

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

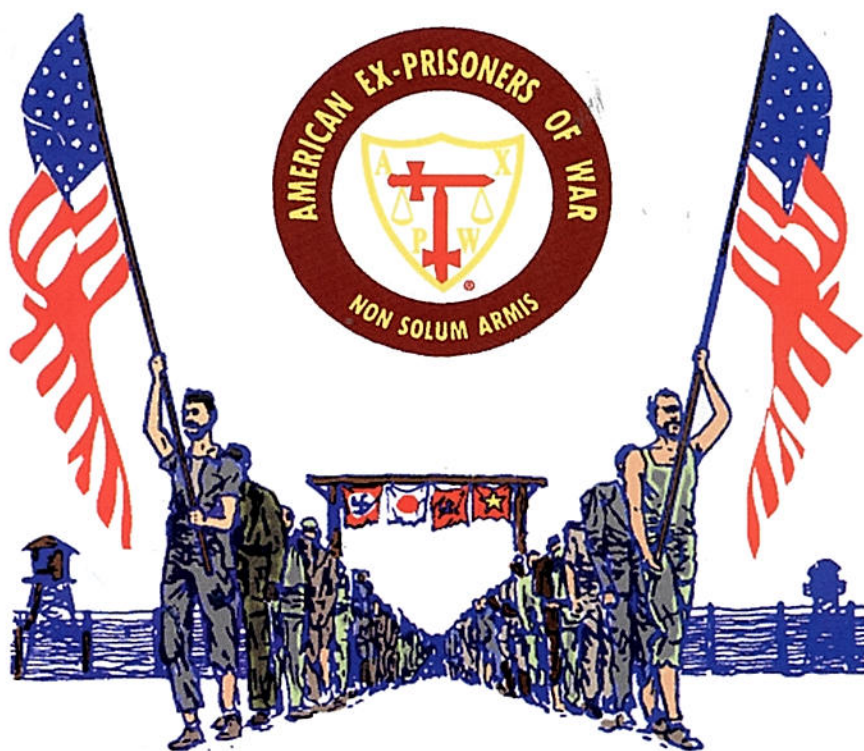
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 62

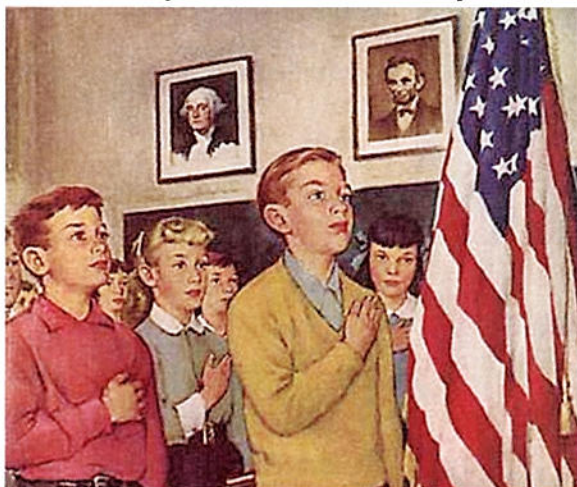
www.axpow.org

Number 9

September 2005



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Inside...stories...national convention information...news,
events, NSO success stories...and more*



Clockwise from top left: CT Chapter POWs Pierre Kennedy, Jean Arcand, Aldo Provera & Cmdr. Edward Giering with CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz, who presented new flags for each veterans' organization to the CT State Capitol on Flag Day; 2&3: NamPOW-River Rats Joint Reunion -- Bud & Doris Day relaxing; Ross & Margo Perot with Dr. Bob Mitchell & his wife. Ross was the banquet speaker; PNC Maurice Shapr was presented with a replica of the bronze sculpture which will be dedicated at the Riverside, CA National Cemetery (see inside back cover); Two of our favorites - - Frank and Annie Kravetz -- show off their field of daisies; Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery. Flag bearers are: L. Kim Fauber (American Flag) M/Sgt Clay P. Fauber - retired Green Beret (AXPOW Flag). Seated Dept. of Virginia Commander William C. Fauber (proud father).

national commander



James Cooper

I am giving up my space this month in order to print the report of the Budget Committee, under the capable direction of SVC Gerald Harvey. I also wish to thank the chapters and members who have recently sent in donations to help balance our budget. Your support of AXPOW is greatly appreciated.

Jim

Budget Committee Report

At a recent department convention a member asked, "Where has all our money gone?" That was a good question which I proceeded to answer.

In 1990 our national membership and national income were at their highest point. During the nineties, membership started to decline and our national income declined. There were a number of years when we spent more money than we took in. In the last six years and eleven months, 1998-2005, our total expenditures were \$481,479.32 more than our total income. Consequently we have had to draw from our reserve funds to cover our expenses. Currently we have only \$284,794 in reserve.

Our Budget Committee has met to prepare a proposed budget for the

2005-2006 fiscal year. The committee members are Jr. Vice Cmdrs. Richard Manners, Robert Fletcher, and Isaac Ornelas, Commander Jim Cooper and Sr. Vice Commander Gerald Harvey. As Sr. Vice Cmdr. I serve as chairman of the committee. We were faced with the necessity of making drastic cuts in what we have been spending. These cuts include:

Cutting all expense accounts by 25%.

Reducing travel reimbursement back to 20 cents per mile. This is for all travel and applies to officers, directors, committee members, service officers, etc.—anyone who turns in mileage for reimbursement. We are all volunteers. (On 2004 income tax, travel for charity work was set at 14 cents per mile.) No budget for Board members travel to the midyear board meeting. This travel can be taken out of their expense accounts if they choose to spend part of their expense money for this.

No reception at the midyear meeting.

Cut the Bulletin from 11 issues to 6 issues per year.

Reduction in what various committees can spend in doing their work. Funds are budgeted for the NSO program expense, but not for reimbursing expenses of National Service Officers. Most of our service officers feel that this is a volunteer job and do not turn in expenses. We expect to receive contributions designated to the NSO program. As money comes in it will be available for the program.

We have set budget expenditures at \$409,191. This is \$113,180 less than this year's budget.

We have set a budget goal for income at \$422,000. This is \$132,000 less than this year's budgeted income.

We need to be generous in our support of our fund raising programs and look for new sources of income if we are to keep income what we need it to be to cover expenses.

It is being suggested by some that we need to eliminate some of the salaried jobs and cut salaries of others. To make this kind of changes, there needs to be a study made of what work these people are doing, and how we would cover this work if jobs were eliminated. If we cut salaries, could our present employees live on the reduced salary or would they need to seek other employment? Could we hire others who could do the work and would work for a lower salary? These questions need answers before we make decisions.

I am asking the Strategic Planning Committee to look at our whole organization and bring a report to the Board at midyear including questions about salaried positions as well as other changes that need to be made in committees, officers and directors, etc. If decisions are made at midyear that need by-law changes, the needed resolutions would be approved by the Board at midyear for vote of the members at the national convention. It would also give employees some months in which to find other employment if they needed to do so.

I want to thank the Budget Committee members for tackling an very difficult job. We also want to thank all of the members who sent us suggestions.

**Gerald Harvey, SVC
Chairman, Budget Committee**



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table of contents

Commander	3
SVC/HQ	6
JVC/Civilian	7
On Capitol Hill	8
NSO	9
MedSearch	10
Outreach/Success	15
POW/MIA	16
News, Events, Info	17
Andersonville	19
News Briefs	20
Stories	25
Members Forum	29
NamPOW	30
Contributions/Chaplain	31
TAPS	32
New Members	35
Convention	36
Raffle/Ads	39
Quartermaster	42

September 2005

On June 20, 2005, the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization was sued by the Service Foundation. Until such time as this lawsuit plays out in the courts, there will be no further mention of the dispute between the two organizations in the EX-POW Bulletin.

PNC Maurice Sharp, Publisher
EX-POW Bulletin

September is a big month -- eventwise. Major battles in virtually every war were begun or ended. Japan formally surrendered, putting WWII to rest. The Pledge of Allegiance was first published in 1892...the Star Spangled Banner was written by POW Francis Scott Key in 1814...The US Air Force was established in 1947. Sept. 16 is POW/MIA Recognition Day. And four years ago, the United States was attacked on its own soil by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001.

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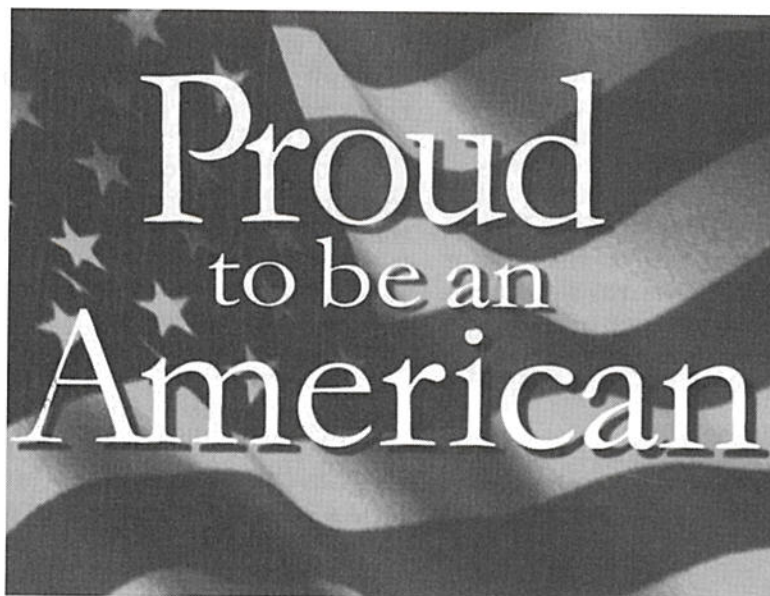
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Please send all materials to the
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Freedom is NEVER free.



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Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005

sr. vice commander



Gerald Harvey

Summer is coming to a close. Most of America has been hot, hot, hot. We try to stay inside with the air conditioner turned on. We seem to forget how hot or how cold it was in prison camp. It is a good thing that most military people are young. We were able to endure all kinds of hardships and extremes.

Recently I attended the annual convention of the Department of Iowa. When representatives from the VA or the VA Hospital speak, I listen very carefully. I usually hear something that is new to me. Mr. John Vic Tate from the VA Regional Office in Des Moines spoke about the death of a veteran. Some widows asked about compensation checks that come after the veteran's death. Do you keep it or send it back to the VA?

The check that is dated the first of the month is the compensation for the previous month. A check

dated June 1st is the compensation for the month of May. If the veteran was alive the entire month of May, the spouse keeps the check. If the veteran died any time during the month of May, even if it was on May 31st, the check must be returned to the VA. The spouse who keeps the May check because veteran died June 1st or later in the month of June, may receive a check dated July 1st. That check is for the month of June compensation. That check must be returned to the VA because the veteran was not alive the whole month of June. {Reference: 38 CFR 3.500(g)(1) (Death of payee)}

The spouse who has returned the check to the VA may request in writing that the check be returned to her.

If the death pension (career military) or the DIC (non-career military) to which the spouse is entitled for the month of the veteran's death is more than the compensation check that the veteran would have received if he had not died, the compensation check will not be returned.

If the death pension or the DIC is less than the compensation check that was issued for the month in which the veteran died, the spouse is entitled to the amount of the

compensation check and the VA will send the spouse another check. The amount of the monthly compensation check is compared with the death pension or DIC amount. For the month of the veteran's death, the spouse is entitled to the greater of the two.

For example: If the veteran had 60% disability and received \$839 compensation and the spouse is entitled to DIC of \$993, the spouse will not get the compensation check. However, if the veteran was 100% disabled and received over \$2000 per month and the spouse is entitled to DIC of \$993 a month, the spouse will get the larger amount for the month of the veteran's death. This payment is not automatic. The spouse must apply to the VA in writing. {Reference: 48 FR 34471, July 29, 1983, as amended at 62 FR 35422, July 1, 1997, 64 FR 30392, June 8, 1999}

If you do not understand this, talk to your Service Officer or your VA Regional Office Ex-POW Coordinator.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the American Ex-Prisoner of War National Convention. It isn't too late to plan to come.

Gerald

national adjutant



Clydie J. Morgan
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Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005

6

Summer's nearly over in most parts of the country (Texas is still steamy)...It's almost National Convention time again!

The August issue Delegate page had a typographical error - the headline date, city and state were correct, but in the body of the form, unfortunately, Arlington, TX and 2004 were listed. Not that we don't want you all back, but...

If you haven't sent in your delegate form yet, tear out the page from this issue and send it in. If you've already mailed it, we'll make the correction.

