

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

Volume 68

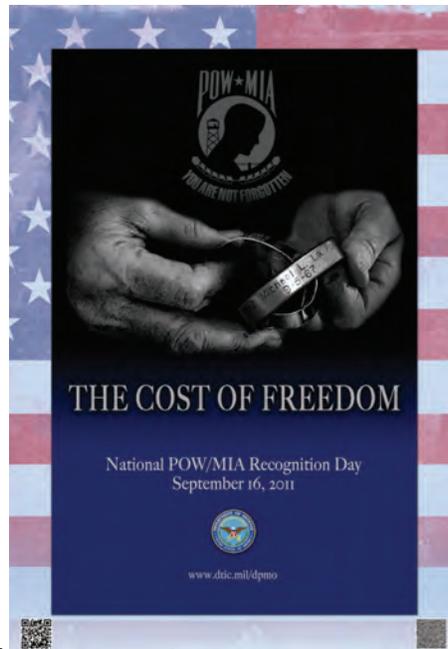
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Number 9/10

September/October 2011



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



POW/MIA Recognition Day • Sept. 16th

# AMERICAN Ex-PRISONERS OF WAR

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## September/October 2011

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### POW/MIA Recognition Day... Friday, September 16, 2011

The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

#### Background

There are 1,741 American personnel listed by the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, as of April 2009. The number of United States personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 841. About 90 percent of the 1,741 people still missing were lost in Vietnam or areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control, according to the National League of Families website (cited in the United States Army website).

#### What do people do?

Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. All military installations fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing.

Veteran rallies take place in many states, such as Wisconsin, in the United States on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. United States flags and POW/MIA flags are flown on this day and joint prayers are made for POWs and those missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day posters are also displayed at college or university campuses and public buildings to promote the day. Remembrance ceremonies and other events to observe the day are also held in places such as the Pentagon, war memorials and museums.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is not a federal public holiday in the United States but it is a national observance.

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**Please send all materials to the  
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*The 2012 Calendar is done! Look for it in your  
mailbox in the next few days.*

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**National Commander  
Morris Barker**

At the beginning of a new organizational assignment or responsibility, it is wise to set goals, or adopt those directed by the Board that you are expected to accomplish during your term in office. When your term is completed you tend to reflect on, or revisit these goals to determine your success in meeting them. I'm sure this goal setting procedures were followed by all 61 past AXPOW National Commanders from our first, Virgil McCollum (1948-49), to the present, in order to do what is considered best for the organization. It is important that goals be established so that accomplishments can be evaluated.

This year, in addition to maintaining our current revenue programs, which is essential, the major goal (2010-2011) set by the Board was to reduce costs of operation. Several means were considered in meeting this goal which was finalized by eliminating, reducing or combining programs and staff responsibilities, where expedient. These steps by the Board, proved successful in that cost of operation was reduced by approximately \$75,000 annually. In addition, the Board directed that we establish a Life Membership Supplement Program, which has been successful. I want to thank the Board and membership for their insight in this regard to insure continued operation of the organization as long as the need is present. We are fortunate to have Carroll Bogard, PhD, current

Senior Vice Commander as our National Commander, 2011-12. Carroll, of Mason City, IA, is very active in, and will be a valuable asset to the AXPOW organization. I also want to thank the membership for your cooperation, and the opportunity and privilege to serve the organization this past year.

Realizing that to list is to limit, I would be derelict in my duties by not recognizing and thanking all who are serving on various committees, giving special recognition to those in the process of looking toward the future of the organization due to changing status of membership and need. A special thanks to NSOs and HQ personnel, representing the organization for their assistance to members of our group, especially during the time of changing legislation and needs of the individual. At this time, the organization is progressing financially, partially due to contributions to the Life Membership Supplement and, Volunteer Funding Programs for which the entire membership is to be commended. I also want to give recognition to the entire AXPOW Officers and Board of Directors who made the decision this year to forgo their allowance budget for the benefit of the organization, which is a sacrifice in many instances.

I often get this question, as I'm sure you do also....."How much longer can the AXPOW organization survive". My standard answer is, "as long as we have POWs and dependents with needs, to whom we can be of service". The guesstimate at the National Convention each year is usually five (2-5) years, a number that doesn't seem to reduce year after year because of continued need. However, since this question keeps surfacing and, since the dynamics of the membership changes in regard to age, and future need, this is a subject that must be given thought and preparation in the future. There are many factors involved in a decision of this type. For instance, the NSO pro-

gram is the main thrust and the reason for our existence. In discussing this fact with the NSOs who respond to POW needs on a national basis, it was determined that their request for advice and counsel has been reduced somewhat due to the fact that many needs of the POW have been met, and they foresee further reduction for their assistance in the future however, there is still work to be done. The primary request for NSO services at this time is for Aid and Attendance and DIC. However, this changes when legislation warrants it, such as the three new presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and ischemic heart conditions from which the VA has received 200,000 applications. The legacy of our organization must be kept alive, and I feel the NOK program currently being considered coupled with future needs, will be a positive factor in the longevity of the organization. Having said this, I want to make it clear that I'm not suggesting any immediate change in the AXPOW organizational structure, but do recommend that when it has been determined that our obligation and assistance to the POW has been finalized, that we have proper closure plans.

National Convention....The convention is underway as you read this. At the time of writing, we are experiencing slow registration, but expect it to increase as we approach convention time. Our attendance is expected to be a little below average this year since the date for our convention conflicts with POW/MIA Day sponsored by Andersonville, aided by the Rolling Thunder. The 2012 convention will be in Arlington, TX, which should show a marked increase in attendance when conflicts can be avoided when the National Convention will be held during the summer months.

## commander continued...

Korean POWs.....June 27 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. Veteran organizations throughout the U.S. held special meetings honoring those veterans who were involved in the Korean War, giving special recognition to those who in the heat of battle were captured and became POWs during this time. I was privileged to be asked to speak at a local VFW meeting where POWs were honored and recognized. Texas alone has 38 former POWs who are members of the AXPOW organization. Former POWs of the Korean War honored at the meeting include, Jack Goodwin, Julian Ramon, Isaac Martinez and Abraham Hernandez. I also want to recognize and honor all members of the AXPOW organization who were Prisoners during the Korean conflict. The Republic of Korea to the south owes its freedom and prosperity primarily to the armed forces of the United States assisted by

troops from 21 other nations. Veterans who were involved in the Korean War are heroes, remembered by the term, "All gave some, some gave all". There were 136 recipients of the "Medal of Honor" of which 13 are still living, 8000 earned the "Silver Star", the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Medal awarded for bravery in combat.

IRS Audit.....The IRS will perform an audit of the AXPOW organization on August 23, 2011 for the year ending August 31, 2008. A complete report from IRS will be published when completed.,

501(c)19...The application for 501(c)19 status is still pending with IRS.

See you in Dayton....and again, it has been my honor to have served the organization.

"From our greatest suffering comes our greatest strength"

*Morris*



## news from hq

Whew, a year sure goes by fast! It's convention time already. Dayton is a great place for us.

It's time for annual members to get their dues in. You will be receiving a notice in the mail soon. Thanks for renewing.

We are phasing out our merchandise. Once an item is gone we will not be ordering again. We still have a pretty good inventory but be sure not to wait too long to order.

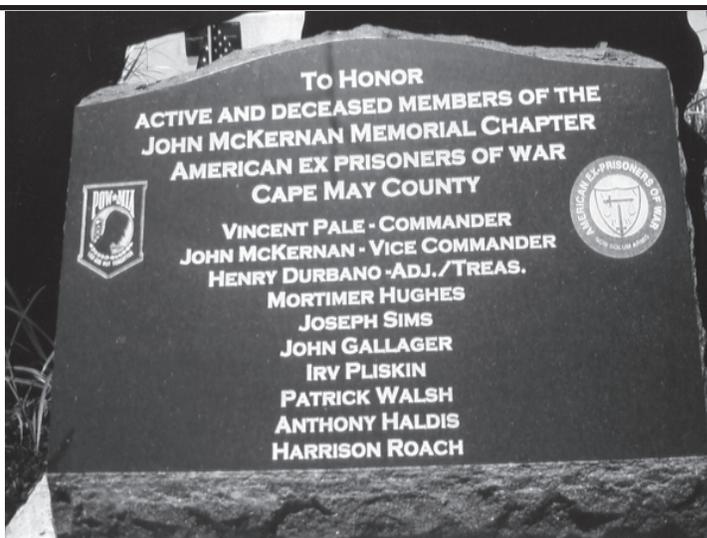
When you order merchandise or send in a donation, please remember to make your check out to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War. Our new bank won't accept anything else and we will have to return your check.

All checks must be made out like this, even MedSearch. Thanks for helping out.

We received a letter from IRS in August, 2011. They informed us that we were being audited. It was a random, routine audit to see if we were complying with our non-profit status. We passed! I haven't received the formal letter yet, but we will let you know when we do. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Sonnie Mottern for the records being in good shape. It made it much easier to organize them for the auditor. Thanks, GB!

Take care,

Clydie, along with  
Marsha, Sally & Donna



*From PND Vince Pale...*

*We had services and a dedication on Memorial Day for our monument. The black GI cut out is 4'x6' and I made one for each of the veterans organizations in Cape May County. It kept me busy so I wasn't running after Marge.*



**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**Sept/Oct 2011**

**6**

# VA Outreach

## S\*O\*O\*N

### Before it's too late



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#### It pays to reach out Help is Here!

Sept. 30, 1999. An important date for some! Before that date, if a former POW died NOT having had VA's 100% disability rating for at least ten years, his widow was denied the Dependency & Indemnity Compensation widow's benefit, unless his was a service-connected death. A former POW dying AFTER that date had to have 100% rating for just ONE YEAR. On Oct. 1, 2011, that ten year restriction is gone. Then the ONE YEAR RULE will apply to all. Do you know of someone you need to tell this good news to? (Do not end a sentence with a preposition, my English teacher said, but it works here.)

American Ex-Prisoners of War has a great slogan: We exist to help those who cannot help themselves. There is nothing demeaning about needing help at times. And that can certainly happen when dealing with a large organization like the Department of Veterans Affairs.

That is where our trained AXPOW advocates come in. Our National Service Officers can, and do, help. Like this:

Cheryl Cerbone, NSO in Massachusetts, gets message perplexed Annie in Georgia. She has had her DIC revoked. The Atlanta VA Regional Office had approved her husband's ser-

vice-connected claim effective Nov. 1, 2009 since had eligible-type leukemia under Agent Orange rules. THEN, after husband dies on Dec. 22, 2009, Annie's DIC claim is approved for her by Atlanta VARO, and Annie puts in claim for benefits for her 40-year-old daughter (needing care from birth) and now suffering with cancer. That claim went to the Philadelphia VA, and not only did they deny the daughter's claim, but also revoked Annie's DIC on March 25, 2011, saying that kind of leukemia did not qualify under Agent Orange rules.

May 13, 2011, Cheryl calls Don Lewis, NSO in Philadelphia area, and asks Don, who has worked much with the VA there, to help. She gives Don another resource to call, Chuck Haddock in Washington DC VA. Don goes to work on his contacts in Philadelphia and Washington.

Result, in Annie's words to Cheryl early July, 2011: "It looks like your man Don Lewis has been successful in helping me win my case. I have heard from the VA that my daughter's claim was granted and the money came right away from Uncle Sam. It's a miracle! Don says that this means that the revocation of my DIC has been overturned! I talked to him today and he is very modest about his importance in the appeal. He is my hero. Thank you for contacting him for me. Before Tom Carpenter contacted you, I was at a total loss, and now can look forward and have help for Christina with her health issues. Keep up your good work. Gratefully, Annie"

Good work Cheryl and Don, who says Chuck Haddock packs a lot of power!

AND THERE'S MORE! John writes to Cheryl about his mother in North Carolina. His father Ken B., POW in Germany in WWII. "Would my mother possibly have VA benefits? She will be 86 in February and only has social security income. Is there someone near her home in NC I could contact?" Cheryl, "What was cause of death?" John, "Heart attack is what killed him in 1981." Cheryl, "John, I'm sending this email to our Past National Commander and excellent

service officer, Paul Dallas in Fayetteville, NC."

June 28, 2011, John to Cheryl: "Because of your help my mom, June B was awarded DIC. Mom received her first check June 1. In less than a week after talking with you, Mr. Paul Dallas got on board. Paul was so easy to work with. He walked mom through the process and in less than two months, she got her notice. I can never thank you enough for your help. You are truly a wonderful and great person. Thank you, John"

Cheryl, "John, the wonderful person is Paul Dallas. He knows how to get help for our widows. I just know the people to call. I am so pleased for your mother. I love success stories! Best, Cheryl"

A success story? You know it. Ken B died in 1981 and now after thirty years, Mrs. B will be getting her widow's VA compensation, \$1,154 a month, plus ChampVA, the free Medicare supplement that covers doctors, hospitals and free prescription medications by mail, after Medicare pays.

John follows with another note on July 12. "I want all to know how wonderful Cheryl Cerbone and Paul Dallas are. They are true American patriots. I can never thank them enough. You will never know how much this has changed my mother's outlook. We would not have known about DIC if it weren't for the EX-POW Bulletin and you and Paul. Paul helped her fill out ChampVA paper over the weekend. He has a lot of patience. I am not a member. I will have to look into correcting this. Thanks, John B"

And here's another super NSO Katherine "Kay" Arnold of Acton, MA and volunteer at Bedford MA Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital. Volunteer for just 52 years, as of July 1, 2011, 46,000 hours; National Volunteer of the year, 2001

## outreach, cont'd...

(out of 1,000,000 volunteers). Kay still has time for claims.

C.P. contacts Kay Arnold 8 years ago; she had put in VA claim in 1999 after her 100% Ex-POW husband passed away, but she was denied since there was no service-connected presumptive on death certificate. Kay says, "I started on case with more information. Still gets denial. Encouraged with support from DC to file again, I had records given to me from 1999, and a review by a medical doctor in our Veterans Hospital system. Sent file, and three weeks later I get a call from widow C.P. She had received a check, retroactive from 1999 to 2011. With cooperation from Veterans Benefits staff it was made possible." WOW! Kay has been an NSO since 1988. How rewarding for a super volunteer!

