

# EX-POW BULLETIN

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

Volume 66

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

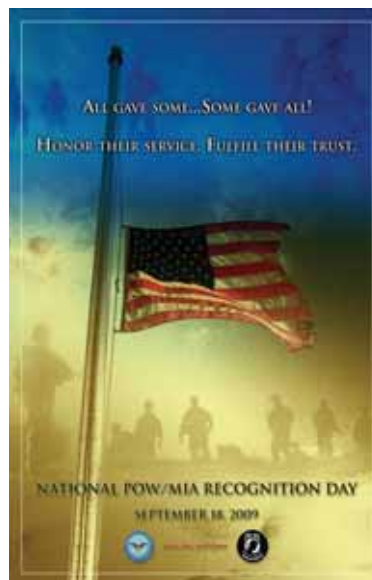
Number 9/10

September/October 2009



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*

*Traveling  
Exhibit  
update...legislation...  
Grave Marker  
installation...News*



*..Conditions in  
Korea..  
Outreach,  
Success...stories  
and more*

## North Carolina Convention



Members of the Latest Generation were honored by the members of the Greatest Generation at the summer meeting of the Bill Rolan Memorial Chapter of Northern Virginia on June 20. They were Steve and Lisa Shade, 16 and 13 respectively, each awarded a mint proof AXPOW Silver Dollar coin, struck by the US Mint in 1994, for their interest and participation in chapter meetings. The summer meeting was opened with the Invocation by Steve, followed by his sister who led the chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance. They are the children of Carl and Sharon Shade of Oakton, VA, long-time loyal friends and benefactors of the Chapter. Shown: Steve and Lisa, top. George Juskalian, Cmdr. and Frank Brandon, V. Cmdr.



## September/October, 2009

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**September 18, 2009** is likely to be proclaimed by President Barack Obama as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Over the past several years, all or most of the 50 states have proclaimed POW/MIA Recognition Day in conjunction with the national effort.

Across the country, local POW/MIA ceremonies are encouraged throughout POW/MIA Recognition Week, culminating with countless events and the national ceremony in Washington, DC. Support for these missing Americans and their families is deeply felt. America's POW/MIAs should be honored and recognized, rather than memorialized, with the focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. Strong, united support by the American people is crucial to achieving concrete answers.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States of America. The lyrics come from "Defence of Fort McHenry", written Sept. 14, 1814 by the 35-year-old amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by Royal Navy ships in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812.

The poem was set to the tune of a popular British drinking song, written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. "The Anacreontic Song" (or "To Anacreon in Heaven"), set to various lyrics, was already popular in the United States. Set to Key's poem and renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner", it would soon become a well-known American patriotic song. With a range of one and a half octaves, it is known for being difficult to sing. Although the song has four stanzas, only the first is commonly sung today, with the fourth ("O thus be it ever when free men shall stand...") added on more formal occasions.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889 and the President in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1508, codified at 36 U.S.C. § 301), which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

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*Deadline for the Nov/Dec 2009 issue is October 1, 2009.*

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

#### **Judy Lee, Candidate for National Director, South Central Region**

Judy has been an active member of AXPOW, the Department of Tennessee and her chapter for decades. Members still remember the excellent National Convention put on in Knoxville in 1993; Judy and her late husband Charles were an important part of its success. After serving on National Committees -- most recently as Chairman of Credentials -- Judy was elected as National Director in 2007. She currently sits on the Strategic Planning Committee, working to ensure the future of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published bi-monthly (six times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, Arlington, TX 76010. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy. Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, "American Ex-Prisoners of War", October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement. © 2009 American Ex-Prisoners of War



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**National Commander  
Jim Clark**

## MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS, HONORS

Six national veterans' service organizations have come together in court for the first time in history in order to present an amicus brief in Pleasant Grove City v Summum petitioning the Supreme Court to protect our nation's war memorials. Petitioners in this historic coalition include the American Legion, VFW, MOPH, NCOA, Veterans of the Vietnam War and AXPOW. PNC Warren King first signed on to the petition filed by Liberty Legal Institute, located in Plano, TX which took the case to the Supreme Court and won. There is a second case involving a memorial in the Mojave Desert in California, which will be heard by the US Supreme Court in the fall session.

Representing our members as your National Commander this year, I have enjoyed the camaraderie and a high level of cooperativeness from virtually every region. In past years, many were demoralized and disheartened by actions committed at the National level. Now I see that the phrase "what can WE do?" has been replaced by the positive "what can we DO?"

