

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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November/December 2006



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



National Commander Robert W. Fletcher & his wife, Carol

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

59th National Convention
Nashville, TN
October 3-8, 2006



national commander



Robert W. Fletcher

Fellow Former POWs, families, and friends,

I greet you as your new National Commander. Those who had a chance to attend the convention in Nashville had a chance to learn a little bit about me and my hopes and concerns for the organization. But of course, many of you were not able to be there.

To describe myself briefly, I was a prisoner of war in Korea for 33 months. As I said at the convention, I still feel very strong emotions when I think about crossing the "bridge of no return" back to freedom and seeing the huge American flag that was flying on the South Korean side. I am sure most other former prisoners have had similar experiences.

What troubles me now about AXPOW is that, instead of being united by our common experiences, our organization has become deeply divided into factions resulting in anger and hard feelings towards fellow former POWs. One of the biggest causes of these divisions involves the finances of AXPOW. Although not everyone agrees on what should be done, the fact remains that AXPOW has lost approximately \$500,000 since 1998. We simply cannot continue to lose money at this rate and remain a functioning organization. Because our membership is declining rapidly due to age, illness, and death,

we will need to take a very realistic look at our expected income instead of making overly optimistic estimates year after year. We also need to take a hard look at what expenses can be cut without cutting services to former POWs and their widows.

Therefore, with the support of the Board of Directors I plan on evaluating what is most important to our functioning and then acting to streamline the organization. In order to do this, the Board will need to become much more active this year than it has been in the past. For instance, instead of waiting until the mid-year meeting to come together again, we will be meeting this November.

In addition to holding offices in AXPOW, I have also been a member of the Congressional Advisory Board for Ex-POWs for the last 12 years. In fact just after the convention in October, I attended their semi-annual meeting that was held at the Jessie Brown VA in Chicago. It is through the work of this board that many of the presumptive illnesses for former POWs have been established. I am pleased to say that former POWs were ably represented at the meeting by Bob and Marianne Roenna of the Fox River Valley Chapter, Department of Illinois. They and several other people brought concerns of former POWs to the Board. This is why the Advisory Board holds its fall meeting at different locations around the country.

I will also be representing AXPOW at the Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. I am sure many of you will be attending local ceremonies at the same time as we pay tribute to our fallen comrades.

Because this is your organization, it is important to me to hear what you think about AXPOW and its future. I welcome your letters, emails and phone calls. I am usu-

ally home in the late afternoon or evening and can be reached at 734-663-8649. I am always glad to call you back if the cost of a long distance call is a concern for you. My goal is to work for and with you to heal the divisions in our ranks. Only then can AXPOW truly represent and support all former POWs.

Fletcher

from national headquarters

Special Called Board of Directors Meeting

The Commander has called a special Board of Directors meeting for Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18 (if necessary), 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The agenda has been sent to the Board.

The meetings will be at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, 350 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis IN 46225.

The room cost is \$109 a night. Parking is \$19 a night for self-parking and \$24 a night for valet parking. There is shuttle service between the airport and the hotel for \$11 one way.

You must make your own reservation by November 2 by calling 877-640-7666. You are responsible for all your travel and hotel expenses. The organization will not reimburse you for these costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Commander Fletcher.

Clydie J. Morgan
National Adjutant

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Nov/Dec 2006



axpow officers & directors 2006-2007

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From National Director Grover Swearingen

The Pledge of Allegiance

Far too many schoolchildren -- and adults -- both write and recite the Pledge of Allegiance incorrectly.

Please note that there is NO COMMA after the word "Nation". (There is also NO comma after "America".

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.



There are FOUR PAUSES when reciting the Pledge...
PAUSES would then be - (1) after the word "America" - (2) after "stands," - (3) after "one Nation under God," - and (4) after "indivisible,".

Publisher

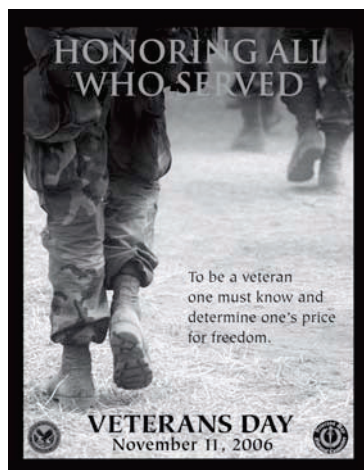
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*Deadline for the January, 2007
issue is Nov. 25, 2006*

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



Veterans Day 2006 Poster

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is this year's host organization.

CASH BOX MISSING FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION

If you bought tickets to the Grand Ole Opry...and/or purchased raffle tickets for the Guitar...AND PAID BY CHECK, you need to stop payment on the check if it has not cleared the bank. If your check has been cashed, please send a copy of the front and back of the check to JVC Warren King. You may contact Warren at 615-226-7811. Thank you.

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on capitol hill



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I had no idea when I agreed to become your Executive Director five years ago, that this position would be so far-reaching. About three years ago, I was asked if I would be willing to make a statement by Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) Brief on behalf of Mr. Hamdi, a US citizen being held at Guantanamo Bay prison. I said I would.

The case involved, among other things, the Separation of Powers in the Constitution and the rights of citizens under the Bill of Rights. The brief was prepared by one of Washington's largest and most prestigious law firms. My brief was one of many filed with the Court.

On Oct. 3, 2003, I took part in a news conference with three other persons who had filed briefs. Hon. John Gibbons, Retired Judge US Court of Appeals, Rear Admiral Donald J. Guter, Judge Advocate General at the time of his retirement and Retired Under Secretary of State, William D. Rogers.

My views as stated to the assembled media representatives: "We, as a nation must set an example. We teach by example, we learn by example. As individuals we set examples for others by our actions and conduct. We as a nation must set the standard by which we treat prisoners. If we don't stay with the Geneva Conventions, we become like the enemy."

The late Peter Jennings, who had been watching the Guantanamo

Bay situation for a long time, decided to do a one-hour special broadcast. As a segment of the story, he interviewed me for a prisoner's feelings and opinions. He asked many questions for about two hours as the tape rolled.

My story never got out of the can because a bigger, timelier story on "Gitmo" just broke. The newspapers and television were full of stories about questionable interrogation methods used on the detainees and it was *hot* news. (You may remember my column about Peter Jennings in the Oct. '05 Bulletin.) In April 2004, the headlines read "Supreme Court to examine Bush's policy on terror".

On June 29, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in favor of the plaintiff, Mr. Hamdi. Congress has to draft new legislation for federal officers to use when interrogating detainees. Detainees are not Prisoners of War. The Geneva Conventions were not amended as a result of this new legislation.

June and I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Les

I did not return home from Tennessee until October 11, 2006 and am still trying to catch up on everything.

First the convention in Nashville, TN was superb with wonderful and interesting speakers appearing on all programs, and the Tennessee group did a great job in every category. There were over 500 attending the banquet and with our

aging, that was remarkable! DO ASK YOUR CHAPTER PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED ABOUT IT!

I do want to say that we did honor two Representatives, Mike Bilirakis and Lane Evans, our staunch supporters, for their 24 years of service to the AXPOWs and other veterans. They could not be present, but we tried to remember them. Send them a letter if you wish to add to our thanks!

Now down to Legislation. The election is before us and will be over before you receive this Bulletin.

But I want to say that the hard work is before us when they return for the "Lame Duck Session" and too, the new session beginning in January - regardless of which party is in control of Congress. Yes, we will still need to push for our legislation as in the past with new bills introduced. If you have some contacts, you may help with this.

Please do contact us with your suggestions and help. It takes all of us to accomplish the work with what we didn't get this session. Right now, I say we will be in touch as soon as we can with your National Director and State Commanders to pass information down to you.

We have made plans for Veterans Day already. National Commander Robert Fletcher will be here for the activities.

Until the new Congress meets to set up Committee assignments, we will not know the schedule of our Congressional Testimony before

on capitol hill continued...

the SENATE AND HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEES. Will let you know as soon as we know!

On August 3, 2006, the Senate passed S. 2694, which includes provisions that would allow lawyers to charge veterans for advice and assistance in filing and pursuing benefit claims. This legislation suggests that veterans cannot obtain benefits without hiring lawyers to fight the government in much the same way adversaries fight each other in courts through lawsuits.

No disabled veteran should have to hire a lawyer to obtain the disability compensation or other benefit a grateful nation has provided. As a condition for receiving disability compensation or other veterans' or survivor benefits, no disabled veteran or widow should have to surrender part of his or her benefits to a lawyer.

If the House of Representatives agrees and this legislation is enacted, it will pit veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs against each other in the role of adversaries and move closer to a situation in which veterans no longer will receive special considerations and assistance in negotiating an informal claims process, but rather will be expected to fight the VA as an opponent to obtain veterans' benefits.

So far (Oct. 20, 2006), there are only two cosponsors to this bill in the House.

We hope everyone enjoys the holidays and will have a great year ahead for us all!

Mary

nso



Doris Jenks, National Service Director~ Training

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We are back from the National American Ex-Prisoner of War convention which was held in Nashville. At the convention I got to spend some time with Tom Meadows, who previously was the Former POW Co-ordinator at the V.A. Regional Office in Nashville. He is now with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, State of Tennessee, as a Veterans' Claims Specialist (615) 741-1863. He sure seemed ready, willing and very knowledgeable to help Former POWs in Tenn. and their widows with claims. Also in attendance to help with claims at the convention was the new Former POW Co-ordinator, William E. Comp, Jr. (615) 695-6187. If you need help with claims, call upon the State of Tennessee, Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

I thank Tom Meadows for helping out at the Men's and Ladies' workshop.

Every Former POW I spoke to at the convention seemed to have all their benefits, but it was reported there are still many out there who have not filed. Don't let their wives lose out on VA benefits due to the fact they did not file. So call your buddies and ask if they have their 100%.

Also, there are many widows who are eligible for Dependents' Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

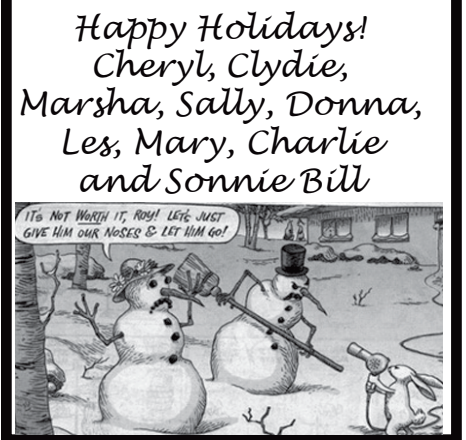
who have not filed or have not re-filed since October 2004 if they were denied prior to this date. Some widows without benefits were in attendance at the convention and we will be helping them get their benefits.