But then there are those who expect more than is possible under VA rules:

Rudy Collins, our NSO in Leavenworth, WA, was state commander in Montana for many years and now has a challenge from John G in Billings, MT area. He is custodian for his mother, surviving spouse of M.G., 42 months as a Japanese POW, who passed away in 1985, with cause of death listed as "Cardiomyopathy." Mrs. G applied for VA survivors benefits in 1986, but was denied since heart disease was not a service-connected presumptive at that time. She again applied for DIC in 2003, but again was denied Jan. 16, 2004, same reason. BUT, heart trouble was approved as a POW presumptive on Oct. 7, 2004, and on-the-ball NSO Rudy Collins applied and helped Mrs. G get her DIC on Sept. 14, 2008, plus retroactive 12 months, standard VA benevolence. Now John G has asked Rudy to apply to go back to the date heart became a presumptive, Oct. 7, 2004, since they had de-

nied her in Jan. 2004. Rudy is trying, but VA denial is appropriate unless a "clear and unmistakable error" can be shown in the earlier VA decision. Now they await verdict of a pending appeal. The son thinks the VA should have contacted his mother so she would have gotten DIC before 1008. The VA did reach out in a special effort to find former POWs in late 2004 and 2005, but outreach to widows was not possible. Thanks, Rudy, for keeping on trying to help those who cannot help themselves.

Ginger Raney, for many years POW Coordinator in the Waco TX VA Regional Office. Ginger was always so helpful and did her best for us old POWs and our dependents, going the "second mile" time after time, as well as being available to our Arlington TX headquarters whenever needed. We wish her a happy retirement!

"My retired life is very busy. I now have time to help with my very active grandchildren. And I have remained active as a member of the McLennan County Veterans Association and the Good Soldier Foundation. These two groups ensure the community honors our Nation's veterans and active duty soldiers.

"I can never express my appreciation for all of the support and kindness that all the American Ex-Prisoners of War have shown me through the years. Please pass on my thanks to all POWs for their sacrifices and for the kindness shown to me. I would love to hear from any of you. You may share my email address and mailing address. I will always appreciate the friendships I have made. May God always bless each and every one of you. Respectfully, Gingery Raney, PO Box 293, Waco TX 76703; Gsfr130@yahoo.com.

Calls made to new widows as listed in TAPS in July/August EX-POW Bulletin: OH, Doc Unger; MA, Katherine Arnold; IA, Betty Grinstead; FL, NY/VT, Melanie Bussel; NJ, Charles Susino; WA/NM/WI/CO/AR/LA/TX, Fred Campbell, Betty Harlan.

## nsos



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### Partial List of New Jersey Benefits for Veterans

#### State Income Tax Exclusions

U.S. military pension and survivor's benefit payments are not taxable for New Jersey gross income tax purposes, regardless of the recipient's age or disability status. The exemption of military pensions from New Jersey gross income tax began in tax year 2001.

**Property Tax Deduction** There is an annual property tax deduction of two hundred and fifty dollars for eligible veterans. Filing an application with all required documentation prior to December 31 of the pre-tax year in order to be effective in the next year. Documentation includes the property deed and discharge (DD-214) for the veteran. The widow may need to submit the property deed, marriage certificate, death certificate and discharge (DD-214).

**Property Tax Exemption.** Eligibility for Veterans who meet all of the following criteria: Served during a specified wartime period. Received an honorable discharge or under honorable conditions. Rated 100 percent permanent service-connected by the VA. The 100 percent rating cannot be temporary or as a result of hospitalization, surgery or recuperation.

The exemption unlike the deduction is PRORATED from the date the veteran or spouse filed the application with ALL required documentation. Many tax assessors exempt the property tax January 1 of the next year. The same proration process applies to the surviving spouse.

## VA Secretary Establishes ALS as a Presumptive Compensable Illness

September 23, 2008

### *Cites Association between Military Service and Later Development of ALS*

WASHINGTON - Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may receive badly-needed support for themselves and their families after the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that ALS will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military.

"Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the general population, and it was appropriate to take action," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

Secretary Peake based his decision primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS.

"We are extremely grateful to Secretary Peake, Congressman Henry Brown and Senator Lindsey Graham for standing on the side of veterans with ALS across the country," said Gary Leo, president and CEO of The ALS Association. "Thanks to their leadership, veterans with ALS will receive the benefits and care they need, when they need them. Thanks to their efforts, no veteran with ALS will ever be left behind."

The report, titled *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: Review of the Scientific Literature*, analyzed numerous previous studies on the issue and concluded that "there is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between military service and later development of ALS."

"ALS is a disease that progresses rapidly, once it is diagnosed," the Secretary explained. "There simply isn't time to develop the evidence needed to support compensation claims before many veterans become seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier

to process, and for them and their families to receive the compensation they have earned through their service to our nation."

ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, is often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal.

ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment.

The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

## Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis Lou Gehrig's disease; ALS

### Upper and lower motor neuron disease; Motor neuron disease

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement.

ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Causes, incidence, and risk factors  
In about 10% of cases, ALS is caused by a genetic defect. In the remaining cases, the cause is unknown.

In ALS, nerve cells (neurons) waste away or die, and can no longer send messages to muscles. This eventually leads to muscle weakening, twitching, and an inability to move the arms, legs, and body. The condition slowly gets worse. When the muscles in the chest area stop working, it becomes hard or impossible to breathe on one's own.

ALS affects approximately 5 out of every 100,000 people worldwide. There are no known risk factors, except for having a family member

who has a hereditary form of the disease.

### Symptoms

Symptoms usually do not develop until after age 50, but they can start in younger people. Persons with ALS have a loss of muscle strength and coordination that eventually gets worse and makes it impossible to do routine tasks such as going up steps, getting out of a chair, or swallowing.

Breathing or swallowing muscles may be the first muscles affected.

## medsearch continued...

As the disease gets worse, more muscle groups develop problems. ALS does not affect the senses (sight, smell, taste, hearing, touch). It only rarely affects bladder or bowel function, or a person's ability to think or reason.

### Symptoms include:

Difficulty breathing  
Difficulty swallowing  
Choking easily  
Drooling  
Gagging  
Head drop due to weakness of the neck muscles  
Muscle cramps  
Muscle contractions called fasciculations  
Muscle weakness that slowly gets worse  
Commonly involves one part of the body first, such as the arm or hand  
Eventually leads to difficulty lifting, climbing stairs, and walking  
Paralysis  
Speech problems, such as a slow or abnormal speech pattern (slurring of words)  
Voice changes, hoarseness  
Weight loss

### Signs and tests

The health care provider will take a medical history, which includes strength and endurance.

A physical examination of strength shows weakness, often beginning in one area. There may be muscle tremors, spasms, twitching, or loss of muscle tissue (atrophy). Atrophy and twitching of the tongue are common.

The person's walk may be stiff or clumsy. Reflexes are abnormal. There are increased reflexes at the joints, but there may be a loss of the gag reflex. Some patients have trouble controlling crying or laughing. This is sometimes called "emotional incontinence."

Tests that may be done include:

Blood tests to rule out other conditions

Breathing test to see if lung muscles are affected

Cervical spine CT or MRI to be sure there is no disease or injury to the neck, which can mimic ALS

Electromyography to see which nerves do not work properly

Genetic testing, if there is a family history of ALS

Head CT or MRI to rule out other conditions

Nerve conduction studies

Swallowing studies

Spinal tap (lumbar puncture)

### Treatment

There is no known cure for ALS. The first drug treatment for the disease is a medicine called riluzole. Riluzole slows the disease progression and prolongs life.

Treatments to control symptoms are also helpful:

Baclofen or diazepam may be used to control spasticity that interferes with daily activities.

Trihexyphenidyl or amitriptyline may be prescribed for people with problems swallowing their own saliva.

Physical therapy, rehabilitation, use of braces or a wheelchair, or other orthopedic measures may be needed to maximize muscle function and general health.

Choking is common. Patients may decide to have a tube placed into their stomach for feeding. This is called a gastrostomy.

A nutritionist is very important. Patients with ALS tend to lose weight. The illness itself increases the need for food and calories. At the same time, problems with swallowing make it hard to eat enough.

Breathing devices include machines that are used only at night, and constant mechanical ventilation.

Patients should discuss their wishes regarding artificial ventilation with their families and doctors.

### Support Groups

Emotional support is vital in coping with the disorder, because mental functioning is not affected. Groups such as the ALS Association may be

available to help people who are coping with the disorder.

Support for people who are caring for someone with ALS is also available, and may be very helpful.

### Expectations (prognosis)

Over time, people with ALS progressively lose the ability to function and care for themselves. Death often occurs within 3 - 5 years of diagnosis. About 25% of patients survive for more than 5 years after diagnosis.

### Complications

Breathing in food or fluid (aspiration)  
Loss of ability to care for self  
Lung failure (See: Adult respiratory distress syndrome)  
Pneumonia  
Pressure sores  
Weight loss

### Calling your health care provider

Call your health care provider if:  
You have symptoms of ALS, particularly if you have a family history of the disorder

You or someone else has been diagnosed with ALS and symptoms get worse or new symptoms develop  
Increased difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing, and episodes of apnea are symptoms that require immediate attention.

### Prevention

You may want to see a genetic counselor if you have a family history of ALS.

### References

1. Feldman EL. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and other motor neuron diseases. In: Goldman L, Ausiello D, eds. *Cecil Medicine*. 23rd ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Saunders Elsevier; 2007:chap. 435.

Reviewed by: David C. Dugdale, III, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine; and Daniel B. Hoch, PhD, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, Department of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Also reviewed by David Zieve, MD, MHA, Medical Director, A.D.A.M., Inc. National Center for Biotechnology Information

# AXPOW MEDSEARCH CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

Camp descriptions available from AXPOW. All are from the National Archives. If your camp is not listed, it is because the National Archives does not have it available.

| JAPANESE CAMPS                 | DONATIONS |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Akenobe #6                     | \$.70     |
| Batavia, Java                  | .90       |
| Beppa                          | .50       |
| Bilibid Prison                 | 1.30      |
| Bridge House Jail, China       | .50       |
| Burma                          | .40       |
| Cabanatuan #1                  | .50       |
| Cabanatuan #3                  | 2.10      |
| Camp O'Donnell                 | .60       |
| Changi, Singapore              | .70       |
| D 12, Hitachi                  | .90       |
| Davao Penal Colony             | .70       |
| Fengtai, China                 | .50       |
| Fukuoka #1                     | .90       |
| Fukuoka #2                     | .90       |
| Fukuoka #3                     | .90       |
| Fukuoka #10                    | .70       |
| Fukuoka #11                    | .50       |
| Fukuoka #17                    | .70       |
| Fukuoka #22                    | .70       |
| Hakodate Branch Camp #2        | .70       |
| Hoten, Juken, Manchuria        | .70       |
| Initial Phase – Philippines    | 1.10      |
| Jinsen, Korea                  | .50       |
| Kiangwan, China                | .70       |
| Manila, Port Area              | .40       |
| Mitushima, Tokyo Camp #2-D     | .70       |
| Makaishima, Honshu             | .70       |
| Mukden, Manchuria (temporary)  | .50       |
| Nakhon Pathom, Thailand        | .50       |
| Naval POW Camp, Shanghai       | .40       |
| Notogawa #9-B                  | .50       |
| October Ship (Hellship)        | .90       |
| Omine                          | .50       |
| Osaka #3, Oeyama               | .70       |
| Osaka #5-B                     | .70       |
| Osaka #12-B                    | .70       |
| Osaka Group, Sakurajima, Osaka | .70       |
| Palawan Barracks               | .90       |
| Rangoon Prison, Burma          | .90       |
| Roku Poshi                     | .70       |
| Saigon POW Camp,               | .50       |
| French Indo-China              | .70       |
| Sendai Camp #6, Hanawa         | .50       |
| Sendai Camp #11                | .50       |

| JAPANESE CAMPS                       | DONATIONS |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Southeast Asia-Saigon, Port Area     | .50       |
| SS Oryuku Maru (Hellship)            | .90       |
| Sumatra                              | .90       |
| Thailand (Siam)                      | .50       |
| Tientsin, China                      | .40       |
| Umeda Bonshu                         | .70       |
| Utashinai, Hokkaido                  | .50       |
| War Road Jail, China                 | .50       |
| Woosung                              | .50       |
| Zentsuji Headquarters                | 1.10      |
| Taiwan Formosa, includes Camps 31,   |           |
| Taihoku: Camp V, Taihoku: Camp VI,   |           |
| Taihoku, Kinkaseki: Camp II, Taichu: |           |
| Camp III, Heito: Camp IV, Kagi &     |           |
| Tako                                 | 2.10      |

| GERMAN CAMPS                         | DONATIONS |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
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| Dulag Luft                           | .40       |
| Hohemark Hospital & Luckenwalde      | .90       |
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| Oflag 13-B                           | 1.50      |
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| (the orthopedic hospital)            |           |
| Rumania                              | .50       |
| Stalag 2-B                           | 1.50      |
| Stalag 3-B                           | 1.70      |
| Stalag 7-A                           | 1.50      |
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| Stalag 17-B                          | 1.50      |
| Stalag Luft 1                        | 1.50      |
| Stalag Luft 3                        | 1.50      |
| Stalag Luft 4                        | .40       |
| Stalag Luft 6                        | .40       |
| Transit Camp - Section of Dulag Luft | 1.10      |
| German Orders Governing Prisoners    |           |
| of War in Europe                     | 2.30      |

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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**Sept/Oct 2011**

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT 9/ 1/2011

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Alabama              | 269   |
| Alaska               | 16    |
| AP/AE                | 3     |
| Arizona              | 401   |
| Arkansas             | 170   |
| California           | 1,162 |
| Colorado             | 217   |
| Connecticut          | 162   |
| Delaware             | 46    |
| District of Columbia | 7     |
| Florida              | 1,329 |
| Georgia              | 319   |
| Guam                 | 2     |
| Hawaii               | 40    |
| Idaho                | 64    |
| Illinois             | 496   |
| Indiana              | 291   |
| Iowa                 | 223   |
| Kansas               | 255   |
| Kentucky             | 147   |
| Louisiana            | 188   |
| Maine                | 99    |
| Maryland             | 249   |
| Massachusetts        | 464   |
| Michigan             | 329   |
| Minnesota            | 296   |
| Mississippi          | 265   |
| Missouri             | 391   |
| Montana              | 66    |
| Nebraska             | 138   |
| Nevada               | 83    |
| New Hampshire        | 82    |
| New Jersey           | 431   |
| New Mexico           | 188   |
| New York             | 742   |
| North Carolina       | 360   |
| North Dakota         | 60    |
| Ohio                 | 843   |
| Oklahoma             | 344   |
| Oregon               | 195   |
| Pennsylvania         | 670   |
| Puerto Rico          | 7     |
| Rhode Island         | 72    |
| South Carolina       | 304   |
| South Dakota         | 52    |
| Tennessee            | 329   |
| Texas                | 1,252 |
| Utah                 | 60    |
| Vermont              | 48    |
| Virgin Islands       | 2     |
| Virginia             | 354   |
| Washington           | 448   |
| West Virginia        | 114   |
| Wisconsin            | 565   |
| Wyoming              | 17    |
| Foreign              | 39    |
| Address Unknown      | 191   |

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| ETO               | 5,523  |
| PAC               | 745    |
| KOREA             | 541    |
| USS PUEBLO        | 18     |
| VIETNAM           | 103    |
| IRAN              | 4      |
| IRAQ              | 5      |
| SOMALIA           | 1      |
| FARS/CHINA/2001   | 2      |
| CIVILIAN          | 160    |
|                   |        |
| SPOUSES           | 3,408  |
| SURVIVING SPOUSES | 4,886  |
| NOK               | 560    |
|                   |        |
| ANNUAL            | 870    |
| LIFE              | 15,086 |

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
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Brad Bennett, Superintendent  
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## Preserving POW Artifacts

by Bridget Beers, Curator  
bridget\_beers@nps.gov

At this writing, the park is busy with summer visitors. While many are braving the hot weather to view

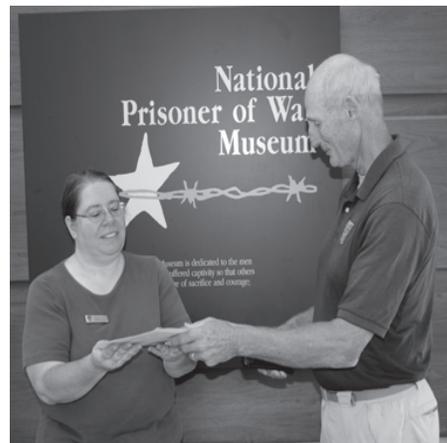
the monuments out in the Civil War prison site and Andersonville National Cemetery, others are very thankful for the air conditioning within the National Prisoner of War Museum.