Thanks!

The Doubletree Hotel in Denver has transportation to and from the Denver airport available for those using a wheelchair, electric or manual, or an electric scooter. Please contact the hotel at 303-321-3333 Ext. 4011 (Guest Services) to make arrangements to be picked up. Call the hotel 2 to 3 days before your flight and give them your airline name, flight number and time of arrival. This service is free. See you in Denver!

Clydie, Sally, Marsha & Donna
Your National Headquarters

jr. vice commander



Richard Manners
Eastern Zone

After spending the past three years on the Budget Committee, I have been in a position to watch the drop in our income correspond with falling membership in AXPOW. It is a sobering sight. Our donations are decreasing because of the decrease in membership...the membership is decreasing because of advanced age...the advanced ages of our

members make it more imperative that we have the funding to educate them on the resources available to them.

Two of the most important programs, in my opinion, are MedSearch and the NSO program. Medical Research done over the years - on behalf of, or collated by AXPOW - has been the basis for Public Law 97-37 (which gave us our presumptives). It has also been an invaluable tool for physicians and adjudicators.

An added benefit: MedSearch is self-supporting. The donations made for packets, brochures and the like more than make up the costs of running the committee.

The importance of the NSO program is obvious to all. Fred Campbell, chairman of the Outreach committee is doing a bang-

up job in helping former POWs and their widows receive the benefits due them. What could have simply been a committee to find ex-POWs and bring them in to the organization has expanded greatly because of Fred's hard work, dedication and persistence in spreading the word about entitlements. Doris Jenks has been traveling the country for the past few years, training both ex-POWs and those in a position to help them. Working in tandem, these two workhorses are doing everything feasible to make sure no POW (or spouse) is left uncared for.

Let's give our support and thanks to our MedSearch committees past and present...and the NSOs who spend their time living up to our slogan of helping those who cannot help themselves.

Rich

civilian committee

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WWII Civilian Internees are included in the National Archives Databases.

Welcome to the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System

What's New in AAD

Using AAD, you can search some of NARA's holdings of electronic records. For further information about all of NARA's electronic records holdings, including those not in AAD, see the Electronic and Special Media Records Services [table of contents](#) page. To search descriptions of NARA's non-electronic records, NARA's online catalog, [ARC](#) also is available.

AAD gives you:

- Online access to a selection of nearly 50 million historic

electronic records created by more than 20 federal agencies on a wide range of topics;

- the ability to search for records with the specific information that you seek;
- important contextual information to help you understand the records better, including code lists, explanatory notes from NARA archivists, and for some series or files in AAD, related documents.

AAD supports NARA's mission, [strategic plan](#), and vision by providing the public with "ready access to essential evidence." AAD is the first publicly accessible application developed under the auspices of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Program.

The [ERA Program](#) is addressing the challenges of preserving the increasing variety and volume of Government records that have been created and stored in electronic form.

If you want to learn how to use AAD see the [Getting Started](#) page. If you want to [start searching](#) click on the AAD button at the top of the column to the left.

AAD is designed to work best with either Microsoft Internet Explorer, 5.5 or above, or Netscape Navigator, 4.7 and above. If you are experiencing a problem with the performance of AAD, we strongly recommend that you read the [frequently asked questions](#), (FAQ) about possible causes and common solutions to access difficulties.

Click on Search...scroll down for Prisoners of War. American Civilian Internees are listed as Civilian POWs.

If you don't have access to a computer, check out your local library...or ask your grandchildren for help!

on capitol hill



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I attended the markup in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on July 28. Our Bill, S1271, was favorably marked up for Heart and Stroke. The House will probably do the same. Claims are already being approved for these two items as a result of Sec. Principi's administrative action, but the law had to be codified.

MONEY BILL FOR VETERANS SENT TO PRESIDENT BUSH

On July 29, 2005, the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Sen. Larry Craig, went to the Senate floor to publicly thank his colleagues for agreeing to add \$1.5 billion to the Interior Appropriations bill to meet the 2005 budget shortfall for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate passed the measure by a vote of 99-1, which the House passed by a vote of 410-10. The bill (H.R. 2361) was then sent to President Bush.

The chairman thanked his senate colleagues for their efforts in making the bill happen, and expressed frustration about the circumstances that led to the need for the money.

The senate's lead advocate for veterans said that he will continue to keep tight oversight over VA's monetary needs.

The addition of \$1.5 billion brings the total for VA's health care budget for 2005 to over \$28 billion.

Under the legislation adopted today, any of the \$1.5 billion not used during the 2005 budget year, which ends September 30, will be carried over into 2006.

CRAIG CALLS FOR ACTION REGARDING BRAIN CANCER DEATHS IN GULF WAR VETERANS

July 26, 2005. Reacting to a newly conducted study of diseases in Gulf War veterans, U.S. Senator Larry Craig, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said that he will ask Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson to consider adding brain cancer to the VA's list of "presumptive diseases." That change will provide Gulf War veterans with brain cancer easier access to VA services and healthcare.

The Chairman's action was prompted by a report published in the August edition of the American Journal of Public Health which found a "twofold" increase in the number of brain cancer deaths among servicemen who were possibly exposed to nerve agents during the Gulf War. That "twofold" increase equals 12 to 13 additional deaths out of over 100,000 veterans who may have been exposed in 1991.

The study was commissioned by the U.S. military and conducted by the National Institute of Medicine. It examined 60 potential illnesses. Of those, only brain cancer rates were statistically significant.

Under legislation passed in 1998, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is charged to declare a presumptive connection to disease for Gulf War

veterans when "sound medical science and scientific evidence" indicates a positive association between the exposure to biological, chemical, or other toxic agents.

By regulation, VA has set December 31, 2006, as the deadline within which diseases or undiagnosed illnesses must be evident to qualify for a presumption of service connection. "In light of this new evidence, we need to reevaluate whether that is still an appropriate deadline," Craig said.

The newly released study used a chemical disbursement model developed five years ago by the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency. That plume model tracked the demolition of nerve agents at Khamisiyah, Iraq, during March of 1991. The study ruled out smoke from oil well fires, which were prevalent during the Gulf War, as a cause for the increased cancers.

Researchers reviewed the health history of 351,121 U.S. Army personnel deployed in the Gulf from August 1990 to March 1991. Of those, 100,487 were considered to be potentially exposed to nerve gas and, of that number, 25 have developed brain cancer. Of the remaining 224,980 who were not considered to be exposed, 27 have developed brain cancer.

The authors of the report include a member of the National Institutes of Medicine and three members of the Veterans Health Administration.

Mary

nso



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The National Service Officer Training Seminar will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005 at the National Ex-POW Convention in Denver at the Doubletree. The Seminar will start at 9:00 A.M. and continue until everything is covered.

I will be available during the convention to help any previously accredited service officers and any members who have questions or wish to file claims.

Many questions can also be answered during the Men's and Women's workshop scheduled for Friday, Sept. 30th.

The National Service Officer website has been updated again. All the new service officers who were accredited over the past year are now back in the website. Due to a problem with the computers at National Headquarters, most of the new service officers were omitted in the July Bulletin.

If you wish to re-open your claim to either increase some of your current service-connected disabili-

ties or add in the new presumptives, please refer to the NSO website to find someone in your area to help you.

Many Former POWs are re-opening their claims to eliminate the Individual Unemployability portion of their claim in light of recent uncertainties. We will gladly help you accomplish this, but please remember, only submit new medical evidence that was not previously submitted with your last claim.

But, remember even if you submit new very current medical evidence, in all probability a compensation exam will be scheduled.

As a reminder, all veterans have 2 files, one which is kept at the V.A. Regional Office, under your C#, which is not necessarily your Social Security # and one kept at the local V.A. medical center where you receive treatment, which is under your Social Security #. The Regional V.A. office is not aware of what your V.A. Medical file contains, unless you alert them you have new medical evidence there to support your claim.

Ladies, keep in mind many care providers such as Hospice, have been known to simply put "Natural Causes" on a death certificate. The results will be at least a shortage of \$1,400 for reimbursement of your one-time burial refund and result in No Payment for Dependent's Indemnity Compensation (DIC), if your husband was not 100% for at LEAST ONE YEAR. By all means you need to speak to your doctor and/or medical examiner to request, if possible, a Former POW Presumptive, such as heart is also put on the death certificate.

IF YOU HAVE NO INTERNET ACCESS,
EITHER CALL OR WRITE ME OR MY
OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING
HELP IN YOUR AREA.

Thanks
Doris Jenks

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

You may not be aware that there are other presumptives you may be entitled to in addition to the POW presumptives. If you qualify as an "atomic veteran" you may be eligible.

Atomic Veterans and Radiation-Related Health Issues

Approximately 195,000 U. S. service members have been identified as participants in the post-World War II occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan following the atomic bombing of Japan. In addition, approximately 210,000 mostly military members are confirmed as participants in U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests between 1945 and 1962 in the United States and the Pacific and Atlantic oceans prior to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty. Largely as a result of epidemiological studies of Japanese atomic bomb survivors, exposure to radiation has been associated with a number of disorders including leukemia, various cancers and cataracts. VA provides special priority enrollment for health-care services to "atomic veterans" for radiation-related conditions. In addition, these "atomic veterans" are eligible to participate in the VA ionizing radiation registry examination program.

Of the estimated 400,000 "Atomic Veterans," 22,000 have

participated in the Ionizing Radiation Registry.

What is Ionizing Radiation?

The term "ionizing radiation" refers to a group of subatomic particles, electromagnetic waves or photons that have enough energy to break chemical bonds and create ions (electrically charged particles) when they interact with atoms or molecules such as in the human body, which can lead to short- and long-term health consequences.

What are the types and common sources of Ionizing Radiation?

The following are types of ionizing radiation.

Alpha particles are relatively large particles compared to other types of radiation, and are made of parts of the nuclei of helium atoms. Sources include some radioactive elements. They are not able to penetrate the intact skin. Therefore, alpha emitters are hazardous primarily if they are taken into the body (for example, via the mouth and nose) and function as sources of internal radiation.

Beta particles are high-energy electrons that also come from many radioactive elements. They can penetrate a short distance into the body, but are hazardous primarily if radioactive elements that produce beta radiation

are taken into the body and become sources of internal radiation.

Gamma rays and similar x rays are types of electromagnetic radiation. Common sources are radioactive elements, and x ray medicine. These rays can penetrate the body readily so both external and internal gamma sources are hazardous.

Neutron particles emitted from atomic nuclei are another type of ionizing radiation to which some veterans were exposed (for example, by being nearby during or immediately after atomic weapons explosion). Neutron radiation is also produced by a few radioactive elements, and can penetrate the body readily.

Where does ionizing radiation come from?

Sources of ionizing radiation include radioactive atoms present in radioisotopes (radioactive forms of natural elements), as a result of nuclear fission (splitting of the atom such as in a nuclear reactor or detonation of an atomic bomb, which produces radioactive elements), nuclear fusion (fusion of atoms as in detonation of a hydrogen bomb), and certain mechanical devices, such as x-ray machines.

What are the health concerns from exposure to Ionizing Radiation?

medsearch continued

Many veterans who were present during the construction and later testing of atomic weaponry, and those serving in the occupation of Japan, are continuing to seek treatment for health problems believed to be caused by ionizing radiation for themselves or their families. Family members understandably have related concerns. Other veterans were exposed to ionizing radiation as submariners or as Gulf War participants who came in contact with depleted uranium (DU) and their families also have concerns.

What is the government doing to help veterans exposed to Ionizing Radiation?

Over the years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA previously known as the Veterans Administration), has developed comprehensive programs to respond to the needs of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation. VA provides special health care services to certain veterans who were exposed to radiation while on active duty. Veterans can receive our Ionizing Radiation Registry Health examination (see Ionizing Radiation Brief, B1, for additional information about the Registry) and have special eligibility for medical treatment for conditions possibly related to their exposure. (See Ionizing Radiation Brief, B2, for health care eligibility). These veterans are also eligible for the wide range benefits offered by VA to most veterans, including home loan guarantees, educational payments, and, under certain circumstances, disability compensation. (See Ionizing Radiation Brief, B3, for information on disability compensation).

How does a veteran qualify to participate in this program?

To qualify for VA's program for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, individuals must meet specific criteria. By law, veterans with special eligibility include those who:

Participated in atmospheric (above ground) nuclear weapons testing;

Participated in American occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan;

In some cases, were held as Prisoners of War in Japan;

Veterans who served at gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and area K25 at Oak Ridge, TN (during specified time periods); or

Participated in certain underground nuclear weapons tests in Alaska.