Fred Campbell has been doing a great job throughout the US calling to find these widows, but we need your help to find them also, if they are not members of AXPOW. Remember, if their husbands died of heart disease or stroke, the widows will probably be eligible for \$1,033 a month and also the free CHAMPVA, the federally-funded health insurance.

Also, remember to call the V.A. Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 and check that they have your correct address on file. The number is the same for all 50 states and when you call from your state, you will be connected to your state VA Regional Office. If you have notified your VA Medical Center and/or outpatient clinic that you have a new address, it does not mean the V.A. Regional Office has your correct address.

This is important, if an Employment Verification Report is sent to you, you will immediately be able to respond that you are not working.

Doris Jenks



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

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OUTREACH Still Challenges 11,000 former POWs with No VA Benefits!

Who are these guys who have "evaded" VA benefits due them? They are somewhere in the recent Reserve Officers Association Bulletin Update, which reported this: 142,246 former POWs, WWI through all wars/conflicts to date; 125,214 Prisoners of War who survived captivity; 28,000 former POWs estimated alive (12/31/05); 16,884 former POWs receiving VA Disability Compensation benefits, as of 8/31/06; 13,000 former POWs with 100% DC rating (approximate) as of 8/31/06.

So the OUTREACH CHALLENGE is about 11,000 former POWs who have "evaded" the VA benefits due them, plus those who are receiving less than 100% Disability Compensation.

Who are these "evaders"? Many just don't know what's available to them. Some have guilt feelings about expecting anything from the government. Some are mad at the government, and therefore...So it's a challenge to find them.

BUT, we keep trying in our OUTREACH to reach these folks, with

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YOUR HELP. And most importantly, in recent years, the VA has done everything it can to reach all who have never come to the VA for their benefits. Still a challenge. And we all need to be alert...and live our fine slogan to reach those who seem unable to help themselves, or their spouses' future needs.

Nursing Homes Outreach: AXPOW PND Bill Roberts and AXPOW Texas Dept. Commander and ND Howard Ray are going to all the nursing homes in the San Antonio area to find former POWs residing in them; they have found several they've not known of before.

Nursing Homes Convenience: Mrs. "POW Souse" in Rogers City, Michigan had a problem. She had to put her husband in a VA-approved nursing home. That was 225 miles away in Grand Rapids; Mrs. S could not go there very often. When AXPOW National Commander Robert Fletcher heard about this, he insisted the Detroit VA office find and approve a nursing home near Rogers City. The VA sent a team out, and did it. Now Mrs. S can visit her husband daily. If you have a similar problem, tell your NSO to see what can be done.

PNC Bill Schmidt has a good suggestion and challenge to all AXPOW Chapters and/or State Departments. Since the Vietnam POW era, there have been over 30 American POWs taken by the enemy. Find these when they have come home and now reside in your community. Invite them to join AXPOW, your Chapter, and pay for their life membership as a token of your appreciation for their service. Include them in any way you can, for they will have needs as former POWs. "We do exist to help those who cannot help themselves".

For the strengthening of AXPOW: In our 2006 AXPOW National Convention in Nashville, TN, FIVE former Korea POWs - Robert Fletcher, Charles Hill, Kenny

Hanson, Bill Richardson & Howard Ray; ONE Vietnam POW - Paul Galanti; and ONE Pueblo POW - Larry Strickland... are sitting on our new Board of Directors. Surely that bodes well for the future leadership, age-wise, for American Ex-Prisoners of War. And that should also enhance the inclusion in AXPOW of more former POWs from Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts.

SUCCESS

From Mrs. A. in Cottonport, LA: Again, thanks for your help in my receiving compensation with DIC. Also to commend your helping so many others, as of the letters in the EX-POW Bulletin.

And from Eileen in Fall River, MA: Dear Fred & Peggy, I wrote to you about a year ago and you were very helpful. You told me about the POW plates, and said in Texas the spouse could keep them. Well, Tom died 9/11/05 and today (9/19/06) I finally got the POW license plate back. I want to thank you again for your help.

And even a phone call can encourage. Mrs. H. in Omaha NE writes: THANK YOU for the telephone call and your offer to help me with my DIC and Burial benefits. I received a letter that my DIC was service connected and also a notice that I will receive the additional service connected burial benefits. Harold passed away June 18, 2006. Thank you again for your concern and help. PS: Yesterday (Oct. 2, 2006) I received the DIC and burial checks.

HELP: One of the calls on my recorder when I got home from Nashville was an inquiry about DIC possibility for a widow whose husband died of heart problems. I had trouble understanding it and the name sounded like Roland, with area code 203; I called the number and was told "wrong number". Can anyone help me locate this widow?

pow medsearch

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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.

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES Public Law 97-37 (Layman's Terms)

**Originally published
by William Paul Skelton, III,
MD F.A.C.P.
updated by the Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma. This disorder looks and is treated just like degenerative arthritis (arthritis associated with age) except it is caused by severe damage to a single or few joints producing early onset arthritis. Since it has a definite cause, it is called a secondary form of arthritis. This is an extremely difficult diagnosis to make, but in general one has to prove that a specific trauma occurred to a single or very few joints, and other changes consistent with degenerative arthritis are not present throughout the rest of the body at the same time. In short, these changes need to be localized.

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet. This disorder is a fatal condition unless it is supplemented with vitamins within a few weeks. There-

fore, most individuals suffer from hypovitaminosis, which is a relative deficiency of vitamins in the diet. The specific type, intensity and duration of deprivation determines the long-term effects.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet. This produces changes in the nerves (both in the brain and extremities) and the heart. Brain changes could produce dementia or psychosis. Nervous changes are usually associated with numbness and/or painful feet.

Beriberi heart disease is an acute condition, similar to congestive heart failure, except that the heart pumps more blood than in normal congestive heart failure and it is associated with the presence of an excessive amount of lactic acid in the body. It is unknown at this time whether this can produce a chronic state.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration. This is an infection in the colon and can be caused by a multitude of different organisms, the most common of which is amoeba which can produce a mild or severe dysentery and possibly be associated with a chronic irritable colon. Bacillary dysentery is associated with the bacteria shigella, but will not cause a chronic state. There are multiple other bacteria that can cause dysentery which usually do not produce chronic states. Viral dysentery can also present like amoebic or bacillary dysentery and will not produce a chronic state.

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue. This is graded on a continuum with one representing mild to four representing mummification of the tissue. The extremities furthest from the heart are usually affected, with primarily the nose, ears, fingertips, and toes being involved. This usually produces long-term side effects such as numbness, discoloration, excessive swelling, and pain in the affected area.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human. Most infections usually resolve spontaneously either with proper treatment or as the natural course of the disease. Strongyloides is known to persist in a permanent state in humans due to its ability to reinfect the host.

7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition. The nutritional depletion may be either caloric, vitamin, fatty acid, or mineral deficiency, or more likely a combination. Depending on the type, intensity, and duration, it may yield permanent side effects or no lasting side effects at all.

8. PELLAGRA

Literally meaning rough skin in Italian, also known as black tongue in dogs. It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet, producing the classical trio of diarrhea, dermatitis, and dementia. All are easily treated early on with no side effects. The dementia, if left untreated, may produce permanent mental deficits.

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medsearch continued...

9. ANY OTHER

NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects. However, vitamin deficiencies other than the aforementioned B1 (beriberi) and B3 (pellagra) can have very disastrous effects on one's body. Also deficiencies of certain fatty acids and essential minerals in the diet can have lasting and long term sequela.

10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities. Generally, it is thought of as a mental disorder causing gross disorganization of a person's mental capacity and his ability to recognize reality and communicate with others regarding the demands of everyday life.

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear with at least four of the following during an attack: shortness of breath, feelings of heart skipping, chest pain, dizziness, sweating, fainting, trembling, fear of dying, or doing something uncontrollable during an attack.

These attacks need to occur at least three times within a three week period, not associated with physical exertion or life threatening situations.

Also there needs to be an absence of severe physical or other mental illness which could cause these symptoms.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

Characterized by generalized persistent anxiety and with symptoms of at least three of the following four categories:

(1) Motor tension as characterized by shaking, jumpiness, trembling and restlessness;

(2) Autonomic hyperactivity. such as sweating, cold or clammy hands, high or irregular heart rate, dry mouth, etc.;

(3) Apprehensive expectations, anxiety, worry, fear, anticipation of misfortune to himself or others;

(4) Tendency to insomnia, hyper-attentiveness, irritable.

All these symptoms had to have lasted at least one month. Also, there needs to be an absence of all other mental disorders and physical disorders which could explain the symptoms.

13. OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions. Obsessions are recurrent, persistent ideas or impulses that are thoughts that invade consciousness and are experienced as senseless or repugnant. Attempts are made to ignore or suppress them.

Compulsions are repetitive and seemingly purposeful behaviors that are performed in certain similar manners. The behavior is felt by the individual to produce or prevent some future event. Generally, the individuals recognize the senselessness of the behavior and do not derive pleasure from carrying it out, although it often relieves tension.

Also, the obsessive or compulsive individuals are associated with a significant sense of distress in that it interferes with social or role functioning.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress. This re-experiencing needs at least one of the following:

(1) Recurrent and intrusive recollection of the event;

(2) Recurrent dreams;

(3) Sudden feelings that the trauma was occurring because of an association, an environmental or ideational situation.

Also involved is reduced involvement with the external world beginning after the trauma, revealed by at least one of the following:

(1) Hyperalertness or exaggerated startle response;

(2) Sleep disturbance;

(3) Guilt about surviving when others have not;

(4) Memory impairment or trouble concentrating;

(5) Avoidance of activities that arouse recollection of the traumatic event;

(6) Intensification of symptoms by exposure to events that symbolize or resemble the traumatic event.

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

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

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/ DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

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

These depressive periods are separated by periods of normal mood, lasting a few days to a few weeks, but no more than a few months at a time. During the depressive period, too little sleep or too much

medsearch continued...

sleep, low energy or chronic tiredness, loss of self esteem, decreased effectiveness or productivity at work, social withdrawal, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, excessive anger, inability to respond with apparent pleasure to praise or reward, less active or talkative than usual, pessimistic attitude about the future, tearful or crying thoughts about death or suicide. There are also no psychotic features present.

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord. There are several different causes for peripheral neuropathy, and vitamin deficiency and possibly mineral deficiency are just two.

Other causes to be considered are various toxins such as lead, copper, and mercury, a hereditary predisposition to neuropathy, deposition of amyloid or protein produced by one's own body mounted in response to an infection, infections such as by leprosy, which is the most common form of neuropathy in the world, and multiple other less common causes.

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

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

Some people with IBS have constipation (difficult or infrequent bowel movements); still others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and some people experience both. Sometimes the person with IBS has a crampy urge to move the bowels but cannot do so.

