

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 66

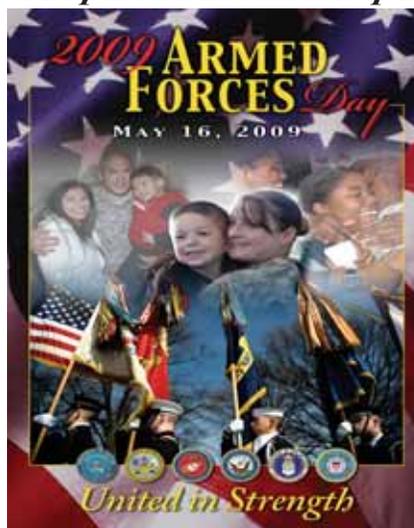
www.axpow.org

Number 5

May 2009



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*News, Events, Convention Information...
Stories...Outreach, Success and more*





AT LEFT: Three Veterans...three Different Wars

PNC Bill and Ethel Bearisto met Tom & Kay Sunick and Tristan & Mary Beth Sutrisno from Scranton, PA. Tom was a Korean War veteran. Tristan was a veteran of Vietnam who served two tours. Bill and Ethel met these veterans on their recent cruise and had a wonderful time with them. Shown left to right: Bill, Tom and Tristan.

AT RIGHT: USS Houston CA-30

Members of the USS Houston Survivors Association at their March 2009 reunion. Top - left to right: Harry Kelley, David Flynn, Marvin Sizemore, Howard Brooks Bottom seated left to right: Clarence "Skip" Schilperoort, Basil Bunyard



AT LEFT: Air Capital Chapter, AXPOW, Wichita, KS

Air Capital Chapter Adjutant, Marjorie Paschal, presenting a donation to Mr. Larry Gunkel, project manager for the Kansas Food Bank, Wichita, KS. This drive was one of the chapter's projects to help those unemployed recently.

BELOW AND LEFT: POW Advisory Committee Meets

The Secretary's Advisory Committee for POWs met in April in Washington, DC. One surprise visitor to the meeting was Gulf War POW Shoshona Johnson, along with Ron Armstead of the Congressional Black Caucus. Shown with Shoshona and Ron are Chairman McNish and Committee Secretary Paul Galanti.



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**M... is for the million things she gave me,
 O... means only that she's growing old,
 T... is for the tears she shed to save me,
 H... is for her heart of purest gold;
 E... is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
 R... means right, and right she'll always be.
 Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER," A word
 that means the world to me.**

—Howard Johnson (c. 1915)

In the U.S. Mothers' Day is a holiday celebrated on second Sunday in May. It is a day when children honor their mothers with cards, gifts, and flowers. First observance in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1907, it is based on suggestions by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 and Anna Jarvis in 1907.

Although it wasn't celebrated in the U.S. until 1908, there were days honoring mothers even in the days of ancient Greece. In those days, however, it was Rhea, the Mother of the gods that was given honor.

President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day a national observance that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

Armed Forces Day ~ May 16, 2009

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department — the Department of Defense.

Also in May: The Fall of Corregidor, VE Day, Memorial Day, US broke the code at Midway, American Red Cross Founded, Liberation of Burma and loads of PNC Birthdays.

Sick Call:

PNC Warren King and Treasurer Sonnie Bill Mottern should be added to your prayers. By the time you get this issue, we hope they're on the mend.

Publisher

PNC Maurice Sharp
 9716 54th Street CT West
 University Place, WA 98467-1118
 (253) 565-0444
 SHARP1955@msn.com

Editor

Cheryl Cerbone
 23 Cove View Drive
 South Yarmouth, MA 02664
 (508) 394-5250
 (508) 760-2008 fax
 axpoweditor@comcast.net

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

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axpow officers & directors 2008-2009

National Headquarters - Clydie J. Morgan, Adjutant

3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40, Arlington, TX 76010

(817) 649-2979 (817) 649-0109 fax HQ@axpow.org

Officers

National Commander

Jim Clark

214 Oakdale
Bastrop, LA 71220-2330
(318) 281-5505 phone & fax
jaclark@bayou.com

National Senior Vice Commander

Kenny H Hanson

9401 Lyndale Ave S #228
Bloomington MN 55420
(952) 888-2703 - Voice
powra17313465@netzero.net

National Treasurer

Sonnie Bill Mottern

279 Huckleberry Road
Bluff City, Tenn. 37618
(423) 542-1824; (423) 542-3469 fax
pwtreas@earthlink.net

National Judge Advocate

Dave Drummond

1 Crane Court
Manalapan, NJ 07726
(732) 446-4198
ddrummon@optonline.net

National Chaplain

James H. Beaver

PO Box 2103
Abingdon, VA 24212
(276) 623-0875
ghbrn@aol.com

Jr. Vice Commanders

Charles Susino - Eastern Zone

136 Jefferson Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840
(732) 549-5775 phone & fax

Morris Barker - Central Zone

710 Chapel View
Waco, Tx 76712
mbarker001@hotmail.com
(254) 732-5640

PNC James Cooper - Western Zone

PO Box 65
Douglas, AZ 85608
(520) 364-8582; (520) 805-9401 fax
jcoopdogaz@yahoo.com

North East Region

Franklin R. Koehler

243 Torrey Pines Dr.
Toms River, NJ 08757
(732) 244-4629; (732) 505-8702 fax
relheok1@aol.com

Laura McIntyre

PO Box 475
Hardwick, MA 01037
(413) 477-8260 (413) 477-0172 fax
axpow62a@msn.com

East Central Region

Judy Lee

PO Box 248
Madisonville, TN 37354
(423) 442-3223; (423) 442-4702 fax
leejudith5@bellsouth.net

Paul E. Galanti

21 Maxwell Road
Richmond, VA 23226
(804)389-1668
p.galanti@verizon.net

Southeast Region

Wm "Bill" Jeffers

3522 Millbrook way Cr
Greenacres, FL 33463
(561) 969-6036
robill1@aol.com

Sid Hecker

7730 Laie Place
Diamondhead, MS 39525
(228) 493-7605
sidheck@bellsouth.net

North Central Region

Carroll Bogard

726 N. Carolina Place
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-4870

Larry Dwyer

814 Woodlawn Ave.
Muscatine, IA 52761
(563) 263-5249

Senior Director, PNC Warren King, Jr.

PNC Warren G King Sr (Mary)
1015 Mitchell Rd
Nashville TN 37206-1113
(615) 226-7811 - Voice
(615) 262-3049 - Fax

Directors

Mid-Central Region

Grover L. Swearingen

408 Fair Park Avenue
West Union, OH 45693
(937) 544-2459
db6194@dragonbbs.com

Deanie Schmidt

1001 Parkview Blvd. #316
Columbus, OH 43219
(614) 372-0788
schmidt1925@gmail.com

South Central Region

James L. Lollar

292 VZ CR 3727
Wills Point, TX 75169
(903) 560-1734; (903) 560-1705 fax
B52Gunner@StarBand.net

Pam Warner Eslinger

PO Box 117
Hammon, OK 73650
(580) 473-2783
elib@hammon.k12.ok.us

Northwest Region

Bonnie Sharp

9716 54th Street CT West
University Place, WA 98467-1118
(253) 565-0444
SHARP1955@msn.com

Southwest Region

Milton "Skip" Moore

2965 Sierra Bermeja
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
(520) 459-7295; (520) 533-3757 fax
skip.m.moore@us.army.mil

Lewis "Lew" Sleeper

6636 E VillaDoradoTucson, AZ 85715
(520) 751-9628 Voice
(520) 490-1082 Cell
sleepjl@aol.com



Committee addresses appear
with their columns



**National Commander
Jim Clark**

**History of our
Direct Mail Programs**

In 1983, National Commander Earl Derrington and SVC Joe Galloway - recognizing the advantages of using direct mail to reach our membership - began the program that has resulted in close to \$3 million dollars being added to our treasury. Kudos to those two far-sighted leaders!

Our first program was small...address labels were sent out by Brick Mill Studios in Wilton, NH...proceeds were initially earmarked for the fledgling legislative program PNC Derrington and PNC Orlo Natvig hoped to get off the ground. We had just received our Congressional Charter, Public Law 97-37 passed, recognizing "presumptives" for former POWs and we hoped a presence in Washington would help us add more benefits for ex-POWs everywhere.

We added a second label program in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s, we started a calendar program (even after we were warned that calendars didn't really make money). This program is one of our big successes and it has been called one of the finest military calendars available.

In 1996, we started planning for "Veterans Day 1997", which we hosted in Washington, DC. We raised money for that event by adding a fourth program of postcards.

Today, we still have four programs. They provide much of the money used to fund our organization.

One question I am often asked is "how much of a percentage does the vendor take?". The answer is NONE. Since 1983, our contracts have been simple. We pay a set price for the product we want - labels, calendars, postcards, pins, etc. - and we pay the postage for the mailing of that product. EVERY DIME AFTER THOSE TWO PAYMENTS IS OUR PROFIT. So talk to your friends. Tell them to send in donations. The more money we take in, the more money we have to spend to "help those who cannot help themselves".

Another question is "Why New Hampshire?". We have had vendors in New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and now we are back in New Hampshire. No special reason why, except that is where our vendor is located.

THIS LAST IS VERY IMPORTANT. We have only one bank and only one bank account. The Bank is Bank of America and has branches in New Hampshire, Tennessee and Arlington, TX. Deposits can, and are made in each of the three locations. HOWEVER, only one person, our national Treasurer, has a checkbook and only he can write checks. AND each check he writes has to be cosigned by the National Commander or the Senior Vice Commander before they are mailed to the intended recipients.

Checks that are received for direct mail programs are DEPOSITED INTO AXPOW'S BANK ACCOUNT. They are immediately put to good use by our organization. The advantage to this cannot be overstated. If you send in a donation to National Headquarters, your donation is in our bank account within days. If you send in a donation for a direct mail product, your donation is in our bank account within days.

In closing, I'd like to thank my predecessors for planning for the continuation of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Without their foresight, our financial picture would be bleak as membership declined.. Because of men like Earl Derrington, Joe Galloway, Orlo Natvig and others, we have the re-

sources to offer future POWs and their families assistance and comfort.

Yours in fellowship,

Jim

**news
from
hq**



The National Convention is on its way. This year we are going to Boise, Idaho. I've never been there but the pictures are beautiful. And I've been told by many of you that it is beautiful.

The convention begins on Wednesday, September 9 with the National Board of Directors meeting. Thursday, September 10 is opening ceremonies and the Commander's Reception. Friday and Saturday are business meetings with the banquet on Saturday night. The new board meeting will be Sunday, September 13.

The Doubletree Riverside Hotel is the site for the meetings. The rates are \$92 plus tax. Call 208-343-1871 for reservations.

There will be more information in the upcoming magazines. Please note that National will be closing the books for membership early this year because of the early dates for the convention. Memberships will close on August 10th.