One very special visitor this summer was Retired Capt. Theodore W. Triebel, former Vietnam Prisoner of War, who brought his family with him to make a very precious donation to the park. Mr. Triebel was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy when his plane was shot down in North Vietnam on August 27, 1972. He wrote a poem to his mother after spending two months in solitary confinement at Hoa Loa prison, better known as the Hanoi Hilton. He was released on March 29, 1973. On June 28, 2011, during his visit to Andersonville, Capt. Triebel read the poem aloud to park staff and his family.

The timing was right for this donation, as Andersonville National Historic Site (NHS) is celebrating the installation of a new museum storage system, which more than doubles the number of museum cabinets, from 22 to 49, plus shelving and an art rack. The existing collection was close to full capacity of the old storage arrangement, but the new system now allows the park to accept more donations and store them safely and properly according to National Park Service (NPS) curatorial standards.

This project started in 2010 with packing up the entire collection with the assistance of museum staff from the NPS Southeast Archeological Center and Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. Once the collection

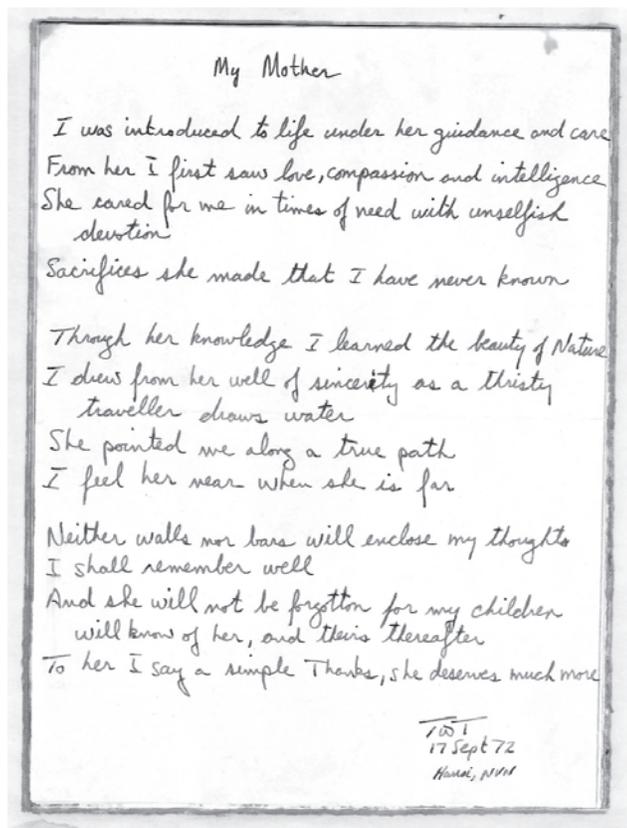
was packed and stored out of the way, contractors began the installation of the system. Now that the system installation is complete, park curator Bridget Beers has started transferring the collections into the new cabinets. This process is expected to be completed this fall.



*Ted Triebel donates poem, written to his mother while a POW in Vietnam, to Andersonville NHS museum curator Bridget Beers.*

Andersonville NHS collects objects and archives related to the American Prisoner of War (POW) experience. Objects include correspondence to and from friends and families and items made or used while in prison camps. We are always looking for donations, especially in wars that are under-represented in the collection, such as pre-Civil War conflicts, the Korean War, and Operation Iraq Freedom. Objects from these and other wars will help us better preserve and interpret the POW story throughout American history.

The park graciously thanks the hundreds of former POWs and their families for their donations to the museum collection. Persons interested in donating items can contact the park's museum curator, Bridget Beers, at 229-924-0343.



# namPOW news



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## Prisoner of War – the book - Revisited

Virtually the only graphic evidence of the inhumane treatment Vietnam POWs received courtesy of their Communist captors is in the form of a series of drawings done by an unlikely artist immediately after his return from captivity.



Disclaimer up front: I have known Mike McGrath since June 1958 when we were inducted into the Naval Academy with the Class of 1962. I

don't often admit that but it's important to this article to understand. Mike and I checked in at the same time, took classes together for the first two years, went through flight training at the same time on four different bases, were flight instructors in Pensacola after receiving our wings, were assigned A-4 Skyhawk jet attack aircraft as our first fleet assignment at the Naval Air Station, Lemoore,

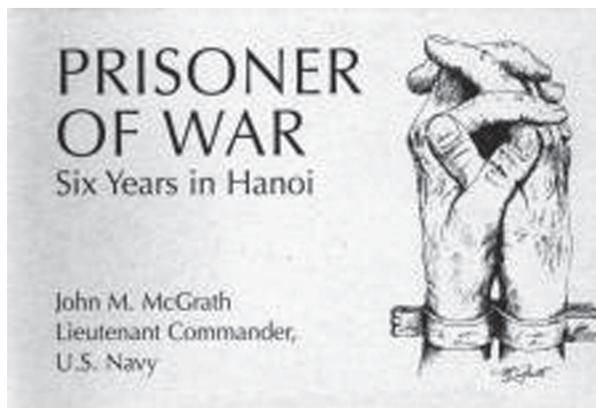
California at the same time. Mike was sent to VA-146, the Blue Diamonds, I went to VA-216 the Black Diamonds. We even lived in the same cul-de-sac in base housing at Lemoore.

McGrath kept the tradition alive when he was shot down and captured in June 1967 - *almost exactly one year after I was!*

Mike had a somewhat checkered career as a midshipman and was renowned among his classmates for his incredible energy and inclination to tweak the system at every possible opportunity - usually not quite to the point of disciplinary action. But always close to it! He lived on the edge.

Mike McGrath was an All-East wrestler at the Naval Academy, Captain of Navy's great wrestling team and famous among his closest friends as the perpetrator of some of the most classic pranks ever pulled off in that esteemed institution's long history. But not many knew that Mike was an accomplished artist.

The Naval Institute published his great work, Prisoner of War by John M. McGrath, then a LCDR, shortly



after the large release of POWs from Hanoi in early 1973. It has had many printings since then and will be released in paperback in November of this year. Here is what the U.S. Naval Institute has to say about Prisoner of War:

"John M. McGrath, a young Navy pilot who was captured in 1967 af-



ter being shot down over Vietnam, vividly presents a straightforward and compelling tale of survival, of years of suffering, and of the human will to endure.

"During the era of the unpopular Vietnam War few issues united the American people as did the emotion-laden problem of POWs and MIAs. When the peace treaties were finally signed and the POWs returned to American soil, the nation was collectively relieved by their safe return.

"A self-taught artist, the starkness of McGrath's drawings underscores his remarkable and moving chronicle of the lives of these prisoners, who were constantly in peril, attempting to survive a brutal captivity almost unimaginable in civilized times."

The book lists for \$19.95 by the Naval Institute's pricing but will be available for \$12.97 for USNI members or similarly low prices on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

This book, authored by one of the true all-time leaders (and characters!) of Naval Aviation makes a great gift for grandchildren to understand what sacrifices were made by our prisoners of war. More importantly, it emphasizes the coping skills required to survive which are rarely taught these days. It's a great read. Get a copy!

## pow-mia



### **PNC John Edwards Chairman**

889 Randall Road  
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### **Statistics from Vietnam War**

There are now 1,685 Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO recently posted the news that Major Thomas E. Clark, USAF, PA, listed as MIA in Laos on 2/8/69, and Major Bruce E. Lawrence, USAF, NJ, listed as MIA in North Vietnam 7/6/68 12/1/65, are now accounted for. Major Clark's remains were jointly recovered on 11/16/05 and identified 6/3/11. Major Lawrence's remains were recovered 6/26/98 and identified 6/3/11. The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 898; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 961. Of the 1,685 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam - 1,293 (VN-474, VS-819); Laos - 327; Cambodia - 58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters - 7. Over 450 were over-water losses.

**Korean War Accounting:** There is again buzz that the US and North Korea will enter into talks to restart recovery operations that were halted in 2005. Recently, there

were again two Recovery Teams (RTs) in South Korea, despite the fact that there have been no successful field recoveries there to date, due to heavy population that dramatically reduces chances for successful excavations. Until field recoveries are again approved in North Korea, the best hope for Korean War accounting lies in identifying remains previously returned unilaterally by North Korea or by identifying disinterred remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) that were buried as unknowns. The ID process has advanced dramatically, now enabling such IDs to be made; however, more forensic anthropologists are needed. Sadly, they are too often used for field operations instead of focusing greater attention on remains IDs.

### **Missing World War II Soldiers Identified**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of fifteen servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

The first of three identified were Army Pfc. Lawrence N. Harris, of Elkins, W.V., Cpl. Judge C. Hellums, of Paris, Miss., and Pvt. Donald D. Owens, of Cleveland, were buried as a group, in a single casket, in Arlington National Cemetery. In late September 1944, their unit, the 773rd Tank Battalion, was fighting its way east to France's eastern border, clearing German forces out of the Parroy Forest near Lunéville. On Oct. 9, 1944, in the final battle for control of the region, Hellums, Harris, Owens and two other soldiers were attacked by enemy fire in their M-10 Tank Destroyer. Two men survived with serious injuries but Harris, Hellums and Owens were reported to have been killed. Evidence at the time indicated the remains of the men had been de-

stroyed in the attack and were neither recovered nor buried near the location.

The second group are Army Air Forces: 1st Lt. Jack E. Volz, 21, of Indianapolis, In; 2nd Lt. Regis E. Dietz, 28, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; 2nd Lt. Edward J. Lake, 25, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; 2nd Lt. Martin P. Murray, 21, of Lowell, Mass.; 2nd Lt. William J. Shryock, 23, of Gary, Ind.; Tech. Sgt. Robert S. Wren, 25, of Seattle, Wash.; Tech. Sgt. Hollis R. Smith, 22, of Cove, Ark.; Staff Sgt. Berthold A. Chastain, 27, Dalton, Ga.; Staff Sgt. Clyde L. Green, 24, Erie, Pa.; Staff Sgt. Frederick E. Harris, 23, Medford, Mass.; Staff Sgt. Claude A. Ray, 24, Coffeyville, Kan.; and Staff Sgt. Claude G. Tyler, 24, Landover, Md. The remains representing the entire crew will be buried as a group, in a single casket in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. Eight of the airmen were identified and buried as individuals during previous ceremonies. Shryock, Green and Harris were also individually identified and will be interred individually at Arlington.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died. At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 73,000 are unaccounted-for from the conflict.

## **Missing/Captured**

US Service members reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 25,  
June 30, 2009, Afghanistan  
Army Staff Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie, 45,  
Oct. 23, 2006, Baghdad

# civilians



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## Going Home

*Soon after the euphoria of liberation, the internees' thoughts turned to going home. Repatriation started almost immediately, with the sick-est of the military POWs from Bilibid going first. Then on February 12, 1945, while the battle of Manila still raged, the Army nurses in Santo Tomas departed, followed by a large group of civilians on February 23. Those early repatriations occurred from a temporary airfield in North Manila and the people were flown to Leyte to board ships. Finally the Port of Manila was declared safe, and the first repatriation ship from there was the SS John Lykes, departing on April 2, 1945 with passengers from Santo Tomas. This is the story of that voyage as told by Angus Lorenzen.*

We finally received notice that we were on the next repatriation ship, and assembled with our battered suitcases in the plaza early on the morning of April 2. As our bus drove through the main gate, I looked back to see Santo Tomas for the last time for more than 50 years. We turned towards the Pasig

River, seeing the fruits of the Battle of Manila. The buildings were shell pocked and burned-out shells, and bridges were wreckage of twisted steel. We crossed on a pontoon bridge and passed what was left of the Intramuros, the once massive walls reduced to rubble and the inside a sea of devastation with only the shell of a cathedral showing above the rubble.

Turning away from the destruction, we drove onto a pier and saw a large gray ship. The S.S. John Lykes was leased to the Army as a troop transport. By today's standards, she was relatively small - 418-feet long and 5,028 gross tons, configured to carry 1,288 troops. She was similar to a Victory ship, except with a higher top speed, and armed with two 3-inch guns forward, a 4-inch gun aft, and several 20-millimeter guns. I was assigned to one of the two forward holds with GIs and civilian men, while my mother and sister were in the aft hold with all of the women. On board were about 500 ex-prisoners from Santo Tomas and an equivalent number



of GIs, not a full load; but still crowded.

We sailed in the late afternoon, twisting and turning along a narrow passage blasted between the hulks of sunken ships in Manila Bay. That evening, we passed Corregidor and joined a convoy being assembled for the voyage to America. Our convoy had about 50 ships neatly aligned in parallel columns, with a screen of destroyer escorts patrolling around the

edges. The speed was abysmally slow, no more than 6 knots.

