Press) cites the three leading causes of deaths at Elmira as #1, diarrhea/dysentery (1,394); #2, pneumonia (773); and #3, eruptive fevers (388) with the percentage of total disease mortality at the camp of 87.29% (2,555 of 2,927 POWs)].

A collateral note: many New Yorkers and other lawyers, know of the Judge Benjamin Franklin Tracy of the NY Court of Appeals (1881-1882) who is better known as the Father of the modern fighting American Navy as the Secretary of the Navy for President Benjamin Harrison. However, during his 30's, Tracy had become a Civil War hero



at the Wilderness of Virginia campaign and ended his 5-year military service as the commandant of the troubled Elmira POW camp. [See <https://www.nycourts.gov/history/legal-history=new-york/luminaries-court-appeals-tracy>]. His biographer noted that he had accepted command of the 127<sup>th</sup> Colored Troops, but before he could report to that command, Secretary of War Edwin

Stanton appointed him Elmira commandant. The POW camp was, by then, an underfunded unmitigated nightmare [Tracy was also tasked for the impossible prisoner exchange logistics], but he was given credit for doing the best he could to remedy the most grievous faults in the short time before wars-end. Deceased Elmira POWs were buried at Woodlawn National Cemetery. [One footnote: 48 more who died in the Shohola Train Wreck *en route* to the POW Camp were also buried there). One of the poignant positive stories to come from the hades of Elmira was that of a former slave from Leesburg, VA, John W. Jones, sexton for Woodland Cemetery, who arrived at Elmira via the Underground Railroad and lived near the site. He kept detailed death records (mindful of Dorance Atwater at Andersonville POW camp), and meticulously identified and buried or supervised burial for each Confederate soldier who died. Of the 2,963 Jones buried, only 7 are listed as unknown. As Dr. Kushner notes, a marker left by a deceased POW family commemorates Jones' efforts, one of a very few remembrances at the Elmira site. In April 2014, the *Elmira Star Gazette* noted plans then underway for some commemorative reconstruction including the long disassembled only remaining POW camp building, to be located near the present-day Elmira city water pumping station, a commemorative plaque not far from the cemetery and the flag pole.



cotton to Elmira for the prison officials to sell and gain money with which to care for the POWs, but this was stymied by the bureaucracy and it took 4 months to negotiate a very

peals-tracy). His biographer noted that he had accepted command of the 127<sup>th</sup> Colored Troops, but before he could report to that command, Secretary of War Edwin

# News Briefs

## VA Awards Grants to Help Modify Specially Adapted Homes

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the award of \$784,421 in Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology (SAHAT) Grants to eligible individuals, researchers, and organizations to develop new technologies that would enhance Veterans and Servicemembers' ability to live in specially adapted homes.

The SAHAT Grant Program was authorized by Congress to design assistive technologies to expand home modification options for Veterans who apply for VA's Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) benefit. Grants of up to \$200,000 have been issued to four selected grantees.

"We're excited and expect that the technology developed with these grants will augment Veteran and Servicemembers' options for living independently in their own homes," said Curt Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity. "New technology will serve Veterans who currently live in specially adapted houses and open doors for more Veterans looking to modify their homes to fit their needs."

VA issued a Notice of Funding Availability in January for the SAHAT Grant program via the Federal Register and [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). In order to foster competition and best serve the needs of Veterans and Servicemembers, VA did not limit the type of entity or individual

eligible to apply. There was no restriction on the number of grants that could have been awarded within the \$1 million funding limit.

VA administers the SAH benefit, which helps Veterans and Servicemembers with service-connected disabilities purchase or modify a home. Typical adaptations include ramps, wider halls and doors, and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. New technology from the SAHAT Grant Program will be added to the list of home modification options as they become available.

## WASP Eligibility at Arlington Advanced

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 4336, introduced as the Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act. The bill, as amended, would ensure that the cremated remains of Active Duty Designees would be eligible for inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery. The bill would also require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress with recommendations for extending the capacity of Arlington National Cemetery. H.R. 4336 now awaits consideration by the Senate.

## VA Expands Hepatitis C Drug Treatment

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it is now able to fund care for all Veterans with hepatitis C for Fiscal Year 2016 regardless of the stage of the patient's liver disease. The move follows increased funding from Congress along with reduced drug prices.

"We're honored to be able to expand treatment for Veterans who are afflicted with hepatitis C," says VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin. "To manage limited resources previously, we established treatment priority for the sickest patients. Additionally, if Veterans are currently waiting on an appointment for community care through the Choice Program, they

can now turn to their local VA facility for this treatment or can elect to continue to receive treatment through the Choice Program."

VA has long led the country in screening for and treating hepatitis C. VA has treated over 76,000 Veterans infected with hepatitis C and approximately 60,000 have been cured. In addition, since the beginning of 2014, more than 42,000 patients have been treated with the new highly effective antivirals.

In fiscal year 2015, VA allocated \$696 million for new hepatitis C drugs (17 percent of the VA's total pharmacy budget) and in fiscal year 2016, VA anticipates spending approximately \$1 billion on hepatitis C drugs. VA expects that with the expansion, many more Veterans will be started on hepatitis C treatment every week this fiscal year.

In addition to furnishing clinical care to Veterans with hepatitis C, VA Research continues to expand the knowledge base regarding the disease through scientific studies focused on effective care, screening, and healthcare delivery including to female Veterans and Veterans with complicated medical conditions in addition to hepatitis C.