Through the years, IBS has been called by many names - colitis,

mucous colitis, spastic colon, spastic bowel, and functional bowel disease. Most of these terms are inaccurate.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

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

In addition to the pain caused by the ulcer itself, peptic ulcers give rise to such complications as hemorrhage from the erosion of a major blood vessel; perforation of the wall of the stomach or intestine, with resultant peritonitis; or obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract because of spasm or swelling in the area of the ulcer.

The direct cause of peptic ulcers is the destruction of the gastric or intestinal mucosal lining by hydrochloric acid, an acid normally present in the digestive juices of the stomach.

20. CIRRHOSIS

The liver, the largest organ in the body, is essential in keeping the body functioning properly. It removes or neutralizes poisons from the blood, produces immune agents to control infection, and removes germs and bacteria from the blood. It makes proteins that regulate blood clotting and produces bile to help absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins. In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

Many people with cirrhosis have no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. However, as scar tissue replaces healthy cells, liver function starts to fail and a person may experience the following symptoms: Exhaustion, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, weakness and/or weight loss.

Cirrhosis may be diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, laboratory

tests, the patient's medical history, and a physical examination. A liver biopsy will confirm the diagnosis.

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells. Brain cells die when they no longer receive oxygen and nutrients from the blood or there is sudden bleeding into or around the brain.

The symptoms of a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination; or sudden severe headache with no known cause. Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension). Ischemic heart disease and coronary artery disease are included within this provision.

Complications of atherosclerotic heart disease are included. Complications may include myocardial infarction ("heart attack"), congestive heart failure ("heart failure"), and arrhythmia ("irregular heart beat").

Hypertensive vascular disease refers to disease associated with elevated blood pressure. Complications caused by hypertensive vascular disease are included. Diseases arising from viral or bacterial causes are not included.



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.



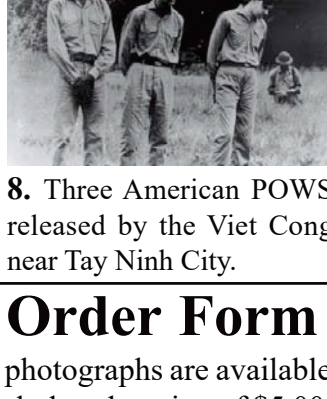
5. An American POW suffering from dry beri-beri being treated in Bilibid.



6. A GI is 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.

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.

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Andersonville



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496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
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Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
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Andersonville Commemorates National POW/MIA Day Return With Honor

By: Park Ranger Kim Humber

Andersonville National Historic Site and Georgia Southwestern State University partnered together in the first ever 2006 POW/MIA Symposium. Several events were held over a three day period to honor those who endured unimaginable hardships as prisoners of war while serving our country as well as remembering those still listed as missing in action.

On Thursday evening, September 14, 2006, a POW forum brought together 2 former Vietnam POWs and two POW family members to discuss the struggles nearly 40 years ago. The forum featured Captain Bill Robinson, US Air Force, who was credited with being the longest held enlisted man in U.S. history. He was held for over seven years in North Vietnam. Another POW participant was Colonel Quin Herlik, US Army, who was captured by the Viet Cong and turned over

to Cambodia where he was held for thirty days. Both Captain Robinson and Colonel Herlik shared details surrounding their capture and the struggles that they endured during their captivity. In order to address the trials that the family members of POWs endured, the forum also featured Mrs. Anne Purcell, wife of Colonel Ben Purcell as well as Ms. Joy Purcell, who is the youngest of the Purcell children. Mrs. Purcell spoke about her experiences raising five children while working diligently with the National League of Families for the release of her husband. Her daughter Joy related her experience as a child in not knowing the fate of her Father and adjusting to his return - a person she did not know. The event was moderated by Dr. Glenn Robins, Associate Professor of History at Georgia Southwestern State University. Dr. Robins asked insightful questions to a crowd of over 300 people.

On Friday, September 15, 2006 the day started with a moving tribute to the POW participants. Over 100 motorcycles from Rolling Thunder escorted the former POWs and their families from Andersonville to the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University - a distance of 12 miles. Rolling Thunder is an organization who advocate for a full accounting of those who are missing in action. The escort was a prelude to the Convocation at the Georgia Southwestern State University, attended by many of the University students along with area high school students and people from the community.

The principal speaker was Colonel Ben Purcell who was a POW for over five years in North Vietnam. Colonel Purcell gave a powerful presentation about his experience in captivity, to include torture, attempted escapes, and his relationships with guards and his release. He credited the undying love of his family along with his faith with allowing him to endure and return with honor. There were 600 in attendance at this event made up mostly

of college students. Both the Forum and Convocation were funded by the Andersonville Trust which is an endowment fund that supports park programs. The Trust is maintained by the Friends of Andersonville.

Also on Friday the park opened a new exhibit at the National Prisoner of War Museum. The new permanent exhibit called **Who is a POW?** - poses the question that has plagued the US military since the Revolutionary War. On hand for the opening were a number of former POWs who were given the honor of cutting the ribbon along with 150 park visitors. The exhibit was designed and fabricated by Malone Design/Fabrication and funded by Eastern National and donations to the park. The new exhibit was done in response to visitor input.

Finally on Saturday, September 16, 2006 Rolling Thunder held a Memorial Service at Andersonville National Cemetery. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of the group, the Cemetery was lined with 200 American flags proudly displayed for the event. The program was attended by 200 members of the motorcycle club and park visitors.



AXPOW members Bill Robinson, Ben Purcell and Quin Herlik are seen here cutting the ribbon to officially open a new exhibit Who is a POW at the National Prisoner of War Museum on National POW/MIA Recognition Day - September 15, 2006.

andersonville cont...

Prisoner of War Museum Closing for Facelift

By: Lead Park Ranger Joan Stibitz

Can you believe it? The National Prisoner of War Museum is now over 8 years old, and like most of us with a little age, it needs some cosmetic touches. The Museum will be closed beginning on November 27, 2006 for painting and replacement of carpeting throughout the building. A contract was recently awarded for this vital work.

Due to the magnitude of the project, including removal of the artifacts on display and the research library, this project will continue until mid-February 2007. This time period of the year was chosen because this is the slowest time of the year for visitation. A temporary Visitor Contact Station will be open for the duration of the project. Basic services such as tours, Eastern National sales, the audio tour and Prison Talks will continue as normal during this period.

Mike Robinson Retires

By: Fred Boyles

Long time Maintenance employee Mike Robinson retired from Andersonville on November 1st. Mike has been with the National Park Service for 30 years working his entire career at Andersonville. As a Maintenance Mechanic, Mike did just about everything at the park to keep things working smoothly. He will be missed greatly by the staff and volunteers who came to know him as a hard worker with many skills who always had a positive attitude.

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education committee

ND Edward DeMent
Education Committee

Letter from WWII POW
to a Student

Dear Young American,
This is your flag. You know that, of course. You salute it in your classroom. It flies over your school, over your public buildings, your parades, parks and playgrounds. You honor it in your church or synagogue. It flies, too, from your own front porch, in your back yard, on the scout camp pole.

Yes, you recognize the Stars and Stripes. But is it saying something to you? Doing something for you? Are you angered when you see it defiled or ridiculed? Does your heart throb? Do your eyes glisten with tears when you behold it unfurled in the breeze? Or is patriotism perhaps like religion? You don't know if you've "got it" until you need it?

I was once a young American too, and no more or less patriotic than you. I pledged allegiance to the flag and I sang "The Star Spangled Banner" as best I could. Until...Hitler raised a heavy hand and smashed his fist into the heart of Europe...until Japan directed a savage attack on our shores. I was catapulted into a wartime world I could never have imagined.

I became soldier, sailor, airman, marine. My brother, my buddy and I followed our flag as it billowed against the gray of sky and sea and battleship. We saw the colors ground into the sands of North Africa; shredded on the coral of Corregidor; bloodied on Omaha Beach. My brother raised that flag on Iwo Jima! My buddy cried when he sighted the flag flying over his England air base as

he, and too few of his comrades, returned from the Schweinfurt raid. A brother kept his eye on a tattered flag from battle to battle until his battles were no more. And for a buddy, it was the last blanket to cover his body before it was buried in foreign soil or slipped into a watery grave.

And I...I watched our flag until it was no longer there to watch. I parachuted from a flaming B-17 over Germany - was surrendered to an overpowering army on Bataan. I was marched along at bayonet point; I was transported like an animal - to a "Stalag" or a jungle camp. Guarded, taunted, barricaded - I was a prisoner of war. For days, months, and year after endless year, I existed under a flag that boasted either a rising sun or the Nazi swastika.

What my captors failed to realize is that although they shaved my head, starved my body, deprived my soul and denied me basic human rights, an American flag fluttered on in my heart. Pride in what the "red, white and blue" stands for buoyed my spirit. God watched over me, my compatriots sustained me...and I survived.

Can you understand what a blessed, beautiful sight that flag was to me when I viewed it at last in New York? In San Francisco? Why that flag WAVED to me from sea to shining sea, beckoning me back to my farm, my shop, my career, my family. That flag CRIED OUT to me "LOOK...LOOK...I am flying still...I always will." I did look. I wept. I thanked the Lord above for returning me home to this good land.

And now, my young American friend, will you do something for me? Take another look...a hard look...at that flag!

Thank you.
Ex-Prisoner of War
Author unknown

NamPOW news



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Christmas in Hanoi (x7)

Heartbreak Hotel interrogation prison, Hanoi, December 25, 1966.

It was bitter cold and damp. I'd been a POW for a little more than six months with much of it in a sweltering solitary confinement. Fifty of us had been paraded through Hanoi's city streets as thousands of Vietnamese chanted obscenities and threw various objects at us at the urging of their communist political commissars. I'd had severe, brutal interrogation sessions that had left my emaciated body screaming in pain. Our daily meals of watery pumpkin gruel and rice had recently changed to sewer greens and rice twice a day.

A mouth-watering scent wafted through the boarded up windows momentarily eclipsing the harsh, sewer smell of the toilet bucket. Wow... What was that? The smell of onions? Of actual meat? Of an exotic oriental smelling aroma of fish sauce?

To digress slightly, and for purposes of total disclosure, I am and have always been an optimist. Totally, unrepentantly and without any hint-of-shame optimist! From the day in June 1966 when I'd parachuted into North Vietnam from my burning A-4 Skyhawk and been

immediately captured, I was convinced my internment would last six months to a year (at most).

So now I was approaching my first Christmas in Hanoi. Last year my squadron and ship had been at sea flying combat missions off the coast of South Vietnam but we'd had a "stand-down" for Christmas day, itself. The meal aboard ship had been a traditional Christmas dinner. And now with delightful aromas emanating from the usually pungent cellblock, my morale skyrocketed - and mouth watered. My emaciated 100 lb. frame longed for something that tasted as good as the aroma that drifted through the window boards.