I based my campaign for Commander on UNITY...A board united and capable of getting the job they were elected to do done. An active membership across the country encouraged by our progress and our vision for the future of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

It isn't easy. Our membership is reaching advanced age. Congress is more concerned about where the next dollar is coming from, rather than how best to care for those wounded in the service of their country. But obstacles can and will be overcome. I see a new generation of ex-prisoners of war standing up and working for our great organization. I see children getting involved at the state and national levels carrying on the work of their parents. I see many more years of viability for AXPOW. By working together - a unified body - we can do anything!

Jean Thiede, our VAVS Chairman, was notified in May that because of her efforts on behalf of AXPOW we were appointed to the VAVS National Advisory Committee as a Service Member. The letter stated that "This appointment is based on membership criteria established by the NAC and is a significant accomplishment for your organization's affiliated VAVS volunteers." Thank you, Jean, for your years of hard work.

Outreach Chairman Fred Campbell took the initiative and wrote to Dear Abby about Lou Gehrig's Disease. It became a presumptive for all veterans last September, but there wasn't a lot of press about it except in Fred's column in the EX-POW Bulletin. The response was overwhelming! Fred will tell you more about it in the next issue, but because of his efforts, thousands of ALS victims and their surviving spouses will be helped. This is Outreach at its best.

Since this is my last column as your national commander, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support. I have appreciated getting Chapter newsletters and reading the news of our chapters around the country. My wife and I have traveled to Department Conventions and everywhere we go, we have been received with friendship. I especially want to thank my Board of Directors and Committees. You have truly exemplified our slogan "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves." Clydie Morgan, Sally Morgan and Marsha Coke at National Headquarters; Cheryl Cer-

bone, Sonnie Bill Mottern, Mary Rolen...if I don't mention you by name, don't think I don't appreciate all your hard work on behalf of our great organization.

Jerri joins me in wishing everyone our best.

Yours in fellowship,

*Jim*

## news from hq



Happy Autumn. Hope the weather has cooled down in your area. It has been a hot summer.

It's time to start thinking about renewing your annual membership. All annual memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Consider taking out a life membership. You won't have to worry about missing one edition of the Bulletin.

It's also time to start thinking about gifts for the holidays. We have a couple of new items that you might like. A new pocket knife with the AXPOW logo for \$13 is loaded with gadgets. It has a knife, scissors, corkscrew and many other useful things. We also have logo ballpoint pen for \$6. It makes a nice chapter gift.

Check the back of your 2010 calendar for pictures and an order form for AXPOW merchandise.

HQ also sells business cards for chapter and department commanders for \$10 for 150. Send your request in writing. We do not take telephone orders for personalized items.

Clydie, Marsha, Sally & Donna

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## on capitol hill

Legislative Committee

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NC Jim Clark

**August recess has begun** for Congressional members - you will find them in their district offices and/or travelling in their home States. Now is a great time to schedule a meeting and discuss military community goals and key legislation. The August recess runs through Labor Day 3 SEP. The House and Senate will reconvene on 8 SEP. For or a listing of Congressional bills of interest to the veteran community that have been introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress refer to the Bulletin's Veteran Legislation attachment. Support of these bills through cosponsorship by other legislators is critical if they are ever going to move through the legislative process for a floor vote to become law. A good indication on that likelihood is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. Any number of members may cosponsor a bill in the House or Senate. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can review a copy of each bill's content, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it.

**Grassroots lobbying** is perhaps the most effective way to let your Representative and Senators know your opinion. Whether you are calling into a local or Washington, D.C. office; sending a letter or e-mail; signing a petition; or making a personal visit, Members of Congress are the most receptive and open to suggestions from their constituents. The key to increasing cosponsorship on veteran related bills and subsequent passage into law is letting legislators know of veteran's feelings on issues. You can reach their Washington office via the Capital Operator direct at (866) 272-6622, (800) 828-0498, or (866)

340-9281 to express your views. Otherwise, you can locate on <http://thomas.loc.gov> your legislator's phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making. Refer to [http://www.thecapitol.net/FAQ/cong\\_schedule.html](http://www.thecapitol.net/FAQ/cong_schedule.html) for dates that you can access your legislators on their home turf.