See you in Boise!
Clydie, Marsha,
Sally & Donna



Les Jackson,
Executive Director, DC Office



1722 Eye Street, NW #204
Washington, D.C. 20421
(202) 530-9220;
(202) 223-8818 fax
e-mail: lesjax@gmail.com

on capitol hill

Legislative Committee
NC James Clark
Mary Rolan
7450 Spring Village Dr. CC510
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 923-9444
Charles Stenger, Ph.D

The National Capitol Office continues to be quite busy. This is the beginning of the 111th Congress and we have many new Representatives and Senators now leaving the ropes and what it really entails to obtain their constituents' requests. We are trying to meet all of the new members and particularly the members who will be serving on our Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. This is a task every two years!

I did get to attend the confirmation hearings for General Eric Shinseki, our new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Had a very interesting short meeting with him and the Mrs. Also attended the VA Budget Hearing and enjoyed the Secretary's complete knowledge of the task before him...I do believe the ex-POWs will be just fine!

Now on our legislation. Rep. Gus Bilirakis has already introduced the Diabetes Bill (HR944). Please now everyone should thank him for his support by calling: 202-225-5755.

Without the continued support by Bilirakis, I do not know what ex-POWs would do! Also Rep. Tim Holden has introduced the change of the date of our DIC Bill (HR819). This will only correct the oversight of the date: "to provide for the payment of DIC to surviving spouses of former prisoners of war who died on or before Sept. 30, 1999". Remember when we got this in HR156, we were told to either take that date or we got nothing! So we took it! Now we believe we will succeed if ALL YOU MEMBERS write or call your Members to co-sponsor the bill by calling Holden's Office: 202-225-5546.

I am unhappy to say but we do not have a Senator yet to agree to introduce the Diabetes bill or the DIC. They still are saying "We need more research". We have tried to convince them now you push your Senators to meet with us and we will try to also get it introduced. We have hopes of two senators as of this date that may

soon be agreeable to introduce these bills! Also Rep. John Hall (NY) has introduced HR952 which would establish service in a "theater of combat operations" as a presumptive stressor for PTSD. This was explained in our testimony on March 5th when we appeared before the Joint Veterans Affairs Committees.

On another subject, a follow-up on the article Editor Cheryl Cerbone put in the March/April Bulletin writing about the Purple Heart Bills passed in 1996 and 2008. We have only received about eight letters inquiring about this. I am happy to say we have been working on this for some time, and we have a follow-up meeting with Army Military Records this week to check on the status; will let you know as soon as we can.

The POW Advisory Committee meets here April 6-8 and I believe, as always, it will produce something for AXPOWs. Yes, we will attend.

Mary

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
NUMBER SURVIVING CAPTIVITY AND STILL LIVING
AS OF THE PROJECTED DATES
CHARLES A. STENGER, Ph.D.

ORIGINAL NUMBER SURVIVING CAPTIVITY	ALIVE AS OF JAN. 1, 2009	EST. ALIVE AS OF JAN. 1, 2010
WWI	3,973	-0-
WWII	116,129	17,418
KOREA	4,418	1,600
VN	661	533 (est)
POST VN	33	24 (est)
TOTALS	125,214	19,635

NOTE: (1) Original numbers taken from official Mortality Records.
(2) WWII estimates based on 14% mortality rate for age 87.

COMMENTS: VA is currently giving high priority to POWS and their families. The CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED VA POW ADVISORY COMMITTEE is providing continuous oversight to assure full compliance in each Regional Office as well as the national program. As data indicates that specific medical conditions are highly likely to be a consequence of the captive experience, they are considered for presumptive status and then no longer require evidence in each POW's records.

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



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

OUTREACH REPORTING NSO Work and Networking

Doris Jenks' NSO program for AX-POW makes it so, that "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves". Here's a report from NSO Don Lewis in Dresher, PA.

"I just learned that a former POW I represented was rating 100% disabled by the VA. He was referred to me by his long time EX-POW buddy who had tried to get him to reopen his VA claim for years, to no avail. He steadfastly claimed he 'wouldn't get anything more, and it was too much trouble'. He was finally persuaded to call me, and I got him to agree to have me represent him. A simple letter to the Philadelphia VARO to reopen his claim to give him a former POW Protocol exam got things going. In just a few weeks he got the 100% and a retro check for \$6,000. He is one very happy veteran. His health is poor, but he said this gives him a reason to live, and he plans to live to be 100 years old!"

And Don writes more about Outreach work: "I have called every widow of a former prisoner of war in the eastern half of Pennsylvania. Most regrettably, many no longer

have the telephone shown in the AXPOW membership list. Using the internet white pages site often yielded a number not on our list. But, sadly all too many cannot be reach via the telephone.

A considerable number of widows contacted did not have DIC, but were entitled. They had been told by their County Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs that they were not eligible for any benefits. When questioned, I found that they were most certainly qualified to receive DIC and Burial benefits. It is a tragedy that there are a lot of uninformed government employees ill-advising these widows. Very few widows I contacted were aware of the PA law enacted Oct. 2007 that exempts them from real estate tax if their husband was rated 100% disabled and their income is less than \$75,000 a year. Few of the widows have take advantage of ChampVA for fear their doctors and hospitals would not accept it to cover the 20% Medicare does not pay. I counseled them on the true benefits of the program and urged them to enroll.

I have contacted over 70 veterans and have about 200 more to do. To control my phone bills, I subscribed to an unlimited long distance service. I cover all my NSO expenses out of pocket and do not seek reimbursement". THANK YOU, Don, for your good Outreach.

Join the Outreach Committee!

Positions are open to all who are willing to reach out to help former POWs and their dependents receive the VA benefits due them. No salary. Volunteers are paid in gratitude, thanks and smiles from those they help. Contact Chairman Fred Campbell for details. 3312 Chatterton Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904; 325-944-4002.



More Outreach happens because other folks care too, and do something about it, like:

Doris Jenks calls me; Ed Giering in CT is concerned that his pilot Robert in Houston area has only 50% disability rating. Talked to Robert and his son, and re-opened his claim in the Houston VARO with good prospects to increase his rating to at least 60%.

Alvin Hirshi in Fridley, MN emails about fellow crewmember Roman in California; he's never been to the VA, and Dennis Uldricke, Oakland VARO can find no record of him in their files. Roman should be in for a welcome surprise as he has potential for a good VA disability rating.

A little Outreach history:

AXPOW Outreach did not just happen because a committee was formed with that name on it. It started and developed like this...

In 1942, soon after Japan hit the Philippines and other South Pacific areas, women formed support groups of loved ones of those now POWs of the Japanese. That reaching out to grief-stricken ones back home, was a true element of Outreach during WWII.

After WWII, this group developed to include the former POWs, in more Outreach to those in anxious adjustment from the rigors of POW experience.

AXPOW grew slowly for decades and in the late 1970s and early 1980s, residual health problems among former POWs began to show up more, and be recognized as consequence of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War. It was true Outreach when AXPOW's Washington DC office was established with our pres-

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outreach continued...

ence being quite evident to the Veterans Administration (now DVA) and Congress, through the work of Executive Director Chuck Williams, followed by Bill and Mary Rolen and now Les Jackson whose diminished vision has not reduced his effectiveness with all his lifelong contacts in our Capitol, Congress and its committees, and Dr. Charles Stenger who has been in the midst of all this important Outreach, and all our PNCs who annually testified before Congressional Veterans Affairs committees to add to over 20 presumptives as service-connected, compensable for former POWs. This has been genuine Outreach for all former POWs' families.

With so few AXPOW members serving as NSO's to bring to POWs awareness of VA benefits available for them, in the 1990s, Steve Yarema, as Director of our National Service Officers trained many, many NSOs across the country by offering two-day seminars. Doris Jenks has continued such training opportunities.

Outreach has continued through AXPOW's Marsha Coke's help in providing list of those in underserved states, so contacts could be made to make sure our members have their VA benefits.

TAPS Column, Feb. 2009 Bulletin, with new widows: NSOs contacting: OH, Doc Unger; FL, Annette Steres, Ann Still; IA, Betty Grinstead; NY/CT, Melanie Bussel; WV/IL/KY/TX, Fred Campbell.

ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease: If you know of a widow of a former POW who died of ALS, please let your AXPOW NSO know. ALS, as of Sept. 23, 2008, is a presumptive compensable for all veterans.

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May 2009

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Doris Jenks
National Service Director
1120 Daleside Lane
New Port Richey, Fl. 34655
(727) 372-7238 - Home
(727) 319-5914 - Office
Ljenks@tampabay.rr.com

If you have had problems understanding the requirements for eligibility for the Purple Heart decoration, you are not alone. The National Service Officers who work for the Purple Heart organization across the hall from our office at the V.A. Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Fl. are still insisting you must show documentation you were WOUNDED as stated in the March issue Sec. 621 "award of the Purple Heart to persons WOUNDED while held as prisoners of war before April 25, 1962 to be eligible.

This what we are advising those who call.

But, there is another award you may be eligible for. It is the French Legion of Honor. The decision to honor World War II combatants applies only to living veterans who served on French Territory and in French territorial waters and airspace in 1944-1945. The Legion d'Honneur will not be awarded posthumously.

To apply for this award you will need to send the following documents (only copies).

- 1) Honorable Discharge paper, military separation order or DD Form-214.
- 2) Citations for previous military awards, such as the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart or higher distinctions, indicating meri-

NSO

torious actions during combat operations.

3) Military records mentioning your mission(s) on the French soil before May 8, 1945.

4) The form "Proposal Memory" completed.

All of the above then gets mailed to the Consulate in Miami.

We will have the applications at our office (727) 319-5914 and I will have them at home if you meet these qualifications and wish to apply. (727) 372-7238

Again, I wish to remind all members who are in receipt of an award from the VA, that you are receiving Compensation, which is tax exempt. You are NOT RECEIVING PENSION.

I have been receiving many calls relative to this as when they went to file their income tax, and mentioned pension, to the tax person, they immediately wanted to claim their compensation from the VA as taxable income.

Doris Jenks

What is an NSO?

The American Ex-Prisoners of War have trained NSOs, accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. These men and women have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their dependents. The Service Officer knows the laws that have been passed by the U.S. Congress in the interests of veterans and their dependents. They also know the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to clarify and implement those laws. They apply that knowledge in the best way suited to the needs of every individual veteran or other beneficiary who comes to the office for assistance.

Thank an NSO!

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

Falls and Older Adults

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How common are falls among older people?

More than one in three people age 65 years or older fall each year. The risk of falling — and the risk of disability and other life-changing problems caused by falls — increase with age. Falls are not an inevitable part of getting older, though. Many falls can be prevented.

2. Why do people fall?

People fall for many reasons. Often, more than one risk factor is involved in a fall. As the number of risk factors rises, so does the risk of falling. Many falls are linked to personal factors — a person's physical condition or medical problems. Falls may also be linked to safety hazards in the person's home or community environment.

3. What personal factors can lead to falls?

Some personal factors that can lead to falls are:

- muscle weakness, especially in the legs

- poor balance or difficulty walking — factors that could be related to a neurological cause, arthritis, or another condition that might be treated.

- blood pressure that drops too much on standing

- vision problems

- taking medications that cause side effects like dizziness and confusion, or that interact with one another.

Impaired mental abilities and urinary incontinence may also contribute to falls.