## Navy Seal Awarded Medal of Honor

*Feb. 29, 2016 Ceremony*

Navy Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Edward "Ed" C. Byers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as a part of a team that rescued an American civilian being held hostage in Afghanistan Dec. 8 - 9 2012.

After his fellow Navy Seal and lead assaulter was wounded when entering the room, Byers burst in anyway. He neutralized two fighters immediately, shielded the hostage with his own body, then neutralized a third fighter before his team could come in and take action. More information about the rescue can be found on the Navy's Medal of Honor website.

## Strategic Planning Committee Recommendations and Request for Membership Vote for the Future of AXPOW

The Strategic Planning Committee [Paul Edwards, Pam Warner Eslinger [Board JVC], Ben Garrido [Board Director], Charles A. Susino [Committee Chair, Board Director]

### **Action required: Your input is needed to tell the Board of Directors the course of action for AXPOW**

Committee Recommendation: The Strategic Planning Committee has been developing options for the membership to consider for its future. With the declining membership and reduction in active members performing the work, AXPOW is at a crossroads. From a practical standpoint, there are two options. To take action now and establish the lasting legacy of AXPOW during 2016-7 or allow AXPOW to continue its decline in participation and services while depleting the remaining funds with administrative and other overhead costs. Please review the options below and make your selection and mail to National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010.

#### **Option #1: Plan for the future.** (check here if choosing Option #1)

Plan and execute for the transition of AXPOW to a legacy organization in honor and respect of all POWs, past, present and future. Transition the AXPOW by formally closing the activities of AXPOW, with ceremonies, press, etc. at the 2017 Annual Convention. The funding for this option is available due to the generosity of the Joseph Lemkan estate

Points to consider in favor of option #1:

- Utilizing a portion of the remaining funds, establish ongoing scholarships under the names of ex AXPOW Commanders
- Potentially establish a documentary of the AXPOW [video]
- Provide opportunities for social gatherings for Ex-POWs, NOK's and all members
- While there are still active returned POWs, they can appreciate and be part of the transition, receive the honor and respect of ceremonies and proceedings, etc
- With the current funds, ongoing legacy activities can be funded showing honor and respect to all ex prisoners of war
- While there are funds and people, perform the work necessary to preserve the documentation and stories of the ex-POWs
- Bring closure and pride to the organization that has served the veterans nobly for so many decades at the 2017 national convention. Document proceedings with pictures and video, and invite military, political guests, and press as appropriate.
- Put in place an ongoing legacy housed within the National Prisoner of War museum in Andersonville, GA. Remember the museum is in fact the honor and legacy of the Prisoners of War and is the sole reason it was created with ongoing funding from the government

#### **Option #2: Do nothing.** (check here if choosing Option #2)

Continue operating while funds are depleting and active members reduce to non functional levels and AXPOW services expire.

Points to consider in favor of option #2:

- Attendance at the annual convention has declined dramatically especially the number of EX-POWs which is expected to be only 10-12 for this year's Convention
- A number of state departments [chapters] close each year

**We need to your input on how we should proceed.**

**Please select your option and mail to AXPOW headquarters at the above address.**

**You may also call: 817- 649- 2979 or email [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org) with your response.**

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# Surprising Find For Man Of Letters

by Alice A. Booher



As discussed in earlier Bulletin articles on POWs and the American Civil War, many “civilians” who would find fame or fortune in other careers (e.g., Louisa May Alcott, Clara Barton, Mary Ann Bickerdyke, and Elizabeth Blackwell) often participated in alternative ways during the Civil War: another of those was Walt Whitman. Every schoolchild is aware of Whitman’s haunting poetry of the Civil War, e.g., “When Lilacs Last in Dooryard Bloomed”, written during the summer of 1865 after the Lincoln Assassination and war’s end in April 1865. This and many other poems called on Whitman’s profound knowledge of the pain and suffering of that war such as Drum-Taps, O Captain! My Captain! or later editions of Leaves of Grass (first published in 1855, and repeatedly revised thereafter). But for some readers, just how and why Whitman acquired that intimate war-related information was shrouded in a bit of a mystery that has been partly resolved by a recent find at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Whitman was born on May 31, 1819 on Long Island, NY, the second of

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9 kids in a poor family; they moved to Brooklyn when he was 4. Walt quit school at age 11 and began to write the following year, taking jobs as a printer, editor, teacher, journalist and editor of a New Orleans newspaper, the site of which brought him his first brush with slave markets, and was a contrast to the freemen he met in Boston. He also was a nurse, although not formally trained as such, and before the Civil War, had comforted injured laborers in NYC hospitals, writing letters for them, bringing small gifts. Too old to join-up to fight, early in the War he volunteered to visit soldiers in those same NYC hospitals.

On December 13, 1862, the NY Herald listed his Union officer brother George Washington Whitman as having been injured and taken POW at Fredericksburg, VA; Walt set out to find and nurse him. According to the Whitman Archives, Walt located his brother in a Union Army Camp near Falmouth, VA, miraculously having experienced only a minor facial wound. He stayed with him for two weeks and (as he logged his new journal), began medical visits to the field hospitals and the hospital at Lacy House where he was greeted by “a heap of amputated feet, legs, arms, hands&c, a full load for a one-horse cart”. In late December 1862, Walt Whitman was asked to help convey wounded via railroad and steamboat to the hospitals in Washington, D.C. (See the article on those facilities in the March-April 2016 issue of the Bulletin).