Individuals in the first three groups are sometimes referred to as "Atomic Veterans."

Veterans who received nasopharyngeal (NP) radium treatments during their military service are also eligible to participate in VA's Ionizing Radiation Registry examination program.

What are the advantages and limitations of the Ionizing Radiation Registry?

Because of the self-selected nature of Registry participants (that is, the individuals decide themselves to be part of the Registry rather than being "chosen" in a scientific manner), this group of veterans are not truly representative of radiation-exposed veterans as a whole.

Therefore, the health-related information collected cannot be used for scientific research. The information can, however, be used to detect possible health occurrences and can provide use-

ful facts about the group itself, and serve as an opportunity to address health concerns of veterans exposed to radiation while in service.

How many veterans have been exposed to radiation during their military service?

VA estimates that more than 400,000 service members participated in activities which may have involved exposure to radiation. This includes about 210,000 individuals who participated in atmospheric nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, and an estimated 195,000 service members who participated in post-World War II occupations of Japan. The number of veterans with other sources of exposures is considerably smaller.

How does a concerned veteran get an Ionizing Radiation Registry examination?

Examinations are provided upon request to all eligible veterans. Examinations, with few exceptions, are conducted at VA medical center nationwide. For information about eligibility and a possible appointment, veterans are encouraged to call the local VA medical center. Veterans are also urged to visit the following VA web site for additional information: www.va.gov/irad. They can also learn more about these programs and benefits and may file a claim online at www.va.gov/vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp, or can reach their local VA Regional Office for benefit information by calling 1-800-827-1000.

How does a veteran get disability compensation?

Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005

medsearch continued

Any veteran who believes his or her health medical problems were incurred in or aggravated by military service is encouraged to apply for disability compensation. VA provides billions of dollars each year to compensate veterans for injuries and illnesses that they have had while on active duty. Veterans Services Representatives (VSR), located at all VA regional offices and many VA medical centers, can explain the compensation programs in greater detail and can assist veterans who need help in filing a claim for service-connected disability compensation. Some survivors of certain veterans are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC). A VSR can also help the survivors complete the necessary forms for this benefit program. Also, veterans can reach the VA Regional Office serving their area by calling 1-800-827-1000.

What is the difference between presumptive and non-presumptive service-connected disability compensation?

"Presumption" means disability compensation will automatically be granted (assuming that the veteran applies for this benefit and meets certain conditions, such as documentation of participation in a "radiation risk activity"). "Non-presumption" means compensation may be awarded if there is evidence supporting the veterans claim that it is at least as likely as not that the illness was incurred in, or aggravated by, military service. These are two programs under which VA

provides monthly payments to eligible veterans.

Several categories of veterans are automatically eligible for compensation for one or more of 21 cancers specified in Federal law or VA regulations to be "presumed" to be associated with radiation exposure. For example, 21 cancers are known as presumptively recognized service-connected conditions. Radiation-exposed veterans with exposure situations or conditions not covered by the presumptions may also be eligible for disability compensation depending on how much radiation they received and consideration of other factors. For additional information about disability compensation, see Ionizing Radiation Brief, B3.

Where can a veteran obtain additional information about ionizing radiation?

The following Ionizing Radiation Brief fact sheets (including the one you are reading) are available at VA medical centers nationwide and online at www.va.gov/Irad: A1. General Information; B1. Ionizing Radiation Registry; B2. Health Care Eligibility; B3. Disability Compensation; B4. Information Resources on Radiation Health Effects; C1. Research (Planned); D1. Illnesses Linked to Ionizing Radiation; E1. Radiation Dose Reconstruction - The Purpose, The Process; E2. Coordination with Other Federal Departments and Agencies (Planned); E3. Advisory Committee Role (Planned); E4. Depleted Uranium; E5. Women Veterans Were Exposed Too.

IONIZING RADIATION REGISTRY

What is it?

The Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR) is a service provided to vet-

erans who were exposed to ionizing radiation during their military service. For eligible veterans, VA performs a complete physical examination (and various other tests) for each veteran who requests it.

Who is eligible for this program?

Veterans who participated in atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, served with the U.S. occupational forces in Hiroshima or Nagasaki or was a POW there, was exposed to ionizing radiation while participating in another "radiation risk" activity as defined in VA regulations, or received nasopharyngeal (NP) radium treatments while in military service may participate.

Are veterans required to enroll in the VA health care system to participate in the Registry?

No. Veterans need not be enrolled for general VA health care to be eligible for the Registry.

How many veterans have participated in this program and where can a veteran join the Registry?

Approximately 23,000 veterans have participated in this program, offered at virtually all VA medical centers throughout the Nation.

Under what authority was the Registry established?

Public Law 99-576, the "Veterans Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of 1986," enacted October 28, 1986, required VA to establish and maintain an Ionizing Radiation Registry of veterans exposed to radiation. In addition, Public Law 105-368, the "Veterans Programs Enhancement Act," enacted November 11, 1998, states that VA may

medsearch continued

provide a medical examination, hospital care, medical service, and nursing home care that the Secretary finds may be associated with the veteran's receipt of nasopharyngeal (NP) radium irradiation treatments while in the active service.

What does the Ionizing Radiation Registry consist of?

The IRR consists of data from veterans who participated in the IRR program along with information about compensation claims and radiation exposures from the Veterans Benefits Administration, an agency of VA and Department of Defense (DoD) agencies. VA compiles and consolidates information maintained by VA and DoD. Additional specialized tests and consultations are provided to veterans participating in the IRR exams program, as medically needed. This program potentially serves as an entry point for VA care.

Does participation in the Registry make a veterans eligible for disability compensation from VA?

No. Veterans are advised that the examination or treatment for radiation-related diseases does not constitute a formal claim for compensation. Although the results of an IRR examination may be used to support a compensation claim, the examination will not, in and of itself, be considered such a claim.

Where can a veteran go to receive an Ionizing Radiation examination?

Contact the nearest VA medical center and request an Ionizing Radiation Registry examination,

or go online at www.va.gov/irad for additional information.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

1. Presumptive Service-Connection

The following categories of veterans are automatically eligible for disability compensation for one or more of 21 cancers specified in Federal law: Veterans who participated in nuclear tests by the U.S., including certain underground tests at Amchitka Island, Alaska, prior to January 1, 1974, or who served with the U.S. occupation forces in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, between August 1945 and July 1946, or who were prisoners of war in Japan, or some who served at the gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and area K25 at Oak Ridge, TN.

The 21 cancers are *presumed* to be service-connected for veterans who participated in "radiation-risk activities," a term defined by VA regulations, include all forms of leukemia (except for chronic lymphocytic leukemia); cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract (renal pelvis, urethra, urinary bladder, and urethra), brain, bone, lung, colon, and ovary, bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma, multiple myeloma, lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

2. Non-presumptive - Direct Service Connection

To determine service-connection for other conditions or exposures *not* eligible for presumptive compensation, VA adjudicators con-

sider each case individually, looking at number of factors, including the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender, family history, age at the time of exposure, the extent to which a nonservice-related exposure could contribute to the disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

VA regulations define all cancers as possibly caused by radiation. Other non-malignant conditions might be caused by radiation include, posterior subcapsular cataracts; non-malignant thyroid nodular disease; parathyroid adenoma; and tumors of the brain and central nervous system. For a given individual, VA will also consider the possibility that other diseases were caused by radiation, if supported by medical or scientific evidence. To be eligible for compensation, VA must be able to establish that it is at least as likely as not that a veterans' illness was caused by their exposure to radiation during military service.

What about benefits for the survivors?

Surviving family members of deceased veterans who had a disease or diseases from exposure to radiation may be eligible for monthly payments known as dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC).

When the evidence in favor of service-connection is equal to the evidence against such a relationship, VA policy requires that the adjudicator find in the claimant's favor.



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.

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

1. _____ 5. _____ 9. _____

2. _____ 6. _____ 10. _____

3. _____ 7. _____ 11. _____

4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____

Set of 12 photos _____

Mail to:

MEDSEARCH, AXPOW National Headquarters

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Credit Card: MasterCard _____ VISA _____

Card # _____

Expiration: _____

Total Amount Enclosed or Charged

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

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

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

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

AXPOW Outreach Can be Stranger Than Fiction!

It took almost a year to get Ed. C. to complete the papers for his VA claim for a disability rating. In May 2005, we had his claim ready to go to Waco, TX VARO, but Ed and his wife were leaving El Paso to spend the summer in Florida. I told Ed, rather than do a delayed claim in Texas, he might get it done in Florida this summer. I called Super NSO Irwin Stovroff in Boca Raton and asked him to expedite Ed's VA claim in between Florida's hurricanes. Irwin is doing that right now. Teamwork does get POWs their benefits. And it's high time for Ed C.

What an experience! Ed was a Captain, out front locating water for the troops as they advanced across France in August 1944. The water he found was in German hands. He was captured by the Germans and sent to a German POW camp on the Isle of Jersey, a German-captured bailiwick of England, less than 20 miles off the coast of France. Escape seemed impossible. But the German NOTICE read in part: "On January 8, 1945, the American prisoners of war Captain C. and Lieutenant H. escaped from camp...anyone who takes in or extends help in any way to them will be punished by death..."

But a brave English patriot hid them and days later they found an 11-foot rowboat. In heavy snow and wind on 15 to 40 foot ocean waves, they rowed, with Ed holding the tiller for 17 hours straight, night and day. Finally, a "huge wave threw us up into shallow water. As we crawled onto the beach, shots rang out. Germans? No, American soldiers. Free at last!!"

NOW, word from Irwin Stovroff: "You asked me to do the claim for Ed C., whose story of capture in August of 44, being sent to the Isle of Jersey and the escape he made with a fellow prisoner by the name of George reads like a movie script. Escape...one citizen who helped...tiny boat in up to 40-foot waves...through sleet, snow and freezing weather...tossed on the coast of France and meeting with American troops...Freedom! Amazing!"

"Last week I got a call from a New York POW we had helped before. There had been an article about him in the paper...he got a call from another POW who had read the article, and wanted to know how he could get POW claim help. I called this inquirer and asked him about his capture. He started to tell me he had escaped from the Isle of Jersey and I asked him if he knew Ed C. and he said he was the George who escaped with Ed. Now I am going to do his claim. One from Texas and one from New York. Who says never the twain shall meet...now a reunion is brewing for these two POWs. Stranger than fiction.

Success Stories

NSO Success Delayed, Still Rewards Widows

From Word of Mouth Call: Mrs. Widow in Pt. Neches, TX. Former POW husband died in 1995 with no VA disability rating. She had no VA widow's benefit. She thought it impossible,

was reluctant. BUT...husband's death certificate showed cardiac problem as contributing cause of death.

Sept. 17, 2004: Sent necessary application forms for widow's benefit, and requested copies of death and marriage certificates.

Feb. 16, 2005: I called her to see why she had not sent me the completed forms. She said, "because a relative told me I had too much income and wouldn't qualify". WRONG! I explained that her income and assets did not matter, as there was no means test for COMPENSATION. "Please send me the completed forms and certificates so we can get the claim to VA."

April 13, 2005: Got widow's claim papers. Sent them to Houston VARO.

July 12, 2005: Mrs. Widow called. She couldn't believe it. She had gotten her VA widow's benefit - almost \$1,000 a month - retroactive from November 2004. I sent her ChampVA information, and called AXPOW headquarters to send her application for membership. She had missed ten years' widow's benefits, as her husband died in 1995.

OUTREACH calls to Oklahoma AXPOW members: Mrs. W. in Bartlesville.

May 3, 2005: Her husband had died in 1997 with no VA disability rating. BUT death certificate showed cause of death was "cardiomyopathic ischemia", a POW service-connected presumptive. Sent her necessary forms to complete for widow's benefit.

July 18, 2005: Called Mrs. W. to urge her to complete and send the forms back to me, with death and marriage certificates. She said, "Oh, I just knew I couldn't get anything after all these years, so I haven't done them". WRONG! She promised me she would follow through for her benefits.

pow-mia committee



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

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

Navy Urges New Search for Pilot Downed in IRAQ in 1991

A new Navy review of efforts to determine the fate of missing pilot Capt. Michael Scott Speicher is recommending that the US government undertake an intensified search in Iraq and that his status be affirmed as "missing-captured". Speicher, of Jacksonville, FL, was shot down over central Iraq in an F/A-18 on Jan. 17, 1991, opening night of the Gulf War. Some wreckage was later found, but his remains were never recovered. Speculation arose over the years that he was being held by the Iraqis; they say he perished at the site.

Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005
16

POW/MIAs - VIETNAM WAR: There are now 1,827 Americans listed by the Defense Department as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War - 1,393 in Vietnam, 372 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. The four personnel, previously unaccounted for in South Vietnam, are LTC Marvin L. Foster, USNR, from AL, CPT David R. Smith, USAR, from TX, SFC Michael L. Batt, USA, from OH, and SFV Raymond E. Bobe, USA, from OH. The remains of all four were recovered April 7, 1988, and identified April 5, 2005. The two USAF officers previously missing in Laos are Col Arthur D. Baker and Col James W. Lewis. The remains of both officers were jointly recovered in Laos February 24, 2003, and identified May 20, 2005. Over 90% of all 1,827 Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War were lost in Vietnam or in areas controlled by them.

US-Russia Commission

The 19th plenary session of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs (USRJC) was recently held in Moscow. Commissioner A. Denis Clift chaired the US delegation that included US officials from the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSJ) of the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO). General Major (Ret.) Vladimir Antonovich Zolotarev chaired the Russian side for discussions that explored open questions from the working groups that focus on the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. Commissioner Clift, president of the Joint Military Intelligence College, queried Russian officials on four specific Cold War incidents. The Vietnam War group discussed ways in which Russia could facilitate interviews with former KGB officials and other military and diplomatic personnel who served in Southeast Asia during the war. They also discussed US access to documents still classified that are believed to hold

information about Americans who were held prisoners of war and did not return from Vietnam. The US raised concerns over the lack of staff support on the Russian side, but was assured by General Major Aleksander V. Kirilin, chief of the Memorial Center of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, that the Joint Commission's work will go forward with staff support from his organization.

Joint Operations

BG Flowers hosted annual POW/MIA consultations with Cambodian officials in Hawaii. LTG Pol Saroeun led the Cambodian POW/MIA committee delegation; he and Cambodian Undersecretary of State of Interior also met with Commander, US Pacific Command, Admiral Fallon, for broader military-to-military discussions. Though circumstances in each country vary widely in terms of actions needed for successful accounting cooperation, Cambodia continues to set the standard in demonstrating the level of cooperation the US seeks from the governments of Vietnam and Laos. Technical talks were held in Hanoi on June 8th to discuss the usual set of challenges that are routinely encountered.

A US team comprised of 82 JPAC/CIL personnel just concluded the 81st Joint Field Activity in Vietnam that included some underwater surveys of potential sites along Vietnam's coastline. A small-scale team began advance work in Vietnam on July 1st. JPAC/CIL teams arrived in Laos on June 30th to begin the 90th Joint Field Activity, operating from the Ta-Oy Base Camp in Savannakhet Province in the south. The number of personnel involved in these field operations is not yet known; however, JPAC is increasingly short-handed due to requirements in the Middle East that are adversely impacting the active-duty component, now down by some 50 personnel.

news, events and information



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

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

Sept 8-12, 2005: the 157th Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division will hold its annual Reunion in Washington, DC at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. For further information contact Gordon Kinley, Pres., 7227 W 23rd Ave, Lakewood, CO 92919. Tel (303) 233-2369, e-mail Gordonlk@cox.net.

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

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

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

Sept. 18-21, 2005. The 27th Bomb Group (L) WWII, 30th Annual Reunion will be held in Bossier City, LA. Hotel accommodations will be at the Econo Lodge Inn & Suites, 4300 Industrial Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112. For reservations please call 318-746-5050. For information, contact Paul H. Lankford, 865-982-1189.

Sept. 24, 2005. Annual POW/MIA luncheon at Barksdale AFB will be held at Hoban Hall at 11:30AM. Guest speaker will be BG Hunt Downer, LA Secy. of Veterans Affairs. For more information, contact the Retiree Office, PO Box 134, Barksdale AFB, LA 71110; 318-456-5976; rao@barksdale.af.mil.

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

Sept. 30, 2005. The annual Stalag Luft IV & VI Reunion Night will be held at the Denver Convention, Doubletree Hotel. 7:00PM. You all come. Contact Leonard E. Rose.

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

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

Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2005. The 45th Infantry Division Association (Thunderbirds) Reunion will be held in Oklahoma City, OK. Please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; (210) 681-9134.

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

October 11-15, 2005. The Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association Inc.(SSMA) will be hosting their 62nd Anniversary Reunion of "Black Thursday" at the St. Petersburg Hilton, St. Petersburg, Florida. The SSMA membership includes men of the 8th Air Force who flew Mission 115 or "Black Thursday" to Schweinfurt, Germany on October 14, 1943. Contact HB Associates, 419 N. Ring Ave., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 (727) 937-3232 or email: info@hbassociates.net.

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

April 2006. Dept. of Tennessee Annual Convention will be held at the Carnegie Hotel, Johnson City, TN. Contact: Commander Ruth M. Lewis, 105 Hughes Road, Watauga, TN 37694; 423-543-4391.

news, events, information
continued...

looking for



We are looking for any information about my Uncle, **Lt. Robert Fisher McClure**, who was with the 16th BS, 27th BG (Light). Bob grew up in Harrisburg, PA and was inducted into the Army from there. He was stationed at Ft. McKinley, Manila in Nov. of 1941. He moved over to the Bataan peninsula in Dec. to Mariveles. From that point on what we know is that he survived the Death March, was imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He may have been moved from Cabanatuan at some point to another camp. We don't know. He was shipped out on the Hell Ship Arisan Maru on Oct. 11 and he was killed on Oct. 24 when the ship was sunk by US submarines. There were over 1800 Americans on that ship; only 8 survived. Bob wasn't one of them. We'd appreciate any information available, such as what part his unit played in the defense of Bataan. It would be of special interest if someone might have known Bob and could relate any personal information. My wife and I just returned from retracing the steps of the Death March and visiting the former sites of the two prison camps. What those troops went through is beyond imagination. Please contact: William E. McClure, Jr., 9235 Avalanche Canyon Rd., Jackson, WY 83001.

Dear Sir: My father is **Phillip Taylor** who was a mess Sergeant in the 131st and who went through the same things you did up to the Battle in Java where the Japanese were capturing and killing people. When the surrender came and the commanding officer told the men they were

on their own, my father instead of surrendering to them, ran into the jungle where he survived 12 days with his bare hands making it to the other side of Java. To make a long story short, he was helped by the Dutch underground who put him on a ship that the Japanese sank several days later, then a plane loaded with Dutch and English women and children that the Japanese shot down. He made it to Australia and from there he went to New Guinea where he joined in the Air Corp and saw a lot of action there. If you remember him by any chance let me know. Thank you for your service to our country. Phyllis Taylor Mortensen;
phyllis@techserviceco.com.

I am researching **medical care of prisoners of war and treatment of medical personnel when captured**. For this research, I am concentrating on WW II in the European Theater and would appreciate an opportunity to talk with or correspond with anyone who may have some information, particularly former allied prisoners held in Europe; former Axis prisoners held by the United States, Canada, or Great Britain; and anyone involved in providing medical care to these individuals. I would also be happy to talk with or correspond with family members who may have information. My work number is (713) 563-8823. My address at work is: Tamara Haygood, MD, Univ. of Texas, Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, P.O. Box 301439, Houston Texas 77230-1439; tamarahaygood@yahoo.com.

John Kline had a letter from a gentleman who asked if any of us knew any soldier that **participated in the "Bulge" that had been through the D-Day landings**.

"If you knew any in your unit that had been through D-Day, please contact Scott Phillips by email. His email address is stpde@comcast.net. If you do answer him, please copy me so that I can keep track of the "thread" on his query. His message is shown below.

I am aware from your diary that your division was not ready for D-Day. However my question is, do you know or have you heard of anyone who survived D-Day and also served at the Battle of the Bulge?

I have seen documentaries about the terrible conditions you endured at the Battle of the Bulge. Difficulty digging trenches due to the hard ground, not having the proper clothing for the weather, men losing limbs due to frostbite, some men unknowingly sitting on a frozen dead body thinking it was a log, all this not to mention fighting the enemy.

As a retired police officer without any service time, I can only imagine what you went through.

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

Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
Kandace_Muller@nps.gov

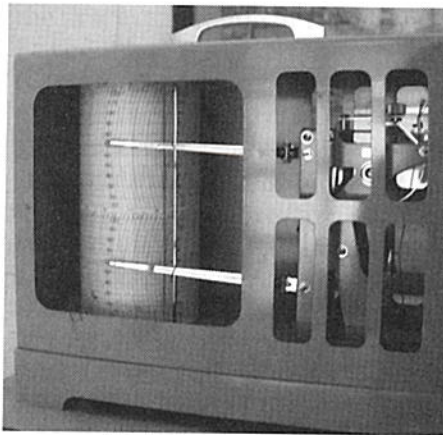
Correcting a Problem at the POW Museum

By: Fred Boyles
Superintendent~ANHS

When the National Prisoner of War Museum opened on April 9, 1998, we at the park thought the building was perfect in every respect. The building's design, exhibits, films and the courtyard all received high praise by professionals and most importantly from our visitors. Over the years since the grand opening, our visitor satisfaction surveys conducted each year confirmed that visitor approval with the facility was extremely high. However, a major problem unseen by the visitor was lurking and getting worse all the time. The heating and cooling system for the museum was a source of major concerns. It should be noted that the environment in a museum has to be carefully managed to meet preservation standards. Artifacts are sensitive to shifts in temperature and humidity which requires a museum environment to be just right. The mechanical engineers who designed the heating and cooling system developed a state of the art, highly sophisticated system that met all our needs. The bottom line was that it

just never worked as it was supposed to.

The problems started almost immediately after the opening seven years ago. The controls were so complex that it required technicians from over 100 miles away to make the slightest adjustments. Maintenance on the chiller and boiler was contracted out and had to be done four times a year which was quite costly. The smallest power outage would shut the system down for days at a time. This put the artifacts on display at risk when the environment would deteriorate. Overall the system and its controls were ridiculously complicated and only a few people understood how it worked, let alone could repair it. But by far the most significant problem was the cost required to operate it. The electric and gas bills were breaking the park budget. It was estimated by most engineers that we were paying four times what we should for a building that size and well insulated. And on top of all that - it just never delivered the promised museum environment that had been requested from the beginning.



From the time of the opening until this past year three different efforts were made to make the original system work. Mechanical engineers from both inside and outside the National Park Service made some extraordinary efforts to make the system meet our needs. This was more than just tweaking the dials; it was major examinations of the system to improve its

performance. Some improvements were achieved but they were minor at best. Looming in the near future was that at the 10 year anniversary of the building (2008) the chiller and boiler had to be rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$100,000. It was time to make a change.

In late 2004 the park received government funds requested a year earlier to replace the entire system with a much simpler electric powered heat pump which is most popular in this part of the south where heat and high humidity are the main concern. A contract was let with a local vendor to install the new system during the spring months when the ambient temperatures are closest to those of the desired indoor environment. The project was completed in May 2005 without the museum being shut down for even a single day. The result has been an improved museum environment that has significantly reduced our energy bills. The new system is guaranteed for 10 years and the trained personnel to maintain it are just 10 miles away. Already the park is experiencing drastically reduced energy bills which will allow for a pay-back of the new system's cost in less than four years. This has resulted in the park being able to program funds for other areas of visitor services. The park maintenance staff has also reported that life got much simpler for them as well since they can spend more time on other endeavors.

Visitors to the museum know little about the behind the scenes issues that often perplex managers. This story is just such an issue. Fortunately it has a happy ending that will allow us to take care of the artifacts entrusted in our care and to tell the story of all POWs in American history.

Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005

News Briefs

NOTE: The Editor was loath to print this again, as each time it runs in the Bulletin, more questions are raised than answered. And poor Claude Watkins is usually the one who has to answer them. But for those Ex-POWs for whom it may apply:

Navy and Marine Corps WW II POWs May be Eligible for Back Pay

The window for applications has been extended until Jan. 10, 2007

A number of Sailors and Marines who were held as prisoners of war (POW) during World War II (WW II) are authorized to receive promotion back pay under the provisions of the fiscal year 2001 (FY '01) Floyd D. Spence Defense Authorization Act. The act provides **only** for those who were selected for promotion but not available to accept the promotion because of their internment. The authorization enacted in FY '01 will expire Jan. 10, 2007.

Only Navy and Marine Corps POWs held Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible. If the service member is deceased, the surviving spouse is entitled to the back pay. The amount of back pay will be determined using the amount the member would have been paid, calculated using WW II pay rates and not adjusted for inflation.