Strangely, we were sailing south, rather than northeast, where America lay. Even though the Japanese fleet had largely been destroyed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, many surface warships survived and submarines still harried Allied shipping in the western Pacific. Our course would take us through the Philippine Islands, across the equator to New Guinea, then across the Pacific to Hawaii and the West Coast.

On our first morning at sea, there was an abandon-ship drill. If the ship was damaged or sinking, we were to report to our assigned emergency stations wearing our kapok life jackets, and remain there until ordered to abandon ship. When that order came, we were to jump overboard, and life rafts stowed in various places on the ship would be released into the water, which we should board. The explanation seemed so straightforward and easy that there was no reason to worry. Nothing was said about floating or burning oil and the difficulties we might encounter if the ship was still under attack.

We soon developed a daily routine for the month at sea. Everyone staked out territory on deck, where we slept, braving the tropical showers to avoid the 5-high bunks and the stifling heat in the holds. We had three square meals a day served mess-hall style, the GIs sharing mess duty while we civilians free-loaded. But the most important event of the day was at noon when a news report was read over the ship's public address system. In Europe, Germany's defenses were collapsing under the Allied advances on Berlin.

We crossed the equator without the traditional ceremony, but did receive a certificate attesting to the fact that we'd met King Neptune's

## civilians, cont'd...

requirements and were now qualified members of the court. We received a similar certificate later when we crossed the International Date Line.

The ship docked and resupplied at New Hollandia, then started the long voyage across the trackless Pacific while the destroyer escorts tightened up the formation. All ships were directed to hold a live fire practice, and for an hour, every ship was firing all of its armament, and our Navy gun crews enthusiastically participate. The sound reverberating off the steel plates of the ship was deafening, far worse than artillery during the battle of Manila.

Half way to Hawaii our ship required more rations, and a supply ship came alongside about 100 feet from us. Lines were passed across the open water, and crates were swung across and quickly stored below. Unfortunately, one crate was mishandled and broke apart, spewing Hershey chocolate bars across the deck, which quickly and miraculously disappeared, leaving only grinning faces with smears of brown.

On April 14 we all gathered on our favorite perches for the noon report. Expecting to hear more good news about the advance on Berlin, the first bulletin was a complete shock. President Roosevelt had died the previous day in Warm Springs, Georgia. The newsreader paused, and there was a total silence, then someone sobbed, and all around me were these tough GIs with tears streaming down their faces. The people loved this jaunty president who had led the country out of the Great Depression and directed the armed forces as they smashed the German and Japanese war machinery.

A few days later, another tragedy struck. A small child died, weak-

ened by the poor nutrition in Santo Tomas. With no place to keep the remains, the child was given a burial at sea according to maritime tradition.

Our convoy broke up when we reached Hawaii, and we were on our own for the last leg. The days were now getting cooler and it was no longer comfortable to sleep out on the deck, while the temperature in the hold was more pleasant. Sleeping soundly one night, I was jolted awake by the raucous sound of the alarm klaxon warning everyone to go to the abandon ship stations. The GIs in the bunks around me complained that it was just a nuisance drill, and decided that they'd skip it and go back to sleep. I figured they knew what they were doing, and skipped the drill also. The sound of running and shouts coming from above, followed by slamming and toggling of watertight doors, kept me awake until I finally got to sleep in the eerie quiet that followed.

Unconcerned that I'd skipped the drill, I sauntered onto the deck in the morning, only to discover that it was not a drill! During the night, the ship's watch had seen a submarine on the surface that did not respond to the recognition signal. The gun crews tracked the submarine, waiting either for the proper coded reply or for the order to fire and sink it. It was on a course that was the reverse of ours, and we were approaching bow-on. And then it quietly passed our port side and slowly slipped into the dark astern. The submarine was never explained, and we'll never know whether it was friend or foe.

In the predawn hours of May 2 everyone aboard ship assembled on the deck. In the dim light, we could see low hills in the distance. America at last! The ship slowed to a frustratingly imperceptible speed. After 31 days on the John Lykes, we were all impatient to get past the last 3 or 4 miles to our dock.

A band was on the dock playing patriotic favorites as we moored, and a crowd of people stood nearby waving and shouting. The GIs departed first, and then we boarded buses to take us to a reception center at the Elk's Club in Los Angeles.

When we entered the hall, friends and relatives rushed to meet loved ones, and hugs, kisses, and crying followed. But we didn't expect anyone, and only wanted to know what we were to do next. A tall soldier started walking over to us saying, "Elsie? Elsie is that you?" And then he rushed to my mother and hugged her, finally turning to hug my sister, then me. It was my brother, who I hadn't seen since he left for college in Shanghai before the war started. It was a testament to how much we had changed, especially my mother, that he had made that first tentative question when he first saw us. He too had changed, seeming taller, more mature, and very handsome in his Army uniform.

In the days that followed there was a rush to exchange stories, but it was several days before we learned of John's adventures with the Chinese guerillas and the Flying Tigers. He was now stationed in Washington D.C., and also told us that after being repatriated in 1943, my father was back in China serving with the OSS.

Right now, though, the first order of business was lunch. We drove to a nearby restaurant, where for the first time since entering Santo Tomas, we were able to choose from a menu. It was overwhelming, until I saw the word, "hamburger", and my choice was made as I remembered the loving detail with which the GIs described this delicacy. It was pure heaven, and we knew we were back in the heart of civilization.



**Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2011. The 35th Infantry Div. Association** will hold its Annual Reunion at the Hilton Airport Hotel, Kansas City, MO. For details call Col. Robert Dalton 785-267-3295; [www.35thInfDivAssoc.Com](http://www.35thInfDivAssoc.Com).

**Oct. 12-16, 2011. USAAF (USAF) 95th(H) Bomb Group Association** will hold its annual reunion at the Marriott SEA-TAC Airport, 3201 S. 176 St. Seattle, WA 98188. Reservations 800-228-9290; Contact info: 1-206-241-2000.

**October 22-23, 2011. The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force's 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association** is sponsoring the "Ploesti Summit". The location will be in Tucson AZ in the vicinity of the PIMA County Museum and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Tours of PIMA and the Air Base are scheduled as well as other fun events. This will be a very special reunion of the 44<sup>th</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 98<sup>th</sup>, 376<sup>th</sup> and 389<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups who flew the mission. Contact: Jim Guddal at 763-694.9058 or [jguddal@yahoo.com](mailto:jguddal@yahoo.com).

**Nov. 17, 2011. The unveiling of the newly refurbished 14-ft model of the USS Houston CA-30** will take place at the National Museum of the US Navy, 805 Kidder Breese St. SE, Washington, DC 20374, beginning at 11AM. Plan now to join USS Houston CA-30 survivors, spouses, widows, family members and friends at this memorable event. Contact: [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org); [contact@usshouston.org](mailto:contact@usshouston.org).

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**18**

looking  
for



My name is Chris Campbell. I am a television show creator/developer. I am currently doing research on a program for Primitive Entertainment, a Toronto based television production company surrounding **games in WWII and how they helped Allied POW's escape from prisons**, via hidden silk maps and tools. I was also wondering if your organization knows of any veterans that used the maps and other tools hidden in any humanitarian packages to escape? If so, I would love to talk to them about this. If you could please get back to me on this issues when you get a chance, I would really appreciate it. I look forward to hearing from you soon.  
[chris.campbell24@googlemail.com](mailto:chris.campbell24@googlemail.com).

I ran across a statistic a couple of years ago that showed military members who were taken **captive had a higher survival success rate if they participated in athletics during high school or college**. Not exactly sure how it was worded but along those lines. I want to say it was from the University of Michigan. Does that sound familiar? Want to use that fact in recruiting high school athletes. David Falls, Library Technician/Head Wrestling Coach, Pueblo West High School; (719) 547-8050 (retired USAF MSgt)

My name is Josh Mills. I'm the CEO and Co-founder of Desert Wind Films. We are currently in development on our documentary series - THE GREATEST GENERATION. This film is dedicated to acknowledging, honoring and preserving the **stories of these great men and women that served in World War 2**. We are contacting organizations from around the country and requesting assistance in reaching these survivors. We will be collect-

ing an immense amount of data and footage, capturing memories of triumph, pain, loss, victory and joy. We hope to bring to light the countless stories overlooked in your common history books or your commercialized hollywood movies. These were the everyday circumstances that surrounded a soldier, nurse, journalist, officer, etc during this heroic and tumultuous time in our history.

My grandfather fought in Europe with the British in 1944 and was involved in Operation Market Garden or Arnhem...later tagged "A Bridge Too Far" and my father was a veteran of the Vietnam war. I'm a film maker who has a renowned respect for ALL of the veterans who have sacrificed for this great nation. For a sample of the work we do...we have a faith based film hitting the theaters this spring. You can see it at: [www.BrothersKeeperFilm.com](http://www.BrothersKeeperFilm.com). We will eventually expand the series to later conflicts such as the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. If you are a veteran of any war, and would like to share your experience with us, we would be honored and appreciative of your time. Thank you. DesertWind Films, 414 793 9772; [wardjeff488@gmail.com](mailto:wardjeff488@gmail.com).

Looking for any **15th Air Force B-24 pilots or crew who were shot down on the March 19, 1944** mission to Graz, Austria, who would be willing to give a short interview for an upcoming book by author Adam Makos. If interested, please contact Adam by email at: [staff@valorstudios.com](mailto:staff@valorstudios.com) or by telephone at: 570-435-4523 (MST). Thank you!

I'm looking for information on any and all ground and flight crew members of the **15th AF based in North Africa and Italy** during WWII who participated in any bombing raids on the Oil Fields in Ploesti, Romania. Please contact, Dennis Posey, phone number: 770-509-7734; [dennis\\_posey@att.net](mailto:dennis_posey@att.net). Thank you, Herman "Herik" Streitburger, Bedford, NH.

## looking for cont'd...

I am looking for any info about my uncle **Claude V Gross**, AAF, 3407934, resident of North Carolina. To the best of my knowledge, Claude was in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, as a right waist gunner on a B-17. He was captured and was held in **Stalag Luft 4**. Thank you. John F Robbins, 265 Nebraska St., Spindale, NC 28160; 704-884-6805.

My husband, **Randolph Macon Brantley**, was captured in the **Battle of the Bulge**. Before he was captured, he and another man were checking buildings for the enemy. There was a shot and the man pushed my husband into a building, taking a bullet for him. My husband carried the man to the jeep and brought him to the hospital. He never learned his name and would like to thank him for saving his life. My husband later caught up with the 36<sup>th</sup> Inf in Italy and was with them when he was captured close to Moosberg. If anyone remembers this incident, please contact us. Thank you. Jane W & Randolph M Brantley, 702 W Railroad St., Nashville, TN 27856; 252-459-6303.

## News Briefs

### Veterans Home Shaken and Stirred

By Alice A. Booher



One of the country's oldest, most graciously beautiful veterans' retirement homes, the United States Armed Forces Retirement Home (formerly Soldiers and Airmen's Home) (USAFRH) in Washington, D.C., is a monument to resilience. Several buildings are on the Historic Register; Quarters I and Lincoln's Retreat were summer White Houses for Presidents Arthur, Hayes, Buchanan and most notably, Abraham Lincoln who spent one-fourth of his presidency there at the Lincoln Cottage where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. The campus was evacuation salvation for the hundreds from the sister facility in Gulfport when it was ravaged four years ago by Hurricane Katrina. But



the USAFRH was given a nasty jolt by the earthquake in late August 2011. Fortunately, none of the some 700 veteran residents, including at least five American Ex-POWs, were injured, but the facilities were seriously damaged. The Lincoln Cottage, just reopened after a lengthy restoration, has cracks in the walls. The Scott Building was already closed for demolition and rebuilding, so there were cranes on-site that could be moved to help stabilize precarious huge slabs of stone at other locations. The Sherman Building was worst hit, with floors falling 6 inches, considerable damage to the computer lab, artist's area and dining facility made uninhabitable; the classic tower is held together by yellow steel bands like a huge package. In the Sheridan building, rooms remained stable but many elevator weights shifted rendering them dangerous. Massive slabs of cement



and much debris litters the campus. Dining was moved to the fitness center and some of the fitness equipment and computers moved to individual floors so residents can still access them. Financing for repairs is scarce. On September 2nd, Alice Booher and DeLeon Fields from Red Top Cab delivered a collection of some 1700 comfort items collected by various veterans service organizations and the Board of Veterans Appeals to USAFRH's Carolyn Weber, Volunteer Services Director. In the next month, available donated funds will be used to buy bags for hanging on wheelchairs and walkers so that residents can carry items with them to campus locations, many of them less accessible than before the earthquake (followed up by water and wind destructive Hurricane Irene). As additional donations are made, a list of needed items will be filled; Booher will continue to collect comfort items, 2012 calendars and special items like ballcaps.

### Sandbostel

**Memorial at location of former POW and prisoner reception camp Stalag X B in Sandbostel is being extended. Historians ask for support in developing the new permanent exhibitions**

Since the late 1970s, there have been efforts to throw some light on the history of the POW and prisoner

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## news, continued

reception camp Sandbostel and the establishment of a memorial at the historic site of the camp. These efforts received essential support through the foundation of the Verein Dokumentations- und Gedenkstätte Sandbostel (Association for a Documentation and Memorial Site at Sandbostel) in 1992 and the Stiftung Lager Sandbostel (Sandbostel Camp Foundation) in 2004.



In the year 2010, the Foundation was awarded grants totaling 1.425 million Euros for the reshaping of the memorial. Aside from the federal government, the state government of Lower Saxony, the county of Rotenburg (Wümme) and the Hermann Reemtsma Foundation in Hamburg participated in the project. The money was used to develop two new permanent exhibits in two buildings remodeled expressly for this purpose, to erect information boards at the site and to avert deterioration of the unique arrangement of former housing shacks.

Since the end of last year, three new research associates have been supporting project coordinator Andreas Ehresmann and Foundation chairman Karl-Heinz Buck. Historian Dr. Jens Binner, religion scholar Dörthe Engels and political scientist Dr. Andrea Genest are searching archives and

institutions worldwide for documents, testimonies and artifacts for the two permanent exhibitions scheduled to open at the site of the former camp in Sandbostel in 2013. Dr. Klaus Volland and Werner Borgsen, authors of the groundbreaking 1991 publication "Stalag X B Sandbostel" are providing scientific consultation for the project.