During that trip he moved among them, wrote letters on their behalf (initially to some whose families he knew in Brooklyn and later for anyone who needed him) and administered as best he could. He decided to remain in Washington area hospitals where nursing periodicals described his work as an “advocate for the private soldier”. To pay the rent, he got a part-time job at the Army paymaster’s office. As reported in the Whitman Archive, he read Shakespeare and the Bible, sat with the dying,

dressed wounds, distributed gifts of money clothing and food (ice cream, fruit, brandy, tobacco), all in an effort which he later characterized as “the very centre, circumference, umbilicus of my whole career”. The end of 1864 was difficult: George was captured as a Confederate POW; brother Andrew died of tuberculosis and alcoholism; and Walt had to admit his brother Jesse to a mental asylum. On a bright side, Walt got a somewhat better paying clerk’s job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and in February 1865, George was released from POW captivity and furloughed due to his ill health. The good luck did not last as Walt was fired in May although he was transferred to the Attorney General’s office in July 1865 and stayed there until early 1872.

His love for the soldiers and his work in the medical community was appreciated by some but not everyone at the time; more recently, he has been recognized in the naming of many edifices including D.C.’s Whitman-



Walker Clinic (Walker being Dr. Mary Walker). Whitman characterized his own efforts as “the abstract work of consolation and sustenance”.

It should also be noted that many of the Whitman remaining artifacts, including letters to him and manuscripts are now located in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. According to Nursing Theory, he had a paralytic stroke in 1883 which required that he leave Washington and live with his brother George. In 1888, four years before his death, Whitman wrote to a friend about an old leather shoulder bag hanging on the wall of their home in Camden, NJ, with adjustable strap and decorative buckle, and used to take his treats to the troops. In 1969, the Library of Congress acquired the bag and in June 2013, the haversack went on display there for the first time. (See Michael E. Ruane in: [www.washingtonpost.com/local/walt-whitmans-haversack-to-go-on-display-at-library-of-congress/2013](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/walt-whitmans-haversack-to-go-on-display-at-library-of-congress/2013)).

Which brings us to a very recent treasure trove. According to Ruane in the

find, cont'd...



March 19, 2016 Washington Post, on February 3, 2016, as part of the National Archives' preparing for an exhibit on Civil War widows pensions to be digitalized and put online, one of 25 volunteers, Catherine Cusack Wilson, a librarian in Falls Church, VA, was sorting through pension files when she discovered a file for a soldier named Pvt Robert N. Jabo of the 8<sup>th</sup> NH infantry. Jabo, married father of 6, was dying of tuberculosis in Washington's Harewood Hospital several months after the war's end, probably January 21, 1866. Authenticated by an expert at the Whitman Archive at University of Nebraska, it turned out that Jabo's real name was Robert Narcisse (AKA Nelson) Gibeau, a French Canadian who lived in Clinton Co., NY. He had enlisted with the 96<sup>th</sup> NY infantry, was discharged after a year due to disability, and joined the NH group as a "substitute", probably paying about \$300 to serve for someone else. He experienced diarrhea, back problems, typhoid and bronchitis according to his files, and while finally discharged from the service in October 1865, was too ill to go home. Writing to wife Adeline Jabo, Whitman's words confirmed the soldier's disabilities and would be used to support her later claim for pension. Whitman signed the letter for Jabo as "Nelson", and below and to the left of that signature, he penned his own name, "Walt Whitman, friend" as a sort of notarization. Eleven months later, on December 19, 1866, Jabo died as a charity case at Washington's Providence Hospital. Seven years after his wife first applied in 1867, she got her war widow's pension of \$12 per month. The Jabo letter penned by Walt Whitman is one of only three known to exist [with another one in the Library of Congress and the third in private hands]. According to Ruane, the NARA hopes to find more such treasures as they go through the never before examined 2 million Civil War pension files.

## Members' forum



Cheryl,

I find your Members' Forum coverage of the March from Nuremberg to Moosberg in the last three Bulletins to be of significant interest. I participated in that march and can relate to the material submitted by other members. I add some comments about my experience.

I was the senior member in one of the camp buildings with 28 POWs; my friend Al Brown headed up a similar adjacent camp building/group. We served together in a stateside fighter group and went down in Germany two days apart. He was an academy graduate, fluent in German. Our groups traveled together on the march.

In the Nuremberg camp we were often moved to the bomb shelter when the area was under bombardment. We would be at the front under an entrance metal overhang affording a full view of nighttime combat actions over the city including British Mosquito and Lancaster attacks. Flak fragments could be heard falling on the metal roof.

During early morning hours we were told the camp was to be evacuated as the city was targeted that day for heavy bombing. I think we formed up at daylight in one of the lead elements and moved out smartly. The guards were not unfriendly and set a brisk pace for the column. A flight of P-47s spotted us and made strafing passes. Later, wave after wave of large bomber formation were viewed at an estimated 15,000 feet above broken clouds with contrails

of higher fighter cover. This loud spectacular aerial display continued for several hours, bomber groups in close trail or on crossing headings.

In the afternoon of the third day we encountered a problem at a river crossing bridge. The bridge was mined with what looked like 250-pound bombs placed crosswise so that we had to step over and between them all the while facing the barrel of a German 88 aimed at us from the far shore. This slowed our progress and backed up the column.

Progress was generally brisk and the integrity of our groups was maintained. Al conversed extensively with the guards and residents of areas where we stopped. Escape was discussed but the guards counseled against it explaining that the area we would traverse was patrolled by murderous SS troops. The guards realized that the war was winding down and they were somewhat relaxed. At days-end we stopped in the countryside, often sheltered in farm buildings.