When the meal came, it was a small chunk of turkey flavored with *nuoc mam*, the Vietnamese fish sauce. And some white rice. And a banana. And even a few sips of beer. It's obviously a good sign. We'd be going home soon! And I was never going to complain about food again.

We didn't go home that year but, for whatever reason, the communists went through this charade every year. It served as a way to mark time. Infrequently, they'd bring in their "Catholic priest" who'd serve communion to a few "believers" (as the Communists called them) while dutifully recording the event with their propaganda cameras.

In the Son Tay prison camp, I remember hearing the Christmas story according to Marx and Lenin on the camp P.A. system. Summarized here with apologies for a 40 year-old memory:

Jesus was a poor working man who was being exploited by the capitalistic foreign invader Pontius Pilate, but Jesus rallied the masses against the imperialist colonialists and for that he was martyred by the criminal invaders. Moral. We are all the same. Only the U.S. government ex-

ploiting its lackeys in South Vietnam, like the Roman imperialists, are attempting to enslave the heroic "Vietnamese people." A long diatribe against "Johnson, McNamara and Dean Rusk" would follow, followed by exhortations to "side with the Vietnamese people" as opposed to following blindly "The U.S. Government." (Note the similarity between the verbiage of the Communists at Christmas time and our present day morally relativistic Fourth Estate.)

Each year the Christmas "celebration" in four or five different prisons went about the same. In 1972, several hundred of us were in a mountain camp near Lang Son near the Chinese border. It was somehow different. I remember thinking about the last eight Christmases - 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 - all of them in WESTPAC on cruise or in POW Camps. I thought, "You know, I've been here a long time. (But felt better when I realized that I was a newcomer. Good grief, Alvarez has been here 22 months longer than I have.) This is really a good sign."

I thought, for the thousandth time, "We should be out of here in six months to a year."

I was wrong. We were home in less than two months. The next Christmas was much better!



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pow-mia



**PNC John Edwards,
Chairman**

889 Randall Road
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(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

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

U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING FROM THE VIETNAM WAR: The number missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 1,798 - 1,375 in Vietnam, 362 in Laos, 54 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. The names of three US personnel have recently been released: Now accounted for are 1Lt James L. Hull, USAF, of TX, 1LT Glenn McCubbin, USAF, of KS, and PFC James E. Widener, USA, of NY. A total of 785 US personnel have been accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,798 still missing, including 90+ US personnel last known alive (LKA), were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese war-time control.

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FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION FROM WORLD WAR I: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from WW I, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

This is the first time the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) has identified a soldier unaccounted-for from World War I. He is Pvt. Francis Lupo, U.S. Army, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.

In 1918, Lupo participated in the combined French-American attack on the Germans near Soissons, France, in what came to be known as the Second Battle of the Marne. Despite heavy Allied losses, this Battle has been regarded as a turning point in the war, halting and reversing the final German advances toward Paris.

Lupo, a member of Company E, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, was killed in action during the battle, but his remains were never recovered.

MISSING WWII AIRMAN IS IDENTIFIED: The remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is 1st Lt. Shannon E. Estill, U.S. Army Air Forces, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

On April 13, 1945, Estill's P-38J Lightning was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire while attacking targets in eastern Germany. Another U.S. pilot reported seeing Estill's aircraft explode and crash.

Another three airmen missing in action from WW II have been identified and are being returned to

their families for burial with full military honors. They are 2d Lt. David J. Nelson, Chicago, Ill.; Tech. Sgt. Henry F. Kortebein, Maspeth, N.Y.; and Tech. Sgt. Blake A. Treece, Jr., Marshall, Ark., all U.S. Army Air Forces. These men were buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as are the group remains of their aircrew which was lost during WWII.

On August 8, 1944, Nelson, Kortebein and Treece departed an allied air base in England in their B-17G Flying Fortress with six other crewmen aboard. Their mission was to bomb enemy targets near Caen, France. The aircraft was seen to explode and crash after being struck by enemy flak near the village of Lonlay l'Abbaye, south of Caen. The other six members of the crew were 1st Lt. Jack R. Thompson; 2nd Lts. Charles Bacigalupa and Charles Sherrill; and Sgts. Richard R. Collins, Gerald F. Gillies and Warren D. Godsey. The hometowns of these six are not available.

AIRMAN MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE VIETNAM WAR IS IDENTIFIED: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced in September that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Major Burke H. Morgan, U.S. Air Force, of Manitou Springs, Colo. He was buried beside his wife, Mary, at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The service there coincided with the 45th reunion of his graduating class at the academy.

On August 22, 1967, Morgan and a fellow officer took off from Nakhon Phanom air base, Thailand, in their A-26A Invader on an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos. The crew had radio contact on their mission shortly after midnight, but they were neither seen nor heard from again.

civilians

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In this follow-up article to the two previous Clipper flight articles in this space by Catherine Hoskins, Doug Willard relates some of his work experiences with Pan American Airways.

As Doug points out in this piece, his transfer to the Philippine Islands in May 1941 put him in the path of Japanese aggression later that same year. Doug was interned with thousands of other civilians in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila.

The Clipper Glory Years

by Doug Willard

My first job was a summer job in 1940 at the Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) exhibit located at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, the site of the San Francisco International Exposition. The fair opened in 1939 and was so well attended that it was extended to 1942. It was during that time that Pan Am moved

its Pacific-Alaska Division from Alameda, CA to Treasure Island. All departments, operations, reservations, accounting, traffic, overhaul, and maintenance sections were involved in the move.

I took a leave of absence from my courses at the University of California at Berkeley and stayed on with the Pan Am traffic department. I worked as a passenger service agent, checking and weighing in passengers and their baggage. We also relieved personnel in reservations control, where flight charts were developed and names, addresses, and phone numbers were posted. This center also charted flights, departure dates, and final destinations. We had a close relationship with the Matson Steamship Company sending people to Hawaii by ship, then on to Manila and or New Zealand via Pan Am.

In 1941 the Manila Pan Am office requested additional staff. The job offered additional pay, and an overseas expense allowance. I accepted the offer. I crossed the 180th Meridian aboard the China Clipper, a Martin 314, on May 21, 1941.

One of my first assignments in Manila was to arrange to transport departing passengers from the Manila

Hotel to the Pan Am facility at Cavite on the edge of Manila Bay. The facility was adjacent to the headquarters of the United States Navy, Asiatic Fleet, Cavite.

When aircraft arrived the passengers were deplaned at the Cavite location with baggage and transported to Manila. I do believe I was the chap holding the umbrella for Miss Catherine Cotterman (the future Catherine Hoskins) on one of her flights to Manila.

Those years I spent with Pan Am were during what we call the "Clipper Glory Years." To have been able to be part of assisting our boss Juan Trippe* fulfill his dream to "conquer the Pacific" leaves me with memories never to be forgotten. We were able to set the standard of excellence for all our competitors and earned world-wide recognition as the "world's most experienced airline."

When Filipino-American armed forces were overwhelmed and forced to surrender in the Philippine Islands early in World War II, all of our Pan Am personnel in the area were rounded up and interned with many other civilians at the University of Santo Tomas, soon to be referred to as the Santo Tomas Internment Camp (STIC). Some of our Pan Am people, with other civilians, were sent by the Japanese to help build another camp at Los Banos, south of Manila, to relieve the overcrowded conditions in Santo Tomas.

Both camps were liberated in February 1945.

*Juan Trippe, air travel visionary and founder of Pan American Airways, Inc., fulfilled his dream of an air route across the wide expanses of the Pacific Ocean when he blazed a path for the famous Pan American Clippers ("Flying boats") in an airmail delivery agreement worked out with the Roosevelt Administration in the 1930s. American business interests and the American armed forces later used the air path Trippe initiated.

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Six ex-internees of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp (University of Santo Tomas), Manila, Philippines attended the annual reunion of the 44th Tank Battalion, held this year in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 14-16 September. Company B of the 44th Tank Battalion rolled several of its Sherman tanks over the gates of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila on the evening of 3 February 1945, liberating these six internees and 3,700 other civilians of various nations, many of whom had spent 37 months as prisoners of the Japanese. The tanks were accompanied by "dismounted troopers" of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division. The internees are, from left to right, Ted Cadwallader, Dorothy and Curtis Brooks, Liz Irvine, Len Baker (from Wales, U.K.), and Harry Robinson. The men of the 44th Tank Bn are absolute heroes to ex-internees of Santo Tomas. The widows of these men are also revered by surviving internees of Santo Tomas."

events and information



Nov. 9-12, 2006. Veterans Vigil 2006, hosted by Texas A&M University will be held at the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center. The event will feature The Moving Wall. For more information, please call 903-886-5816.

looking for



I'm looking for any information on my dad, **Peter J. Kowaleski**. He was serving with the 752nd Tank Battalion as B Company platoon leader. He was captured July 14, 1944 in Rosignano, Italy and spent his captivity in Stalag 7A. He was taken prisoner with fellow tanker Landiak (first name unknown). I appreciate any help. Myra Dupaski, 5521 Versaille Dr. Apt. A, Indianapolis, IN 46227; indygirl300@yahoo.com

Donnie Willis was on one of the first big ships that the Japs sank. He was worked to death in south East Asia. One of the survivors of this group came back home to Terre Haute, Indiana and wrote a book after he retired from teaching school — which I read several years ago. He said that Donnie died in his arms. Now some of his cousins want to read that book and I do not remember name of book or author. My memory says the name of the book was EHO meaning prisoner in Japanese, but Library does not have it on their list of books. Edward Neal Howard, POW taken at Guam, could have loaned me a copy of that book from his personal

collection. Any suggestions will be appreciated. Ralph M Woodward, 3441 E Co Rd 600 S, Carlisle, IN 47838; ralwinw@aol.com.

I am looking for any information on **Kenneth R. Stone**, 760th Tank BN, Co. C. He was one of my tank crew and was captured with me in June 1944. He was on fire, but all five men got out safe. I had an address from our history; that is all I know. I saw him last at Camp Lucky Strike in France. I hope someone can help me find him or let me know what happened to him. Thank you. SFC Robert H. Richard, 2838 Lakeview Road, Shreveport, LA 71107; 318-424-1371.

We have friends whose father was a POW in **Stalag IXB at Bad Orb**. Is there a survivors' group and/or a reunion of these men anywhere? Thank you for any help you can give. My dad was on an LST in the Pacific and his ship has had yearly reunions for the past 12 years and I have seen how therapeutic this has been for them and so I would like to help this gentleman maybe go to a reunion before it is too late. Robert Leonhard, 2858 Thorndale Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207; 614-491-7532; bobleon@earthlink.net.