On July 23, 2009, the Senate passed the **2010 National Defense Authorization Act** (NDAA) S.1390 by a vote of 87-7. The House passed their version (H.R.2647) last month. The House and Senate bills include a number of other bills submitted as amendments that will impact favorably on the veteran community if they are not struck down in the compromise committee. Some of these are:

- End the deduction of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities. (Senate only).
- Find other ways of cutting DoD health costs besides shifting costs to retirees.
- Extend eligibility for TRICARE Standard to gray area retirees.
- Enhance transitional dental care for members of the reserve components on active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.
- Include service after 11 SEP 01 in determination of reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay. (S.Amdt: 1661)
- Require DoD to improve access to mental health care for family members of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are deployed overseas. (S.Amdt: 1799)
- Phase out the disability offset for medically retired members regardless of length of service.
- Conduct a study on adding the National D-Day Monument in Bedford Virginia to the National Park System.

- Put service-disabled veteran-run businesses on equal footing in the competition for small business government contracting programs.
- Phase-in the extension of concurrent receipt to all medically retired service members regardless of years of service.
- Eliminate the 2013 COLA delay that Congress passed last year. (House only)
- Allow agency heads to waive the requirement for retirees who are rehired part time to take a cut in their annuity checks. (S.Amdt: 1390)

House and Senate leaders will be appointed to a conference committee to resolve more than a thousand differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the defense bill including difficult issues on procurement, detainees and more.

**The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009** which authorizes funding for VA medical accounts two-years in advance passed the House and Senate. The Senate passed version of the bill carries the same bill number as the House passed bill, HR 1016, but its wording differs somewhat.

Both bills direct congressional appropriators to fund two-year plans for VA health programs to avoid financial and management difficulties that have occurred in past years. The differences will be worked out in conference when Congress returns in September. It was interesting to see that the Senate also added \$2 billion to extend the "Cash For Clunkers" program. Hopefully Congress can as easily find money for the SBP/DIC Offset elimination and Concurrent Receipt for Chapter 61 medically retired veterans.

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



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## Outreach Persists Diversity

Busy AXPOW National Service Officer Irwin Stovroff in Boca Raton, Florida, knows that our Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs are helping our returning warriors with injuries from war in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere return to health through much rehabilitation. But Irwin finds out more. There is no program to provide dogs to help the blind, paralyzed or otherwise severely disabled veterans. And it costs over \$30,000 each to train these beautiful canine creatures to guide the blind, fetch for those who cannot fetch for themselves, turn the lights on, and activate whatever.

So Irwin Stovroff does something about it. He started a foundation to raise funds to provide trained dogs for these wounded veterans. So far more than \$1.6 million now funds this effort. Call Irwin Stovroff at 561-488-6155 to learn more about VETS HELPING TODAY'S RETURNING HEROES.

Former POW HP in New York reads Bulletin Outreach column, decides

he ought to have more than the 20% disability rating he has now, calls NSO Melanie Bussel for help. Melanie gets him up to 80% and then due to unemployment, 100%. Good work, Melanie!

June 1, call comes from St. Louis, MO, son of a POW. "I'm calling to make sure my mother is receiving all the widow's benefits she's entitled to, since my father died last fall. She has her DIC and Aid & Attendance and ChampVA." I said the only other thing would be the education benefit, "but at her age, 87, that wouldn't help too much." Son says, "Oh, she already has that. She's taking a course online." I ask what the subject is. He says "Accounting." This lady may be looking at becoming a CPA by age 90!

## More Success

"Dear Mr. C, I have received word from the Department of Veterans Affairs about my widow's compensation of \$1,400 a month, which begins June 1, more than I expected, plus a check for \$2,800 for March and April. You have no idea how much I appreciate your help on this matter. I guess it's a really good thing we subscribed to the EX-POW Bulletin in which I found your column.

Thank you so much, Mrs. B" (in Texas' Rio Grande Valley)

AND a letter excerpt from Sarah in Small-town Oklahoma: "Dear Fred, Needless to say I am delighted each month when the VA sends a check to our account at my bank. Jim took care of me during our marriage and I feel as though he is still looking after me.

You are the one who is responsible for my good fortune and I am most grateful to you." Thanks to Kathy Mosteller, diligent POW Coordinator in Muskogee VA Regional Office for her wonderful service to former POWs.

## Success Anyway:

Elsie's husband died in 1982, cause on death certificate, "coronary thrombosis". Sent her DIC claim to Connecticut VA on January 30, 2009. Letter to Elsie from CT VA dated April 30, 2009, saying in part, "Our records show that we've not been able to locate the original paperwork submitted". So, on May 8, 2009, I faxed duplicate claim papers to the VA in CT.