We did not encounter the plentiful food and Red Cross boxes described by POW Bob Thompson. The rations provided at Nuremberg had been meager; grass soup sometimes with a bare horse bone, a quarter loaf of black bread to be split 28 ways, and only one Red Cross box for five during March. We knew that the German transportation system was under severe limitations; trains, trucks and even horse-drawn wagons subject to fighter strafing, limiting food distribution even to their own troops.

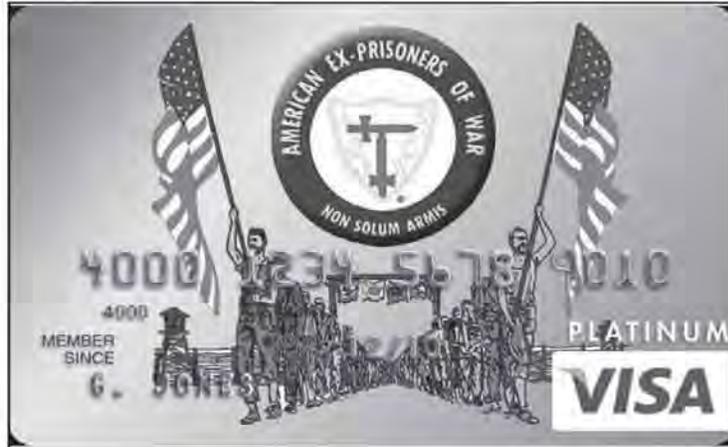
Clair W. Potter  
36 Ftr BG, 9<sup>th</sup> AF  
9236 Coachman Dr.  
Venice FL 34293  
716-450-8354

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016

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# new members

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010  
(817) 649-2979



## New Members

WELCOME!

SONDRA ANGLETON  
PHOENIX AZ  
DAUGHTER OF STANLEY  
ANGLETON, ETO

JAMES FRANCIS 'JIM' KELL  
CHULA VISTA CA  
USS PUEBLO  
COMMUNICATIONS TECH  
PYONGYANG N KOREA 1/23/  
68 TO 12/23/68

ALVIN HENRY PLUCKER  
JEANIE ANN  
LASALLE CO  
USS PUEBLO  
QUARTERMASTER  
PYONGYANG 11/23/68 TO 12/  
23/68

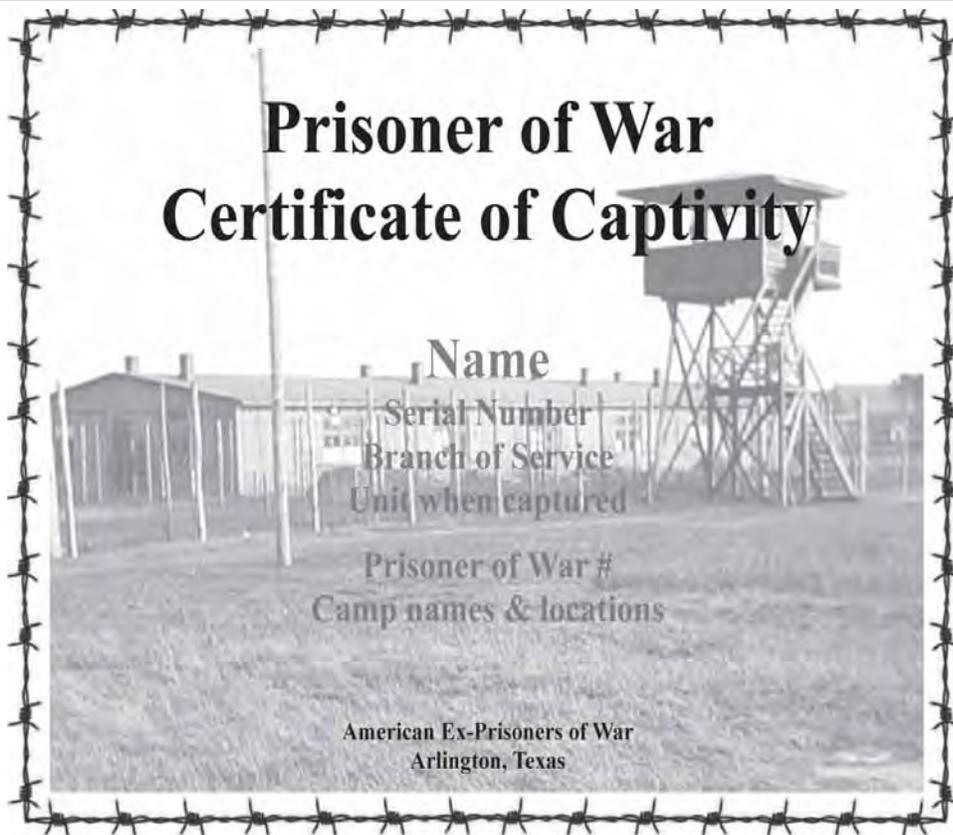
JEAN JACOBSON  
MIAMI BEACH FL  
DAUGHTER OF JEAN  
DASBURG, ETO

JACOB RAYMOND CORBINE  
CANTON NY  
GRANDSON OF DONALD  
CORBINE, KOR



## Certificate of Captivity

Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You can call 817-649-2979 or email: [axpow76010@yahoo.com](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com). You may include a picture with your order.



Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016

# contributions



Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 East  
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington,  
TX 76010.

Checks must be made payable to  
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of  
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with a credit card (MasterCard or  
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you!