4. What environmental factors can lead to falls?

Some environmental factors that can lead to falls are:

- clutter and other tripping hazards

- slick floors, loose rugs, and slippery walkways

- poor lighting, either inside or outdoors

- not having handrails along stairs and grab bars in the bathroom.

5. How do falls affect people?

Falls most often do not result in any injury or result in bruises or minor cuts, but they sometimes affect a person's physical or mental well-being. At least one-tenth of falls result in serious injury to soft tissues or bones. A fall can cause a fracture, head injury, or other problem that can change a person's life.

Fractures caused by falls can lead to hospital stays and disability. They can also prevent a person from getting around, doing daily tasks, or socializing. Most often, fall-related fractures are in the person's hip, pelvis, spine, arm, hand, or ankle.

Fear of falling again can cause problems. A person who has fallen may avoid doing daily tasks or enjoyable activities. This fear can also cause the person to spend more time at home, away from other people.

6. How common are hip fractures, and what problems do they cause?

Hip fractures are a common and very serious type of fall-related injury among older adults. These fractures are a leading cause of hospitalizations and medical loss of independence. Only half of older adults hospitalized for a broken hip will be able to get around as they did before the hip fracture. Many will need long-term care.

7. What is osteoporosis and who gets it?

Osteoporosis is a disease that involves loss of bone mass. Over time, this disease thins and weakens bones to the point where they break easily, especially in the hip, spine, and wrist. Low bone mass increases the chance of hip fractures and other fractures if you fall. If bones are fragile, even a minor fall can cause fractures. * *Osteoporosis (with PTSD) is now a POW presumptive. See Nov/Dec. 2008 Ex-POW Bulletin.*

8. How do I know if I have osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis has no symptoms. Many people don't know they have it until a bone breaks. A bone density test can tell you if you are at risk. This safe, painless test uses X-rays or sound waves to measure the strength of your bones. Women over age 65 and men over 70 should have a bone density test.

9. How can I improve my bone health?

Getting enough calcium and vitamin D, and staying physically active can help keep bones healthy and prevent bone loss. Not smoking and limiting the amount of alcohol you drink can help, too. Your doctor might also recommend taking medicines to slow bone loss or help rebuild bone if you are at risk of osteoporosis.

10. How much calcium and vitamin D do I need to keep my bones strong?

medsearch continued...

People over age 50 should consume 1,200 mg of calcium daily by eating calcium-rich foods and taking calcium supplements. People ages 51 to 70 should consume at least 400 international units (IU) of vitamin D daily. People over age 70 should consume at least 600 IU daily.

11. Can medications increase my risk of falling?

People who take at least four prescription drugs have a greater risk of falling than do people who take fewer drugs. Sometimes the increased risk comes from the health problems for which the person takes the medications. In other cases, the effects of the medications themselves increase a person's risk of falls. Certain medications cause side effects like dizziness, confusion, and sleepiness that increase a person's risk of falling. Some medications don't work well together and may cause problems that lead to falls.

If you think your medicines are causing problems, be sure to talk with your doctor about your risk of falls from medications. Don't stop taking them unless you talk with your doctor first.

12. Should I talk with my doctor about changing my medications to help prevent falls?

It is important to talk with your doctor about your medications. Bring your prescribed medicines with you when you visit the doctor. Also bring any over-the-counter products, vitamins, minerals, and herbal products you are taking. Ask if any of the medications or other products might increase your risk of falling. Also ask if the doses of any of the medications need to be changed.

13. Does physical activity increase my risk of falls?

You might think that moving about will increase the chance of falling. However, physical activity actually helps lower older adults' risk of falls.

Without the physical activity that comes with doing daily tasks or exercise, your muscles and bones can weaken over time. As a result, you could become more — not less — likely to fall. Talk with your doctor about what kinds of physical activity you should do.

14. How does exercise help prevent falls?

Getting regular exercise is one way to prevent falls and fractures that result from falls. Exercise keeps muscles strong and improves balance. It also helps keep joints, tendons, and ligaments flexible. In turn, your balance and the way you walk may improve, lowering your risk of falling.

Your doctor or a physical therapist can help you plan an exercise program that is right for you. A supervised group program can improve your balance and gait. Doing strength and balance exercises at home can also reduce your risk of falls.

15. Does physical activity help prevent fractures?

Regular physical activity helps slow bone loss and builds strong bones. Having strong bones can prevent fractures if you do fall. Walking, dancing, climbing stairs, gardening, and doing other physical activities at least 30 minutes a day can help keep bones healthy.

16. Where can I learn more about exercise and older adults?

Talk to your doctor or your medical facility. They can direct you to classes and seminars designed for seniors.

17. What can I do to prevent vision-related falls?

Have your vision tested regularly or if you think it has changed. Even a small change in vision can increase your risk of falling. Wear your eyeglasses if you need them. Keep the lenses clean and be sure the frames are straight. If you get new glasses, be extra cautious as you get used to them. If you wear reading glasses or multi-focal lenses, take them off when you're walking to avoid missteps.

18. What kind of footwear should I wear to help prevent falls?

Sensible footwear can help prevent falls. Choose shoes that:

- have low heels and non-slip soles

- fit well — there should be no marks on your feet when you take off your shoes and socks

- completely surround the foot — no backless shoes

- support your feet.

Avoid wearing only socks or floppy, backless slippers. Also, be sure to wear boots with good traction if you go outside in the snow.

19. Where do most falls happen?

Falls can happen anywhere, but more than half of all falls happen at home. Many of these falls could be prevented by making simple changes in the home.

20. What can I do to prevent falls at home?

One simple way to prevent falls at home is to remove objects from stairs, hallways, and other places where you walk. Tripping on clutter, shoes, small furniture, pet bowls, electrical or phone cords, or other things can cause a fall. Be sure to arrange furniture so you have plenty of room to walk freely, too.

Have handrails installed on both sides of stairs and walkways. If you must carry something while walking up or down stairs, hold the item in one hand and use the handrail with the other. When you are carrying something, be sure you can see where your feet are stepping.

Secure carpets to the floor and stairs. Remove throw rugs, use non-slip rugs, or attach rugs to the floor with double-sided tape. Put non-slip strips on floors and steps. Put non-slip strips or a rubber mat on the floor of your bathtub or shower.

Have grab bars installed in the tub and shower and next to the toilet. Be sure the handrails and grab bars are firmly attached to the wall.

Re-arranging items in your home can also help prevent falls. Place often-used items within easy reach so you

medsearch cont'd...

don't need to stand on a stool to get them.

21. Can better lighting help prevent falls?

Good lighting can help prevent falls. Make sure you have adequate lighting in each room, at entrances to your home, and on stairways in your home. Light switches at both the top and bottom of stairs can help. Throughout your home, use light bulbs that have the highest wattage recommended for the fixture. Place night lights in the bathroom, hallways, and other areas to guide you when you get up at night. You might also put a lamp within reach of your bed. Keeping a flashlight near your bed can help if the power is out and you need to get up.

22. What other devices can I use to prevent falls at home?

A reacher, or grabber, can also help prevent falls. This simple tool lets you take lightweight items from high shelves and other places and pick up objects from the floor so you do not have to bend over. Use a reacher rather than standing on a stool to get something from above or bending down to pick up something from the floor.

Another helpful device is a portable telephone. Carry the phone with you from room to room. When it rings, you won't have to rush to answer it. Not rushing could avert a harmful fall. Never rush to answer the phone or door.

23. What can I do to prevent falls outdoors?

Be careful when walking outdoors. Slipping on a slick sidewalk, a curb, or icy stairs could result in a disabling fracture or other injury.

To help prevent falls outdoors at home, you should:

- have handrails installed on both sides of outdoor stairs and walkways

- light stairs and walkways

- ask someone to spread sand or salt on icy surfaces

wear shoes or snow boots with traction when walking on slippery surfaces.

24. Should I use a cane to avoid falls?

Talk with your doctor or a physical therapist to find out if a walking aid will help you avoid falls. Depending on the cause of the unsteadiness, a cane or walker could make you more stable when you walk.

25. Should I use a walker to prevent falls?

Ask your physical therapist if a walker would help you prevent falls. A walker could help you stay balanced by giving you a wide base of support. Take time to learn how to use a walker properly. Also, be sure to use the walker when needed.

26. How can I choose the right kind of walker if I need one?

If you need to use a walker, it is important to choose the right kind for you. It's also important to develop a habit of using any walking aid correctly. A physical therapist can help you choose a walker that meets your needs and fits you well. Four-wheeled walkers can be used if you don't need to put your weight on the walker for balance. Those with two tips and two wheels can roll, depending on where you place your weight. Walkers with tips only are quite common and will not roll. When using a walker, your elbows should be at a comfortable angle of about 30 degrees. Also, when your arms are relaxed at your sides, the inside of your wrist should be at the top of the walker grip.

27. What should I do if I fall?

A sudden fall can be startling and frightening. If you fall, try to stay calm. Take a few deep breaths to help you relax. Stay still on the floor or ground for a few moments to help you get over the shock of falling. It will also give you time to decide if you're hurt before getting up. Getting up too quickly or in the wrong way could make an injury worse.

If you're hurt or can't get up, ask someone for help or call 911. If you're alone, try to get into a com-

fortable position and wait for help to arrive.

28. Should I tell my doctor if I fall?

Yes. Be sure to tell your doctor if you fall or almost fall, even if you aren't hurt. The fall might be a sign of an underlying problem that can be treated or corrected. Write down when, where, and how you fell so you can discuss the details with your doctor. The doctor can assess whether a medical issue, such as low blood pressure or diabetes, or another cause of the fall should be addressed. Knowing the cause of a fall can help you and your doctor find ways to prevent future falls. For instance, your doctor might suggest changing your medication doses or eyewear prescription.

29. Should I get a personal emergency response system?

If you have problems with balance or dizziness or live alone, you might want to get a personal emergency response system. This service provides a button or bracelet to wear at all times in your home. If you fall or need emergency medical assistance for any reason, a push of the button will alert the service through the phone system. Emergency medical services will be called. There is a fee for medical monitoring services, but it may be worth the cost.

If you're worried about falling, talk with your doctor. He or she may be able to help you cope with this concern by referring you to a physical therapist. A physical therapist can help you improve your balance and help build your walking confidence.

Information supplied:

National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Aging
Building 31, Room 5C27
31 Center Drive, MSC 2292
Bethesda, MD 20892



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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. Nick Mustacchia and another POW are liberated from a German prison camp.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



9. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Nick Mustacchia is shown.

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 _____

Mail to:

MEDSEARCH, AXPOW National Headquarters

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, TX 76010. PH: 817-649-2979; fax 817-649-0109; e-mail: marsha.coke@axpow.org

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) _____

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namPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
National Director, East Central
804.389.1668 (cell)
p.galanti@verizon.net

Words or Action?

Abraham Lincoln had a way with words.

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who has borne the battle, his widow and his orphan.”(...President Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865)

The meeting of the Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee on Former POWs had a slightly different “feel” this time. It was Cherry Blossom time in Washington and the city was filled with tourists. The committee met at the VA’s Central Office very close to the White House and not far from the Capitol - where it meets every year. We met with many of the same super-level administrators of the VA. We had the same general items on the agenda as during previous meetings. Yet it felt different. Then it occurred to me.