My brother, **S/Sgt. Robert K. Binnix** of the 82nd Airborne jumped into Sicily July 9-10, 1943. He was captured by the Italian Army and sent to Campo PG 66 in Capua, Italy. His wife received a letter dated July 19, 1943 and our mother received one dated Aug. 20, 1943. Sometime after Aug. 20th, he and several men escaped. He and a friend made their way back to the Allied lines. I'm looking for any information on his time in Campo 66 and how he escaped. He returned to duty Oct. 30, 1943 at Fort Bragg. I believe he was a jump instructor. I also believe there was a story in the camp

newspaper at Fort Bragg about his escape. I hope you can help. He is deceased now. Contact: John W. Binnix, 3872 Maryland Manor Dr. Monrovia, MD 21770.

information

An Open Letter to the Public on National POW/MIA Recognition Day:

Sept. 16 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. As former POWs, we are writing to thank fellow citizens for this day of recognition and to contribute to the understanding of prisoners of war and the hardships of family members of those missing in action.

We are all comrades and veterans of WWII, but our circumstances and experiences were each different. Some of us served as airmen, others in infantry. We were enlisted men and officers, married and single, and we fought the Japanese and Germans. We didn't "throw up our hands" or hoist a white flag. We fought.

We flew missions over Germany bombing strategic targets through flak so thick the sky was black. Countless bombers were lost, along with them thousands of airmen. We bailed out of airplanes on fire and spinning toward earth, parachuting into the unknown behind enemy lines. One of us was plucked out of the Zeider Zee by Dutch resistance, evaded the Gestapo for 6 months before being captured in Belgium miles from the allied lines. Two of us, who were captured after bailing out of doomed aircraft, survived the 600 mile, 87-day forced march in the winter of 1944-1945, the coldest on record in Europe in the 20th century. Many of our fellow airmen didn't make it out of the planes or froze to death or were shot by guards along the march; we're the lucky ones.

information, continued...

We were infantry soldiers. One of us was captured in France and two of us fought for months in the jungles of the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines after supply lines were severed and we (76,000 American and Filipino soldiers) were left to fend for ourselves. Starved, sick from tropical diseases and running out of ammunition, we were surrendered by our general "for humanitarian reasons." There was nothing humane about our treatment. On the infamous Bataan Death March, 20,000 perished before reaching prison camp – they were bayoneted or beheaded when they stumbled or fell, intentionally crushed by vehicles or simply left to die. We survived 3 ½ years of starvation, disease and brutality in the holds of the "hell ships", in camps throughout Asia and as slave laborers in Japan. Before we were captured, we fought the enemy hard. After capture, we fought simply to stay alive. Many lost that fight; we're the lucky ones.

Our families: Initially, our parents received letters from the War Department saying we were MIA – Missing in Action. Eventually as our whereabouts were reported to the US government, our families received a second letter correctly saying we were POW, not MIA. For the four of us held by the Germans, it took two to eight months for our families to receive notice that we were alive. For the two of us held by the Japanese, it took over three years! When we came home, we felt like old men but were, in fact, quite young. Sixty years later, as fathers, grand-and great-grandfathers, we can well imagine the daily anguish of having a loved one MIA, not knowing his fate for months or years. We did not understand then what you endured; we do now and it pains us greatly. We feel for all family members of MIAs; you and your loved ones are not forgotten.

Life in the camps: We experienced degradation, humiliation and, for some of us, the most unimaginable cruelty. Some POWs simply lost the will to live. But even under such conditions, there was humor. A dark humor. And when a rare Red Cross package arrived, the trading made the New York Stock Exchange look like a child's marble game! We feel for anyone who has lost his or her freedom, including prisoners for their own mistakes and misdeeds, and believe in fair, humane treatment for all who are imprisoned. We believe all nations should adhere to the rules of the Geneva Conventions.

On resistance and escape: We all thought of escape. One of us was on an escape committee in Germany to tunnel out until the news reached us that those who escaped from a neighboring camp were captured, returned to camp and executed as examples. The Japanese implemented a policy to discourage escape: for every one prisoner who attempted escape, ten were summarily executed. The policy was effective: as soldiers and POWs, we felt a deep sense of responsibility to our fellow man, a legacy we carry with us today. Still, we were heartened by acts of resistance; our own and those of others. We secretly made an American flag from scraps we found, we had a radio (strictly verboten), and when forced by our Japanese captors to build airstrips, we urinated in the tarmac to weaken it. We saw Japanese guards behead prisoners for similar, small acts of resistance. When forced to work, we made every effort to appear to work hard, while hardly working.

On treatment after liberation: For the most part, absolutely great! The soldiers who liberated us, the doctors and nurses who treated us for disease and wounds (sometimes for months), and the sailors who fed and took us home were caring and generous. We missed the V-J Day and V-E Day parades, but what a homecoming it was to be free

again and reunited with our families! Occasionally, we encountered those who mistakenly equated POWs with cowardice. They are ignorant of what it takes to fight in combat and then for one's very survival under the harshest of conditions.

Those we wish to thank: We salute the men of Patton's Third Army who liberated us along with so many of the Holocaust survivors. We are grateful to live in a country so committed to liberating peoples of Europe and Asia from the rule of imperial tyrants. We thank the Swedish YMCA for getting word to our government and eventually our families that we were alive and were POWs, NOT MIAs. We thank those in the Dutch resistance and the government of the Netherlands for hosting one of us several years back. We thank that nameless prisoner who gave another prisoner the quinine tablets that most certainly saved one of our lives (and quite possibly cost him his own). Most of all, we thank our families. We would not have had the will to survive if it were not for holding the images of you at home, having the sure knowledge of your enduring love.

Finally, we are grateful for our freedom which we cherish very much. We remember always our comrades who perished and fellow POWs from all wars who endured similar hardships. And, we will remember MIAs and their families on Sept. 16 (and every other day) and hope you will too.

Sincerely,
Everett Roseen,
POW of Japanese, Bataan
Steven Stupak, POW of Germans
Nils Erickson, Prisoner of Germans
Darrell Stark,
POW of Japanese, Bataan
Charles Hadfield, POW of Germans
Everett Johnson, POW of Germans

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2006

Members'

forum



My name is Bryan Roscoe and I am a 100% disabled veteran of Atlantic County, New Jersey. I seek your membership's support in proposed legislation to Congressman Frank LoBiondo's office for the "POW/MIA Flag Amendment". As the law stands now, the POW/MIA flag is only flown on certain designated days, according to PL 105-85, section 1054. This new legislation would provide for the flag to be displayed on all business days, at all Federal offices, including the VA hospitals.

The issue of our POWs and MIAs remains as powerful as ever. Thousands of POW/MIAs remain unaccounted for - from WWI to our current conflict in Iraq. Many organizations remain committed to finding, retrieving and bringing home those left behind.

Organizations such as Rolling Thunder, American Legion Riders, National League of POW/MIA Families, POW/MIA Freedom Fighters and others have admirably kept the issue of POW/MIAs alive and have aggressively fought for legislation to make our government accountable for our missing servicemen and women.

I thank you in advance for your time on this important veteran matter. Please contact Congressman LoBiondo's office, 225 Cannon

House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-6572 (phone) - (202) 225-3318 (fax). Our website is as follows: www.pow-miaflagamendment.com.

Bryan A. Roscoe
PCC DAV
400 Zion Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Dear Editor,

Having just attended the 59th National Convention of our organization (I have only missed one in the past 40 or so years), I am wont to make some comments.

Never has there been so much tension and animosity shown. It was my side and their side. What has happened to OUR side where we work together for common goals?!

The Bylaws were left by the wayside in many instances in the Board meeting and General meeting. It was almost like some did not know what the Bylaws contain, nor did they care as long as they got their way!

Another area that baffles me is NSOs. There was talk about making some retroactive monetary payments to them. Silly me - I thought this was all volunteer service to "help those who cannot help themselves".

To this newly elected governing group I would say - be very careful in your deliberations. You hold our future in your hands.

Eva J. Moore
4 term National Director
Surviving Spouse, Milton M. Moore

Dear Commander Harvey:

On Sept. 14th, my wife, Joan, and I attended a POW/MIA Remembrance luncheon at McChord AFB, Washington, hosted by the 62nd

Airlift Wing. I imagine the AF Sergeant Association was pivotal in the remembrance because their logo appeared on the front of the program.

We were told that there were 74 POWs in attendance, including three Bataan Death March survivors. In fact, one of them was the guest speaker, one of your own Northwest National Directors, Mr. Herbert C. Kirchhoff.

The entire affair was elegantly designed and executed. There was beautiful music being played and sung while the two screens displayed the name, rank, service, date of capture and date of release of all POWs who were in attendance and some who did not make it at the last minute. The presentation was so moving I was unable to complete my lunch until it was concluded.

Upon our departure, I made it a point to seek out Mr. Kirchhoff and a few of the other WWII POWs. I spoke briefly with one, and then was able to greet Mr. Kirchhoff with an open hand saying, "Hello, Mr. Kirchhoff. Thank you for your speech. I'm Joe Crecca and I was a POW in Vietnam for six years and three months." His reply left me in a controlled state of anger and dismay. He said, "Vietnam? What's that? Was there a war there?"

I think he deserved a severe rebuke. Instead I showed him far more courtesy and respect than he showed to me. My wife was likewise shocked by his remarks and told me so. Rather than create a scene after such an uplifting event, I let Mr. Kirchhoff by with his disdainful conduct.

One of the first statements on your home page is "There is no such thing as an "associate" member and we have no auxiliaries". By the scornful attitude of one of your senior officers, this policy does not apply to those of us who were POWs in the Vietnam War. I recognize Mr. Kirchhoff's service and

members forum continued...

how much he had to suffer while in captivity. But you might point out to him that I was imprisoned for a longer time than the entire duration of the war he was in. Everett Alvarez was a POW in Vietnam for eight years and five months. WWII, in all theatres in which the USA was directly involved, lasted three years and eight months. "Vietnam? What's that? Was there a war there?"

But the importance is not time comparisons. It is the displaced, scornful, arrogant attitude I was the recipient of. And any apologies coming to me from the perpetrator will seem empty and manifestly insincere. It's too late for damage control, because too much damage has already been done. I understand very clearly how Mr. Kirchhoff feels about his service in WWII compared to mine in Vietnam.

Respectfully,

Joe Crecca
POW, North Vietnam
1966-1973
PO Box 2296
North Bend, WA 98045

Dear Cheryl,

The Southern Arizona Chapter (Tucson) ran a campaign last summer to raise money for National. They have raised \$4,000 - a tremendous accomplishment from only forty-three families in the chapter! Here's how they did it.

Dear Fellow Members: It is Time for Celebration! It is Time to Respond!