The first permanent exhibition treats the history of the POW and prisoner reception camp Stalag X B Sandbostel in northwestern Germany. Between 1939 and 1945, the camp held hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war from over 70 nations, which were used for forced labor in several hundred external work details. Furthermore, in April 1945, several transports with a total of approximately 9,000 prisoners from the concentration camp at Neuengamme reached the

camp at Sandbostel. About 3,000 of those died of exhaustion, starvation or various diseases shortly before or after their liberation.

The second exhibition treats the use of the site after its liberation on April 29, 1945 as the internment camp C.I.C. 2 for members of the Waffen-SS (1945-1948), the Sandbostel penitentiary (1948-1952) and an emergency reception camp for young male refugees from the GDR (1952-1960), as well as the history of the Camp Sandbostel Memorial Site.

The Camp Sandbostel Memorial Site is currently home to one of the most important historical research projects in Lower Saxony. During the past year, the memorial counted 7,500 visitors, including 2,500 adolescents and 450 foreign visitors, which participated in



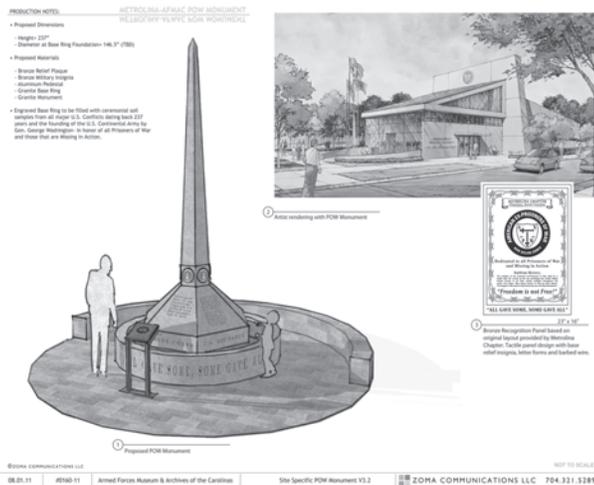
## Vermont Chapter #1

21st annual picnic at Camp Plymouth State Park. Members present, left to right, Richard Hamilton, Francis Angier and Harry Howe.

# news, continued

guided tours and lectures, and discovered history and excavated remains in workshops. The goal of everyone involved is to further research into the history of Camp Sandbostel and keep the memory alive.

## EX-POWs Cast Their Legacy in Bronze



A 20-foot-tall obelisk monument to be erected in front of the planned Armed Forces Museum & Archives of the Carolinas (AFMAC) will become the symbolic cornerstone for all who served and sacrificed for America. In 2010, the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, headed by Commander Ed Halliburton, presented their idea of a POW/MIA memorial to the museum's directors and Roger Reimann, of Zoma Communications. Nine enthusiastic and determined WWII Ex-Pows along with Zoma Communications have worked together on the design and casting of a large bronze plaque that will forever commemorate and honor all Prisoners of War and those Americans still missing in action.

After months of planning and fund raising efforts by the Ex-Pows and its members, the Metrolina Chapter has delivered the impressive \$4000 bronze plaque to AFMAC.

"We cannot thank the Metrolina Chapter enough for their support of a military history museum to be built in Mint Hill, NC, to honor all veterans," said Bill Dixon, AFMAC's president. "The POW/MIA monument and plaque will pay tribute to the Americans who never returned home from combat and to those that faced terrible suffering and hardships as prisoners of war in foreign lands. This monument will be a reminder to all who see and read the bronze plaque that freedom is not free."

The Metrolina Chapter members have pledged their continued support in fund raising activities for the AFMAC military history museum and POW/MIA memorial. This group's exemplary efforts epitomize the term, "the greatest generation." Please help by contacting Chapter spokesman, Tom Easterling, by

email at [tome@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tome@carolina.rr.com), or by phone at 704-563-5619. Additional information can be found on the AFMAC web site at [www.visitafmac.org](http://www.visitafmac.org). The Armed Forces Museum is expected to be completed by 2013.



The Ex-Pows from the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter with their ranks and internments are as follows:  
Mr. Robert Berly - Rank when POW—2<sup>nd</sup>. LT. at Stalag Luft # I, Barth, Germany;  
Mr. L. Frank Caldwell - Rank when POW—TEC. SGT. at Budapest

Political Prison, Hungry and Stalag Luft # IV-D, Tychowo, Poland;  
Mr. Herb Cooper - Rank when POW—TEC. SGT. at Stalag Luft # IV, in Tychowo, Poland;  
Mr. L. Tom Easterling - Rank when POW—2<sup>nd</sup>. LT. in a room with non-English speaking wounded in Germany, and Stalag # V-A, Ludwigsburg, Germany;  
Mr. E. W. Halliburton - Rank when POW—TEC. SGT. in 10<sup>th</sup>. Wengen, Swiss Alps, Switzerland;  
Mr. Demp McLeod - Rank when POW— PFC in Work Camp 1506, North Sea, Germany;  
Mr. John Mitchell - Rank when POW—2<sup>nd</sup>. LT. in Stalag Luft #I, Barth, Germany;  
Mr. Earl Osborne - Rank when POW— STAFF SGT. in Stalag # 17-B, Krems, Austria; and  
Mr. James Wall - Rank when POW— 1<sup>st</sup> LT. in solitary confinement, Beijing, China, and POW camp in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

## Augusta (GA) Fisher House Expansion

The furnishings are in place, and the rooms are dressed up and ready for the first Families to begin staying at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center Fisher House. "We will have Families living here before the dedication. We are hoping by the middle to end of September," said Anne Arnold, Fisher House manager. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 5, 2011. Arnold said VA officials signed the acceptance papers for the completed house in August. They are still waiting to tie up other paperwork related ends. Construction on the 15,000 square-foot home began in May 2010. The Augusta community raised \$1.8 million for the construction of the home, which cost more than \$5 million to build, according to Arnold. It was completed in August.

## news, continued

### Agent Orange: U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships in Vietnam

VA has released a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records. This evolving list will help Veterans who served aboard ships, including "Blue Water Veterans," find out if they may qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure. Veterans must meet VA's criteria for service in Vietnam, which includes aboard boats on the inland waterways or brief visits ashore, to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

Veterans who qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure are not required to show they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides when seeking VA compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

#### Find Your Ship

Ships or boats that were part of the **Mobile Riverine Force, Inshore Fire Support (ISF) Division 93** or had **one of the following designations** operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Veterans whose military records confirm they were aboard these ships qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure. During your Vietnam tour, did your ship or boat have one of the following designations?

- § LCM (Landing Craft, Mechanized)
- § LCU (Landing Craft, Utility)
- § LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel)
- § LST (Landing Ship, Tank)
- § PBR (Patrol Boat, River)

- § PCF (Patrol Craft, Fast or Swift Boat)
- § PG (Patrol Gunboat)
- § WAK (Cargo Vessel)
- § WHEC (High Endurance Cutter)
- § WLB (Buoy Tender)
- § WPB (Patrol Boat)
- § YFU (Harbor Utility Craft)

VA will help determine qualifying service in Vietnam when you file a claim for compensation benefits.

### Paws & Stripes

Imagine a brave soldier facing the trials and hardships of war - putting his life on the line to serve his country - only to return home facing a new battle: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). With the aid of man's best friend, military veteran Jim Stanek is receiving unique therapy that only a dog can provide thanks to Paws and Stripes, a nonprofit organization.

#### *From War Hero to Recovering Veteran*

Jim Stanek, a Long Island native and 9/11 clean-up volunteer, began his military career in February 2003 serving in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, F CO 51st LRSC, and the Big Red One. He returned home early, however, after sustaining injuries during deployment. While being treated at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, the Army began the process of medically retiring Jim for his multitude of injuries and chronic severe PTSD and TBI. After only six and a half years in the Army, Jim's military career came to a close.

#### *The Search for a Therapy Dog*

Following nine months of treatment at Brook Army Medical Center, Jim discovered that the most comfort and relief he found was in the presence of therapy dogs. In May of 2010, Lindsey and Jim tried to obtain a trainer for their rescue dog, Sarge, and soon discovered the tremendous difficulty and expenses associated with this process.

#### *An Idea is Born: Paws and Stripes*

After being either turned down or unable to pay for service dogs from multiple organizations, Lindsey and Jim decided to start their own organization assisting veterans in the process of obtaining a service dog. In June 2010 their idea came to fruition, and Lindsey and Jim incorporated Paws and Stripes.

Paws and Stripes, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Rio Rancho, N.M., works to provide service dogs for veterans of the United States military suffering from PTSD and TBI. The service dogs are obtained exclusively from shelters, and are trained by professionals at no cost to the veteran. Paws and Stripes allows the veteran to select the service dog and participate in the weekly training from the first day, providing a unique form of therapy for the veteran.

### VA Survivor Assistance

VA's Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) ensures families of the fallen have full access to the services and benefits to which they're entitled. It was established by Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222, in OCT 08 to serve as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the Department to survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

OSA also serves as a principal advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and promotes the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors. The OSA is your advocate to ensure fairness, equity and appropriateness of all survivor benefits and to serve as the liaison for inter- and intra-agency collaboration and coordination on survivor issues. OSA is also fully committed to staying in step with the needs of survivors to ensure that OSA remains a viable advocate for the survivor community. They can be contacted at [officeofSurvivors@va.gov](mailto:officeofSurvivors@va.gov).



# American Ex-Prisoners of War

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July 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rep. Michael Honda (D-San Jose, CA) introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring U.S. veterans who were held as prisoners of war during World War II, according to a statement his office issued June 22, 2011.

The resolution commemorates the men and women who were taken as U.S. prisoners of war in the Pacific. It also commends the government of Japan for the steps it recently took to provide some justice to former U.S. POWs; recognizes the strong alliance between the two nations; and calls on the private Japanese companies that profited from U.S. POW labor to apologize and support programs for lasting remembrance and reconciliation.

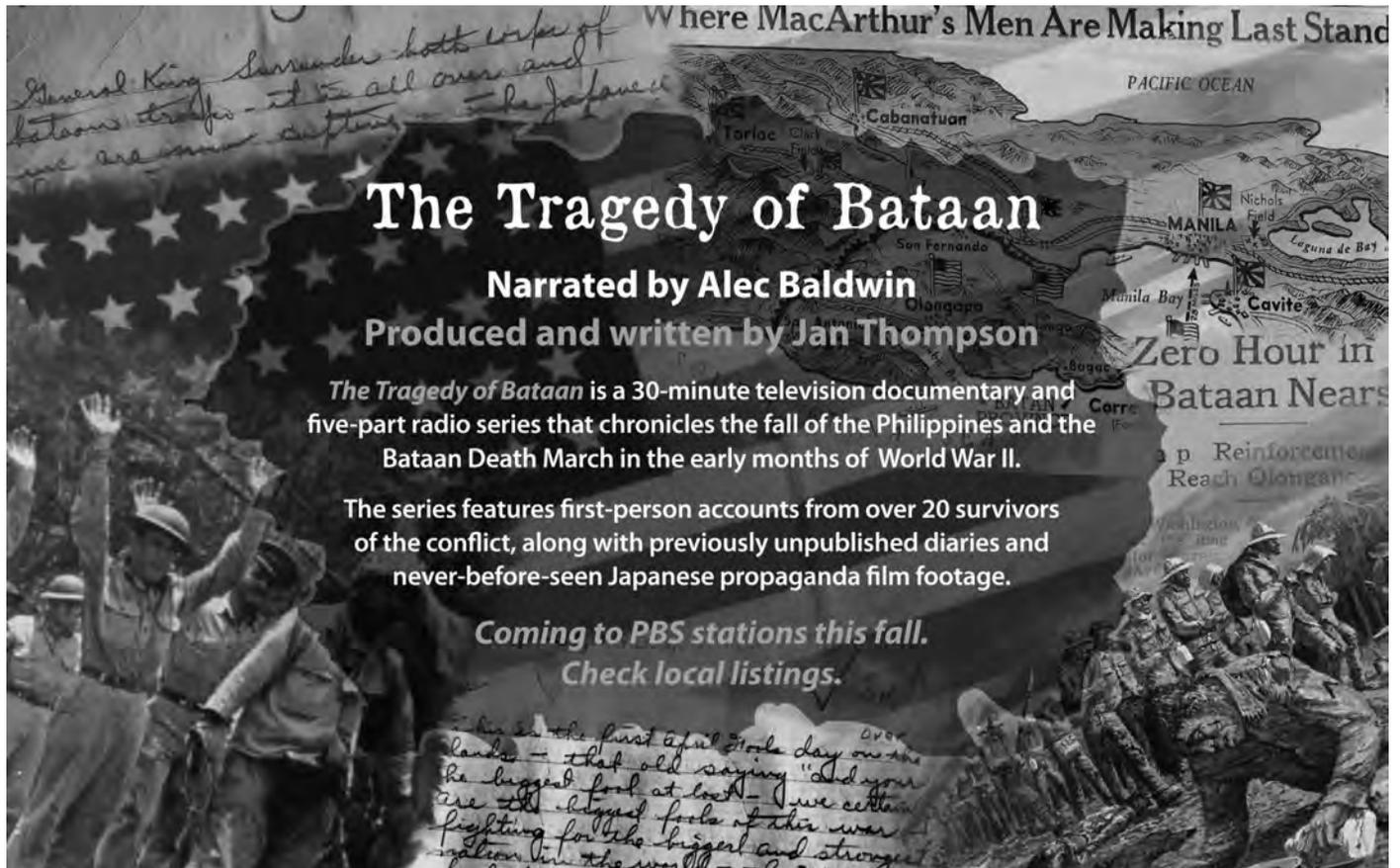
Morris Barker, National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War applauds this action. "It has been 66 years since the United States and Japan faced each other across battlefields. It is gratifying to see the strong friendship our governments now have with each other and we hope to see the immense sacrifices made by our Pacific ex-POWs recognized at long last. Our relationship can only deepen with the steps that are begun today."

An estimated 27,000 men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces were captured by the Imperial Japanese military. The POWs were subjected to forced labor and faced brutal and inhumane conditions; nearly 40 percent perished. There are fewer than 500 ex-POWs believed to be alive today.

The resolution comes after the Japanese government issued an apology to the former POWs. In 2009, Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Ichiro Fujisaki, delivered an apology at the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor convention. The government of Japan also invited several U.S. POWs to Japan for an exchange program for reconciliation and remembrance. They arrived in Tokyo in 2010.

On June 24, 2011, the resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Twenty-two co-sponsors from both parties support the resolution.

H.Res 333



## Documentary Tells Story of 'The Tragedy of Bataan'

### Unique TV and Radio Series, Narrated by Alec Baldwin

In November of this year PBS stations around the United State will have the opportunity to broadcast "The Tragedy of Bataan"- a half-hour television documentary that chronicles the fall of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March. In addition there is a 5-part radio companion series. This series features over twenty-four former POWs from the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC) organization.