It seemed like President Lincoln was watching over the proceedings.

Unlike earlier meetings where we’d anecdotally discussed almost exclusively former POW issues and stories, both good and bad, in their dealings with the VA, this time we

were predominantly discussing survivors’ benefits, “his widow and orphan.” Over the years the committee and its predecessors had regaled the employees and leaders of the VA with stories of the horrors of Bataan-Corregidor, or various Stalags or the Korean icebox or of incredible torture over extended periods of time in Vietnam. The VHA, medical wing of the VA, was largely sympathetic to the plight of former prisoners of war and generally supported requests for help with fixing things that could be fixed in the system. An inordinate amount of time and effort was spent trying to educate the VA’s employees to the bind POWs found themselves in when trying to verify claims without medical documentation.

We spent much time on veterans’ issues but the majority of the time was spent discussing survivors’ benefits. It occurs timely and importantly as the numbers of former POWs declines dramatically as our greatest generation leaves us. Much time was spent on why it was so difficult for widows to receive DIC when it should have been a “slam dunk” for the widow of a 100% disabled former POW.

The Chief of Staff, John Gingrich spent an inordinate amount of time with us taking copious notes. Over the years, we have observed lip service about One VA or a single entity handling all veterans’ issues. Yet to the casually observing veteran it always seemed that the VA’s myriad of components were individual, quasi-competing entities whose individual concern about their charges (us!) varied greatly.

Mr. Gingrich told us that one of the first changes was to consolidate each of the VA’s component’s Public Affairs Department into one. He stated that a unified VA must be singing from the same sheet of music. Having seen the VA under several administrations, I am cautiously optimistic that we will see a major effort to ensure that the

word gets out. Quickly and correctly. This is extremely important to our veterans in general and us ex-POWs in particular. But of equal importance is the necessity to get the word out about survivors’ benefits for those who are left behind.

Uncle Sam is quite generous to his veterans. The array of disparate benefits is almost overwhelming. But getting access to them is often extremely difficult and dependent upon individual relationships and/or an understanding, competent National Service Officer. The good news is that the information is readily available quickly through the Internet (<http://va.gov>) or the good offices of an experienced service officer. Or the information is elusive if one has to search hundreds of publications and indices searching.

There are miles to go before the VA sleeps. The agency is so huge that management that seems so easy at the micro-level pales compared to the big picture of taking care of the problems of millions of deserving veterans of all stripes. General (retired) Eric Shinseki had a reputation as a fine officer and good Chief of Staff of the Army. He implemented many changes successfully in that incredibly difficult to manage organization. We were impressed with him and with his chief of staff and I predict that our POWs and their survivors will see some changes occur that we’ve needed for a long time.

We’re used to getting many words from the VA. I think we’re about to see action to back them up. Your humble scribe is keeping his fingers crossed.



andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Fred Boyles, Superintendent
fred_boyles@nps.gov

A Tribute to Bill Fornes

Visitors to the National Prisoner of War Museum are encouraged to watch the 27 minute introductory video, *Echoes of Captivity*. It is appropriate that the first voice of a former POW that they hear is Bill Fornes saying, "Now your talking about Civil War, cemetery and prison camp, a feeling came over me that I had something in common here with these people." Bill was speaking from his heart about his experience when he first came to Andersonville. From that point, he became a devoted advocate for the site as the National Memorial for all POWs in American history.

I first met Bill and his devoted companion Nancy in November 1989. It was my first day at my new assignment as Superintendent of Andersonville. The occasion was the initial planning meeting with architects, planners and former POWs to discuss the new park's new visitor center. At that time no one called it the National Prisoner of War Museum -that came later. From that point on, Bill and Nancy became good friends. I also realized that this team would be devoted advocates for the Park and Museum.

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Officially, Bill was appointed by the National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War to serve as the Andersonville Coordinator for their organization. In this capacity, he was the organization's representative to the Park. Although getting the Museum built was priority number one, Bill and I worked on many other issues of mutual interest to the Park and AXPOW. There was an Andersonville Committee of AXPOW that Bill chaired. He worked closely with National Park Service representatives on planning the Museum which included the overall building plan, exhibits, courtyard sculpture, videos, waysides and how we would present the huge story of POWs to our visitors. He also made many trips to the Park during the year and a half construction process. Although he cared deeply about the many details, he was always a positive and supportive partner of the project.

Many times Bill would say to me, "I don't know anything about fund raising." During the early 1990's it was very questionable that the project would ever get off the ground primarily because of the difficult goal of raising \$2.5 million dollars that was AXPOW's responsibility. Bill and Nancy never wavered in their efforts to raise money. They were the greatest champions for making donations to the Museum project. Bill appealed to Chapters and Departments to give

and monitored every gift and thank you letter. Bill had an idea that if veterans received an appeal with their compensation check they might give. In 1994 he convinced the VA to put a small card in 1.9 million checks. Bill and Nancy moved to Andersonville in an RV to monitor the program and write thank you letters to the 10,000+ donors. Over \$80,000 was received.

Bill became a great advocate for the POW Coin which pushed the fund raising over the top. It was no accident that Bill himself was an avid coin collector. He, along with many other leaders in the organization, pushed hard for the bill's passage and then encouraged everyone to purchase coins. When we were finally there, it was Bill and Nancy that produced the donor book that contains the names of every person who contributed to make the museum possible. That book is a testimony to Bill and Nancy's devotion to the Park and the project that reflects so much generosity.

On April 9, 1998, we opened the Museum to an audience of over 4,000 people. There were nine ribbon cutters. Each person represented organizations that had made the Museum possible. Bill represented AXPOW. I think Bill was as proud and humbled by that day as anyone. Just three weeks later, C-Span came to the Park and hosted a live one hour segment from the new Museum for their show,

(continued on page 15)



Washington Journal. Bill appeared live and took questions from callers asking about his experience as a POW and what the Museum meant to him. He became an instant celebrity.

There are so many other things Bill did to advance the cause. Too many to remember. There was the play produced in Americus called *And Grace Will Lead Me Home* - which Bill participated in. And then there were his many duties in AXPOW as National Director and leader at the Chapter and Department level. He also spoke on numerous occasions to young airmen at Moody Air Force Base near their home in Valdosta.

In late February 2009, Fred Sanchez and I went to Valdosta to visit with Bill and Nancy and to present him an award as a **Special Friend of Andersonville** on behalf of the *Friends of Andersonville*. It was a great day for all of us. We reminisced about the campaign to build the Museum, coin collecting and of course the politics of the day which he always had something to share. He wanted to know all about our latest project, developing a traveling exhibit of POW stories to tour the countries museums. He made a sizeable donation to that project.

At Bill's funeral, the minister asked the question about what motivated Bill to care so deeply about such causes. He answered his own question by saying that Bill was a patriot. Bill, like every other former POW I have been privileged to know, loved his country and all that it stood for. He learned to be a patriot by serving his country. He was called on to do one of the most difficult things that is asked of our service members - being a POW.

As a POW in North Korea, he was tested severely. He was concerned about the future of our country. He knew that our Museum and the Park would help instill into future generations what it is to be an American. Most of all, Bill wanted our youth to know what every former POW knows, that freedom isn't free.

We will miss you Bill.

pow-mia



**PNC John Edwards
Chairman**

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

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

Airman Missing in Action from WWII is Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Staff Sgt. Jimmie Doyle, U.S. Army Air Forces, of Lamesa, Texas.

On September 1, 1944, Doyle was one of eleven men on board a B-24J Liberator bomber that was shot down while on a bombing reconnaissance mission of enemy targets near the town of Koror, Republic of Palau. Three of the crewmen parachuted from the aircraft and died while prisoners of the Japanese, and the other eight crewmen, including Doyle, went down with the plane into the sea between Babelthuap and Koror islands.

In 2004, a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team conducted an underwater investigation of aircraft wreckage submerged off the southern coast of Babelthuap Island. Between 2005 and 2008, combined JPAC/U.S. Navy Mobile Diving and Salvage teams excavated the site three times and recovered human remains and material evidence, including machine guns bearing serial numbers that match those of guns mounted on this plane, and identification media for three of the crewmen on the plane.

Soldiers Missing in Action from the Korean War are Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of four U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Cpl. Samuel C. Harris, Jr., of Rogersville, Tenn; Cpl. Lloyd D. Stidham, of Beattyville, Ky.; Cpl. Robert G. Schoening, of Blaine, Wash; and one serviceman whose name is being withheld pending a briefing to his family. All men were U.S. Army.

These soldiers were assigned to Company C, 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. On Nov. 25, 1950, Company C came under intense enemy attack when it was occupying a position near Hill 222 situated south of the Kuryong River east of the "Camel's Head" bend, North Korea. The men were reported missing in action on November 27.

One soldier who was also recovered with this group, 1st Lt. Dixie Parker, was previously identified and buried in December 2007 in Arlington.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2009**

civilians



Walter H. Riley, Chairman
14521 Cyprus Point Drive
Dallas, TX 75234
(972)247-6069
whriley222@att.net

The Siege of Santo Tomas

Below is the text of the letter written by Frank Cary in June of 1945 concerning the personnel of the Japanese commandant's office and the events surrounding the siege of the Education Building during the liberation of Santo Tomas. It is, I believe, a fascinating story, detailing it remarkable series of events that occurred at that time.

The Otis referred to at the beginning of the letter is, I believe, Cary's son, Otis, now deceased. Cary was a Presbyterian missionary serving in Davao, on Mindanao, when war came. Previously he had served many years in Japan. He was one of the two interpreters in Santo Tomas, the other was Ernest Stanley, also claiming to be a missionary but whose background, was, is, to say the least, much more murky. Cary's family was not in the Philippines when war came and hence was not interned. He is shown as 56 in 1944. The letter was sent to me by Cecily Marshall who found it with her mother's effects after she passed away.

Curtis Brooks
curtbrooks@aol.com

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[Approaching the final weeks of the war, in the hope that the "rescue" at Santo Tomas might prove of some use in similar situations, Frank Cary was requested to render in some detail his particular experience. In his characteristic fashion, this detailed letter is his rendition of the very tense, nip-and-tuck situation in which he played a major role-in the hope that in the final days of the Pacific War, it might spare some lives, on both sides. While not written during his internment, it is added here~ fitting and vivid conclusion to his wartime experience.]

8 Upland Road
Wellesley, Massachusetts
June 28, 1945

Dear Otis:
You want a lot of information and quick. Your letter is just here and I'll try to answer it. I fear you won't get the help from it you wish, but I'll try to cover the ground.

Santo Tomas Concentration Camp was, of course, under Japanese administration from the start, though for purposes of convenience they let the internees organize and carry on pretty much all of the internal working. Internees were permitted to go out on passes as buyers for the camp, bringing in a variety of foods and merchandise. This system was still going Jan. 2, 1944 when I reached the place. *The* commandant was a man named Kato. On Feb. 1, 1944, the system was changed and instead of the army giving the internee committee money and letting them procure food, the army sent its own officers into camp to act as providers. They still permitted the purchase of supplementary supplies, but the internees were not permitted to go out after the stuff, their order lists being put in to the Japanese office and then sent out by a Japanese buyer.