Department of the Navy will determine eligibility for back pay by researching each individual's request. This will include obtaining and reviewing the member's archived personnel and pay records.

Applications postmarked before January 10, 2007 will be processed. Navy personnel should send applications to:

Bureau of Naval Personnel
Attn: World War II POW Back Pay (PERS-675)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6200

Marine applications should be sent to:

Headquarters, USMC
2 Navy Annex, RFL-F7
Washington, DC 20380-1775

Additional information regarding the program and application procedures may be obtained by calling (866) 827-5672 ext 4410. USMC point of contact can be reached at (866) 472-7139. An application can be downloaded from Shift Colors website at www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/.

Brain Cancer Link to Sarin

A study commissioned by the military and performed by the Institute of Medicine has found an increase in brain cancer deaths among Gulf War veterans. The institute advises the government on health policy. About 100,000 of the 350,000 Army soldiers in the Persian Gulf could have been exposed to the nerve agent sarin after soldiers blew up two large ammunition caches in Khamisiyah, Iraq, in MAR 91. Included in the caches were weapons containing sarin and cyclosarin, nerve agents which can cause convulsions and death. At the time, the military didn't know that the destroyed Iraqi rockets contained sarin but subsequently United Nations inspectors found that some of the weapons did. Those ex-

posed showed no immediate signs of exposure to chemical warfare. The military has since contacted about 300,000 veterans who were in or near areas that might have been affected. The potential hazard area, where shifting winds could have carried traces of chemicals, extended at times as far as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

VA Compensation Payment Disparity

The VA pulled back a week-old policy that required the most seriously disabled veterans to wait for a second review on their cases before the agency would pay any money. The VA decided it needed to revise their June directive that was issued to all 57 regional VA offices through a memo (a copy of which was obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times) that required two approving reviews for veterans to be granted disability for post-traumatic stress disorder or to be deemed 100% disabled or unemployable. A point of contention among many veterans was that the directive had not required a second review to deny such cases. Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama also thought the policy "ignored" the possibility that denials could be wrong. The two Illinois senators sent VA Secretary Jim Nicholson a letter calling the policy "disturbing" and demanding that denials for PTSD claims receive extra scrutiny. The VA inspector general's investigation last month showed that PTSD and mental disabilities were among the most highly subjective cases in the nation. That report also showed that states where VA offices pay the most disability also have the largest percentage of veterans who are 100% disabled for PTSD. Only 2.8% of Illinois' veterans are rated 100% disabled for PTSD and Illinois is last in the nation for disability pay. Durbin and Obama cited the inspector general's report as one more reason denials should

news briefs cont...

be included in the extra reviews. In their letter, the senators also asked that the VA send notices to all Illinois veterans who have filed claims over the last several decades. Nicholson sent a special squad to the Chicago VA in June to re-evaluate denied claims of Illinois veterans but no formal procedure has been set up to review those claims and veterans have not been informed that they can ask that their claims to be re-evaluated.

Atomic Veterans Relief Act

H.R.2962 introduced by Representative Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) will revise the eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service, and for other purposes. For years atomic veterans have not received adequate consideration on their claims for exposure to ionizing radiation. Since the 1980s, claims for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits by atomic veterans for radiogenic diseases, which are not currently on the presumptive list of diseases, have required an assessment to be made by DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) as to the nature and amount of the veteran's radiation doses. The accuracy of the Government's radiation dose reconstruction program has been questioned and doubted for a long time. The National Research Council's most recent review of the DTRA Dose Reconstruction Program confirmed that dose estimates have been miscalculated and often based on arbitrary assumptions resulting in grossly underestimating the actual radiation exposure. H.R. 2962 would correct injustice by revising the eligibility criteria for presumption of service connection for radiogenic diseases and remove the uncertainties related to dose quantifi-

cation, often constructed years after all service records have been retired or destroyed. Please ask your Congressional representatives to cosponsor and actively support this bill.

Agent Orange and Diabetes

On July 8, 2005, the DoD released the latest report of the Air Force Health Study on the health effects of exposure to herbicides in Vietnam, which includes the strongest evidence to date that Agent Orange is associated with adult-onset diabetes. This supports the findings from earlier reports in 1992 and 1997. The Air Force Health Study summarizes the results of the 2002 physical examination of 1,951 veterans, which is the final examination of the 20-year epidemiological study. The Ranch Hand Study was named after the operation responsible for spraying herbicides in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971 to deny cover and destroy crops of the North Vietnamese Army. Since the first examination in 1982, the Air Force has tried to determine whether long-term health effects exist in the Ranch Hand pilots and ground crews, and if these effects can be attributed to the herbicides used in Vietnam, mainly Agent Orange and its contaminant, dioxin. The report, along with many other studies on herbicide and dioxin exposure, will be reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences. Based upon this review, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs can ask Congress for legislation on disability compensation and health care.

Results from the 2002 physical examination support adult-onset diabetes as the most important health problem seen in the Air Force Health Study. They suggest that as dioxin levels increase, not only are the presence and severity of adult-onset diabetes increased, but the time to onset of the disease is de-

creased. A 166% increase in diabetes requiring insulin control was seen in those with the highest levels of dioxin. This is consistent with the strong evidence found in animal studies. Cardiovascular disease findings were not consistent, but separate studies have found an increased risk of cardiovascular death in Ranch Hand enlisted ground crews, the subgroup with the highest average serum dioxin. Overall, Ranch Hand pilots and ground crews examined in 2002 had not experienced a statistically significant increase in heart disease relative to the comparison group. Associations between measures of cardiac function and history of heart diseases and herbicide or dioxin exposure were not consistent or clinically interpretable as adverse. Other findings included an increase in the frequency of reported acne after service in Southeast Asia in Ranch Hand enlisted ground crew members, but the lack of corresponding patterns of skin lesions observed at the physical examination rendered this finding difficult to interpret. Finally, several blood tests regarding liver function and blood lipids were elevated and did tend to increase with dioxin level. However, these tests which may be elevated for many reasons, do not constitute a disease by themselves and cannot be explained by other findings in the study. At the end of the 20 years of follow-up, Ranch Hand pilots and ground crews as a group exhibited no statistically significant increase in the risk of cancer relative to comparisons. Differences by military occupation were inconsistent. Most importantly, the Ranch Hand enlisted ground crews, the subgroup with the highest dioxin levels and presumably the greatest herbicide exposure, exhibited a 14% decreased risk of cancer. These results do not suggest that herbicides or dioxin exposure are related to cancer in these veterans.

news briefs cont...

The report emphasizes three major limitations to the study. First, the results cannot be generalized to other groups, such as all Vietnam veterans or Vietnamese civilians, who have been exposed in different ways and to different levels of herbicide. Second, the size of the study makes it difficult to detect increases in rare diseases, thus small increases in rare diseases may be missed by the study. Third, other variables that were not considered in this report could be confounding factors influencing the results. The report is available on the Air Force Health Study Web site at: www.brooks.af.mil/AFRL/HED/hedb/default.html

Agent Orange Eligibility

Military retirees, who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 or Korea in 1968 and 1969 are presumed by the Veterans Administration to have been exposed to Agent Orange and thereby are entitled to disability benefits for specific health conditions associated with the herbicide. It doesn't matter how much of that illness is a direct result of Agent Orange. The presumption is a blanket presumption for the years noted. You do not have to prove it was connected. If you are interested, you will need to have an Agent Orange registry exam (available at the VA). A registry is not required to receive VA health care compensation nor does it lead directly to compensation. It is a step into VA Health Care. For an Agent Orange registry exam contact the nearest VA facility which can be found in the blue pages of your telephone book under Government Offices or consult your own physician and refer your physician to the Veterans Health Initiative (VHI) at www.va.gov/vhi for insight into

Agent Orange issues. For more information about Agent Orange, including VA policy changes, listed health conditions and disability benefits, visit www.va.gov/agentorange.

Defense Authorization Act of 2006

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) decided on July 26th to pull the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act (S. 1042) from further Senate consideration until after Labor Day. That will mean longer delays in reaching resolution of all kinds of issues, from active duty manning levels to survivor benefit fixes and relief for disabled retirees. This forced wait is particularly nettlesome because Senate leaders already had delayed action on the bill for a full two months since the House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 1815) May 25th. Anticipating floor fights over several contentious amendments, Senate leaders had put it off until just before their month-long August recess which started July 29th — finally allowing it to come to the Senate floor at the end of the day on July 20th. This is a common tactic in the Senate - hoping most senators will be anxious enough to go home that they'll agree to limit amendments. But the bill quickly drew nearly 300 proposed amendments. Additional controversy arose as a number of prominent senators - including Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Carl Levin (D-MI) — proposed various ways to ensure proper treatment of prisoners. After only three partial days of debate and consideration of very few amendments, the Majority Leader forced a "cloture" vote that, if successful, would have closed off debate and barred consideration of a large share of the remaining amendments. When that vote failed, Sen. Frist pulled the defense bill from further consideration. Resisting pleas from Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and others to continue action on the defense

bill and finish it before the August recess, Frist said he had other legislative priorities for that time and that the defense bill would have to wait until September.

VA Health Care Mandatory Funding

Before the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act (S. 1042) was pulled from consideration July 26th, delaying any continuing action, Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) had intended to offer an amendment to provide mandatory funding for veterans health care. The recent news of the VA health care budget shortfall for 2005 and the CBO's long-term forecast for VA health care exemplifies why enactment of mandatory funding is needed. The Stabenow-Johnson amendment will ensure that veterans who need health care will have access to it by guaranteeing a reliable stream of funding in the future. The amendment provides guaranteed funding for America's veterans from two sources. First, the legislation provides a recommended annual discretionary amount at the fiscal year 2005 funding level. Second, an annual mandatory funding level would be adjusted year-to-year based on changes in demand from veterans and the rate of health care inflation.

The congressional Budget Office (CBO) delivered disturbing news early this year to veterans who rely on discretionary spending for their health care. Their projections for 2005 and the following 10 years anticipated total federal entitlement spending (i.e. mandatory appropriations) to keep growing while discretionary items will decline as a share of the GDP. The budget office crystal ball predicts:

- Total federal outlays will increase at an annual average rate of 4.3% between 2005 and 2015.

- Mandatory spending is projected to grow 5.6% each year, outpacing total spending and the ex-

news briefs cont...

pected growth rate of the U.S. economy as a whole.

- Discretionary spending is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.4%.

- Discretionary appropriations are expected to fall from 38% of all federal spending and 7.6% of GDP to 30% of all federal spending and 5.6% of GDP between 2005 and 2015.

- Mandatory spending for Medicare and Medicaid is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 9% and 7.8% respectively.

VA Budget 2006

Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson announced on July 14, 2005 that the President had submitted to Congress an amendment to the administration's fiscal year 2006 budget requesting \$1.977 billion for higher-than-expected health care needs to ensure that veterans continue to receive timely and high-quality health care. Nicholson had informed Congress in June that an unanticipated growth in the number of patients using the VA health care system, as well as an increase in the cost per patient of providing care, had created a shortfall of funds in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Despite warnings that federal funding was insufficient, Congress passed up several chances last year to increase appropriations for veterans' healthcare programs. As early as December 2004, news reports began appearing that some VA medical facilities were running out of money and faced huge deficits. Former House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith's (R-NJ) 2005 budget request included nearly the exact amount of the shortfall at which some lawmakers are now expressing surprise.

The addition brings the total for VA's health care budget for 2005 to over \$28 billion. As for next year's shortfall, the House and Senate Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Committee leaders are still working that issue, but have pledged to ensure VA health care is fully funded.

VA COLA 2006

The House has approved a cost-of-living increase in veterans benefits, including disability and survivor pays and the new monthly benefit for minor children of deceased veterans. The bill, HR 1220, assumes a 2.3% increase in veterans' disability compensation and in the survivor benefit known as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The bill would mandate the same increase in surviving-spouse payments for children under age 18, a new benefit approved by Congress in 2004. The increase would take effect on Dec. 1, 2005 and first appear in January checks. The House passed the bill by voice vote. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is expected to pass similar legislation soon. About 2.6 million veterans get service-connected disability compensation, while about 307,000 surviving spouses and 29,000 surviving children receive DIC, according to a report by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

French Legion of Honor Medal

US veterans who helped in the liberation of France during World War II could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal in the future. This medal was previously only issued to WWI Vets. The French Government has asked the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for assistance in identifying qualified US veterans for consideration in awarding this medal. It is not the responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs to select the veterans. VA

only facilitates the communications with the veterans if necessary. The ten French consulates in the U.S. will have involvement in the distribution of the awards in 2005, 2006, etc. Those applying must have written documentation which is normally a copy of his/her military separation order, DD - 214, and other official orders which verifies their military history during combat. Members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes) are eligible for this French award. Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc. would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations. Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the Defense Attache, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007. These French medals must be approved by the Legion of Honor Committee in Paris, France after appropriate review. Approximately 100 French Legion of Honor medals will be awarded each year in the United States at the home of each veteran or at public ceremony during a patriotic holiday. These arrangements will be made after the awardees have been notified. Additional information can be provided by the French Defense Attache at (202) 944-6502 or FAX (202) 944-6538.