The television documentary was screened a year ago at the DG-ADBC Convention in Reno Nevada-but there have been some changes since then. The program is now narrated by acclaimed actor Alec Baldwin (star of *30 Rock* and *Its Complicated*).

There is no specific air date as I am giving the stations the program for free and they will be able to broadcast the program for the next three years. Most likely they will broadcast the program around; the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary dates: December 7, 2011 and April 9 2012 but also around Veteran's Day and Memorial Day.

It is my hope to link PBS stations with a local former POW from Philippine conflict for additional programming. This means that the stations would interview you to hear your own unique story. I will be contacting many of you to see if you are interested and in turn I hope you contact me.

This program is only the "tip" of the iceberg of my work—as I am also completing a two-hour documentary solely on the prisoner of war experience and it will also feature Alec Baldwin.

# Members forum



## Keeping AXPOW Strong Continued

Congratulations! Through your donations, dues, and purchase of merchandise, you added about \$30,000 to our treasury in April. This is added to the \$40,000 plus we were ahead of budget at the end of March. Now our reserves are over \$150,000, and we could be on our way to building up our bank accounts and investments to where it was a few years ago. This would strengthen our financial status for the transition to a primarily next of kin organization. It reverses the trend in recent years where we were going over budget \$50,000 a year.

Why does it matter? It preserves the institution that has put into law the presumptive's which provided benefits for deserving ex-prisoners of war. These benefits, along with com-

penensation for our widows, are established laws for all future prisoners of war for all ages to come. Well...that is if our organization is around to preserve them. What Congress enacts into law, Congress can take away.

Now, here's an idea you might like to try to boost the trend. I called Cheryl, Editor of the AXPOW Bulletin, and asked if she would give our chapter special recognition in the Contribution section if we donated a significant sum. She said 'Yes'. So I asked all of our nine ex-prisoners, if we could donate as a group. We coughed up \$1,000, Then we went out and sold \$501 in daisies. If you noticed in May/June Issue, we were recognized. May I challenge you to beat our record, and be recognized in the Bulletin?

It's not just an ego thing. It is our token appreciation for the compensation we receive, the medical benefits for self and spouse, military base privileges, Federal recognition of national POW/MIA days etc.

Thank you for your help KEEPING AXPOW STRONG.

LEW SLEEPER  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR, SW



Dear Cheryl, My son, Bruce, took me to Dayton, Ohio in July to the Air Force Museum. The picture shows us in front of the propeller from NC (1985-86) Orlo G Natvig's plane. Ruth Natvig Kilmer

Dear Cheryl,

Please publish the following four significant events during the Bataan Campaign in the Philippines 1941-1942.

1. The emblem of Bataan & Corregidor organization, founded in 1959.
2. The Sealion Insignia shoulder patches worn by the 31<sup>st</sup> Inf. Reg. Philippines, American Army.
3. The Carabao Head Insignia shoulder patches worn by the Philippine Scouts, Philippine Div. USA.
4. The story written by Bataan unknown soldier in 1941-1942 at the battlefield in Bataan, titled "Remember Bataan & Corregidor".

*This should always be remembered and kept before the eyes of the world. The biggest disaster in American history took place when the Philippines fell to the hands of the better-equipped Japanese Imperial forces. The men and women of Bataan & Corregidor paid a high price for the freedom this country deserves. No help whatsoever came from the United States. No troops, reinforcements, no supplies, no food, no medication, nothing. Our US armed forces were sent directly to England, Africa and Europe...the hell with Bataan & Corregidor. Our inevitable defeat was a victory elsewhere for the United States, at a high price for the troops on Bataan & Corregidor. We are call the fighting Bastards of Bataan & Corregidor. No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam. God bless you, my fellow Filipino American ex-POWs that we are still lucky to live for our last destiny.*

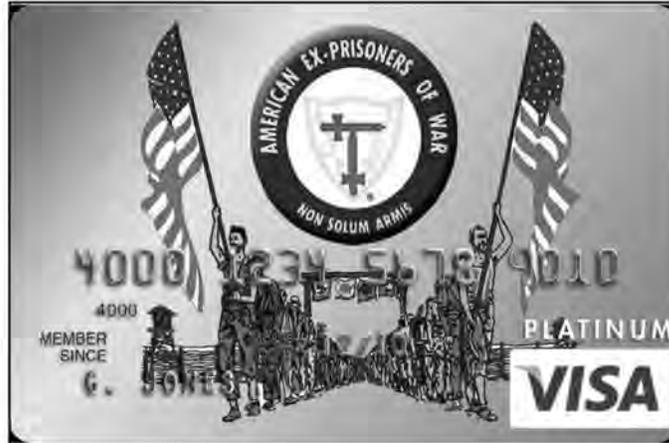
Printing this history is a token remembrance of the Bataan & Corregidor surviving veterans who lived through the infamous Bataan Death March and the inhumane treatment of the Imperial Japanese Army.

Rosendo Luna Sr.  
SFC USA (Ret)  
POW WWII Bataan Survivor

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**Introducing the new  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
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# Your Stories



## Bataan survivor waited nearly 70 years for Bronze Star Medal

By Ray Westbrook  
Article Reprinted courtesy  
of the LUBBOCK (TX)  
AVALANCHE-JOURNAL



*Virgil Wallace recently was presented the Bronze Star for Valor and a Presidential Unit Citation in celebration of his 98th birthday.*

Virgil Wallace, now a resident of Autumn House in Idalou, still recalls what he was doing when the Empire of Japan assaulted Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and Luzon in the Philippines.

It took nearly 70 years, but Bataan Death March survivor Virgil Wallace, 98, has his Bronze Star medal.

Wallace, now a resident of Autumn House in Idalou, still recalls what he was doing when the Empire of Japan assaulted Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and Luzon in the Philippines. Except for different time zones, the attacks would have been on the same day, though 12 hours apart, according to Wallace. Pearl Harbor was struck on Dec. 7, 1941, and the

Philippines were hit on the calendar date of Dec. 8.

“We had four B-17s,” he remembers of the new state-of-the-art American bombers located at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

“They were in flight all that morning, up until noon, then sat down at Clark to have dinner. They had no more than got sat down until 42 Japanese bombers came over. They had some small escort planes also.

“They came in and bombed everything we had — and we had a lot of planes. We had about eight left.

“That was the first day of war.”

Wallace, who was a resident of Tatum, N.M., when he went into the Army, had taken basic training, then was sent to the Philippines, where he had been scheduled to continue with more training.

“They planned on continuing our training in the Philippines, but all that night training ... we couldn’t do it over there. It was too rough. So many gullies and hills. They tried it one night and gave it up.

“We didn’t have much to do until the Japanese started invading.”

Wallace had been assigned to the 200th Coast Guard Artillery, an anti-aircraft unit.

“All the batteries were out in the field in the surrounding area. They just had a few men left to take care of the barracks. I happened to be one who was taking care of barracks, and wasn’t out with my battery.

“Those small planes came in firing. They just continued bombing, and then on to other fields. They began setting fires — all the fuel storage ... dropping bombs on them ... and ammunition dumps. The fire burned for about three days.

“The worst part of it was watching all that stuff go up in smoke. That left us short on food and very short on fuel.”

He recalls, “They divided the 200th Coast Guard Artillery and made another — the other was the 515th. I was put in the 515th. At that time, the 515th was made up of Filipinos. “The 200th then picked up all those fliers who lost the planes — which was all of them. And they filled in the 200th with that.”

He remembers, “It just started going from bad to worse all the time. They cut our rations down to a very small amount, trying to make it last. They couldn’t get any supplies in from the States — the (Japanese) had some blockades, and we were cut off.”

He said, “The first night, they sent the battery that I was in to Manila. We had to draw equipment — we didn’t have anything to fight with. The equipment they sent us overseas with was from World War I.”

He recalls, “The dive bombers would come in and dive, and they couldn’t follow that dive. High-flying planes ... we couldn’t reach them, the guns wouldn’t reach that high. It was a real discouraging thing from the start.”

He said, “Gen. (Douglas) MacArthur had already ... he was shipped out. So, they put Gen. (Jonathan) Wainwright in as head. He was next in command.”

Wainwright’s forces withdrew to the peninsula of Bataan, and in January 1942 repelled a major Japanese assault. But the Japanese numbers and lack of supplies proved overwhelming for the 70,000-man army, and they surrendered April 9, 1942.

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## your stories, cont'd...

"When the surrender came, they sent some of the top brass to where the (Japanese) were, and they surrendered. We didn't know if they would just go ahead and kill every one of us," Wallace said.

"We walked down to the end of a kind of boot deal on that island when we surrendered."

Wallace remembers the Japanese sent them to a prison called Camp O'Donnell.

"That was what they called the death march. I know I was seven days getting there."

For the Americans and the Filipinos it was 60 miles of horror in which thousands died. Some estimates place the death toll as high as 10,000.

The Americans and Filipinos entered the march in emaciated condition because of the short rations, and they were given nothing to sustain them along the way.

Were they given water?

"No. No water!" Wallace said. "And if you ran out to get a canteen of water, they would bayonet you or shoot you. A lot of our boys got shot for running out. I never did run out, luckily."

Wallace remembers he started the march with a canteen of water. "I didn't use much water. We would pass through cane fields, and a lot of us chewed on cane for the moisture in that."

After a silence, he said, "It was desperate times. It was desperate

times. If you fell behind and couldn't march, they killed you. And it didn't get any better, either. "We went to a camp, Camp O'Donnell. It was kind of a desert itself. Nearly everybody had malaria and was down with it and starvation together. They buried over 100 boys every day that died after we got in that camp.

"When we got there, the (Japanese) searched us. You had to pull out everything you had in your pockets. Several of those guys with Japanese coins they had gotten trading with the Filipinos for cigarettes or something ... that battery I was in, we lost three captains. They had Japanese stuff on them. They carried them off on a truck, stood them on the graves, and shot them into the graves.

"They were really barbaric."

He lost friends in the camp. "I tell you what they got to doing — Americans are crazy in a way — a lot of those guys in the prison camps wanted a smoke so bad, they traded their rice off for a cigarette. They didn't do that too long until they were dead, because they were already starved down. I had friends that did that."

Wallace was put on work details for much of the war.

"I worked on the air fields in the Philippines, building airports. It was all hand labor. Then they gradually shipped them over to Japan. I was shipped over there close to a year before they surrendered.

"I don't know whether they fared any better or not — they got beat up, starved to death, worked to death."

Wallace worked in an open pit mine, he remembers.

"When they shipped you to Japan, you didn't get any rice; you got

barley. The barley wasn't too bad if you were hungry."

When the war ended, Wallace weighed 104 pounds, which was down from his normal weight of 200 pounds.

He remembers of Japan's surrender, "It took us a long time to get back to the States. The military kept carrying us off somewhere else for a week or two until we got tightened up before we came home — they didn't want us to come home looking like we did."

Recently, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, who represents District 2 of New Mexico, arranged a presentation of the Bronze Star for Valor and a Presidential Unit Citation to Wallace in celebration of his 98th birthday. Although he lives in Idalou now, he is the oldest Bataan Death March survivor to have served from New Mexico.

But even the Bronze Star may not be the most memorable part of his service in World War II. It likely was the arrival of American troops.

"Yeah, I was glad to see the troops come. I didn't figure I would."

Virgil Victor Wallace  
Born: July 29, 1913.  
Grew up: On his father's ranch in the Tatum, N.M., area.  
U.S. Army: Began his service in May 1941.  
Overseas service: Philippine Islands.  
Prisoner of war: In Philippines and Japan.  
Rank: Sergeant.  
Married: Millie Wallace, November 1956.  
Resident: Idalou.  
Bronze Star medal: Presented July 31.



## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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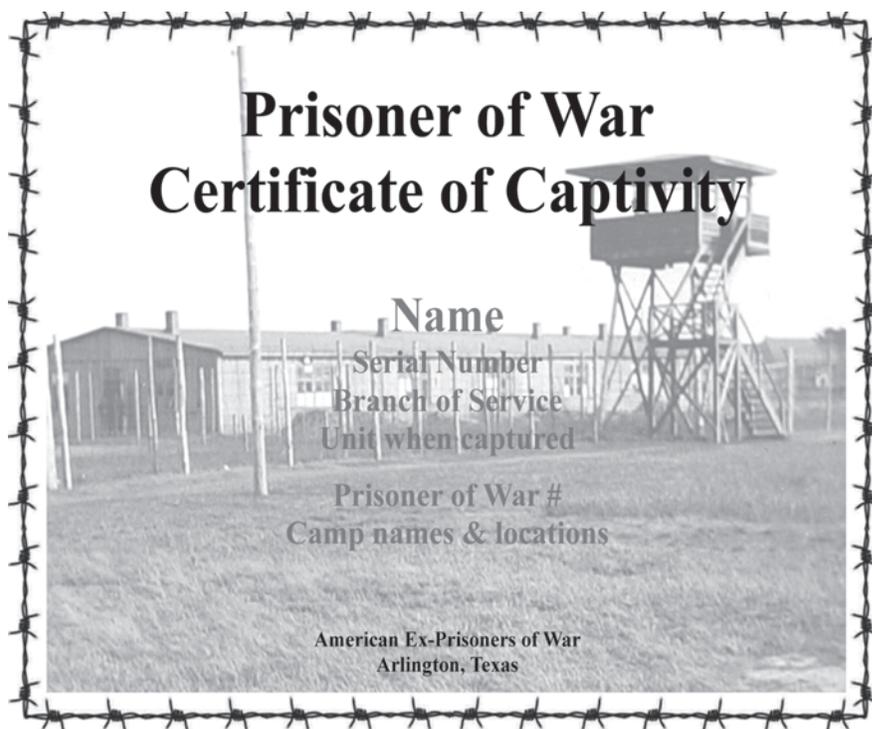
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In memory of Stanley Corrington,  
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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**Sept/Oct 2011**

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## new members

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



### New Members "Welcome Home"

WILLIAM H ALDHIZER  
LARGO FL

SON OF PAUL M  
ALDHIZER, ETO,

RONNIE L CUPP  
DEBBIE  
HAMPTON GA  
SON OF BURLEN CLAYTON  
'BIM' CUPP

DAVID ALLEN ' TOWNE  
CASSIA  
WICHITA KS  
SON OF PAUL EDWARD  
TOWNE, ETO

ANN THOMAS SCHMITT  
LOUISVILLE KY  
DAUGHTER OF WALTER P  
THOMAS, ETO

JULIA LYNN LOLLAR  
WILLS POINT TX  
DAUGHTER OF JAMES  
LOLLAR, NAM

BILLIE JOHN PENNINGTON  
BERNICE  
FARWELL TX  
BELGIUM, 12/20/44 TO 12/  
24/44

GRETCHEN SMITH  
FORT WORTH TX  
DAUGHTER OF TRUETT  
FORD

On July 5, 2011, Marjorie Paschal, Adjutant of the Air Capital Chapter, AXPOW, presented a check for \$300 to Jan Haberly of the Lord's Diner of Wichita. This check is to aid in the ongoing task of providing meals for the hungry. In the photo are Dr.