In many other ways the camp was tightened up through new personnel sent into the Japanese office. The commandant did not approve of many of the rulings of the lieutenant (Konishi) in charge of finance and supply. He went to the army headquarters and said he was either to be commandant and make the final

decisions or they could get a new commandant. They got a new commandant. The old commandant went to the Japanese embassy as a secretary or something, and from that position tried to get the Foreign Office in Tokyo to bring pressure on the army in Tokyo and get a better break for us. He was able to get minor alleviation but no change in the general picture. The new commandant was a former judge in Japan. (perhaps you recall that judgeships are given to relatively inexperienced men in Japan.) He was a Kyoto Univ. graduate. I am ashamed that his name has slipped me for the moment. He really wanted to do what was right by us, but was a rather weak character, and bowed his head and did what he was told to do by hard-boiled Konishi.

After a time Konishi was transferred to Los Baños camp, and his assistant, Komatsu, was put in his place. He was a trial to us in many ways though not as nasty a character as Konishi, who was hated by Japanese as well as internees.

Because the internees were making trouble about signing an oath given us by the office (I have forgotten the exact wording but something about obeying all orders of the Japanese military authorities and not trying to escape, which was later changed to read something about doing no mischief and not trying to escape) a new commandant was sent to us, Lt. Col. Yoshie. He was a picturesque character, quite a disciplinarian, slapping his staff in the face when displeased with them, and something of a wag. After he had done some very good work, and some fool things, he was allowed to resign on "health" grounds and the former judge was put in as acting commandant. The acting man was there on September 21st, the day of the first bombing of Manila, for I was interpreting for him at his desk when the planes came over. Just how soon Lt. Col. Hayashi relieved him, I don't know.

Many of our wonderful Civilian stories are too long to be printed in one issue and too good to be extensively edited. Part II of this letter will be in the June issue of the EX-POW Bulletin.



May 12-14, 2009. The Department of Minnesota will be having their Annual State Convention in St. Cloud Minnesota. It will be at the Best Western Kelly Inn, 100 4th Ave. S. St. Cloud MN; 800-780-7234 for reservations and information. The opening ceremonies will be Wednesday, May 13th at 9:00AM. Convention activities will run through noon May 14th. For further information call David Claypool, Commander. 612-245-2247.

May 15-17, 2009. The Dept. of South Carolina will hold its annual convention at the Ramada Inn, 7401 Northwoods Blvd, 1/26 Ashley Phosphate, North Charleston, SC; 843-572-2200. For information contact Cmdr. James Eidson, 843-761-2522.

May 22-24, 2009. The Department of Georgia will hold their Annual State Convention at the Colony Inn, Warner Robins, Georgia. For further information contact Ray Reiersen at 912 925-7073 or Lloyd Pate at 706 556-9413.

June 4-6, 2009. Department of Arizona 27th Annual State Convention will be held at the Phoenix-Mesa Holiday Inn, located at 1600 S. Country Club Drive, Mesa, Arizona. For room reservations call 480-964-7000 directly or 1-800-HOLIDAY. Please let them know you're with the AXPOW Dept of AZ State Convention for the discounted room rate. For registration forms and more information, please contact East Valley Chapter Commander, Harry McLane at 480-986-0002.

June 9-11, 2009. The Department of New York Convention will be held at Villa Roma, 356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723. Claims information and assistance will be

available. Nightly entertainment, golf, loads of activities. Call Wm. Lee Birch, State Commander at 718-642-7647 for all the details.

June 12-13, 2009. The Department of West Virginia will hold its annual convention at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Okla & Arlene Edgell, 212 Maplewood Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554; 304-363-5790.

June 18-20, 2009. The Department of North Carolina will hold its State Convention at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC. For reservations call 910-323-0111. You should arrive on the 18th and leave on the 20th. All convention activities will be on the 19th including the banquet. For Additional Information, call Commander Edward Halliburton at 704-846-7302 or contact Paul Dallas at 910-867-2775 or by email; threatt273aol.com.

August 25-30, 2009. The Third Marine Division Association will hold its annual family reunion in San Antonio, TX at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Anyone who served in, was attached to or served in support of the Third Marine Div. at any time is eligible and cordially invited to attend. Contact: Jeffrey Dement, 23830 W Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL 60544; 815-436-3783; jeffdement@aol.com; www.caltrap.com.

August 26-29, 2009. The 80th Infantry Blue Ridge Division Veterans Association will hold its 90th Annual Reunion at the Pittsburgh, PA Airport Marriott Hotel. Call for reservations: 412-788-8800. For more information, contact: Donald Stewart, 412-442-6758; Donald.Stewart@us.army.mil

September 8-13, 2009. The AX-POW National Convention will be held in Boise, ID. Please see convention pages in the Bulletin for more information.



From the Social Security Administration:

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This act provides for the one-time payment of \$250 to individuals who get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

We expect everyone who is entitled to a payment to receive it by late May 2009. **No action is required on your part.**

looking
for



I am trying to ID a picture I found among my father's military records. He was in the AAC and shot down over Germany. He was taken to Stalag 17. He never talked about that time, but did mention a friend he

looking for cont'd...

had name Bill Boyer. On the back of this photo was written Bill 1946. I was wondering if this might be Bill Boyer from Stalag 17? I know he lived in Indiana and was active in AXPOW. Thank you. Evelene Meyer, 12939 Calle De Las Rosas, San Diego, CA 92129.

My name is Michael MacCloud, and I am the Associate Producer on the History Channel program *Marked*. The series focuses on the tattoos and symbology of various sub-cultures, and the episode I am currently working on focuses on Military tattoos. If you have members who got tattoos while in the service, please ask them to contact me. We would want to know about their history in the military and hear the meanings of the military tattoos they received and what the symbols mean to them and why they got them. Thanks for your help. Michael MacCloud, Associate Producer; 917-370-1085; michaelmaccloud@gmail.com

I am an amateur historian and ham radio operator. I have been interested in the radio equipment manufactured by POWs during the Second World War and later. I have also read "The Escape Factory" by Lloyd Shoemaker about receivers and transmitters that were made or had parts supplied by Army sources and sent primarily to European POW camps. I am particularly interested in finding enough information to attempt building some of this equipment. I would appreciate any assistance you could supply in this effort. I feel that this research might produce a fitting tribute to the men who produced and used those radios. Bob Sturtevant, AD7IL, P.O. Box 127, Soap Lake, Washington 98851.

News Briefs

Pennsylvania Offers Bonus to Gulf War Veterans

Pennsylvania recognizes the service of its Gulf War veterans - as well as certain surviving family members - through a new bonus program officially launched on April 4, 2008. The state's Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus provides a one-time benefit for anyone who: served with the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard; served on active duty in the Persian Gulf theater of operations during the period from Aug. 2, 1990, until Aug. 31, 1991, and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and was a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of active service.

Eligible veterans qualify for payment of \$75 per month - up to \$525 - for each month of active service in the Gulf War theater. An additional benefit of \$5,000 may be awarded if the veteran was declared a prisoner of war at any time during the period of qualifying service or died in active service or as a result of service-connected injury or disease. In the case of deceased veterans, payments go to the surviving spouse, children or parents, in that order.

An estimated 32,000 military personnel from Pennsylvania served on active duty in the Gulf War theater. The Gulf War bonus mirrors similar initiatives undertaken in previous decades on behalf of Pennsylvania's World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The deadline for applying for benefits is Aug. 31, 2015. For detailed instructions on how to apply, visit www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us.

VA Health Care Funding

On April 9th, the Administration stated that they are in favor of advanced funding for VA health care. This new position was greeted with pleasure by Chairman of the Senate VA Committee Senator Akaka (D-HI) who has sponsored S.423 in the Senate which would make this change.

He said "President Obama's reaffirmed commitment to securing timely and predictable funding for the veterans' health care system is welcome news. VA operates the largest health care system in the nation, but its funding has been late 19 of the past 22 years. This is no way to operate a national system that has such a solemn duty. I look forward to working with President Obama, my colleagues in Congress and veterans across America to make the hope of budget reform a reality."

This proposed change is far from being a reality. While the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (S.423) has 32 co-sponsors in the Senate (almost a 33% of the Senate); H.R.1016, Chairman Filner's companion bill in the House has only 69 co-sponsors (approximately 15% of the House). And a substantial number of members of the House are opposed to the change.

To support S.423 and/or contact your Senators vets can send a message via <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=12703276>. To support H.R.1016 and/or contact your legislators, vets can send a message via <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=12704096>

Members' forum



US Postal Service
C/O Stamp Development
Suite 5013
1735 N Lynn St
Arlington VA 22209

Attn: Citizens' Stamp Advisory
Committee

Would you kindly add my name to the list of many, many thousands of veterans who have received their very old and high award, the Purple Heart, and are now requesting the US Postal Service to create a "Purple Heart Forever First Class Stamp".

During WWII I flew many combat missions over Europe as a member of a ten-man crew on a B-17 Heavy Bomber. Five died when we were shot down by an enemy aircraft. The remaining five became POWs. I know my voice is just one of many, but I want to plead with the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend that regardless of any future rate increases, a "Purple Heart Forever" stamp be created.

This is such a small thing that could be done to honor those living and dead holders of this medal. Let us not put a cost to the Post Office on this project, like loss of revenue. What must be kept in mind is the price that was paid by these servicemen and women to keep this wonderful country free.

May I thank you in advance for your help in getting this stamp approved.

John E Legg
45 Anthony Wayne Drive
Wayne, PA 19087

TO: ND Larry Dwyer:

In the past year or so there has been discussion about next of kin and the fate of this organization. There is no question that the membership is aging and for this organization to progress, next of kin has to be allowed to play a role in moving this organization forward. As with all organizations, there are members who will be opposed and others who will welcome change. With that being said, let me tell you my story:

Several years ago, I was researching my family and started asking questions about my grandfather who had passed away when I was just two years old. Through just a few phone calls I was told to call Elwin Diehl. I've visited Elwin off and on for a month and learned more about my grandfather than my mother or my uncles ever knew. Soon I was invited to a Southwest Iowa chapter meeting. I was hesitant to attend, not knowing how I would be received, but I went anyway and was welcomed with open arms. This group was so happy that I had found them. Some had known my grandfather; others had not but were in the same POW camps as he had been. Since that time, several members have passed on and others have moved closer to family. The same was true with the state dept. - I was still welcomed with open arms. Both of these associations have wonderful people who have something in common.

I will tell those who read this letter the same thing I have told other POWs. I will never know what it is to be hungry, cold or abused. This group has something in their past that they have in common regardless of race, religion or gender. Some want to disband this organization and if you are one who wishes not to be part of this group, then that is your choice. Pick up your toys and leave the sandbox, but don't knock down the sandcastle that others have tried to build. There are children, grandchil-

dren and great-grandchildren who will want to know of your story. It may not be important now, but rest assured they will ask questions some day. On Nov. 23, 2008, we held our chapter meeting. Six of us attended, one widow and her son and the rest next of kin. We still meet because it is important to us. Remember, we exist to help those who cannot help themselves.