We celebrate our National Commander Gerald Harvey's announcement that the court case, the Foundation against AXPOW, has been closed, effective Jan. 1, 2007, they

can no longer use our name, and our mailing list will be returned. Now, Commander Harvey appeals to us to respond to National's finance crisis. In the July/Aug. Bulletin, he suggests that all chapters do what our Southern Arizona Chapter did last year, raising several thousand dollars.

National's crisis is now. Our funds are running low due to the legal fees from the lawsuit, and to cover our operational expenses. It is essential that we replenish our treasury to continue our efforts on Capitol Hill, publishing the Bulletin and the National Service Officer activities.

Your Commander Joe Kerns has requested that we again repeat what we did last year, and ask every Ex-POW who is 100% to contribute \$100 or more. Other members please contribute what they can. This is a voluntary donation.

ADDITIONALLY, an anonymous donor has agreed to match our total chapter contributions! Please send your contributions directly to Pat Manda. Make your check payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War, and in the lower left hand corner enter National Headquarters - General Fund.

We will then send a copy of this letter to Commander Harvey, along with our total contributions, and suggest that our letter be published in the Bulletin. If our effort is published in a prominent place in the Bulletin, it is more apt to stimulate commanders of other chapters to do the same. If they did, we could raise up to a million dollars, eliminate our legal expenses and restore our financial strength.

You responded generously before. Thank you. Let's do it again.

Lew Sleeper
Senior Vice Commander
Southern Arizona Chapter

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Sunchon tunnel reunion

Memory can fail us in times of stress. Eight men who survived the Sunchon Tunnel Massacre in North Korea in 1950, can attest to this. Participants in a 600-mile-long death march, they watched helplessly as friends and comrades were cut down by disease, malnutrition, bayonets and rifles. Historians estimate that over three hundred men were captured and marched from the southern part of South Korea to North Korea. Ending in a two-day killing spree in a tunnel north of Pyongyang, there were about twenty survivors.

Today eight remain. Seven attended their first reunion in Branson, Missouri, over Memorial Day weekend — fifty-six years after the massacre.

In 1950, in the early days of the Korean War, the Communists outnumbered the Allied Forces. They blanketed the countryside, surrounded the American troops and took captives. Forced by guards wielding bayonet-tipped rifles, the young prisoners marched northwards to an uncertain fate. As they went through towns and villages, the North Koreans used them for propaganda opportunities.

Bayonets, rice balls, lice, thirst, lack of bathing, the smells, decaying bodies and buddies dying - these are the memories of that march. Most bore wounds they received when captured. Medical treatment was minimal. They later learned that the maggots in their wounds kept them clean and free of infection. The guards took their boots so they wrapped their feet in anything they could find to give them some covering. They suffered from malnutrition, beri-beri and other diseases.

Although the group continued to grow as new captives joined the

march, many began dying of disease, wounds and abuse. The guards shot or bayoneted anyone who fell behind. As in many other death marches, the men helped each other, keeping the wounded on foot as long as possible. Bodies littered the roads as men fell.

They arrived in Seoul just before General MacArthur landed the Marines at Inchon. Estimates of the numbers vary, but by the time they reached Seoul there were over three hundred prisoners still alive. From Seoul, they headed north. When they reached Pyongyang, North Korea, the guards paraded them through the streets. By day, they huddled in an old building. It was bitterly cold.



L to R: Valdor John, Jim Yeager, Sherman Jones, Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb, Bob Sharpe, Bill

When they left Pyongyang, they marched to a train depot and were loaded into boxcars. By this time, the American planes were closing in. After a few days, the train entered the Sunchon Tunnel and stopped. The guards told the prisoners that they couldn't leave in the daylight because of the Americans. They told them that they would take one car at a time and feed them. Among the first group to leave was Major William Tom McDaniel. He had been the group's leader and they all felt that he had kept them alive. They never saw him again.

Car by car, they were unloaded, shot, bayoneted and left for dead. Twenty men survived. The eight who are still living share many memories, but there are some differences in the details of the final two days.

Five of the survivors - Jim Yeager, Bill Henninger, Bob Sharpe and Valdor John - were with the groups massacred the first day. The other three - Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb and Sherman Jones - were shot the second day. Ed left the site and made it back to the train depot. American troops rescued all of the survivors.

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and Bruce K. Siddle, in a 2001 article on 'Critical Incident Amnesia,' contend that during times of stress, people will consistently exhibit difficulty in transferring information into long term memory. There is usually a 'sensory overload' combined with a 'fixation' on some particular aspect of the critical incident. 'Post-incident amnesia'

results immediately. But within seventy-two hours, most of the memory returns. According to them, "It will be at least partially 'reconstructed' (and therefore somewhat contaminated), after the inevitable process of integrating available information from all other sources."

For these survivors, part of the reason for, and fear of, attending a reunion, pertained to memory blank spots and differing version of the details of the massacre. After fifty-five years, they reunited. For the first time, they talked of these differences. They realized why they thought some of the others were dead. They had been loaded into different cars, and shot at different times. They each believed the only survivors were the ones from their boxcars. In the last few years, a couple of them talked to each other, but they were still unaware of the number living. A year ago, Walt Whitcomb, ran across Ed Slater's name. They met in Kansas City. Then in January of this year, Sherman Jones called Ed. As they talked, they knew they needed to gather everybody who was still living, and have a reunion.

This reunion took place in Branson, MO, over Memorial Day weekend. Seven of the eight survivors attended. Allen Gifford was unable to attend because of ill health - but his comrades did not forget

stories, articles, cont...

him. The men and their families shared hugs, smiles, tears and memories. Stories and memories made more sense as they learned the details of the massacre. Tom McDaniel, Major McDaniel's son, attended the reunion to learn more about his father and the events leading up to his death.

Bill Henninger, Valdor John, Sherman Jones, Bob Sharpe, Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb and Jim Yeager have lived with this experience for over fifty years. They are each, in their own way, still trying to come to terms with the cruelty and uselessness of it all. They've spent a lifetime trying to overcome both their physical and emotional wounds. Shot in the face and foot, Sherman required 67 surgeries to repair the damage. Valdor and Bob stayed in the service. Valdor served another tour of duty in Korea and three in Vietnam. Bob served a tour in Vietnam. Bill Henninger is the only one in the group who had also seen action in WWII. Walt, Jim and Ed still struggle with the memories. Ed spent the last eleven years as a National Service Officer with the VA, working with other POWs. All are active in POW organizations.

Healing took place. They carried home a sense of gratitude for each other and for those who honored them in Branson. Was it painful? Yes. In a TV interview, Ed Slater remarked that every conversation led back to the massacre. Each had to face his own worst nightmares. But the knowledge that they would no longer carry the burden alone is a powerful step in moving forward. So many times each of them have felt the Korea Conflict, often termed the Forgotten War, is unimportant to Americans. They want young people today to know about the war, the death march and the massacre – to recognize that to the soldiers who fought there, it is as important as any other event in our history.

A book telling the story of the massacre, the intervening years and the reunion will be published in 2007.

They Came Home: Suncheon Tunnel Massacre, co-authored by Joyce Faulkner & Pat McGrath Avery.

Pat McGrath Avery, author of **They Came Home: Korean War POWs Tell Their Stories**, Red Engine Press / RRP Consulting, 18942 State Hwy 13, Ste F, Box 107, Branson West, MO 65737; Ph: 417-230-5555; email: riverroadpress@yahoo.com.

National News

Air Force Memorial Dedicated

On behalf of a grateful nation, the president of the United States accepted the Air Force Memorial in a dedication ceremony attended by military leaders of the past and present, political and business representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens and Airmen alike.

The ceremony was the highlight of a daylong open house event that attracted thousands of people from around the country to the south parking lot of the Pentagon. Huge screens were put up which allowed the visitors in the parking lot to view the dedication ceremony, which took place at the base of the memorial.

That crowd included H. Ross Perot and his son, H. Ross Perot Jr., who is chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Also in attendance were former chiefs of staff of the Air Force, secretaries of the Air Force, chief master sergeants of the Air Force, Air Force Medal of Honor recipients and their families.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley spoke at the event, saying he was deeply honored to be a part of it. He reflected on the Airmen who serve today, and their connection to the dedicated Airmen who served in the past.

"We have the most powerful air, space and cyberspace force in the world," he said. "This is a long overdue tribute to all those who are a part of this ongoing cycle of

dedicated and talented Americans who service in the Air Force."

The Air Force Band performed several pieces while a video was shown with clips from pilots climbing into World War II bombers to modern-day Airmen working in the sands of Iraq. Several aircraft, ranging from World War One biplanes to today's stealth bombers and fighters, flew over the crowd and memorial in chronological order, providing visual evidence of the evolution of military flight.

The ceremony ended with a demonstration from the Thunderbirds, who buzzed the crowd before doing the bomb-burst formation, which inspired the design of the three-spires of the memorial.

COLA

Social Security checks for nearly 49 million Americans are going up by 3.3 percent next year, which will mean an extra \$33 per month in the average check.

The cost of living adjustment means that the monthly benefit for the typical retired worker in 2007 will go from \$1,011 currently to \$1,044 next year.

The COLA amount is based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index in the July-September quarter of this year compared to the same quarter in 2005. The Labor Department announced that consumer prices actually fell by 0.5 percent in September, reflecting a big drop in energy prices.

The 3.3 percent increase compares to a 4.1 percent rise in monthly benefits for 2006, which had been the biggest increase in 15 years. Starting in 1975, the benefit payments have been adjusted each year to keep up with inflation.

contributions



Please send donations to:
National Headquarters, 3201 East
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Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2006

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Robert Vickers, Central Missouri
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chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

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

Looking back at the year just ending, I cannot help but know that my help in good, bad and troubled times came from You, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

I may not always know the way
wherein You lead my feet,
But this I know, that
around my faith
Your love and wisdom meet.
And so I rest, content to know
You guide my feet

wherever I go.
I may not always understand
just why You send to me
Some bitter grief, some heavy
load, but though I cannot see
I kneel and whisper through my
tears, a prayer for help and
know you hear.
My cherished plans may fall, my
idols turn to dust
But this I know, my Father's
love is always safe to trust.
These things are dead to me but
still, above them all
I love His will.
Oh precious peace within my
heart, O blessed rest to know
My Father's love keeps constant
watch amid life's ebb and flow.
I ask no more than this:
I rest content and know
Your way is best.

Let us pray: May we pause with
hearts and minds raised to Thee
in prayer, O God. As we give You
thanks and praise for the blessings
that You have shared with
us during this year. May Your

love, guidance and presence with
us be shared with all who we happen
to meet along life's pathway.
For our loved ones, our friends,
our comrades, we are extremely
thankful. For each blessing that
has come to us this year from
Your holy throne, may we give
praise and glory unto Thee. May
we remember those who know
sorrow, sickness or troubled
times, as well as those still listed
as POW/MIAs. May Your will and
way be done in all things as we
say thank You, Lord, for Your love
and kindness. **Amen.**

Thought for November and December. May we praise God for
the year 2006 and look forward
to His love during the New Year.