William Paschal, Treasurer, Jan Haberly, Director of Volunteers for the Lord's Diner and Marjorie. In the past two months, this chapter has donated checks of \$1,000 to the Ozark Harvesters of Missouri to help aid the survivors of the Joplin tornado and a check for \$300 to the Salvation Army to aid in the assistance for survivors of the Reading, Kansas tornado. Commander John Mock of Eureka has stated "As former prisoners of War, we know what it is like to go hungry."



# taps



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

**ABEL, Richard E**, 88, of Terre Haute, IN died Jan. 11, 2011. He was a turret gunner in a B-24 with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF when he crashed in Yugoslavia and was captured. Survivors include his wife, 3 sons, 3 daughters, 15 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**ALLEN, Henry E**, member of the Dakota West Chapter, AXPOW, passed away recently. He served with the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Div. and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where he was captured. Henry and his wife raised 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; he also is survived by 2 brothers.

**ANDERSEN, Gerald**, 87, of Elgin, IL passed away July 18, 2011. He was captured while serving with the 36<sup>th</sup> Div., 143<sup>rd</sup> Reg., "E" Co at the Rapido River; he was held 15 months. Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Marylou, 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**ANGELONI, Joseph Earl Sr.**, of Alba, TX died April 20, 2011. He was 87. During WWII, he served with the AAF. Joseph was a member of the East Texas Chapter #1, AXPOW. His wife, Evelyn, predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 brother, 2 sisters, 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**BARRY, Francis (Frank)** of Savannah, GA, passed away Aug. 13, 2011 at age 89. He was a POW in Luft 4 for 15 months.

**BEATTY, Earl V.**, of Southington, OH died June 6, 2011. He was 92. He was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 485<sup>th</sup> BG, 829<sup>th</sup> BS and held until liberation. Earl was a member of the Mahoning Valley

Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 son, 1 grandson, 3 great-grandsons and 1 sister.

**BENNETT, Charles E**, 88, of Cincinnati and Prescott, AZ passed away April 18, 2011. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; 392<sup>nd</sup> BG based in England. He was shot down on his first mission and held in Stalag 17B, then force-marched until liberation. Chuck is survived by his wife, Patty, 4 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**BIRCH, William Lee** passed away Aug. 6, 2011 in Brooklyn. During WWII, while on a mission over Germany, his B-17 was struck down. He bailed out into the Baltic Sea and was captured by a German submarine. He was sent to a prison camp in Germany and after two unsuccessful escape attempts, succeeded with the third try. Lee was active with the American Ex-Prisoners of War and at the time of his death he was the Commander of the New York Department. In this capacity he organized and led a program for "Wounded Warriors", whereby six wounded warriors and their families would be flown to New York for what has become known as "A Taste of the Big Apple". Up to his death, he had led a group of Ex POWs lecturing at New York Public Schools on freedom and the price that was paid for it. He leaves behind a wife, Mary Lou.

**BJORK, Raphael R**, age 95 of Ashland, WI passed away on Good Friday, Friday, April 2, 2010. He was captured while serving with the 9th Infantry Division, captured 17 October 1944 to 3 May 1945. He was held in Stalag XII, Limburg, Germany..Stalag II A, Neubrandenberg, Germany and

Brumgarden, East Germany. He was a life member of the Lake Superior Chapter, Wisconsin, AXPOW. He is survived by his adopted family, Lisa Byrne and Lori Lundquist.

**BRENNAN, James E**, 91, of Pawtucket, RI died May 16, 2011. He enlisted in the Army in 1940 and served with the AAC in the Philippines. He was a POW for more than 3 ½ years after surviving the Bataan Death March. Survivors include 4 children, 1 stepson, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**BREWER, Howard A**, of Mercedes, TX passed away Feb. 11, 2009. He served in WWII with the 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 320<sup>th</sup> BG, 441<sup>st</sup> BS; he was shot down over Italy and held in Luft 1, Barth. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Margie, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**BROWN, Albert N**, oldest survivor of the Bataan Death March died Aug 14, 2011 in Nashville, IL. He was 105. Captured on April 9, 1942, he endured the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity before his liberation. Survivors include 2 children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

**BYERS, Thomas F**, 90, of Summerville, SC passed away May 12, 2011. Tom was an AXPOW life member and member of the South Carolina Low Country Chapter. During WWII, he was a nose gunner on a B-24; he was shot down over Yugoslavia, captured and held at Luft 1, Barth. Tom is survived by his wife of 61 years, June.

## taps continued...

**CHAMBERS, Jack Giraldo Sr.**, of Midwest City, OK died July 15, 2011. He was 89. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF; he was shot down over Germany and held in POW camps in Germany and Poland. He leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 1 brother, numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

**CULANAG, Luke G.** passed away July 17, 2011 at the age of 96. Luke was in Co. "H" 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts before joining the US Army where he served for over 27 years. He was a former prisoner of war and Bataan Death March survivor. He is survived by his loving wife Josefa, three sons, and five grandchildren. Luke was a member of the Tacoma Chapter and a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

**DEAL, David A.**, 85, member of the Greater Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW, died July 28, 2011. David was captured in the Pacific while serving with the Army; he was held in POW camps in Japan. Survivors include 2 daughters, 1 sister, 1 brother, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**DENNIS, George W.**, 88, of Muttontown, NY passed away May 3, 2011. He was shot down while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 381<sup>st</sup> BG and held nearly one year. George served as treasurer of the Nassau/Suffolk Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 5 children and 9 grandchildren.

**ENYEART, Loren R.**, of Canon City, CO died April 2, 2011. During WWII, he served with the 134<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., Co "B", landing at Omaha Beach in July, 1944. He was captured in December and held until liberation. Loren leaves his wife, Mary, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 1 sister.

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**GERHOLD, Catherine**, of Groveport, Ohio, widow of POW Melvin Gerhold, died August 4, 2011. Mel had been a prisoner in Luft 4.

**GOULD, Mary**, of Columbus, Ohio died recently. She was the widow of POW Dwaine E Gould Luft 3 and Camp 7A. She was a member of Ohio Chapter #1.

**GUERIN, Roland**, of Greencastle, PA passed away May 11, 2011 at the age of 88. He was shot down over Vienna while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 460<sup>th</sup> BG, 760<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held in various camps including VII-A until liberation. Survivors include his loving wife, Florence.

**HARVEY, Evelyn Jeannette**, 87, of Largo, FL died June 21, 2011. She was a life member of AXPOW and the wife of ex-POW William (USAF). In addition to her husband, Evelyn leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 6 siblings.

**HOLLINGSHEAD, Sheldon**, of Sacramento CA, died July 30, 2011. He was 92. He was captured in Italy and spent 22 months as a POW in Germany in Stalag 2B. An AXPOW life member since 1981, he was also a member of the 49er's Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

**JOBE, Weyman E.**, of Mobile AL passed away July 1, 2011 at the age of 87. He served in the Army and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his wife, Edity, 1 son, 3 stepchildren, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**JONES, James K. "Ken"**, 90, of Casselberry, FL died August 14, 2011. During WWII, he served in the AAC; his squadron was shipped to the Philippines one month prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. After one month of attempting to service what remaining U.S. aircraft were available in the Philippines, his unit

was ordered to head south; two months later his unit was captured by the Japanese on a small island named Cuyo. He spent the remaining duration of the war in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. Ken is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

**KNISLEY, Raymond O.**, 86 of Chiefland, Florida died July 15, 2011. He was captured New Year's Eve 1944 in Bitche, France and held until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW and Suncoast Chapter Commander. He served 10 years as National Service Officer from West Palm Beach. His wife of 65 years, Margery, survives him. He leaves 3 daughters, 2 sons, 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

**LENNON, Joseph A.**, 86, of Cummington, MA passed away July 26, 2011. He served with the 134<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg., 35<sup>th</sup> Div. He was taken prisoner at the Moselle River in France and was held in Stalag 317, Austria. Joseph is survived by his beloved wife, Ruth and two children.

**LINDSTROM, Robert D, "Lindy"**, of San Diego, CA died May 27, 2011. He was assigned to the 96<sup>th</sup> BG, 339<sup>th</sup> BS, flying out of England. He was shot down and managed to evade capture for three months before he was caught and sent to Luft 1, Barth. He leaves two loving daughters.

**LOPEZ, Rose S.**, member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW and resident of Lakewood, CO passed away Dec. 31, 2010. She was the widow of Rudolph (ex-POW captured on Bataan, held 3 ½ years). Rose is survived by 6 sons, 1 daughter, 63 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**MANFREDINI, Mario F.**, member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW, died Aug 3, 2011, just 4 days shy of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a life member of AXPOW.

## taps continued...

During WWII, he served with the 390<sup>th</sup> BG, 568<sup>th</sup> BS, 13D. He is survived by 2 daughters, 1 son, 1 sister, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**MARINO, Vincent W**, of Harrah, OK died Dec. 15, 2010 at the age of 88. He was shot down over Germany and was a POW in Stalag Lufts IV and VI for 9 months. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Rosalie, 1 son, 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

**McBRIEN, John E**, 88, of Portland, CT died June 26, 2011. He was a top turret gunner on B-17s with the 368<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was shot down over Kassel, Germany and held at Stalag Luft IV. John was a life member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Mary, 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

**McINTYRE, Philip D**, passed away April 28, 2011 just two months away from his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He and his loving wife, Laura had been together for 47 years, living in Hardwick MA. Philip was captured during WWII; his experience made him a remarkable advocate for the welfare of American fighting men. He was a faithful volunteer at the VA Hospital in Leeds for almost 40 years. Philip had served all the officer positions in the Western MA Chapter and the Dept. of Massachusetts, AXPOW. He is survived by his beloved wife, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 stepsons, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

**McMANES, Paul E**, of Whitehall, Ohio died August 21, 2011. He served as a Radio Gunner in the Air Corps in the ETO, 449<sup>th</sup> BG. He was held in Stalag 17B. He is survived by four daughters, 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

**MORETTI, Lillian T**, of Gainesville, FL died June 21, 2011. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Domenick for 49 years. He served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Lillian and Domenick were members of the W.

Central FL Chapter, AXPOW, with Lillian serving as treasurer. In addition to her husband, survivors include several loving nieces, nephews and their families.

**MORRIS, Charles T**, 87, of Newburgh, NY passed away Jan 8, 2011. During WWII, he served in the Mine Clearance Division; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Charles was a member of the Hudson Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife, Rose, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and several nieces and nephews.

**NASLUND, Charles Edward**, 88, of Whittier, CA passed away Aug. 13, 2011. He served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines in WWII and was taken prisoner when Corregidor was surrendered to the Japanese. He was held on the "Hell Ship" Housken Maru and spent 40 months in several POW camps: Bilibid, Cabanatuan Camp 3, Camp 1, Clark Field, Toroku Camp in Taiwan, Kobe, Japan and Maibara until liberation. He leaves behind his bride of 65 years, Ellen, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**NUGENT, Maude R (Ruth)**, age 88, of Panama City, FL died June 28, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel, who was a POW of the Japanese during WWII. She was a long-time member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW. Ruth is survived by one daughter.

**POTARO, Claire Marie**, 89, of Clarksburg, WV passed away Aug. 6, 2011. She was an active long-time member of the Barb-Wire Mountaineers Chapter #1, AXPOW. Surviving are her loving husband of 68 years, Benjamin, 3 daughters, 3 sons, 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**ROHRBACHER, William G**, member of the Rochester Chapter, AXPOW, died July 24, 2010 at the age of 88. He was a member of the 511<sup>th</sup> BS, 351<sup>st</sup> BG; he was shot down over Berlin and held in Luft III until

liberation. Bill is survived by his wife, Mary, 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**ROSE, Samuel Dawson**, 91, passed away June 2, 2011. He was captured over Italy flying out of Libya with the 514<sup>th</sup> BS, 376<sup>th</sup> BG. He was held by the Italians, then shipped north to Luft III. Sam leaves his wife, Ruth and two sons.

**SALAZER, Sam D**, 85, of Grand Junction, CO died March 9, 2011. During WWII, he served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division. He was captured and held in Stalags 4B and 4D until liberation. He leaves his loving wife, Ida, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 sister, 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**SEWARD, William R**, of Boynton Beach, FL died May 22, 2011. He was serving on the USS Pope 225 in the Pacific when his ship was sunk on March 1, 1942 and he was captured by the Japanese. He spent the next 3 ½ years in a prison camp at Makassar on the island of Celebes, NEI. Bill was predeceased by his wife, Sally. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**SLETTA, Jeanne Virginia**, spouse of Lester (ex-POW who died in 2005), passed away July 25, 2011. She was a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include one son and his family.

**SPEED, Worth M**, of Wylie, Texas died July 20, 2011. He served in the 320 BG and was held in Oflag 13B, and served 33 years in the Air Force. A former member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Lou.

**STOVEL, Ernest I**, of Fraser, MI passed away June 26, 2011. He was 89. Ernest was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. He was past commander and founding member of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his devoted wife, Helen, 1 daughter, 1 son and 10

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**Sept/Oct 2011**

## taps continued...

grandchildren. He will be deeply missed.

**SWANEY, Mary**, of Youngstown, Ohio, age 85, died on May 29th. after a 15 year struggle with Parkinsons disease. A life member of the Ohio Steel Valley Chapter and the wife of the Ohio State Dept. Commander, Norman Swaney, who had served in Europe in WWII with the famous 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div. She leaves her husband, 2 sons, 2 grandsons and 4 great grand daughters.

**TIERNEY, Francis "Sam"**, 89, of Simsbury, CT died March 23, 2011. He was bombardier/navigator with the 384<sup>th</sup> BG, 544<sup>th</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. Sam was shot down over Germany and was a POW at Stalag Luft III, VIIA and XIIID. He was a life member of CT Chapter, AXPOW. Sam's wife, Claire, predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter, 1 son and their families.