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Angelina Jones, by M/  
M Diran Simonian  
In memory of Anna Chaney, by  
Tulsa Chapter  
In memory of Anthony "Tony"  
Marino, by Rick Nickerson  
In memory of Anthony "Tony"  
Marino, by Florence Marino  
In memory of Anthony "Tony"  
Marino, by Warren Newman

In memory of James A Herbig, by  
Sharon Herbig  
In memory of Jim Deer, by Tulsa  
Chapter  
In memory of Lt Leonard Prosnick,  
by Paul Thompson, Recon Troop  
In memory of Richard Allen Caverly,  
by Futuramic Tool & Engineering  
In memory of Richard Trocciola, by  
Maersk Agency (matching fund)  
In memory of Sara Chandler, by the  
Antique Study Club  
In memory of Claude D Young, by  
Lex Snider & Davi Dyer  
In memory of Claude D Young, by  
Tumpie & Joy Bull  
In memory of Claude D "Pappy"  
Young, by Ace Drywall, Inc  
In memory of Claude D Young, by  
Seay Cove HOA  
In memory of Maxine Konechne by  
Phillip Konechne  
In memory of Claude D Young, by  
Bobby Lavisky

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

In memory of Williams Vaught, by  
Mary Lou Vaught  
Antonia Tolomei, Aberdeen WA  
Herman Streitburger, Bedford NH  
Lorraine Corrington, Lynnwood WA  
Maurice Markworth, Palmyra PA  
PNC Zack Robert, Tinton Falls NJ

## The Legacy of your love can live on after...

An important way you can help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is always there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents is through your will or living trust.

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

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

Thank you!

Recognize anyone?

Blytheville Air Force POWs shown shortly after their return to the United States in 1973

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016  
**24**





# taps



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

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**BESHEARS, James Dixon**, 96, of Clemmons, NC died Jan. 2, 2016. JD was a member of the 454<sup>th</sup> Aviation Ordnance Co., 27<sup>th</sup> BG. He was captured Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. He leaves one son, one granddaughter, two great-grandsons and a host of extended family and friends. He loved life and will be missed.

**BUNTE, Raymond Charles**, of Floresville, TX passed away Feb. 18, 2016 at the age of 91. During WWII, he was captured in Rome, Italy and held until liberation. His loving wife, Sarah, 1 son, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, nieces and nephews survive him.

**CANADAY, Henry Alvin**, 90, of Walterboro, SC died June 13, 2015. He was captured while serving in the US Army, ETO; he was held until liberation. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 grandsons, 4 great-grandchildren and their families.

**CHAMPAGNE, Alcide J. "Jim"**, 94 of Fort Smith, passed away Feb. 22, 2016 at the age of 94. He served with the 450<sup>th</sup> BG, 722<sup>nd</sup> BS, flying out of Italy; he was captured and held until liberation. The last 81 days of his captivity he was involved with the forced march. He was a member of AXPOW. Jim is survived by his wife Inez, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a large extended family.

**CHERRY, Fred V. Sr.**, of Silver Spring MD, passed away February 16, 2016. Cherry was the first and highest-ranking black officer to become a prisoner in Vietnam. He was shot down Oct. 22, 1965, at the age of 37 and badly wounded when his parachute opened just 200 feet from the ground. He spent 7 years in captivity and credits his survival to his cellmate, Porter Halyburton.

Fred leaves his partner and loving friend of 24 years, Debra Thompson, as well as 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and their families.

**CHISHOLM, Dorothy**, life member of AXPOW, and widow of AXPOW Ross Chisholm, passed away on Feb. 2, 2016. Both Ross and Dorothy were faithful members of Fresno, CA, Chapter #1. Survivors are one daughter, several grandchildren, and a host of friends.

**CLARK, William R.**, of Port Saint Lucie, FL died Feb. 16, 2016 at the age of 92. He served in the Army with the 84<sup>th</sup> Inf. Railsplitters, was captured and held until liberation. Bill was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves one sister, two daughters, seven grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

**DeCHANT, Frank R.**, 92, of Arvada, CO died Feb. 12, 2016. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Mile High Chapter in Denver. Frank was captured while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. He was held in Stalags 4B, 8A, 9C. His wife, Mary, 4 sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and 1 brother survive him.

**DUNBAR, Robert S.**, of Charleston, SC, passed away Feb. 6, 2016. He was 95. Bob served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 96<sup>th</sup> BG, 413<sup>th</sup> BS. He was captured and held POW after his B-17 was shot down. Bob was a member of the Low Country Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**ERNST, Benjamin H. Sr.** died Sept. 10, 2015. During WWII, he flew B-25s in North Africa; he was captured after being shot down over Sicily and held until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include one son and one niece.

**FERGUS, Edgar W.**, 94, WWII veteran and German prisoner of war, passed away January 28, 2016 in Ft. Myers Beach FL. He was shot down off the coast of Italy while serving in the AAF; he spent 20 months in various German POW camps. He is survived by his wife of 63 years Charlotte, 3 daughters, 1 son, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and their families.

**GREEN, Dominick J.**, of Frankfort, NY died Feb. 19, 2016. He was 92. While serving with the AAC, his B-17 The Jack Ass Mail was shot down and he was captured. He was held in two camps for 15 months. Dom was a life member of AXPOW. His loving wife of 67 years, Mary, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, several nieces, nephews, cousins and their families survive him.

**HIONEDES, Nicholas "Nick"** passed away Feb. 11, 2015, in Dunedin, FL. Nick served in the Army Signal Corp during WWII and was a Japanese prisoner of war in Corregidor and Japan for 3 1/2 years. He is survived by his wife Ann, two children, 2 grandchildren. He was a member of the Barbed-Wire/Seminole Chapter and later the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW.