Vera and I not only wish, but pray
that all is well in your life and that
God's blessings continue to come
with the New Year.

Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2006



taps



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

ANDERSON, Lawrence R., 85, of Jamestown, NY died Sept. 3, 2006. Larry was captured while serving with the 351st BG, 8th AF. He spent 16 months in Stalag 17B. He was a member of the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Gloria, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

ANTKOWSKI, Chester, member of the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW, died July 13, 2006. He served in the Army with the 752nd TBN, 36th Div. during WWII; he was a POW in Stalag 7A. Chester is survived by friend Virginia Szydlowski, 1 daughter and 1 son.

BEARD, James Edmond, Jr., 85, of Fayetteville, PA died Oct. 3, 2006. He was assigned to the 59th Coast Artillery, 1st Bn, Battery "A". James was captured in the Philippines in 1942 and held POW for 3 ½ years at Mukden, Manchuria. He leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 sisters, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BELSINGER, Robert Henry, 80, of Silver Spring, MD passed away Oct. 2, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 8th AF, 860th BS, 492nd BG; he was held POW at Luftwaffe AFB, Frankfurt. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Chuck Williams Mid-Maryland Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Audrey Ellen, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

BENNETT, Mary E., age 80, died Aug. 25, 2006 in St. Joseph, MO. She was a life member of AXPOW. She was the beloved wife of 58 years to Lee, who served in the

Army during WWII. Lee was captured in the Philippines. In addition to her husband, she leaves 1 daughter, 1 son and many grandchildren. She is sadly missed by all.

BLACK, Charles B., 86, of Knox, PA passed away June 28, 2006. He was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Maxine, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BOLTON, Allan F., of Sherborn, MA died Sept. 28, 2006 at the age of 90. He was captured when his B-17 was shot down over Braunschweig, Germany during WWII. He is survived by his beloved wife, Laura, one daughter and five grandchildren.

BRADAC, Joe, of Hopedale, OH died Sept. 18, 2006. He was 80 years old. Joe was captured at the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 42nd Rainbow Division; he was a POW in Germany for 113 days. Survivors include his wife, Joan, 6 daughters, 1 son, 1 sister, 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

BRANTLEY, Hattie R. an "Angel of Bataan" died Sept. 20, 2006 at the age of 90. Known as "H.R." to friends and family alike, she survived two years, 10 months and 27 days as a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands in 1942 when captured by the Japanese. Most of her days as a POW were spent caring for fellow prisoners in the prison camp, which the Japanese had established at The University of Santo Tomas in Manila. The female counterparts of the famed "Batling Bastards of Bataan," the 99 Angels touched America's heart and their heroism has been depicted in books and film.

BRAUKS, Wallace G., of Affton, MO died Aug. 5, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 34th BG. He was shot down and held in Luft 4. Wally was a life member of the St. Louis Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his sister, Doris.

BRUCE, Eunice D., of Orlando, FL passed away April 4, 2006. She was 81. A member of the Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW, she is survived by her beloved husband, John. John served with the 41st BG and was a POW at Luft 3 and 7A.

BYRD, Joseph S., Sr., age 85, of Columbia, SC died Sept. 3, 2006. During WWII, he was a member of the 12th AAF, 340th BG, 488th BS. After being shot down over Italy, he was captured and held in Stalag 7. Joe was a charter member of the Palmetto Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Rosemary, 3 sons, 2 daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CHASINOV, Samuel, age 91, of Mastic Beach, NY passed away August 16, 2006. He was stationed on Corregidor when he was captured - serving with HQ and HQ Battery, on the defense of Manila and Subic Bay. Samuel was held in Cabanatuan 1 & 3, Tanagawa, Ichioka Hospital and Tsuruga, Japan. He was the beloved husband of the late Virginia; he leaves three daughters, one son, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a large and loving extended family.

DELACRUZ, Vic, of Marina, CA passed away Aug., 21, 2006 at age 84. He enlisted in the Army at Ft. Wm. McKinley, Philippines in Jan. 1941. He was captured in 1942 and endured the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. Vic was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves 4 daughters, 2 sons, 11

taps continued

grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

DERRICO, Louis A., member of the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW, died July 25, 2006. He was a member of the 350th Inf. Reg., 88th Inf. Div. He was a POW in Germany for 1 year. Louis leaves his wife, Mary, and two sons.

EDWARDS, Fred, of Cottage Hills, IL, died March 12, 2006. Edwards, a member of the OKAW Chapter, served with the 3rd Div, 3rd Regiment. He was held at Stalag 13C.

ELPHINSTONE, Alice, of Clemmons, NC (formerly of Ludlow, MA) died Nov. 12, 2005. She was the widow of ex-POW James. Alice is survived by one son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She will be missed.

FELDMAN, Shirley, of New Rochelle, NY passed away Sept. 2006. She was an active member of the Greater New York Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband, Milton, is the Chapter Commander. In addition to her beloved husband of 61 years, Shirley is survived by one son and grandchildren.

FINKLESTEIN, Martin, of Warminster, PA passed away July 17, 2006. Marty joined the service when he was 17 years old and took his airborne training with 101st Airborne Div. He then requested transfer to the 82nd Airborne Div. and took part in the Normandy Invasion. Marty's group was dropped behind enemy lines on June 5th, 1944, two days prior to the invasion. They missed the drop zone as many troops did, and was taken prisoner two days later on "D" Day. He was a member of AXPOW. Marty is survived by Bunny, his loving wife of 61 years, two children and four grandchildren.

FIX, Joyce P. of Roanoke, VA died June 16, 2006. She was the beloved wife of Oscar B. Fix; they were married 59 ½ years. Oscar was a POW in Germany. Joyce is also survived by 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She is missed by all.

FREEMAN, Lawrence I., loving husband of Esther, father of three and grandfather of six. He was nearly 88 years old. Lawrence was on the USS Canopus prior to the outbreak of the war in the Pacific; he was a POW at Bilibid, Cabantuan, and Omuta #17.

GALING, Bernard W., of Melbourne, FL died Aug. 23, 2006. He was captured at the Kunuri Roadblock while serving with the 2nd Div., 9th Inf. Reg. in Korea; he was held nearly 3 years. He was a life member of AXPOW and the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Florence, 1 daughter, 3 sons and 11 grandchildren.

GIBBENS, Edward "Red", of Meridian, ID passed away Sept. 4, 2006 at the age of 89. He was a POW in Korea, Camp 2, from March 1951 to Sept. 1953. He leaves his wife of 39 years, Joan, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

GIBSON, Carter, 82, of Chandler, IN died July 2, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 351st BG, 511th BS. He was shot down over Germany and held in Lufts IV and VI. His beloved wife, Christine, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 brother and 4 grandchildren survive him.

HERENDEEN, Lawrence B., of Weedsport, NY died Aug. 28, 2006. He was 82. Larry was captured while serving with the Army during WWII; he was held until liberation. He was founder and past commander of the Central NY Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline, 1 daughter, 4 sons and 4 grandchildren.

HIBLER, Andrew, 90, of Wellington, OH died Aug. 8, 2006. He served in the Army during WWII. He was captured in Italy and held in Stalag 2B for almost two years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; survivors include 1 sister, many nieces, nephews and friends.

HOFFERBERTH, Inie, widow of Carl, died in Aug. 2006. She was a member of the Dayton Chapter, Dept. of Ohio.

JAMROSE, Walter R., 87 of Whiting, IL passed away September 21, 2006. During WWII, he spent 26 months as a POW in Germany. He was the beloved husband of the late Cecilia; loving father of Walter; he is also survived by one grandson, one great-grandson, one brother and many nieces and nephews.

JOHNSON, Virgil O., age 83, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away recently. He belonged to the SiouxLand Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judy, 1 son and 2 daughters.

JONES, Ruth B., of Reidsville, NC passed away during the summer, 2006. She was the loving wife of Winfred, ex-POW in Germany during WWII. Ruth was a faithful member of the Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW. She will be missed by all.

JOYCE, Robert J. of Pasadena, TX. died August 3, 2006 at age 83. Bob served with the 8th AF, 95th BG as a member of the B-17 crew "Just Elmer's Tune". He was shot down over Denmark and held in Luft VI, IV and I. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Alleen, 1 son, 2 granddaughters, and 2 great grandchildren. Submitted by the last survivor of his crew, Tail Gunner Ed Hays.

taps continued

JUNGWIRTH, Arthur, age 81, died Aug. 12, 2006 in Tucson, AZ. He was shot down over Germany while serving with the 8th AF, 94th BG; he was held in Stalag 17B for 18 months. Arthur was Past State and Chapter commander for Wisconsin. He leaves his wife, Joan, 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

KNIGHT, Paul D. of Tustin, California died September 4, 2006. Paul served with the 447th BG as a radio operator and gunner on a B-17, flying 20 missions before being shot down. He spent most of his imprisonment in Stalag 17B. He is survived by his wife, Joan, a daughter, a son and two grandchildren.

KUZNIAREK, Raymond S., member of the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW, died May 15, 2006. He was a POW in Germany during WWII. Raymond is survived by his wife, Viola, and one daughter.

LAMBAISO, Jenro, 85, of Virginia Beach, VA passed away June 27, 2006. He was captured on Bataan in 1942 and endured 3 ½ years of captivity, much of it spent working the coals mines in Japan. Jenro was a member of ADBC and AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife of 58 years, Evelyn, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 2 sisters, many nieces and nephews.

LEVANGIA, Warren J., 84 of Vergennes, VT died September 1, 2006. He was a member of the Vermont Chapter, AXPOW. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was captured at the Anzio beachhead in Italy and held by the Germans for 15 months at

Stalag Luft IV and Stalag Luft 7-A. On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1994, when he was 72, he jumped at Sainte-Mère-Église, France, and he said no one was shooting at him that time. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Jeanne; he is survived by three children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

MAUTZ, Robert G., age 83, passed away Aug. 29, 2006. He was a member of the 351st BG when he was shot down over La Barge, France. He was held in Luft 4, Compound B, Barracks 5-9. Robert was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy. Survivors include a good friend and companion, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

McKNIGHT, Carmon L., of Tampa, FL passed away July 14, 2006. He was shot down while serving with the AAF during WWII and held in a German POW camp for 15 months. He leaves his wife of 6 years, Alice, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-granddaughter.