**TOPPING, William H**, 90, of St. Peters, MO passed away July 4, 2011. He was captured while serving with the 49<sup>th</sup> BG, 67<sup>th</sup> BS and held in Luft

1, South Compound. He later served in Korea and Vietnam. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Catherine, 5 children, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**VANOUS, Elwyn Ove**, of Mandan, ND died Jan. 7, 2011. He was 94. He served in the Army during WWII and was captured in Africa. He escaped after 1 year's imprisonment in Italy. Elwyn leaves his wife of 41 years, Helen, 1 daughter, 2 sons and 2 step-children.

**VUCHETICH, John R**, of Park Falls, WI passed away July 10, 2011. He was a member of the 100<sup>th</sup> BG, 351<sup>st</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF, flying out of Thorpe Abbots, England. His B-17, "She-Hasta" was shot down; after four days his life raft washed up on the beach in the Netherlands and he was captured. John was held in Luft IV, then force-marched across Germany until liberation. His loving wife of 55 years, Nancy, survives him; he is also survived by 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 ½ great-grandchildren, 1 sister, 1 brother and a large extended family.

**WALDRON, Ben David**, 89, of Orangevale, CA died Aug. 28, 2011. During WWII he served with the 60<sup>th</sup> CAC Battery "C", Anti-Aircraft. He was captured on Corregidor and held for 3 ½ years by the Japanese. He belonged to the 49er's Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine.

**WILSON, Harriet** of Naples, Fl died June 26, 2011. Harriet was a charter member of the Collier Chapter and a life member of the organization. She was the life-companion of Don Tallon, past Commander of Collier Chapter and a National Service Officer and will be sadly missed by all.

**ZALUZYNY, WALTER**, 86, of Vernon, VT, passed away July 28, 2011. He was a life member of Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW. He enlisted June 7, 1944 and was assigned to the U. S. Army's 143<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 36 Div, Co. K. He battled first in Italy then in France where he was captured by the Germans and held prisoner for 77 days. He was predeceased by his wife, Julia, and leaves a son, a daughter her husband, grandchildren, and a brother.

---

## national chaplain



PNC Gerald Harvey

Joshua 4:14

“and the LORD lifted up Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they respected him and followed him as they had respected and followed Moses all the days of his life.”

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**Sept/Oct 2011**  
**36**

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. God chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt and across a vast desert but he died before they got to the Jordan River which they would have to cross to get to the land that God had promised them. God chose Joshua to be their leader. He was a good leader. He led the people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. Joshua did not plan how to do this. It was the Lord's plan and Joshua obeyed God.

If we want to be admired and respected; if we want to be leaders of God's people today in our church, in our community, or in our AXPOW organization, we need to be known as people who do not do what we want to do. We need to be known as people who keep God's Commandments and do what God wants us to do.

Every day that God gives me to live, there is something He wants me to do. I need to be quiet and listen to His voice.

Food for thought: "Count your blessings," we're often told — but what good does that do us? Plenty, according to Robert Emmons, the world's leading scientific expert on gratitude. After a decade of research, Dr. Emmons has found that people who practice gratitude have stronger immune systems, feel happier and more optimistic, and are more generous and compassionate. Dr. Emmons explores why gratitude does us so much good, brings to light the obstacles to practicing gratitude, and offers steps to leading a more grateful life.



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

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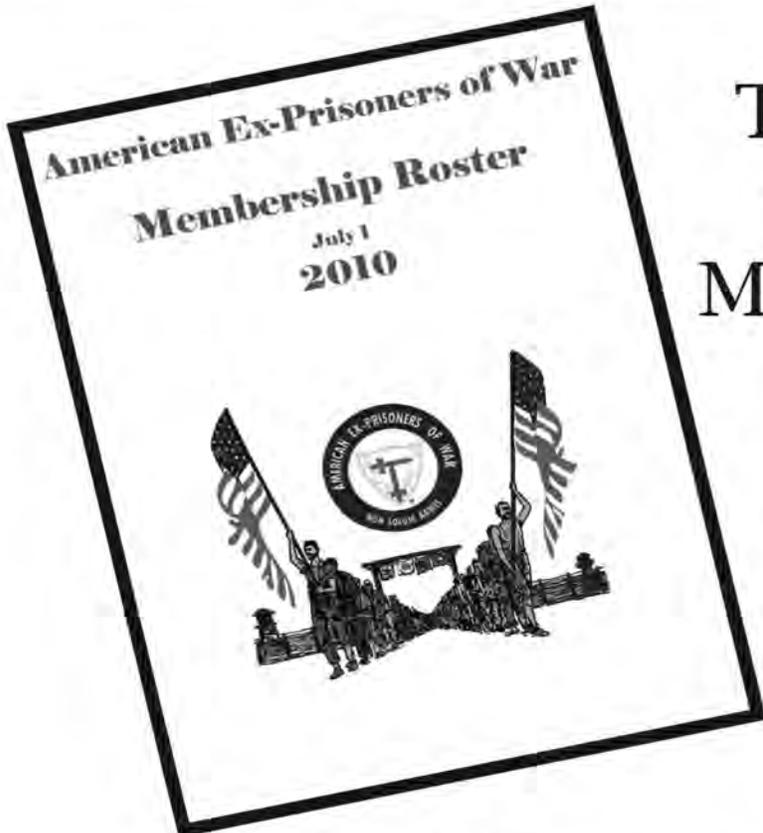
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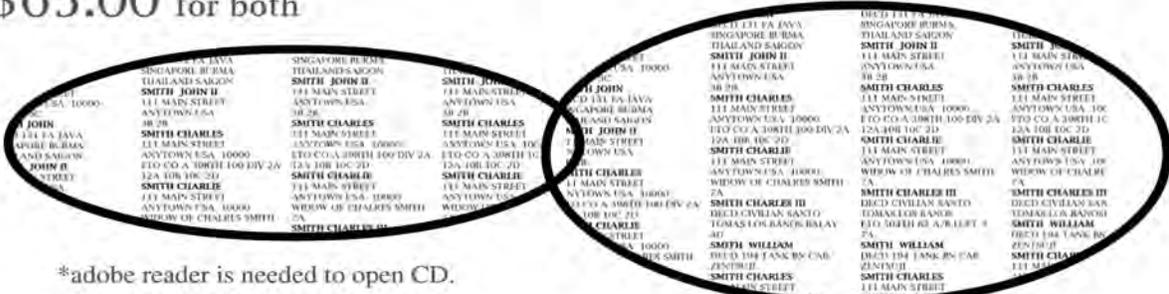


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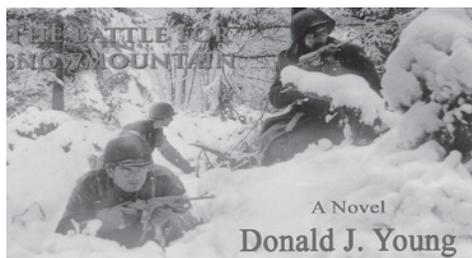
## The Battle for Snow Mountain

by Donald Young

*The Battle for Snow Mountain* is a comic novel - based on Young's experience - which gives a vivid picture of the life of two GI's in a German prison camp, after their capture in The Battle of the Bulge, 1944. The story deals with their odd love affairs at home, their war experiences, accidental capture, escape from a POW camp, and return to Paris and freedom.

"I've never read a more powerful WWII novel than *The Battle for Snow Mountain*." (John Dizikes, former professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz.)

"Young's novel is an instant war classic, much like Vonnegut's *Slaughter House Five* and Heller's *Catch 22*" (Wallace Wood, book reviewer)



*The Battle for Snow Mountain* by Donald Young may be purchased from Pocol Press, 6023 Pocol Drive, Clifton, VA 20124 (1-703-830-5862). It can also be ordered at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (ISBN 978-1-929763-48-1) **\$17.95**

## 50/50 drawing

March 2011  
Arlington, Texas

|                  |                                      |                 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1st Place</b> | Agnes Akullian<br>Boca Raton, FL     | <b>\$339.60</b> |
| <b>2nd Place</b> | William D Williams<br>Bel Air, MD    | <b>\$254.70</b> |
| <b>3rd Place</b> | Dennis Adamscheck<br>Cloquet, MN     | <b>\$169.80</b> |
| <b>4th Place</b> | Frank Gailer, Jr.<br>San Antonio, TX | <b>\$118.75</b> |

**Donated back to AXPOW**

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing**  
**3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40**  
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## A Lovely Little War

*Life in a Japanese prison camp through the eyes of a child*

by Angus Lorenzen

"...played a part in making history...the factual truth..."

*Publishers Weekly*



*A Lovely Little War* is Angus Lorenzen's own story told through the eyes of a seven-year-old child, torn from a life of privilege in China and thrust into a Japanese World War II internment camp in Manila. Set in an historical framework, Angus mixes the harsh reality of the Santo Tomas camp with light moments of humor that are a big part of a child's life. But the light moments darken after liberation, when he found himself in the cataclysm of the Battle of Manila.

"... played a part in making history ...the factual truth ..."  
*Publishers Weekly*

"*A Lovely Little War* is one of the best books I have read about children who are prisoners of war ... about his experiences as a child ... at Santo Tomas in the Philippines."

"Once you begin, you will not want to put this book down."

**Published by History Publishing Company**

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## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active since  
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If you are a former 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106<sup>th</sup>, a relative of a 106<sup>th</sup> veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.

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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**Sept/Oct 2011**

**39**

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Thank you for your support. (3/12)

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**Sept/Oct 2011**  
**40**

(3/12)

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(3/12)

# The Quartermaster's Shop

order on page 42



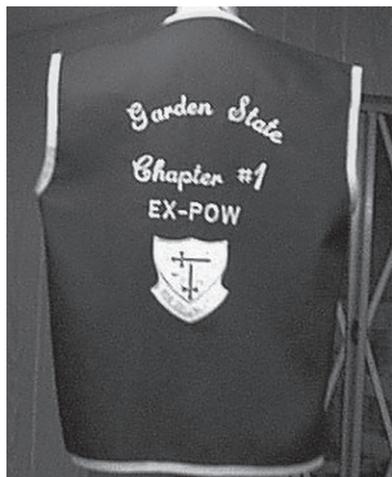
## AXPOW Pocket Knife

11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more! AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime. Rubber grip ensures easy handling...individually gift boxed...folded knife measures 3 3/4"x1"

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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.



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

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Bright safety light when you need it! AXPOW logo in color...individually gift-boxed.  
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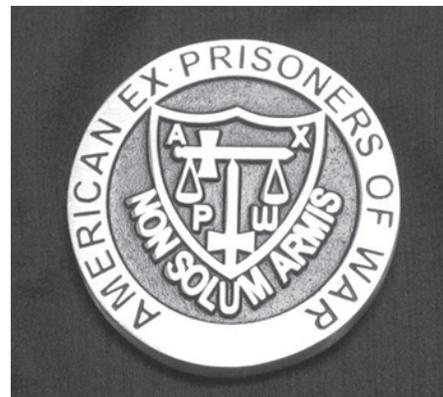
**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
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## Jeweled Flag

You love your country. Our Austrian Crystal Flag and USA pins are beautiful ways to show your patriotism. They make wonderful gifts ~ for yourself or someone you love.

American Flag ~

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## Bronze Grave Medallion

**with AXPOW LOGO**

The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer, weighs approximately 1lb 4oz, containing 84% copper, balance in other metals. The hardware for mounting is included in each packet.

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

**\$75.00 plus s/h/i**

(\$15.00 for one; \$20.00 for two or more)

### Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



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Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

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

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

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

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

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

**Price: \$55.00**, includes shipping/handling

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| Vinyl Cap Bag                      | 3.00  | (specify gold, silver or antique gold)             |       | 3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo     |       |
| Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap             | 8.00  | Jeweled Flag Pin                                   | 30.00 | with fringe, indoor use               | 60.00 |
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| Necktie w/logo                     | 30.00 | 2" Medallion (for plaque)                          | 5.00  | Aluminum License Plate                | 5.00  |
| (specify regular or pre-tied)      |       | Vest Chainguard w/eagles                           | 8.00  | 3" Vinyl Decal                        | 1.00  |
| AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie                | 25.00 | 3" Blazer Patch                                    | 4.00  | 3" Inside Decal                       | 1.00  |
| U.S. Flag Bolo Tie                 | 20.00 | 4" Blazer Patch                                    | 4.00  | 8" Vinyl Decal                        | 6.00  |
| Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie            | 30.00 | 8" Blazer Patch                                    | 10.00 | 12" Vinyl Decal                       | 10.00 |
| Barbed Wire pin                    | 3.00  | <b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)         | 3.00  | Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"     | 2.00  |
| Life Member pin                    | 5.00  | Life Member · Chapter Commander                    |       | AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)   | 20.00 |
| Crossed Flags Lapel pin            | 5.00  | Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter |       | AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)           | 6.00  |
| Brooch pin                         | 5.00  | Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer                       |       | Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)      | 6.00  |
| EX-POW pin (goldtone)              | 5.00  | State Department Commander                         |       | AXPOW Prayer Book                     | 2.00  |
| Logo pin                           | 5.00  | Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant   |       | Ladies Prayer Book                    | 1.00  |
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# Texas State Convention, Abilene - 2011



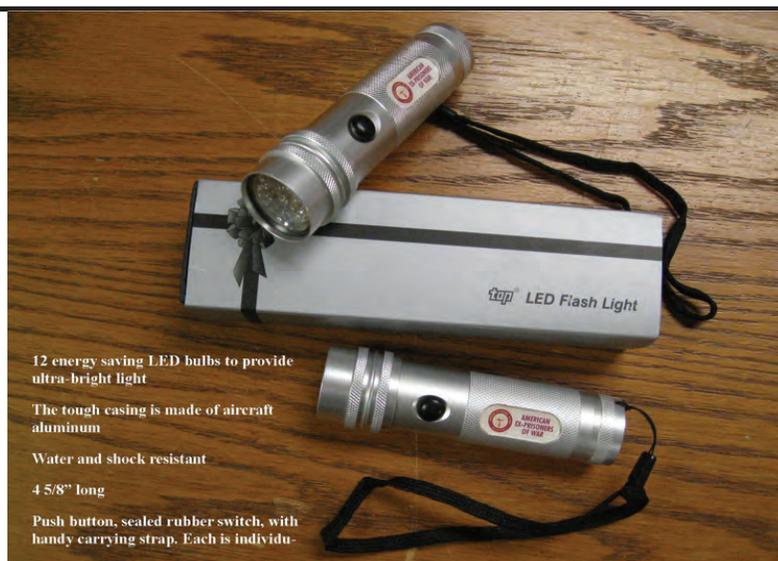


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