VA & 109th Congress

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides services and benefits to veterans who meet certain eligibility criteria. VA carries out its programs nationwide through three ad-

news briefs cont...

ministrations and the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is responsible for veterans health care programs. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is responsible for providing compensation, pensions, and education assistance among other things. The National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) responsibilities include maintaining national veterans cemeteries. VHA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system. Unlike other federal health programs, VHA is a direct service provider rather than a health insurer or payer for health care. VA health care services are generally available to all honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are enrolled in VA's health care system. VA has a priority enrollment system that places veterans in priority groups based on various criteria. Under the priority system VA decides each year whether its appropriations are adequate to serve all enrolled veterans. If not, VA could stop enrolling those in the lowest priority groups.

During the 109th Congress, policymakers are being confronted with a number of issues facing current and new veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Among other things, Congress is faced with trying to ensure a seamless transition process for veterans moving from active duty into the VA health care system, and improving mental health care services such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment programs for returning veterans. Furthermore, to meet the growing demand for VA health care services, and to address the uncertain funding amounts inherent in the yearly appropriations process, legislative proposals have been introduced to change the

structure of VA health care funding from discretionary funding to mandatory funding. Although discussed in previous Congresses, legislative proposals to obtain Medicare funding for VA (Medicare subvention) have not yet been introduced. In recent years VA has made an effort to realign its capital assets, primarily buildings, to better serve veterans' needs. VA established the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) initiative to identify how well the geographic distribution of VA health care resources matches the projected needs of veterans. Given the tremendous interest in the implementation of the CARES initiative in the previous Congress, the 109th Congress is likely to monitor the CARES implementation. Congress has also shown a keen interest in using VA to inform changes in certain aspects of the private and public health care delivery systems. VA's ability to negotiate prices for prescription drugs is often held out as a sharp contrast to Medicare's current method for establishing prices for its soon-to-be implemented prescription drug benefit. Several measures modeled on VA's pharmaceutical acquisition mechanisms have been introduced in this Congress to provide lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries.

Colon Cancer Detection

Cancer of the colon or rectum is the second leading cancer killer in the United States after lung cancer. About 135,000 new cases are diagnosed each year and 55,000 deaths occur each year. More than one-third of colorectal cancer deaths could be avoided if people over 50 had regular screening tests. Screening tests can help prevent colorectal cancer by finding pre-cancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Most colorectal cancers begin as polyps. Polyps are growths on the inner wall of the colon or rectum. People who have polyps or colorectal cancer do

not always have symptoms, especially at first. Screening tests are important because they can find colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best. When colorectal cancer is detected in the earliest stage of the disease (Stage 1), the survival rate is 96%. The risk of developing colorectal cancer increases with age. In fact, 92% occur in people 50 and older. Both sexes may develop this cancer. Several different screening tests can be used to test for polyps or colorectal cancer. Each can be used alone. Sometimes they are used in combination with each other.

Florida Veterans Homes

Florida provides 6 assisted living and/or skilled nursing facilities to veterans:

Any person interested in residency can be referred through a VA Medical Center. Candidates must be veterans with qualifying war or peacetime service, be a resident of Florida for one year immediately prior to applying for admission and must require long-term care in a skilled nursing facility.

VA's State Home Program is a partnership with the states to acquire, construct or renovate nursing homes, domiciliaries and adult day health-care facilities for veterans. The states own and operate the homes, but VA can provide up to 65% percent of the cost of approved projects. When construction is complete and inspections are satisfactory, the facilities qualify for per diem payments from VA. In fiscal year 2004, VA spent over \$4.6 billion in Florida to serve more than 1.7 million veterans who live in the state. VA operates six medical centers in Florida with outpatient clinics and Vet Centers in many communities. Information about Florida's Veterans Homes can be found at www.floridavets.org/nursing/nursing.asp or by calling (850) 487-1533.

Y our Stories



"Don't Fence Me In"

by Lee Lamar
6000 W. 99 Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66207

We were prisoners of war of the Germans, or Kriegsgefangens, as the Germans called us. We called ourselves Kriegies for short. We were anxiously awaiting the end of the war, which could not come too soon for us. We were all flyers and had been shot down for various lengths of time. We managed to get war news through a secret newspaper, which in turn obtained its war news from BBC in London, via a secret radio. That is it could not be done when the German guards were close by. Little things, about what was going on in the States, were in short supply. Our only source was those new Kriegies, who were arriving in camp. Especially helpful were those that were shot down shortly after arriving from the states.

It was early April, 1945. Into the camp came a young pilot of a North American built P-51. It had only been a month since he had left the states. He was interested in a lot of things about this camp, but we wanted news of what was happening in the states, and we had him outnumbered and surrounded. The one thing he said that impressed us all was that the most popular song at the time he left was one called, "Don't Fence Me In", which we thought was a rather intriguing name for us, who were completely surrounded by a high double fence, complete with the barbed wire entanglement and the guard towers spaced appropriately.

We knew the Russians were fast approaching. Finally, on April 30, we awoke to find that during the night the German guards had departed and left us in no mans land. We stayed in camp for our own safety and under

orders from the senior officer in the camp, Colonel Hubert Zemke.

During the day, some of our people had entered the German headquarters, tuned the radio to BBC in London. What was being received was being piped into each of the barracks. Each barracks had always had a loud speaker installed in the hallway just over the entrance. It played German music and spewed propaganda. We generally ignored it. Not this evening however. Where the hallway had only been a means to get to the indoor latrine, after being locked in the building, it now became a theater. It was about six or eight feet wide and the length of the barracks. That evening it was filled with happy POW's as we listened to "The Hit Parade", a very popular radio program that played popular music. The program always ended by the second most popular music and then finally the first. We were all listening very intently. It had been months since we had heard this program. I recall quite vividly that, just before the No 2 song, the program was interrupted from the camp office to make the announcement that an advance party of Russians had just arrived at the camp entrance. There was a loud cheer from everyone seated there. I do not remember what the No 2 song was, but just after it was over, there was another announcement from camp headquarters that said they had just received word that Hitler was dead. There was another loud cheer from all present and we settled down to hear the No. 1 song on "The Hit Parade". For the first time we heard that popular song, "Don't Fence Me In". The place went wild.

A Great Day in Manila - One I Shall Never Forget

*My father's funeral
procession was
harassed by zero fighters*

by John A. Hinck
19350 Ward St. #5
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

My name is John A. Hinck. In February, 2005, my wife and I joined a group of former internees of the Santo Tomas and Los Banos Internment Camps. I am a former internee of both camps. The Manila trip was hosted by Sascha Jean Jansen. We had a wonderful time and met some of the nicest people. Our group consisted of former internees, military POWs and some family members who were returning to the Philippines to celebrate the liberation 60 years ago in 1945.

For me, personally, it became one of the most memorable times in my life. I would like to share my experience with you.

My story begins in November, 1941. My family lived in Manila; my father was a Captain in the Army serving under General Douglas MacArthur. He received orders to go to Australia. He told us that as soon as he returned, our family would leave for the United States because of the threatening war clouds that were gathering. The ship was the *Don Esteban*. The same ship took MacArthur and his family to Corregidor for safety since the Japanese forces were advancing toward Manila and his command post was there. My father's body was brought back about the middle of December, 1941 and the family buried him amid bombing and strafing by Japanese warplanes. We had one hearse and an Army staff car. We were forced to stop several times due to aid raid warnings, forcing us to crouch along the side of the road until the all clear siren blew. We reached the La Loma cemetery outside Manila where we buried my father.

My mother, two sisters, two brothers and myself were taken prisoners by the Japanese soldiers on January 23, 1942. We were taken to the Santo Tomas Camp where we were held for about a year. After that we

stories, continued...

Great day!



were moved to the Los Banos Camp and remained there until our liberation on February 23, 1945.

Some time in the 1980's, my older brother requested that my father's remains be taken to a Military Cemetery. We were unsure if his grave could be located in the La Loma cemetery; it was uncared for and even the homeless had taken up residence. The family felt his remains should have the military honors a Captain in the US Army deserves.

On the sixth day of our tour, we stopped the bus in front of the Clark Field Cemetery. A few of us got out and took pictures. When we arrived at our hotel that evening, I told my wife I had a strong feeling that something was pulling me back to the cemetery. We inquired at the hotel as to how we might get some information on the Clark Field Cemetery. We were told that the VFW might have the record information. We hired a car and went to the VFW Post that evening. There we obtained the phone number of a person who might have the information we needed. All the next morning, as we proceeded on our tour, we kept calling the number to no avail. About 2PM

that afternoon, we made contact and were told my father was probably buried there. Our tour director immediately gave us permission to take

the small bus. Those riding on that bus very graciously agreed to go with us back to the Clark Cemetery. The caretaker was there sitting in an old pickup truck. I walked up to him and inquired about my father. I told the old gentleman my name and he said it sounded familiar; to follow

him. He led us to my father's grave and I knelt down to touch the weathered stone. It is difficult to put my

feelings into words after all these years. I finally have closure and know where my father's remains are. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sascha and all the friends on the tour for taking part and making my trip such a memorable one.

After our liberation, my family was taken to the United States. We ended up in Fresno, CA. Life was a struggle for my mother, having five children living in government housing. I believe she had fifty dollars when we landed in the United States. My two older siblings found jobs and I decided to join the Marines, leaving my mom with one less mouth to feed. I served twenty-six years in the Marines - during the Korean War, Vietnam and Lebanon - retiring as Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Semper Fi!!!

POWerful Memories by Augustine Fernandez

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American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography

www.axpow.org

If you are not a current member of AXPOW,
you must submit documentation of your POW status.



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

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Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Unit

Where were you captured?

Date captured

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

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Submit 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white).

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Biography:(please type or print)



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Members' forum



Cheryl,

I just want to thank you and Marsha for the April 2005, POW Med Search Article, on peripheral neuropathy. We never get to old to learn, that we can't sit in one position, hours on end, with typing, and computer work, and dozing off, with a drooping head.

My Medical Doctor did not know what caused my problem, I had severe pain in the right side of my head (I called it electrical shocks.) So he now has your article, hand delivered.

Walter's son is a Chiropractor , he found my problem in a matter of minutes, He did not call it by name, so I have mailed him a copy of your article also.

God Bless you, and keep up the good work.

Violet Peterson
NSO, Madison Wi

Dear Cheryl,

This is in response to Mr. Chu and the Committee finding fault with the individual unemployment awards.

I was unemployed when I was 54 years old. Much later, it was discovered that my unemployment was caused by my service-connected disability.

I wonder how many veterans passed on early without individual unemployment at a younger age.

What happened then is a good reason why we are not living under a different flag now.

Calvin G. Garrison
586 W. Shryer Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55113

Dear Cheryl:

I just got my copy of the AMEX Bulletin and want to thank you for a great job.

I did notice that there was nothing in there about HB 2369, HONOR OUR FALLEN POW HEROS ACT.

There has been a lot of work go into this by myself and Rick and Brenda Tavares of Campo, California. I mean a lot of work.

It was disappointing to not find this bill and its progress in the pages of "OUR BULLETIN"

As you know the Korean War is also known as the Forgotten War and that is the way I feel right now.

It is essential that AXPOW back this bill and that the Washington Office be aware of it and give it as big a push as they can.

Remember this is for the next of kin of those who died the terrible death in the camps.

So Cheryl, can you as editor push this along? Remember any positive action will be reported to Congressman Bob Filner.

POWLLY Yours
Shorty the Tiger
National Commander of the Tiger Survivors, Lifer AXPOW

Cheryl, et al:

Just came upon this one for the "MEDICS".

I think I can speak for all of us - Thank you for the service you provided. Without you - some of us would not be here.

Hand Salute

GO TO:

That Men Might Live! The Story of the Medical Service - ETO
http://www.lonesentry.com/gi_stories_booklets/medical/index.html.