Sincerely,
Tom Snyder
Iowa State Commander
SWI Chapter Commander

Dear Cheryl,
I have recently become aware of the Veterans Affairs proposal to take control over the cemetery at Andersonville National Historic Site. Attached is a letter that I have written to ranking member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs Steve Buyer. The link to the newsletter he wrote suggesting this change, entitled Noble Warrior, is below.

<http://thehill.com/op-eds/the-noble-warrior-agenda-2009-03-02.html>

March 22, 2009
The Honorable Representative
Steve Buyer
2230 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Buyer:

I recently received a copy of your article, *The Noble Warrior*, posted 03/02/09 at 06:00 PM, which contains great and honorable objec-



Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2009

tives for the future of Veterans Affairs. However, I did object to your suggestion to transfer control of the active national cemeteries maintained by the Department of Interior to Veterans Affairs.

I feel that I should let you know that I am a former Prisoner of War (POW), an unfortunate guest of the Germans during World War II. I am also a long term volunteer for Andersonville National Historic Site and have served in this capacity since 1988. During the 21 years of service that I have provided to this site, it has been my observation that the National Cemetery has been an integral part of the overall POW story. To transfer control of the cemetery to the VA would require the museum and the National Park Service much red tape to carry on the public education and involvement of the cemetery and overall POW story.

I feel that you should know that the reason Andersonville was chosen to be the site to construct the National Prisoner of War Museum was because of the historic prison site and the hallowed grounds of the cemetery. Instead of transferring control of the cemetery from the NPS to the VA, my suggestion to you is to provide the needed financial support to the NPS in order to create any deficiencies that you suggest are present in your article.

I am surprised to learn that the NPS was required to operate the cemetery according to VA standards without any financial support from the VA. If the cemetery is taken away from the overall site, it would be similar to a missing piece of a puzzle. Without that essential missing piece, the staff at Andersonville National Historic Site would not be able to completely educate the public about the historic prison site, the overall POW

story, or about the sacrifices so many men and women have made for our freedoms.

It is impossible for me to envision two different government agencies operating the present Andersonville National Historic Site especially considering the economic struggles that our country is currently enduring. Your suggestion to transfer control would involve duplicating the number of personnel, creating drastic changes in interpretive programs offered by the park, and cost tax payers money that could be more advantageously spent on health care for veterans.

Sincerely yours,
Former POW Captain Gerald Smith,
USA (Retired)
1 Back River Road
Durham, NH 03824

Leaving A Legacy

Lew Sleeper, National Director, SW

In the last issue of the Bulletin KEEPING AXPOW STRONG was published and launched a two prong endeavor to recruit more members, particularly next of kin, and to boost our bottom line, i.e., to increase our financial reserves, from currently \$270,000 to \$2,000,000 or more in five years.

WHY is this important to preserve what you have created? Many of our members were, and still are WWII ex-prisoners of war. We, and the Korean/Vietnam vets and NOK, fought to create a permanent structure of benefits for ex-prisoners of war for ourselves, and for all future prisoners of war. For the latter, this is probably true only if our group survives.

You created through Congress specific schedules of benefits adjusted by inflation, for ex-prisoners, and their spouses, including DIC, and VA and Champ VA health coverage. You have created National Headquarters, membership chapters, a

Washington office for veterans groups, Bylaws, and procedures.

So, to enhance the likelihood that these precious, hard-earned and well deserved benefits are preserved we have conjured up the creation of a legacy organization. This would keep us afloat if there continues to be a span of years like now, when there are almost no new ex-POWs.

This is our last chance. As said in KEEPING AXPOW STRONG, we have only five years to make the transition and remain viable with an active Headquarters, etc.

Fundraising, reaching perhaps \$2,000,000 is more likely than recruiting large numbers of children and grandchildren. We still have about 20,000 members, and if a quarter of you gave just \$100 a year above donations to maintain our annual budget, we would reach \$2,500,000 in five years. We plan a "thermometer" in each issue of the Bulletin to watch our progress, starting in June, 2009.

Recruiting next of kin is more challenging. It means creating a gradual bond of young and old to work together to create a legacy organization. It allows five years to move the younger Korean, Vietnam, and NOK into leadership positions. It may be too much to recruit enough to maintain our 20,000 membership, but if we just found enough candidates with dedicated leadership to build our legacy organization...to research how they do it in the DAR, and the Mayflower Society. To build their own AXPOW descendant bond as we have over the years. We will have a thermometer for recruiting too, but don't get discouraged if the temperature stays a little cold.

So, send your \$100 directly to Headquarters, and recruit a relative.

You'll be helping AXPOW become all that we can be.

Sept 8-13, 2009
~~ Boise Idaho ~~

To be held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Boise. Room rates are \$92 per night, plus tax. Parking at the hotel and airport transportation are free. Registration will be \$77 per person and include the following:

- ~ Welcoming Package with name button, itinerary, list of attendees, & local information
 - ~ Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages all 5 days
 - ~ All associated taxes and gratuities
- (Ladies Luncheon will be \$17.00 per person.)

**Call the Doubletree at 208-343-1871 no later than August 7, 2009
to make your hotel reservations.**

Doubletree Riverside Hotel
2903 Chinden Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83717

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PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

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IS THIS YOUR FIRST CONVENTION? YES: _____ NO: _____

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NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____	x	\$77	=	_____
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PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT

50721 State Hwy 410 E Greenwater, WA 98022; (360)663-2521

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 15, 2009. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the DoubleTree Hotel at 208-343-1871 no later than August 7, 2009 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the American EX-POW Convention to receive your group rate of \$92 a night, plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2009

We'll see you soon in beautiful Boise Idaho!!



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2009



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years. Submit to: Grover Swearingen, Chairman, 408 Fair Park Avenue, West Union, OH 45693 ~ (937) 544-2459; db6194@dragonbbs.com

National Convention Tentative Agenda Sept. 8-13, 2008

Tuesday Sept. 8:
National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 9:
National Board of Directors Meeting
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 10:
Opening Ceremonies
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Credentials Room Open
Ladies Luncheon
Legislative & MedSearch Seminars
Commanders Reception with Entertainment

Friday Sept. 11:
Past National Commanders Breakfast
General Business Session
Camp Reunions

Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Saturday Sept. 12:
General Business Session & Balloting
Banquet and Installation of Officers

Sunday Sept. 13:
Devotional
National Board of Directors Meeting

Note: If you are staying for the banquet, you will be checking out on Sunday, Sept. 13. If you are planning to attend the new Board of Directors meeting, please make plans to depart later in the day on Sunday.

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AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11

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Headquarters, 3101 E. Pioneer Pkway,
Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010**

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Full Committee

March 5, 2009

Statement of Jim Clark
National Commander,
American Ex-Prisoners of War,

as presented by Charles A Stenger, Ph.D., Legislative Consultant, American Ex-Prisoners of War

Chairman Akaka, Chairman Filner, Ranking Member Burr, Ranking Member Buyer, Distinguished Members of the Veterans Affairs Committees and Guests:

First I want to express my deepest appreciation for the many important steps that your Committees have taken on behalf of former POWs. Your actions, in addition to those taken administratively by the VA, have enabled POWs to obtain benefits resulting from long-term health consequences of their captive experience. The presumptives which you have established have made the difference. The latest - osteoporosis - was just established during the last Congress, and we do thank you for your support.

I have appended to this testimony the latest statistics compiled by Dr. Charles A. Stenger, for your Committees and other appropriate bodies. (see page 6)

The largest group of former POWs is still those who served in WWII but they now average 87 years of age and have an annual mortality rate of 14%. As of January 1, 2009, only 17,000 out of an original 116,000 remain alive. Including all subsequent groups of POWs (Korea, Vietnam, post VN, total as of that date is 19,000 former POWs. By January 2010, it is estimated that only 17,000 will still be alive.

As a result of your efforts, POWs are now a high priority group for services by the VA, and typically receive prompt and effective care. At this time, there is only one medical condition that we strongly believe should be given presumptive status. The long-term consequences of the brutal captive experience affect all body systems. Diabetes is statistically higher for servicemen in general than their civilian counterparts. As you know, Congress already established Diabetes for all Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

We have submitted more definitive information on Diabetes to some Members of your Committees. Rep. Gus Bilirakis has already introduced new legislation, H.R. 944, on this issue. We do hope the full Committee will be able to approve the Diabetes legislation very soon.

We also want to very strongly recommend the urgently needed Bill introduced by Subcommittee Chairman John Hall, H.R. 952, which would establish service in a "theater of combat operations" as a presumptive stressor for PTSD. A veteran diagnosed by the VA with PTSD would no longer have to prove specific "stressors" in order to qualify for a disability rating, relieving him (or her) of the burdensome requirements of obtaining military and medical records, as well as buddy statements going back decades in some cases.

The majority of the 800,000 claims backlogged at the VA are for PTSD. This would streamline the process and substantially lessen the burden on an already-stretched system, benefiting both the VA and the veterans it serves.

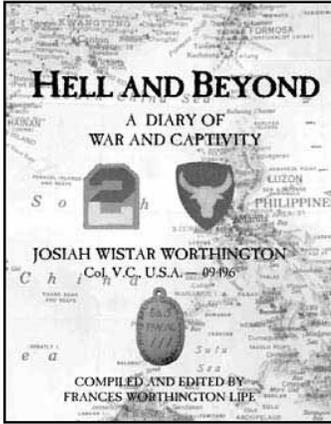
Lastly, we want to speak to the importance of H.R.819, recently introduced by Representative Tim Holden. When H.R. 156 became law, widows, whose former prisoners of war husbands died prior to September 30, 1999, were not included. H.R. 819 will correct this oversight with the simple statement "to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the surviving spouses of former prisoners of war who died on or before September 30, 1999."

In closing, I again want to thank the Committees for all of your past actions on behalf of POWs. It has made a major difference in their lives.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2009

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**HELL & BEYOND,
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**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
VOLUNTEER FUNDING PROGRAM**



The AXPOW Volunteer 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 the National Treasurer to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each month.

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

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National Treasurer, American Ex-Prisoners of War
279 Huckleberry Road, Bluff City, TN 37618; 423-341-4213
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GIVE'M A CALL



*When he is not at a meeting
and your heart is still beating
Take the time for a Greeting,
Give'm A Call*

*Maybe he's gone sailing
Or out with a letter he's
mailing
But what if he's really ailing,
Give'm a Call*

*So, if he isn't here
To alleviate your fear
Skip the second beer, Give'm
a Call*

*He isn't in his prime
It dosen't take much time
And only costs a dime,
Give'm a Call*

*You really don't want to fret
Not knowing, could lead to
regret
So why continue to sweat,
Give'm a Call*

*It's quicker than a letter
Like a song from an operetta
Now, Don't you feel much
better, You Gave Him a Call*

*Harvey Greenfield
POW Stalag Luft I*

Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2009



taps

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

ANDERSON, Gerald, of Cameron, MO passed away Aug. 20, 2008. He was captured when his unit (101st Airborne) was overrun after D-Day. As a combat medic, he chose to stay with his wounded patients and was captured. Gerald is survived by his daughter-in-law, Arlene and two granddaughters.