**KILMER, Lloyd W.** 95, of Surprise and Sun City West, AZ passed away January 6, 2016. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 448<sup>th</sup> BG, 712<sup>th</sup> BS during WWII. He was captured over Holland and held in Luft III and 7A. He was an active member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW and was instrumental in establishing the Boulevard of American Flags along R. H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West, AZ. He was inducted as a member of the

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016

## taps cont'd...

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2004. Lloyd is survived by his wife Ruth Natvig Kilmer and two sons. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marie.

**KONECHNE, Maxine Mae**, loving wife for more than 60 years to Phillip (Korean ex-POW) died Dec. 7, 2015 in Kimball, SD. She and Phillip were active members of AXPOW and the Kimball community. Maxine enjoyed her 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. She also leaves nieces, nephews and a large, loving extended family.

**KOSINO, Arthur J.**, of Monroe, MI passed away Dec. 1, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 305<sup>th</sup> BG, 364<sup>th</sup> BS; he was held in Stalag 17B, then marched across Germany until liberation. Art was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jane, 2 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 1 sister. Among the many of Art's qualities were his patriotism and great sense of humor.

**LAMAR, Edgar "Lee"** of Overland Park, KS died Jan. 28, 2016 at the age of 94. During WWII, he served with the 460<sup>th</sup> BG; he was shot down over Croatia, captured and held at Luft 1, Barth until liberation. Lee was very active in the Kansas City Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Bonnie, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**LEACH, Wilbur M.** 94, of Surprise, AZ passed away March 20, 2016. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ. Following completion of Army Air Corp Adjutant General School and AAF Flying School, he was a pilot during WWII. Bill survived as POW after being shot

down over Bulgaria. He is survived by Gladys, his wife of 73 years.

**MEYER, Vernon H.**, of Holland, IN died Feb. 19, 2016. He was 97. He served with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div., 331<sup>st</sup> Reg., Co. E during WWII; he was captured in France and held for 10 months. Vernon was a member of the Southern Indiana Chapter and life member of AXPOW. Survivors include 2 daughters and 1 son. His wife, Luella, predeceased him.

**MILLER, Richard Charles**, of Venice, FL passed away March 15, 2016 at the age of 92. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 303<sup>rd</sup> BG, shot down over Schweinfurt, Germany and held in four POW camps until liberation. Dick leaves his beloved wife of 70 years, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and their families.

**PAYNE, Harold**, 91, formerly of Acme, W. VA, died Aug. 26, 2015. He was an Army veteran, serving with the 515<sup>th</sup> Bn. Training Unit, 550<sup>th</sup> Airborne Inf. Bn, 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Div., the 194<sup>th</sup> Glider Inf., 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div. He was wounded and captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held. Harold leaves 2 brothers, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and many loving extended family members.

**PLANTZ, Ernest**, of Gales Ferry, CT, died December 19, 2015. While serving on the *USS Perch*, he and his shipmates were in Manila Bay at the onset of WWII. His ship was so badly damaged by depth-chargers it had to be scuttled; he was captured by the Japanese and held POW in Makassar on the island of Celebes. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Caroline.

**PLATT, Alvar B.**, 96, of Salton City, CA passed away Feb. 27, 2016. During WWII, he served with the 323<sup>rd</sup> BS, 91<sup>st</sup> BG. He was shot down over the English Channel and floated 30 hours in a dingy before being picked up by the Germans. After recupera-

tion, he was sent to Stalag 17B where he was held for two years. Alvar leaves his wife of 23 years, Leona, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**PORTER, Maurice D.**, 93, of Tequesta, FL died Feb. 13, 2016. He joined the AAC, serving on a B-17; he was shot down over Germany, captured and held until liberation. His wife of 68 years, Joan, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and his beloved Jack Russell, Samantha, survive him.

**POWERS, Virginia "Ginny"** passed away Feb. 15, 2016, in Pinellas County, FL. She was the widow of Harry, who served in the ETO. Ginny is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was a long time member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW and very active in Chapter activities. She was funny, sharp, witty, and a dear friend to many.

**RADLOFF, Glenn**, of Farmersburg, IA, died March 8, 2016. Glenn was an AXPOW life member since 1980, and was a member of the Northeast Iowa Chapter. He served in the 34<sup>th</sup> Division and was held in PG 58.

**RATHBUN, Vernon "Bud"**, 96, of Waterloo, IA died Sept. 24, 2015. He served with the 333<sup>rd</sup> BS, 94<sup>th</sup> BG. His plane was shot down July 29, 1943. He was captured and held in Stalag 7A for 6 months then transported by boxcar to Stalag 17B for another 16 months. Vernon took part in an 18-day, 225-mile forced march across Germany before being liberated May 3, 1945. He was an active member of AXPOW. Bud is survived by his beloved wife, Ginny, 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 granddaughters and 4 great-grandchildren. He always looked on the bright side and was an inspiration to all who knew him.

**SABIN, Howard A.**, of Longboat Key, FL passed away June 3, 2015. During WWII, he was shot down over the Italian Alps while serving on a B-24. He spent the remainder of the

## taps,cont'd...

war in Luft IV, then was force-marched across Germany. He leaves his wife of almost 62 years, Gloria, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Howard was a life member of AXPOW.