John Kline
Editor, THE CUB

Editor:

The Ben Steele World War II POW Collection is now on permanent loan to the Central Montana Historical Society Museum in Lewistown, MT, where a campaign is underway to raise money for a wing to house it. Steele's 90-piece collection, consisting of drawings and oil paintings, is the only complete visual record of the Bataan Death March and POW life under the Japanese during WWII. It is a valuable legacy for all who were enslaved by the Japanese.

Ben Steele began drawing prisoner of war scenes while recovering in Bilibid Prison from the effects of the Tayabas Road Detail. When he was transferred to Cabanatuan Prison Camp, he left the drawings with Father John Duffy, a chaplain who hid them in the false bottom of his mass kit.

On the way to Manchuria, two of the unmarked Hell Ships Father Duffy was on were sunk by US forces. The drawings remain in the China Sea, but during his first year home, Steele reproduced many of the scenes and completed more during and after professional training at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Kent State University and Denver University.

Ben Steele

**Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005**

NamPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
NSO Director ~ R&D
pgalanti@comcast.net

I attended CAG Stockdale's Memorial Service aboard the aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan* at NAS North Island, San Diego on July 16, 2005, where about 40 Nam-POWs and several thousand others were in attendance.

It was a memorable ceremony similar to his final funeral and burial at the Naval Academy on July 23rd, described by my classmate from Annapolis, Mike McGrath, now historian for Nam-POWs. I can't improve upon it.

There have been many fine prisoners of war in this nation's history. None, in my opinion, greater than Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, Medal of Honor. RIP.

Paul Galanti

From Mike McGrath:

Last night, I got back from attending the funeral for CAG Stockdale. Here are my observations.

I arrived in USNA Friday night, grabbed Jack Fellowes and we headed for McGarvey's watering hole for wayward aviators, and other reprobates. We met up with Galanti, McManus, Fuller and other former jailmates. We fortified ourselves with hearty toasts in

memory of CAG, all hosted by an old friend, former F-100 pilot, former Pan Am pilot, Mike Ashford, the owner of McGarvey's.

The next morning, we were in place in the Academy Chapel, 0800 Navy time. I think the funeral was by invitation only. It was well controlled and they had names of all guests, including the NAM-POW list.

The chapel was full. There were two full rows of the Stockdale family, then three rows of the approximately 40 NAM-POWs (about 1/4 had wives with them). Then, about two or three rows of Stockdale's classmates, Class of '47. Jerry Denton, '47 was there, too.

The main speaker was Admiral Bill Crowe, '47, in a moving tribute. Jim and Sybil's sons, James II, Sidney, Taylor, and Stanford each gave moving eulogies. LCDR Michael Hogg, Chaplains Corps, gave the most moving song of the Lord's Prayer that I have ever heard.

About ten Medal of Honor recipients were the pall bearers. They walked the casket into the chapel. Afterward, they walked the hearse to the USNA cemetery with a procession that reminded me of President Kennedy's procession. He was buried about 200 feet from the residence I lived in some 25 years ago when I had a tour of duty at USNA.

The burial ceremony was an event that will be remembered by all. It was solemn, respectful, tearful, and all in the finest traditions of the Naval Service.

Seeing all those full dress white uniforms, medals, honor guards, MOH recipients, admirals, generals, aides with lots of "loops," and of course a perfect low altitude fly-by, done in a perfect formation, by a flight of F-18s, made it complete. The academy cannons went off one-by-one in tribute, then the sharpest honor guard of six enlisted men I have ever seen gave a six-shot volley that brought tears to our eyes. It ended as James Bond Stockdale was laid to rest

among America's greatest Naval Heroes, dating back to 1845.

We walked over the bridge to Alumni Hall for a reception.

I won't attempt to name the 40 or so NAM-POWs as I don't want to disregard someone. Ted Triebel and I were talking in the lobby when we spotted astronaut John Glenn. We introduced ourselves and had a lively discussion. He was a close friend of Stockdale's as they went to Navy test pilot school together. John and brother Joe McCain were there and we got to say hello. Bill Lawrence and I only had a few moments to talk, but he is looking well. There were many wonderful NAM-POWs there paying their respects, too many for this feeble mind to remember.

I can only say in concluding that this burial ceremony was VERY IMPRESSIVE. I was one of the lucky ones to witness a great moment in Naval History. It was poignant and moving. It was a perfect summer day for CAG to make his final flight West.

Mike McGrath
NAM-POW Historian
www.nampows.org

(For those who don't know why we called him CAG: He was the Commander of Carrier Air Wing Sixteen when shot down.

In World War II and during Korea, he would have been the Carrier Air Group commander...the name has changed, but the title "CAG" has stuck ever since. CAG, like Skipper, is an honored Navy tradition which shows the highest respect for a leader in command).



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chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

1609 S. 23rd Street
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By the time this is printed and you
read it, the National Convention will
be close to happening. I recently read
a story about a lady who was travel-
ing with her family and the usual trash

had gathered and littered her car. She
was so thankful to see a sign along
the highway that said, "Litter Barrel
Ahead One Mile." It is with a heavy
heart that I look forward to the Na-
tional Convention. It is my fervent
and passionate prayer that we find a
trash barrel before we arrive in Den-
ver and get rid of all the hatefulness
and dispose of all that causes dis-
sension and conflicts so we can get
on with the business of reaching out
to others. This is God's way as well
as what ours should be.

Let us pray: Dear Father of all hu-
mankind, grant us a deep and abiding
love for You and all who dwell upon
this earth. We do ask for peace on
earth and goodwill toward our loved
ones; our neighbors and friends; and
even ask that our enemies be for-

given and forever blessed. May
thanksgiving and praise be unto You,
O Lord. For Your most gracious and
loving care, may honor and glory be
unto Thee for Your love even when
we are so undeserving. Bless and re-
member those still listed as POW/
MIAs and may Your will be done for
them as it is for us. We pray in the
name of our rock and our redeemer.
AMEN.

Thought for the month: Prejudice
is a great time saver. It enables us to
form an opinion without bothering
to get the true facts.



taps



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

BAKER, James Daniel Sr., age 84, passed away May 18, 2005 in Omaha, NE. James was a member of the Omaha Chapter #1 and the Nebraska State Dept. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Polly, 1 daughter, 4 sons, 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

BELL, Kathryn Laborde, of New Orleans, LA died June 26, 2005 at the age of 80. She and her late husband, Bennie Hayes were both charter members of South Louisiana Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by two sons and three grandchildren. She will be missed by members of the chapter.

BLACKWELL, Charles, of Sun City, CA passed away June 21, 2005. He was a POW in Stalag 17B, Krems, Austria. Charles is survived by his loving companion, Audrey Ellis.

BONELLO, Mike L., of Wakefield, MI and Englewood, FL died June 8, 2005. He was 86. He served with the 106th Div. 424th Reg. Co. K and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Mike was a member of the Tri County Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ann, 1 son and 2 daughters.

BRAIN, Philip S., Jr., of Bloomington, MN passed away May 5, 2005. He was 89. He was captured on Bataan while serving with the 194th Tank Battalion and endured the Death March after being forced to surrender in April, 1942. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Deloris, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

BRYANT, Lonnie G., 77, of Spartanburg, SC died April 24, 2005. He served in the Army during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a POW for 28 months in Camp 1, Korea. His wife Aileen, 2 daughters, 1 son, 5

grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren survive him.

BRYNE, John (Jack), formerly of Detroit, MI, now of Punta Gorda, FL died June 20, 2005. He was 84 years old. During WWII he served with the 376th BG (Heavy), 515th BS, stationed in Italy. After being shot down, he spent 15 months in Luft 1. He was a member of the Peace River Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Shirley, 1 daughter, 1 son and 6 grandchildren.

CHUMLEY, Frances Ann, passed away June 20, 2005 at the age of 84. She and her husband "Perk" were married for 62 years in May. "Perk" was a POW in Luft 1 on their first anniversary. In addition to her husband, she also leaves 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

CLARK, John R. Sr., of Elizabethton, TN passed away May 15, 2005. At the time of his death, John was Commander of the East Tennessee Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served in the Army and was captured during the Battle of the Bulge.

CLAY, Ardenall "Chris", of Bentonville, AR died June 2, 2005. She was 81. Both Chris and her husband Robert were active members of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by one son, one daughter, two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

COE, Robert, 83, of Wheatland, CA died June 16, 2005. During WWII, he was a glider pilot with Troop Carrier Sqdn. 59, 61st Group, serving in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. While participating in the Netherlands liberation, he was captured and held in Luft 1. He and his wife were life members of AXPOW and the North State Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Virginia, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

COWAN, George Smith, of Buford, GA passed away June 18, 2005. He was a member of the Middle Georgia Chapter, AXPOW until his move to Buford. There he joined the Greater Atlanta Chapter. He was captured in Germany and held POW for seven months. He is survived by his wife, Esther, 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

DEATON, Lloyd W., of Marina, CA died Sept. 20, 2003 at the age of 84. Lloyd was captured in North Africa in 1943 and spent 888 days as a POW until liberated by the Russians. He is survived by his wife, Paulette, and two sons.

DICKERSON, James J. passed away June 23, 2005. He was an active member of the Middle Georgia Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, James was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his wife, Nellie, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 stepchildren and several grandchildren.

DUCHARME, Paul J., Sr., member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW, died recently. During WWII, he served in the Air Force and was a POW in Europe. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, 4 children, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

DUDEK, Daniel D., 81, of Baltimore, MD passed away May 26, 2005. He was captured and held in Luft IV while serving with the 8th AF, 489th BG, 844th BS. Dan was a life member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland MD North Chapter. Survivors include his wife Dolores, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 brothers and 6 grandchildren.

DUVAL, Thelma J., 76, passed away at her home in Pittsburg, KS on May 11, 2005. Thelma was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Gerald (459th BG, 15th AF), 1

taps continued

son, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

FORT, Charles, of Lonoke, AR passed away Dec. 2, 2002. He served in Korea with the 2nd Inf. Div. 38th FA and was held in Camps 2 & 3. Survivors include his wife, Wanda (of Conway, AR), 2 daughters, 1 son and 3 grandchildren.

FUSNER, Charles H., 80, of St. Cloud, FL died June 20, 2005. He served in WWII and was a POW in Stalag IIIC near Kustrin, Germany. He is survived by his wife, Freda, 2 sons, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

HARTSFIELD, Josephine Armenta, of Pflugerville, TX passed away June 29, 2005. She and her late husband, Durwood, were members of the Concho Valley Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by two sons, six grandchildren and two sisters.

HERLIK, Mary Jo, of Augusta, GA passed away April 27, 2005. She was 69 and the wife of Quin E. Herlik. Both she and her husband were active members of the Augusta Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to Quin, she is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

HOFMASTER, Russell, age 78, member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW died recently. He is survived by his wife, Donna, 1 son and 2 grandchildren.

HOUSE, Wendell Holmes, 87, passed away July 8, 2005. He was 87. While serving in the 28th Inf. Div., he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Daniel Boone Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Emmagene, 1 son, 2 sisters and several nieces and nephews.

KING, Julius Lee, Jr., of Calloway, FL died June 24, 2005 at the age of 82. Julius served with the AAF on a B-17. He was shot down and held as a POW in Luft IV until liberation. He leaves his beloved wife of 60

years, Thelma, 4 sons, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW and long-time member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, Panama City, FL.

LAIRD, Margaret, 85, of Prescott, IA died July 10, 2005. She and her husband, Glen, were members of SW Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. Glenn served with the Co. E, 168th Inf., 34th Div. He was captured at Faid Pass and held in various camps until liberation. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 1 son and 1 grandson.

MILLER, Joe B., of Naschitti, NM passed away Aug. 8, 2004. He was 80. He was captured while serving with the 67th Tank Bn., 2nd Armored Div. and held until liberation. Joe was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 59 years and 8 children.

NORTHROP, John A., of Sumter, SC died June 5, 2005. He was 81. John was a POW for 13 months in Stalag Luft 1 & 4. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Mariean, his 100-year-old mother, 2 sons, 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

O'CONNOR, Raymond Donald, 86, longtime resident of Great Falls, MT, died May 24, 2005. He survived the Bataan Death March and was a POW for 3 ½ years in various camps in the Philippines and Japan. His wife of 50 years, Helen, predeceased him; he is survived by 3 daughters, 1 son, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

OTTERSBERG, Elsie Marie, 84, of Sun City and a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona, passed away July 25, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Ottersberg, who was also a member of the Agua Fria Chapter and served in the Blood and Fire Infantry Division.