ARNOLD, Roy A, 85, of Maytown, PA died March 3, 2009. During WWII, Roy participated in the Battles of the Bulge and Rhineland and was taken prisoner in Germany at Christmas of 1944. He remained in Stalag 4B until April of 1945. He was a past commander of the Conestoga Chapter. In addition to his wife of 61 years, Mary, he leaves 3 sons, 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

BERGER, Robert M, passed away Jan. 13, 2003. He served with the 392nd BG, 576th BS, flying out of England. He was shot down on his 24th mission, captured and held for 1 ½ years. He was a great defender of his country.

BISHOP, William W, 84, of Brooksville, FL died Jan. 12, 2009. He was captured while serving with the 326th BS (H) 92nd BG, parachuting out of Holland. William was held in Stalag IV and VI for 15 months. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of Southern WI and Spring Hill, FL chapters. He is predeceased by his wife, Irene, and survived by 1 son, 3 daughters, 2 grandsons and 4 sisters.

BREEDING, James Jr. of Isom, KY died Feb. 12, 2009 at the age of 84. James served with Co B, 10th Inf. Reg., 5th Inf. Div. He was captured

after participating in Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns. He leaves his wife, Shirley, 1 son, 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BRODIE, James H, of Akron, died Feb. 20, 2009. "Jim" was an Army veteran and a POW during the Korean War. A member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 35 years, Joy Dee.

BULLA, John Alton, of Borger, Texas, died January 21, 2009. A life member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, John served in the 8th AF, 389th BG(H) and was held in Luft 3 and Stalag 4. Survivors include 1 son, 2 brothers, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BURLINGAME, Eugene A. "Gene," 83, died in Sacramento, Ca on February 7, 2009. Gene was a tail gunner on a B-17 in the 490th BG (H), European Theater, and spent time as a POW in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany. He was a life member of AXPOW and a past member of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento. Gene leaves a sister, two ex-wives, a son, a daughter, and two grandsons.

CAPILI, Maria, 89, of Marina, CA died in Jan. 2009. She was the widow of Ex-POW Pedro, and a life member of AXPOW. She was very active in the Monterey Chapter. Maria is survived by 4 children.

CHAMBERS, Mary, 89 of Oklahoma City, OK passed away Jan. 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank. She was a member of the Central OK Chapter, AXPOW for many years. Survivors include one son and one daughter.

CHUBER, William C, of Salisbury, NC (formerly of Statesville, NC)

passed away March 8, 2009. Bill served with the 34th Army Infantry. He was wounded and captured by two German officers and taken from Italy to Germany for internment at Stalags IIB and IIIB. Bill was a past Dept. Commander and a founding member and past commander of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW. He was Past National Director and Past JVC of the Eastern Zone. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Dorothea, 2 sons and 1 daughter.

CORNETTE, D. Hulon of Colfax, NC died Feb. 24, 2009. He was captured after being shot down over Germany while serving with the 8th AF, 458th BG, 754th BS. He was a member of the Greater Greensboro, NC Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jessie, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Hulon loved his family and his country.

CRISSMAN, H. Glenn "Cris", 85 of Aberdeen, NC died at home February 21, 2009. He was in the Army Air Corps as a tail gunner on a B-23 in the 739th bomb squadron of the 454th bombardment group during WWII. He was a POW for almost 6 months in Germany. Awards included: Air Medal, Clusters, and Purple Heart. He was a member of the Caterpillar Club. He was married to Elaine for 63 years. They had 7 children, 13 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

CHRISTLE, Mike, of St. Paul, MN and Tucson, AZ passed away March 26, 2009. During WWII, Mike served with the 4th Marines on Bataan; he evaded capture and ended up on Corregidor, where he was assigned to beach defense until its surrender on May 6, 1942. He was held at Cabanatuan, then Osaka, Japan. He was forced into slave labor for Mitsubishi shipping. Mike was a member of AXPOW and ADBC. He

taps continued...

leaves a loving family and good friends.

DODD, LYLE E, passed away on March 7, 2009 at the age of 90. He flew as a navigator in the Air Corps and later, his B-29 was shot down over North Korea, where his strong will to live enabled him to survive three years as a POW. He retired to Spanaway, WA. and raised his family and worked for the postal service. Lyle is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Rosita, two daughters one son and four grandchildren. Lyle was a member and great supporter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Tacoma Chapter.

DUNNAVANT, Edgar Glenn, 87, of Farmville, VA passed away Feb. 8, 2009. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving in the Army during WWII. He leaves his loving wife of 65 years, Pauline, 1 brother, numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

FORNES, William L. (Bill), 80, of Valdosta, GA died March 21, 2009. Bill was a POW in the Korean War. He was past commander of the Department of Georgia; he was also past National Director for AXPOW. Bill and his entire family have been very supportive in the Andersonville National Historic site and the Prisoners of War Museum, dedicated in 1998. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Nancy, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

GAINES, Winford A. "Tiger", of Elberton, GA passed away Dec. 25, 2008. He was shot down over Sicily during the North Africa Campaign on Aug. 2, 1943 while serving with the 27th BG. He was held in Luft 3 and 7A. Winford was a member of the Mountaineer Chapter, AXPOW.

GEORGE, Torrey, wife of Laurian George and member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona, passed away

March 8, 2009. Laurian and Torrey were also life members of the AXPOW. Laurian was a POW in Dulag Luft I.

GORDON, Madeline, beloved wife of Hyman, died March 3, 2009. Both Madeline and Hy were active members of the Central MA Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband of 56 years, Madeline is survived by two sons and many good friends.

HENDRICKSON, John P, 89, of Verona, WI passed away recently. During WWII, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge with Co. B, 81st Combat Eng., 106th Div. He spent the following months until liberation marching across Germany during the brutal winter of 1944-45. He was a member of the Coulee Region Chapter, AXPOW. John is survived by his wife of 63 years, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

JELLUM, Lloyd K., of Osage, IA died Jan. 18, 2009. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge, then transported by boxcar, then marched to Stalag IIA. He spent a couple weeks there before being taken to KDO-75 where he remained until liberation. He is survived by his beloved wife, Helen, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

JUNDANIAN, Florence of the Greater Chicago Chapter passed away in December. Her husband Thomas is Commander of the Greater Chicago Chapter, AXPOW.

KAZMIERCZAK, Katie, beloved wife of past National Director Edward, died Feb. 15, 2009 in Troy, MI. Both Katie and her husband were members of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to Ed, Katie is survived by two daughters.

KORF, Glenn A., 87, of Punta Gorda, FL and Clio, MI died Jan. 20, 2009. He was a member of the Peace River Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII Glenn was a radio opera-

tor on a B-17. He was shot down over Germany and captured. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Margarite, 3 daughters, 3 stepsons, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LAMB, Robert Bruce, of Tryon, NC died March 1, 2009. He was 85. Bob fought in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII. He was captured and held until liberation. He leaves his wife, Joyce, and one sister.

LAUSTED, George, member of the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW died Dec. 20, 2008. He served with the 91st BS, 8th AF during WWII. He was taken prisoner in Dortmund, Germany and held in Luft III until liberation. He was a tunnel digger in the Great Escape. George is survived by his wife, Rita.

LEE, Charles James, of Madisonville, TN passed away at the age of 86 on Feb. 27, 2009. He was captured while serving with the 8th AF, 96th BG, 337th BS. His plane was shot down over Germany; he was captured and held one year. He was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, serving as Junior Vice-Commander, National Director and Judge Advocate for a number of years, State Commander of the Tennessee Ex-Prisoners of War, Commander of the Smokey Mountain Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judith, 2 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren, 2 brothers & 2 sisters.

LEWIS, Nathaniel, long-time historian for the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW passed away recently. During WWII, he served with the 111th Recon. Sq.; he saw action in Southern France, Algeria, Morocco and Anzio. After capture, he was held in Stalags IVB, VIIA and XIII. Nathaniel is survived by his wife, Eva, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 sister as well as nephews and nieces.

taps continued...

MARSHALL, John J., of Clive, Iowa, died Marcy 9, 2009. He served in the Army during WWII with the 508th Parachute Infantry. John was captured at Normandy on D Day. He was a member of the Mid-Iowa Chapter and former member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Isobel, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

McCALLISTER, Clinton K. 86, of Noblesville, IN passed away Sept. 24, 2008. He was captured while serving with the 106th Eng. Div. He is survived by 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

McCORMICK, John V., of Sycamore, IL and a member of the Fox River Valley Chapter passed away recently. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.

NIESPODZIEWANY, Walter, member of the Western New York Chapter, AXPOW passed away Nov. 1, 2008. Walter was captured while serving with the 446th BG, 8th AF during WWII. He was held in Luft 4, then marched across Germany ahead of the Russian Army. He leaves his beloved wife of 44 years, Jean.

PARCASIO, Cipriana, 89, of Salinas, CA died Jan. 17, 2009. She was the widow of Ex-POW Ben and a life member of AXPOW. She is survived by four children and several grand and great-grandchildren.

PEARSON, Charlotte, widow of former prisoner of war Charles W. Pearson, Jr., died February 27, 2009, at the age of 80. She lived in Lubbock, TX and was a member of Hub of the Plains Chapter, AXPOW. Charles was a POW from June 29, 1944 to April 29, 1945, in Germany

in Stalag 7a, Moosburg, Bavaria, and in Work Camps 3324-46, Krumbachstrasse 48011; Work Camp 3368 Munich 48-11. She is survived by one daughter and one son.

RAMIREZ, Sofia B. was born in Leyte, Philippines in June 9, 1937 and passed away in Tacoma, WA March 25, 2009 at the age of 71. Sofia was preceded in death by her husband Camilo. She is survived by her six daughters, one son and ten grandchildren. Sofia was a long time member of AXPOW and the Tacoma, Washington Chapter.

RAMOS, Greg, 89, of Salinas, CA died Feb. 2009. He was a Bataan Death March survivor, past chapter commander of the Monterey Chapter and a long-time president of the Philippine Scouts Chapter. He is survived by his wife Conchita, children and several grandchildren.

RANDALL, Charles "Eldon", of Wheatland, WY passed away June 26, 2008. He was 85. During WWII, he served with the 306th BG; his plane was shot down over Bremen and he parachuted into a field where he was captured. He was a POW in Stalag VIIA, then 17B for 25 months. Survivors include a large and loving extended family and friends.

RIKER III, Andrew L., 79, of Ocala, FL passed away July 20, 2007. He was captured while serving in the Korean War. He leaves his wife, Eleanor, 3 daughters, 4 step-children, 2 brothers, 1 sister and 5 grandchildren.

ROBERTS, Vincent, member of the Brevard Space Coast Chapter and life member of AXPOW, passed away in March, 2008.

SAVAGE, Cliff of Olive Branch, MS, died Mar. 9, 2009. Cliff served his country well during WWII. He was wounded and a POW in Germany. Cliff served with Co M, 399th Div.