**SADOWSKI, Harry C.**, 91, passed away May 9, 2015. He was captured while serving with the AAC, flying over Hungary. He spent the remainder of the war in a German POW camp. Years later he learned that the crewmembers who did not bail out managed to fly the plane to neutral territory. Harry was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Bonita; he is survived by 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**STOCKMEIER, Estella "Ruth"**, of South Elgin, IL died Feb. 13, 2016 at the age of 95. She and her husband, Fred were members of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, survivors include 1 son, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and their families.

**TELLER, Abraham**, of Yonkers, NY died in Nov. 2015. He was a life member of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 379<sup>th</sup> BG, 525<sup>th</sup> BS. After capture he was held in Pilsen. He leaves one daughter and her family.

**THOMAS, Patsy Yates**, 81, of Henderson, KY passed away Feb. 15, 2016. She was a very active member of the Kentucky Department, AXPOW. Her late husband James was

a POW during WWII. Patsy is survived by 2 sons, 2 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and their families.

**WALTER, Gerald R.**, of Orlando, FL died Dec. 23, 2015 at the age of 92. He served in WWII as an aerial photographer on a B-24 Liberator "The Flying Junior". His plane was shot down over Germany and he was captured and held until liberation. Gerry was an active member of Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW. He was also an avid member of Rolling Thunder organization, last participating in "The Ride Home", Sept. 2015. He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Flo.



## chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

The usual accepted definition of a bully is some one who uses physical, emotional or verbal intimidation or force to control others.

Have you been bullied?

Or worse, have you been a bully?

Are you being bullied now?

Bullies come in all sizes, shapes, colors, creeds and various trap-pings. In fact, there is a bully who is not human, we call him the devil.

In the Bible we find a bully named Goliath. He had intimidated the Israelites so greatly that 1st Samuel 17:11 records, "...they were dismayed, and greatly afraid." So sounds like the response of many who are bullied today.

But David knew that bullies do not have to be tolerated. David had faith in God and because of that faith he was able to take a stand against Goliath.

In the life of our Ex-POWS, the bullies were our enemies.

In your life it could be anyone, even a beloved family member. Your bully may not be a person but a major problem you are facing, or a disease to be fought. David's bully was a giant but he trusted God and when victory was his, he gave the glory (credit) to God. David knew it was by God's help that he won over Goliath. We can win over our bullies in the same way.

Second Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

My prayer for each of you is:

Like David, may all of your bullies be overcome by your trust in God and the exercise of that trust. In His name. Amen.

## Benny



The Memorial Service at National Convention will be Friday, June 24, 2016, Arlington Hilton, Arlington, TX. Please try to attend this very moving service.



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GIVEN BY:

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

To be contributed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



### The National 4th (IVY) Division Association

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

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

Check our website at [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org) for membership and reunion information.

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**

# 50/50 drawing

June 27, 2015 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place** GROVER MULLINS, MO **\$322.60**
- 2nd Place** ANGIE SARACENO, AZ **\$241.95**
- 3rd Place** DOROTHY MURPHY, FL **\$161.30**
- 4th Place** JACK WARNER, OK **\$80.65**

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**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Do NOT send dues with this request  
for an application**

**Mail to:**

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Arlington, TX 76010-5936  
(817) 649-2979 voice  
(817)649-0109 fax  
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

If you are a former 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106<sup>th</sup>, a relative of a 106<sup>th</sup> veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.

**The CUB Magazine is published three times  
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Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856  
973-663-2410  
E-mail: jsc164@aol.com

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016





## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

**\$20.00      \$30.00                  \$40.00                  \$50.00                  \$100.00      Other**

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to  
American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding  
Mail contributions to:  
National Headquarters  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2016

**AXPOW Gravesite Medallion**



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

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

**\$75.00**

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

**AXPOW Vest Order Form**

**(For members only)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) \_\_\_\_\_

Long, Regular or Short \_\_\_\_\_

Name on front of vest \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name (back of vest) \_\_\_\_\_

**Price: \$55.00, includes S/H**

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

**AXPOW Challenge Coin**



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

**\$10.00 ea**

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

**Name Badge Order Form**

**(for members only)**

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**We accept Master Card/Visa**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag   | 10.00 |
| Aluminum License Plate       | 5.00  |
| 3" Vinyl Decal               | 1.00  |
| 3" Inside Decal              | 1.00  |
| 8" Vinyl Decal               | 6.00  |
| 12" Vinyl Decal              | 10.00 |
| AXPOW Prayer Book            | 2.00  |
| Ladies Prayer Book           | 1.00  |
| POW DVD - ETO or Pacific     | 11.00 |
| "Speak Out" Education Packet | 6.00  |

**CLOTHSTRIPES** (specify which title) 3.00  
Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer  
Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander  
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice Commander  
Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer

| QUANTITY | ITEM | SIZE / COLOR | PRICE |
|----------|------|--------------|-------|
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |

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

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

**Total: \$**

**For credit card orders:** Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### For National Commander PNC Charles Susino, Jr.

National Commander 2012-2013  
Legislative Chair (current)  
Budget and Finance Chair  
Grievance & Investigation Chair  
Commander, Dept. of New Jersey  
(21+ years)

NSO-18 years

AAC Veteran, flew B-24 European theatre – hit the silk over Nord, France, March 5, 1944 after being hit by flak and fighters. Pilot gave the order “bail out” and I was captured by two squads of German soldiers. After being shipped to Dulag Luft on the Rhine for 7 days of interrogation, I was sent by boxcar to East Prussia, Luft 6. In Jan. 1945, I was force-marched to Memel, then sent to Luft 4. After being forced onto the 2 1/2 month-long “Black Hunger March”, I escaped with five other prisoners and located a field hospital in the American Zone.