PEREZ, Orencio M., of Seaside, CA passed away Mar. 18, 2005. He was 84. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with Co. C,

44th Combat Eng. Btn. and was held in Stalags 12A, 2A and a labor camp. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Evangelina, 2 daughters, 3 sons, 12 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

PORTER, Robert C., 85, National member of the Ex Prisoners of War and Chapter member and former Commander of the Agua Fria Chapter passed away in Surprise, Arizona on July 19, 2005. Bob served in the 300th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Division. He was captured January 1, 1945, one year after entering service. He received the Bronze Star for exemplary leadership. Bob was active with the Scouts as a leader and also active with the Viet Nam Freedom Bird Members. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, two sons and two daughters.

SAPP, Glenn, 85, of Lucretia, WV died July 17, 2005 at the age of 85. Glenn served with the Army during WWII - 1st Infantry Division "The Big Red One". He was a POW in Germany for 27 months. Glenn was a member of the WV Chapter, AXPOW. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ada; survivors include 2 daughters, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

SEMIN, Inez, age 77, charter member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW, died recently. She is survived by her husband, Richard, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

SETTLES, Edward, 85, of Shelburn, IN died Nov. 30, 2004. He was serving on the Penguin when they were attacked by the Japanese the first day of the war in 1941. He spent nearly four years in Japanese POW camps. Edward was a member of AXPOW and ADBC. He leaves his wife, Ernestine, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

taps continued

SHERTZER, Sidney C., of Moore, SC died May 10, 2005 at the age of 83. He was in the 8th AF, flying out of England, when his plane was shot down over Bavaria. He was a member of the Piedmont Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Florene and two children.

SQUIRES, Harry G., of Naples, FL passed away May 26, 2005. He was 82. Harry served with the 15th AF, 454th BG. He was shot down over Austria and held POW in Luft 1, Barth. Harry is survived by his wife, Pat, 3 children, 2 stepchildren, 14 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 4 sisters and 2 brothers.

STODDARD, George DeWitt, of Citrus Heights, CA passed away at the age of 83 on June 30, 2005. He served proudly aboard the USS Houston until her sinking on 3/1/42. He spent 44 months as a POW/slave laborer in numerous Japanese camps, including Bicycle Camp in Batavia, Changi Prison in Singapore, and Fukuoka #3 in Japan. George just missed becoming a fatality of the second nuclear bomb and was later liberated from Japan via Nagasaki. He was very active in the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW (Sacramento, CA), the Lost Battalion Association and other VSOs. His son and daughter survive him.

STRINGER, Edward James of Port Angeles, WA died March 9, 2005. He was 81 years old. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 388th BG, 560th BS. He was shot down and held in Lufts 1 & 4 until liberation. He was a member of the Olympic Peninsula Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife Evelyn, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 stepsons and 2 stepdaughters.

TALLEY, George L., of San Jose, CA passed away May 26, 2005 at the age of 81. He served with the 394th Inf. Reg. of the 99th Inf. Div. during

WWII. H was taken captive in the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his wife, Frances, 7 children, 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He will be missed by many.

TRAUGH, Donald G., Jr., of Danville, PA died June 6, 2005. He served with the 15th AF, 449th BG, 716th BS during WWII. He was shot down and held captive in Luft IV. He is survived by his wife, Alpha, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

TREUT, George R., of Newark Delaware passed away May 28, 2005 at the age of 82. He served with the 757th BS, 459th BG, flying out of Italy. His plane was shot down; he was captured and held POW in Germany. George leaves his wife of 60 years, Lillian, 3 sons and 3 grandchildren.

TURNER, Urella M., 86, of Cumberland, MD passed away April 14, 2005. Her late husband, Clyde served with the 106th Inf. and was a POW in IX-A and IX-B. Urella was a life member of AXPOW and member of Maryland West Chapter. She is survived by one son, special niece and special friend.

VITU, Marie, age 82, member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW, died recently. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, ETO Ex-POW.

VLAHON, Nellie, age 83, member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW, passed away recently. Her husband, Sam, was captured on Corregidor. He endured 3 ½ years of captivity. Nellie is survived by her husband, 3 children, 3 step-children, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

WNOROWSKI, Clara T., 82, of New Port Richey, FL died June 13, 2005. She was a member of Florida State Chapter #1. She leaves her beloved husband, Matthew, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,

His Word my hope secures;

He will my Shield and Portion be,

As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,

And mortal life shall cease,

I shall possess, within the veil,

A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,

The sun forbear to shine;

But God, Who called me here below,

Shall be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we'd first begun.

Words: John Newton, Olney Hymns (London: W. Oliver, 1779).

new members

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



New Annual Members Welcome Home!

Howard W. Friedman
Mill Valley, CA
Army Dental Corp
Umeda Bunsho
Yokkaichi Toyama

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

Robert Joseph Kurek
Bloomington, IL
Son of Joseph Kurek,
ETO

Carolyn Dunne
James L
Henderson, NV
Daughter of James
McClure, PAC

Colleen Weisser
Nine Mile Falls, WA
Daughter of Gerald
Green

New Life Members Welcome Home!

**denotes new member*

Arthur J. Kosino
Jane E 24678 38967
Mnroe, MI
8AF
17B

Keith C. Carter 38968
Georgetown, TX
102 Div. 407 Inf. Co. F
Lazarett Dusseldorf,
11B, 2A
12/2/44-5/9/45

Grace D. Miller 38969
Duluth, MN
Widow of Gordon B.
Miller
17B, 2B, 3B, others
1/22/44-4/26/45

Dorothy Jacobsen
38970
Gig Harbor, WA
Widow of Jacob G.
Jacobsen
3A, 3B, 7A

Herbert L. Armeny
*38971
Florham Park, NJ
8AF, 96BG
Frankfort, Wetzlar,
Barth
11/25/44-5/1/45

George N. "Teaball"
Spencer *38972
Hastings, NE
12AF 340BG 489BS
57Wing
7A
3/7/45-6/1/45

Eleanor Enslow
*38973
Galesburg, IL
Widow of Donald L.
Enslow
Luft 1
3/23/44-6/45

Melvin J. Spencer
Dena J *38974 38975
Oklahoma City, OK
8AF 95BG 336BS
Dulag Luft, Frankfort,
Luft 1
2/10/44-5/45

Frank Knowles
Deane *38976 38977
University Place, WA
SS President Harrison
Several including
North Shanghai Camp
12/8/41-liberation

Kenneth E. Blue
Theresia A
*38978 38979
Oswego IL
Army
7A
10/24/44-4/30/45

Thomas W. Cooney
Mary 38980 38981
Pueblo, CO
15AF
Wetzlar, Nurnburg, 7A
3/1/45-4/30/45

**Do you have friends
who are Ex-POWS?
Sign them up today!
Membership applica-
tions are printed in
each month's
Bulletin.**





"America The Beautiful"
58th National Convention
September 27 – October 2, 2005
HOST HOTEL ~ Doubletree Hotel
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207
303-321-3333; 800-222-8733
fax: 303-329-5233



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of Beds in Room 1 2 Smoking Non-Smoking

Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Special Needs _____

ROOM RATES: \$79 PER NIGHT

Please make your reservations prior to Sept. 11, 2005. There is a one-time fee of \$50 that applies to early check-outs not specified at the time of check-in.
Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon

A continental breakfast, with oatmeal, is included in the room rate.
Complimentary transportation to and from Denver International Airport
Complimentary Transportation between the Doubletree Hotel and the Red Lion Hotel if needed

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

**TUES SEPT 27
WED SEPT 28
THU SEPT 29**

FRI SEPT 30

SAT OCT 1

SUN OCT 2

NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING - TOURS
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OPENING CEREMONIES-NATIONAL LEGISLATION PROGRAM-
MEDSEARCH SEMINAR-COMMANDER'S RECEPTION
MEN AND WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS-EDUCATION SEMINAR-LADIES'
LUNCHEON-NATIONAL CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER-REUNION NIGHT
CONTINUATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BANQUET AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



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



Convention Registration

Registrant's Name _____ Nickname _____
Spouse's Name (if attending) _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) _____

Unit When Captured _____ Theatre _____ Camps _____

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

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

Payable to: 2005 Convention Fund

Mail to: Mrs. Phyllis Hutchins, Registration Chairman

3191 South Leyden Street

Denver, CO 80222

AD ORDER FORM

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

AD PRICING

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

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

Deadline for submissions is Sept. 1, 2005

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Ad Size _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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

**Mail order form with ad materials and check to:
AXPOW CONVENTION - PROGRAM AD
3191 S. Leyden Street
Denver, CO 80222**

Saturday Night Banquet Choice:

_____ **Roasted Pork Tenderloin**

_____ **Atlantic Salmon**

Total Registration: \$ _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$37.50 per person

Number _____ x \$37.50 \$ _____

2. Tour to Central City/Blackhawk

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$24.00 per person

Number _____ x \$24.00 \$ _____

3. Ladies Luncheon

Friday, Sept. 30 @ \$21.00 per person

Number _____ x \$21.00 \$ _____

Registration and Activities

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

**Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005**

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION
DELEGATE VALIDATION FORM
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2005
DENVER, COLORADO



Please validate the following members as delegates to the 2004 National Convention in Denver, Colorado, September 29 – October 1, 2005. (Delegates-at-Large use this form.)

Chapter/Department Name (Please print) _____

Head Delegate: (Please print name and address.) _____

Other Delegates and Alternates: Please print names and addresses. (Use a separate sheet for additional names.) _____

Validated lists will be returned to the Head Delegates.

If you are a chapter voting with your state department, **do not** return this form.

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
CREDENTIALS
3201 EAST PIONEER PARKWAY #40
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76010-5396**

The act of becoming a POW does not a hero make...the act of being a POW made some heroes. This book tells of some who are American heroes.

10,000 American flying officers shot from the sky - scraped up from the European landscape and dumped behind barbed wire.

An absorbing story of life in a German prison camp, Stalag Luft 1.

The author's unique timing - stationed at Hickam Field, Pearl Harbor during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941, and his terrifying experience of becoming a Jewish prisoner of the Nazis - makes this a compelling reading experience. The writing style is personal and highly readable.

Books can be ordered from
iUniverse Publishers 1-800-288-4677
or your local book store ISBN 0-595-33362-1

Or order a signed copy
by the author

L.S. Bach

2224 Pine Knoll Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

\$21.95

(add \$2. for shipping)

GOING HOME

A POW'S JOURNEY BACK FROM GERMANY

10,000 American Airmen shot from the sky - scraped up from across the European landscape and dumped in Stalag Luft 1 (a German prison camp) - now POWs tell their dramatic story.

L.S. Bach

50/50 drawing

Latest winners drawn in Washington, DC

1st Place - \$1136.20

Jay G Coberly, Lexington KY

2nd Place - \$852.15

Thomas Carrick, Wellington FL

3rd Place - \$568.10

Bert Robinson, Mission Viejo TX

4th Place - \$284.05

Joe Cucarola, Sterling CO

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

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

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

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing

3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40

Arlington, TX 76010-5396.

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945
active since 1946

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

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

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

Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.

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

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

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: jpk@mm.com

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

Solid Bronze Grave Medallion

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

weight: 1 pound

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



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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

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

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

Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005

39

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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

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

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

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Thank you for your support.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005
40**

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50/50 Drawing -- October 2005**

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

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

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____



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

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

Mail to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice
(817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: hq@axpow.org

Life Membership Rates

Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40

Annual Membership Rates

Single Membership	\$ 30
Husband & wife	\$ 40

**Provided by: Prisoner of War Information System
(POW-IS) Website: www.pow-is.com**

**Prisoner of War
Certificate of Captivity**

**PROVIDED BY:
PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION SYSTEM
(POW-IS)**

Website: www.powid.com

Order a Certificate of Captivity as a lasting memento
for family members. Various backgrounds based on
your POW experience.

Cost: \$25 with photo/\$20 without photo

For further details contact:
Steve Stofko: (703) 878-7882
15550 Golf Club Drive, Dumfries, VA 22026
Patti Leigh: patti8356@yahoo.com

Space provided
for vintage
photo if desired

Captivity data obtained from official military records.

Ex-POW Bulletin
September 2005



Magnetic Ribbons

\$5.00

AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

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

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

Now accepting Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$2.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$6.00
 For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$8.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$10.00
 For orders over 100.00, add \$15.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

You are invited to an Historic Event...

September 16, 2005
4:00 PM



Dedication of the National POW/MIA Memorial

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd. ~ Riverside, California

For additional information: Paul Adkins ~ Support Committee

Riverside National Cemetery (909) 957-3982

82ndmedic@earthlink.net

AXPOW Vests!

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

\$50.00 each, includes shipping/handling

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



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

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members
\$20.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions
\$30.00 per year

Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

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

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