SCHISSER, Glenna Mae, 87, widow of Past National Commander Joseph Sr. passed away March 4, 2009 in Orange, VA. Glenna served as a WAC during WWII, stationed in Burtonwood, England. She married Joe after the war and they lived in Houston, TX. Both Glenna and Joe were active members at all levels of AXPOW. Survivors include 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SCHMITT, Clement, member of the Brevard Space Coast Chapter, FL and life member of AXPOW, died July 5, 2008. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 sister, 2 brothers, 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

SKARLES, James G. 87, 90-day Poland/Germany death march survivor, passed away December 24, 2008. He served as top gunner on a Martin B-26 Marauder with the 397th BG; he was shot down on his 43rd mission in August 1944 and spent the rest of the war as a POW in Stalag Lufts IV and VI. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, two sons and two grandsons.

SMITH, Frances, of Amarillo, Texas, died Jan. 14, 2009. A life member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, she was the widow of POW Clenton Smith, who preceded her in death in 1995. She leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

SMITH, Lawrence J., of Harrisburg, PA passed away Feb. 19, 2009. He was 89 and a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. Larry served with the 15th AF during WWII; he flew B-24 Liberators out of Italy. After captured, he was imprisoned in Stalag VIII. He is survived by his wife Jean, 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 sister and many nieces and nephews.

SPACAL, Ferdinand, of Downers Grove, IL and a member of the Fox River Valley Chapter passed away recently.

taps continued...

TAYLOR, Clyde "Bill", of Amarillo, Texas, died Mar. 4, 2009. A member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, Bill served with the 47th Med. Bt., Co. C. He was wounded in North Africa and was a POW of the Germans. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Bernice, 1 brother, numerous nieces and nephews and friends and his special Persian, Missey.

TAYLOR, William J., a member of Chapter 10, Springfield, OH and resident of South Charleston, OH passed away Dec. 9, 2008. He served in the Army during WWII. He was captured and held in Germany. Willie leaves his wife, Betty J., 3 daughters, 1 son, 7 step-children, 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

TIMMERMAN, Dale M., of Oto, Iowa, died Feb. 11, 2009 at the age of 89. Dale enlisted in February 1941, first in the 133rd Anti Tank Co. and later transferring to the 168th Anti Tank Co., The Red Bulls. During his training in Scotland he met his future wife, Nan McNamara, in Glasgow. He was captured at Faid Pass in Africa and spent 27 months as a POW in Germany. He was liberated by Montgomery in April 1945. He had been a POW mainly in Stalag II B. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Tri State Chapter, Sioux City, Iowa. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He will be missed by all who knew him.

TRESKI, Edward Stanley, of Columbia, SC died March 25, 2009. He was 87. During WWII, he served in the Infantry in the Philippines. He was captured and spent two years, three months and 15 days in Japanese prison camps. When his hellship was torpedoed, he escaped and was rescued. He was a member of the Palmetto Chapter, AX-POW. Surviving are his wife of 63

years, Wilda; 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WARNER, James L II, of McLean, VA passed away Nov. 20, 2008. He flew B-17s during WWII and was captured over Koln. He spent 7 months as a POW. He is survived by his wife LaVon, 1 son and 1 daughter.

WESTRA, Jule M, 87, of Grand Rapids, MI died March 13, 2009. He was a member of the 456th BG, 15th AF during WWII. He was shot down over the Ploesti Oil Fields and was a POW at Luft III for nearly one year. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Betty, 3 children 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WILAYTO, Henry, of Concord, MA passed away Feb. 28, 2009. He was 92. Hank had been stationed on Luzon at Camp John Hay for 8 months when the Japanese took Bataan; he was marched



65 miles to Cabanatuan. He asked for work and became a stevedore in Manila where he helped sabotage Japanese cargo ships. Hank was held at the O'Donnell, Nielson Field and Cabanatuan prison camps and at Manila's Bilibid Prison. Near the end of the war, he was sent to Japan to work in a mine. Hank came back to Massachusetts; he married Mary Helen 62 years ago. He went on to help found ADBC and was Past National Commander of that organization. He was also a member of the Veterans Administration's POW Advisory Committee and a volunteer at the Bedford VAMC. In addition to his wife, Hank leaves 3 daughters, 2 sons, 1 sister and 10 grandchildren.

WILLCOX, Doris Jean, of Longview, Texas, died in January, 2009. A member of the East Texas Chapter, "Jean" was the wife of Puett Willcox. They were married (in his words) 63

wonderful years + 3 wonderful months + 3 wonderful days. Puett visited National Headquarters often, with Jean as his chauffeur.

WILLIAMS, Ted R., 85, passed away Dec. 22, 2006. He was serving with the 4th US Marines when he was captured on Bataan. He was held in O'Donnell prison camp. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian; he is survived by 4 step-children, 7 grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother.

WINTER, Ray, 90, of Maple Lake, MN died Dec. 2, 2008. He served with the 106th Inf. during WWII. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner for 5 months. Ray is survived by his wife of 62 years, Catherine, 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.
Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
May the soldier or sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.
Love, good night, Must thou go,
When the day, And the night
Need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all
To their rest.
Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.
Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.

new members

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



Life Members

Welcome Home

***new member to AXPOW**

Morton Gollin

Alice **39560 39561**
Cathedral City, CA
AAF

Luft 3, 7A
8/7/44-4/29/45

George H Bennett

Angeline **39562 39563**
Columbus, OH
15AF, 340BG, 97BS

Luft 1
9/13/44-5/11/45

Andrew M Bardagjy

Helen **39564 39565**
Austin, TX

L Co 411 INF 103 DIV
Baden Baden, 5A,
Ludwigsburg, Dulag, 11B

Carolyn Howie Boyle

Peter **39566 39567**
San Francisco, CA
Daughter of Dorothy
Howie

Born 3 months after
mother was liberated

Matthew Robert McGuire
Marilyn I **39568 39569**
Sacramento, CA
385 BG 550 BS

Luft 1
3/23/44-5/15/45

Robert Lindstrom **39570**
Bonita, CA
8AF

Jail at Toulouse, Frenese
Prison in Paris, Luft 1

Pearl Bea Durham **39571**
Moberly, MO
Widow of Albert Durham
Luft 3, Dulag Luft
2/10/44-4/29/45

Julia Billingsley ***39572**

Lubbock, TX
Widow of Granville
Luft 4, Prussia

Lucy Thompson ***39573**

Joplin, MO
Widow of Curtis Thomp-
son
Korea Camps 3&7
7/12/50-8/26/53

Denise Taylor

Timothy ***39574 39575**
Meridian, ID

Daughter of Joseph
Perreault, ETO

Rick Perreault

Anna ***39576 39577**
Colchester, VT

Son of Joseph Perreault,
ETO

Gregory Perreault

Pamela ***39578 39579**
Ballston Spa, NY
Son of Joseph Perreault,
ETO

Stephen Perreault

Nadia ***39580 39581**
Barrington, RI
Son of Joseph Perreault,
ETO

Nicholas J Hoolko

Renee A ***39582 39583**
Livingston, NJ

USAAF
Stalag 357
9/12/44-5/45

J Christopher Blair

Emily **39584 39585**
Fort Worth, TX

Great(5) Grandson of Wil-
liam Blair
Revolutionary War

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

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because of their US citizenship and their families.

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

Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2009
30

Life Membership Rates

Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120

Spouse of life member	\$ 40
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Annual Membership Rates

Single Membership	\$ 40
Husband & wife	\$ 50

The Department of New York Convention will be held June 9-11, 2009



Villa Roma,
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Callicoon, NY
12723;
Telephone
(845) 887-4880; Toll Free: 1-800-533-6767.

All POWs have free registration and rooms are half price! There will be a documentary film company on hand to record your stories. Claims information and assistance will be available. Nightly entertainment, golf, loads of activities. The highlight of the convention will be Secretary of Veterans Affairs General Eric Shinseki who will be there for the banquet.

Call Wm. Lee Birch, State Commander at 718-642-7647 for all the details.

50/50 drawing

March 6, 2009
Arlington, Texas

1st Place	Alice Gilligan New York, NY	\$676.40
2nd Place	Robert Boebel Fox Lake, WI	\$507.30
3rd Place	Victor Breite St. Louis, MO	\$338.20
4th Place	John DeVere South Charleston, WV	\$169.10

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

They Experienced Living Hell as POWs.

SILENT TEARS *Lest We Forget*



by
STANLEY TOKARZ

Stan Tokarz's brother John survived Japanese prison labor camps after enduring the horrors of the infamous Bataan Death March. It was after the fall of the Philippines to the Japanese invaders. Those horrors and torture were never discussed by John, who died in 1991. He just refused to talk about World War II when it came up, indicating that he and the other POWs had suffered a great deal.

Stan Tokarz researched the ordeals of capture, torture, starvation, murder, brutality and confinement of the many prisoners of Bataan because he feels our younger generations must have a record of the hell on earth at the hands of the Japanese that our survivors of Bataan and life in the PO camps endured in WWII.

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Worcester, MA 01606

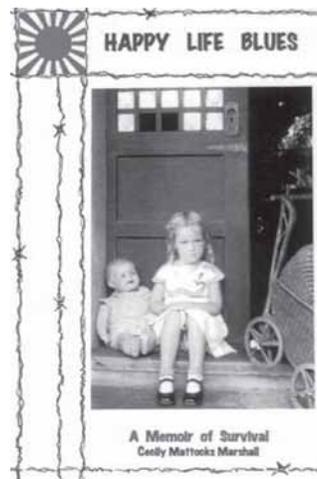
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W. Boylston, MA 01583
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Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2009

31

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Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

Mail your donation and entry to:
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Thank you for your support.

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Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

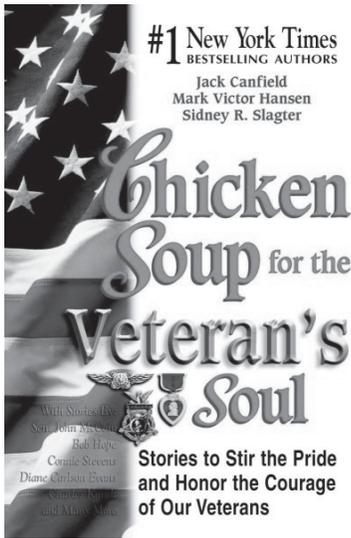
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AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Jeweled Flag Pin	30.00	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	USA Jeweled Pin	15.00	3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo	
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Logo Necklace	5.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00
Black Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	Logo Earrings (pierced or clip)	5.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00
Canvas Sport Cap (offwhite or tan)	10.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)	5.00	3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	7.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)		3" Blazer Patch	4.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	4" Blazer Patch	4.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	19.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	3.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel with cord	9.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Barbed Wire pin	3.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Bumper Sticker "Freedom – Ask us"	2.00
Life Member pin	5.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	5.00	State Department Commander		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Brooch pin	5.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Logo pin	5.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Service Officer · Legislative Officer		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		POW Videotape – ETO or Pacific	11.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00			"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	8.00			Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)					

We accept Master Card/Visa

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.

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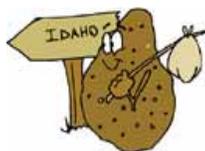
City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

Midyear in Arlington, Texas





AXPOW Vests!

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

\$55.00 each, includes shipping/handling

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



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

change of address form

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

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City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members

\$40.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions

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Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

All orders for products sold by
AXPOW National Organization,
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American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters

3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396

(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax

e-mail: HQ@axpow.org

No collect calls, please