MITCHELL, Duane E., 84, of Mt. Ayr, IA died Aug. 19, 2006. He was a navigator on a B-24, serving with the 8th AF, 68th BG. He was a POW in a German hospital at Stalag IXc - Obermasfeld. Duane leaves his wife, Joy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MORELAND, Dorothy, 79, of Prairieville, LA died July 19, 2006. She was the beloved wife of Sam. Dorothy was a member of the Red Stick Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 1 daughter, 2 stepdaughters, 1 sister, 5 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

MULLINAX, Elizabeth Collie, 86, of Memphis, TN passed away Sept. 23, 2006. She was a long-time member of the Chattanooga Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband, Frank, was a P-38 pilot, captured in North Africa. In addition to her husband,

she leaves 4 children, 1 brother, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

NEIL, Archie, member of the Dayton Chapter, Dept. of Ohio died in Aug. 2006.

NEWBERRY, Hattie, of Roseville, CA died September 1, 2006. She was the widow of Arthur Newberry, a POW in the Philippines. Hattie was a former member of the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW.

NORROD, William, member of the Dayton Chapter, Dept. of Ohio died in Aug. 2006.

ODAHOWSKI, Steve P., 94, of Trinity, FL, died September 17, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 434th BG, 71st BS as a glider pilot. He was held in Lufts IIIB, III and VIIA. He was a member of Florida State Chapter #1, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, and Greater Tampa Bay Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Cheryl, and one daughter.

PETRICH, Michael R., of Signal Hill, CA passed away April 23, 2006. He was a B-26 pilot with the 391st BG; shot down over France. As a POW, he was among a group of 168 airmen who were imprisoned in Buchenwald concentration camp. Michael is survived by his wife of 59 years, Millicent, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

PHILLIPS, Fred, of Denton, NC passed away during the summer, 2006. He was captured at Kasserine Pass, North Africa while serving with the 168th Inf., Company E. He was held in Stalag 7A and 3B. Fred was a long-time member of the Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW.

PRESTON, Robert M., 83, of Monrovia, MD died Sept. 12, 2006. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held for 5 months in German POW camps. He leaves 4 daughters, 1 son, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

taps continued

PRINCE, Charles John, 87, of Big Rapids, MI died Sept. 5, 2006. He was captured while serving with the 8th AF, 334th BS, 95th BG (H) during WWII. He was held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. Charles was a member of the Central Michigan Chapter, AXPOW, serving as JVC, SVC and Commander of the Chapter. Survivors include his wife, Margaret, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandsons and 1 great-granddaughter.

SAKEVICH, Simon, of Scranton, PA passed away April 17, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 35th Inf. Div., H CO., 320th Inf. Reg. He was captured in Germany, interned in Stalag IIA. Simon is survived by 4 daughters, 3 grandchildren and his wife, Rosalie. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Keystone (PA) Chapter.

SEXTON, Clyde, 83, of Conyers, GA died Sept. 28, 2006. During WWII, he served with CO I, 112th Reg., 28th Inf. Div. He was a POW in Stalag 13. Clyde was a charter member and first Vice Commander of the Greater Atlanta Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife Emelyn, 3 sons, 1 stepson, 2 stepdaughters, 4 brothers, 2 sisters and their families.

SHIFFLET, Joseph T., of Hampton, VA passed away Aug. 20, 2006. He was an Army veteran and was captured by the Germans in France. He was held until liberation in April, 1945. He was a member of the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Nellie, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren survive him.

SMALL, James L., formerly of Canonsburg, PA died Sept. 8, 2006 at the age of 95. He served with the 28th Div., 112th Reg. He was captured at the Battle of Huertgen Forest and held at Stalag 6G. He is survived by 2 sons, 7 grandchildren

and several great-and great-great-grandchildren.

SMITH, Oscar A. "Bill" Jr., of Harrisburg, PA passed away July 16, 2006. He was 87. Survivors include his beloved wife, Elsie.

STELZER, James B., of Celina, TX died Jan. 4, 2006. He was captured while serving with the AF during WWII; he spent 25 months in Stalag 17B. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Frances, 1 son, 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren.

ST. LOUIS, Robert L., 80, of Stuart, FL and Plattsburgh, NY died July 2, 2006. He was a veteran of the Army, serving in WWII. He was a prisoner of war and a valued member of the Suncoast Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 daughters, 2 sisters, a friend and companion, 2 granddaughters and 4 great-granddaughters.

SUPCHAK, Gene Elizabeth, 79, of Hampton Commons, NJ died Sept. 8, 2006. She was a life member of Chapter #1, AXPOW. During the Korean War, she served with the 5th AF, 375th Medical Div. and was assigned to a MASH unit near Seoul, Korea. Gene is survived by her husband, ex-POW Henry, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 sister, 6 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

TATE, Wallace Sr., 83, of New Lexington, OH died Aug. 11, 2006. He was a member of the Fairfield Barb Wire Association Chapter #4. Wallace was serving as a waist gunner when he was shot down. He spent 9 months in Luft IV. Survivors include his wife, Wanda, 1 daughter, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

WEIXELMAN, Louis Henry, of Wamego, KS died Aug. 18, 2006. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the AAF. He was a POW in Romania. Survivors include his wife, Cleona, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 3 brothers, 4 sisters, 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WELLS, William "Bill", member of the East Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW passed away in a nursing home in Wisconsin. Bill was a past commander of the Dept. of Florida. During WWII, he served with the 96th BG, 338th BS, 8th AF. He was held in Dulag Luft and Stalag Luft 1. Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley.

WILLIAMS, Ben F., Jr., of Alamogordo, NM passed away Aug. 17, 2006. He was 88. Ben was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years captivity. He leaves his wife of more than 60 years, Oleta, 4 children, 18 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother.

A POW'S PRAYER

By Henry R. Tavares

God, please grant me
The courage and endurance
To persevere at the hands
Of my enemies.
Please endow me
with the presence
Of mind to always remember
Who and what I am.
Gift me with the needed fortitude
To resist all
torture and deprivation
Be it mental or physical.
And most of all dear lord
Grant unto me the
power and ability
To keep my soul and resolve,
American, to the core.

(Henry Tavares is the husband of Brenda Morgan Tavares, whose uncle, Melvin Morgan, died while a POW with the Tiger Survivors in North Korea)

new members

National Headquarters
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Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



New Annual Members "Welcome Home"

Morton Gollin
Alice
Indio, CA
AAF
Luft 3, 7A
8/7/44-4/29/45

Dorothy Edith Riley
"Dot" Franks
Lafayette, GA
Civilian
Santo Tomas 1942-1945

Virginia S Green
Cedar Hill, TN
Daughter of
Jack Stringham, ETO

Janis R. Varner
Houston, TX
Daughter of
Hurshel Reeves, PAC

New Life Members "Welcome Home"

* **new AXPOW member**
Paul C Andersen
Mildred 29840 39196
Austin, TX
389 BG
Stalag Luft 1
9/5/44-5/13/45

Peter P Iosso
Marion Condemi
34317 39197
New Providence, NJ
CO E 422 REG 106 DIV
9B Berga Elster slave labor
camp
12/16/44 to liberation

Walter Howard Riley
Margaret 37707 39198
Dallas, TX
Civilian
Santo Tomas

Nathan Blockman
Barbara 38439 39199
Memphis, TN
30 DIV 119 INF CO L
3A
445-6/45

Robert K Collins 39200
Cameron, MO
7 DIV 17 INF REG
Marched in Korea
1/20/50-2/7/50

Fannie V Shirker 39201
Ephrata, PA
Widow of Robert
M Shirker
2B, 4B East Prussia

Wilfred M Boucher 39202
Fanwood, NJ
41 FA BN 3 INF
5C Oflag 64

Jack O Stewart 39203
Brookston, IN
392 BG 578 BS
Dulag Luft, 17B

Ray L Servatius 39204
Clarkston, WA
Korea
Camp 3
10/24/52-8/27/53

Evelyn J Tartaglia 39205
Henderson, NV
Widow of Raymond
Tartaglia
Stalag 3 1
10/44-5/45

Mary E. Smith 39206
Colorado Springs, CO
Widow of Gerald L. Smith
3B, 3A
11/44-4/45

Jim Gervais *39207
Bethany, OK
Son of James Gervais,
ETO

Frank W. Brojakowski 39208
Hunlock Creek, PA
CO F 26 INF 1 DIV
12A, 4B
11/29/44-5/10/45

Philip E. Wagner *39209
Sacramento, CA
15 AF 484 BG
Luft 3, 7A
8/17/44-4/25/45

Lawrence E Peiffer *39210
Bloomington, IL
3 PLTN CO C 261 INF
Moved around
5/4/45-5/6/45

Christine Page *39211
Ellensburg, WA
Daughter of PNC Harold
Page, PAC

Sadie Ann Marie Moles *39212
Elk Grove, CA
Civilian
Santo Tomas
10/6/44-2/3/45

Gerald Maurice Bess
Bonnie Lee *39213 39214
Springfield, MO
28 DIV ARMY
2A Neubrandenburg,
Mecklinburg

Robert H Berly, Jr.
Opal B *39215 39216
Matthews, NC
15 AF 450 BG 721 BS
Luft 1
12/44-5/45

Elmer W Breece
Laverne H 39217 39218
Wildwood, MO
12A Neubrandenburg
Stiten
12/16/44-4/16/45

William J Schickler
Shirley A 39219 39220
Sarasota, FL
87 INF DIV 346 INF CO G
12A, 3A

Roy Esper Ziegler II
Nancy 39221 39222
Taylorville, IL
58th AVN DET
D-4 Plantation, Garden,
Hanoi Hilton
2/8/68-3/73

Thomas A Veltry
Irene 39223 39224
Ashville, NC
351 BG 511 BS
4D, 9B

Bennett T Karoly
Linda 39225 39226
Carmichael, CA
AAC
Shumen Bulgaria
6/23/44-9/10/44



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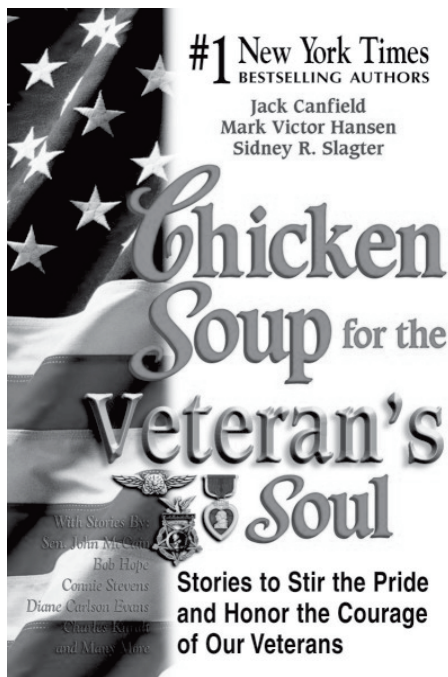
Make all checks and money orders payable to: Stalag Luft IV. Send orders to: Grave Medallion, Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St. Lawrence, IN 46226-2018.

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

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

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2006

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2006



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