### For Sr. Vice Commander Ted Cadwallader

I was born in the Philippines and, as a young boy, my family and I were interned as civilian prisoners of the Japanese for 37 months (1942-1945) in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. I have served as the Commander, Department of California, AXPOW, and have been the commander of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, AXPOW, for many years. I am a retired Master Sergeant, U.S. Army Reserve and am dedicated to the heritage left to us by all former American POWs, as well as the impressive, important historical knowledge and ideals of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization.

### For Jr. Vice Commander Cheryl Cerbone

I first served AXPOW as National Director- Northeast from 1994-1999. During that time, I also served as Chairman of the Ways & Means, Public Relations (a position I first held

in 1986), Constitution & Bylaws Committees and in 1999 I became Editor of the Ex-POW Bulletin. Currently, I remain your Editor. I also serve as Chair of Ways & Means and Public Relations, and as committee member of Civilian, Bylaws and Publications Guidelines.

### For Jr. Vice Commander Pam Warner Eslinger

I have been your Jr. Vice Commander for the past 4 years and South Central National Director since 2008. My dad is PNC Jack Warner. I have been coming to the National Conventions since I was 4 yrs. old, so this is like a second family for me, and I love this organization, and want it to carry on for as long as we can make it work, to keep your legacy going for the young people to learn about.

### For Jr. Vice Commander Alice Golin

I have been serving as Jr. Vice Commander since 2014. I am also chairman of the Civilian Internee Committee -- fitting because the majority of this special group of POWs live in California. I have been working to make claims filing with the Dept. of Labor an easier process and feel we have made some good headway.

My husband, Mort, was a POW in Luft III and 7A during WWII.

### For National Director Charles A. Susino

I served as AXPOW as National Director- Northeast beginning in 2013. I have participated in several committees including Legislative, Washington DC POW memorial, VA outreach program, Washington DC special events, and medical research. I have supported my father, PNC Charles Susino, Jr. over the years with AXPOW activities at the local, state, and national levels in various capacities. I look forward to

continuing my contributions to the organization and its transition with a greater participation from the NOKs.

### For National Director David Eberly

I seek your support for re-election as National Director. My experience, compassion, and sense of duty is rooted in my months as the senior allied prisoner of war in Saddam's prisons during Desert Storm—yet, I make no comparison to the trials of those held in Vietnam, Korea, or Germany. Today, our Organization must hold true to its tenets while striving to preserve the legacy for all those who lost their freedom on the battlefields, on the seas, or from air. Their courage and the service of their families who waited must never be forgotten by our National leaders or the American people.

### For National Director Benny Rayborn

Benny Mark Rayborn is AXPOW's National Chaplain. He is the son of ex-POW Mark Rayborn. He has served one term as National Director for the Southeast Region. He also serves as the Commander of the W Jack Cleery Memorial Chapter in Hattiesburg, MS. He and his bride, the “Marvelous Mitzi” live in Lumberton, MS.

### For National Director Jan Williams

I am running for re-election as National Director for the Central Region. I have been a life member since October 2006. I would like this great organization to continue its original purpose; for the member to come together to visit and to be used for healing. I would like to continue to serve you as National Director.

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CASTING YOUR BALLOT

Voting for National Officers/Directors. All members who are current on their dues are eligible to vote. Please follow these instructions.

**You must use the original ballot on the next page to vote. Photocopies will be destroyed and the vote will not be counted.**

The names on the back of the ballot (the mailing label) are the members eligible to vote. The first name listed is Voter 1 and the second name listed is Voter 2 (where applicable).

Place an X in the box next to the candidates name for whom you are voting.

Write-in candidates are allowed. PRINT their name on the blank line. The candidate must agree to serve.

There will be no nominations made from the convention floor.

Sign the ballot, place in an envelope and send it to:

AXPOW BALLOT

3201 E PIONEER PKWY #40

ARLINGTON TX 76010

Ballots must be received at National Headquarters by June 15, 2016 to be counted.

**Only current AXPOW members are eligible to vote.**

If you have any questions, please contact National Headquarters at 817-649-2979 or [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org).

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Ex-POW Bulletin

May/June 2016

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American Ex-Prisoners of War  
2016 Election  
National Ballot



|                                                    | voter #1             | voter #2             |                              |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>National Commander</b>                          | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | SUSINO, CHARLES JR. (NJ)     |
| <b>National Senior Vice Commander</b>              | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | CADWALLADER, TED (CA)        |
| <b>National Junior Vice Commander (VOTE FOR 3)</b> |                      |                      |                              |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | CERBONE, CHERYL (MA)         |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | ESLINGER, PAM (OK)           |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | GOLLIN, ALICE (CA)           |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | _____ (write-in)             |
| <b>National Director</b>                           |                      |                      |                              |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>                            |                      |                      |                              |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | SUSINO, CHARLES ANTHONY (NJ) |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | _____ (write-in)             |
| <b>Southeast Region (VOTE FOR 2)</b>               |                      |                      |                              |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | EBERLY, DAVID (VA)           |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | RAYBORN, BENNY (MS)          |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | _____ (write-in)             |
| <b>Central Region</b>                              |                      |                      |                              |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | WILLIAMS, JAN (OK)           |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | _____ (write-in)             |
| <b>At Large</b>                                    |                      |                      |                              |
|                                                    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | _____ (write-in)             |

SIGNATURE(S) OF VOTER(S) \_\_\_\_\_



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  
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org  
No collect calls, please

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



### Challenge Coins!

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

**\$10.00<sub>ea</sub>**

### change of address form

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

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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