POW Coordinator Rick Morneau takes over and expedites with a retroactive 12-month check for over \$16,000. Elsie can't believe it. Thanks to VA's Rick Morneau for his good work. And this claim makes me think...of the little mouse that lived in a museum...got into a suit of armor...was confused, couldn't find his way out...he was lost in the mail.

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis...

Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was approved as a service-connected presumptive September 23, 2008 for any veteran with cause of death ALS.

Another one remembered: KR calls from Massachusetts. His former POW uncle reads in EX-POW Bulletin that ALS deaths are service-connected for all veterans and remembers that KR's father, not a POW, died of ALS in 1978. Tells KR to call to get DIC claim started for his mother. After 31 years a widow. Help is on the way.

And from Mississippi: Sarah reads in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF News that the deaths of ALL veterans who expired due to ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease, are service-connected. Sarah calls

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## outreach cont'd...

Leona, whose veteran husband (not a POW) who died in 1992, that she might be eligible for VA benefit. A county officer sends in her claim for VA benefit; somehow it goes to an out of state VA office. Result: "Your claim is not approved because veteran did not meet the eligibility conditions."

Puzzle! Maybe that office was not aware of the new ALS ruling.

Enter Jackson MS VARO POW Coordinator Nancy Mullins. We get this ALS claim to her by May 7, 2009, and three weeks later Leona has her DIC.

Her note comes, "Dear Mr. C, there are no adequate words to express to you my thanks for all your help in my receiving the DIC benefit. I thought all hope was gone when I received the letter stating I had been denied. My friends and family are so excited for me, especially Sarah, whose magazine your letter appeared in. My loving husband would be so thrilled to know of this good fortune.

I am waiting to receive forms for the ChampVA medical benefit. May God bring extra blessings to you and your family. Sincerely, Leona" Real thanks to Nancy Mullins in Jackson MS VARO.

Yes and all NSOs receive extra blessings when we get letters like this!

THINK! Can you think of someone who died of Lou Gehrig's Disease? Years past?

THINK!



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In recent months, we have had a number of people calling our office at the V.A. Regional office in St. Petersburg, Fl. who have failed to leave their local area code. Some of them, we are able to figure out their area codes and return their calls. Unfortunately, we were not able to return a number of calls as we were not able to figure out their location.

So, if you did not receive a call back, perhaps you did not include an area code with your message, so please call again. This includes some who are inquiring about their ALS eligibility, who were referred to us by Fred Campbell.

Leon Horowitz contacted me regarding who is eligible for Dependents Indemnity Compensation, so I thought I would republish the information.

For a survivor to be eligible for Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) the veteran's death must have resulted from:

- 1) A service-connected disability (including a Former POW Presumptive)
- 2) A Former Prisoner of War who died after Sept. 30, 1999 (This year is not in the axpow.org. website) and who was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of at least one year immediately preceding death or,
- 3) Continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years imme-

nsO

diately preceding death (For Former Prisoners of War who died prior to Sept. 30, 1999).

You may be an eligible survivor if:

1) You were married to the veteran for at least 1 year (Note, if a child was born, there is no time requirement) AND

2) your marriage was valid AND

3) you lived with the veteran continuously until his/her death or, if you were separated, you weren't at fault, AND

4) you are not currently married, OR you remarried after the age of 57.

5) you are an unmarried child of a deceased veteran and you are under the age of 18 or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school. Certain helpless adult children and some parents of deceased veterans are also entitled to DIC. Note the current payment for DIC is \$1,154 if the veteran died of a service connected disability or had his 100% less than 8 years. If the veteran was rated 100% continuously for at least 8 years and the survivor was married to him/her those same 8 years, the payment is \$1,400.

If the death is service connected, the one-time burial payment is \$2,000 if the cost was more than \$2,000. The person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from the VA.

If the death was not service connected VA will pay \$300 burial and funeral allowance for veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to receive compensation or pension or would have been entitled if they weren't receiving military retirement pay.

VA will also pay a \$300 plot allowance when a veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction.

The burial allowance is a one-time payment and does not affect the DIC benefit amount.



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

## American POWs in Korea

by John N. Powers

### Fact versus Fiction

The Korean War began on the morning of 25 June 1950 when North Korean troops crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and invaded South Korea. The South Korean Army was outnumbered by about 2 to 1. Less than 500 Americans were stationed in South Korea at that time in various advisory capacities.

Within three days of crossing the parallel North Korea had taken Seoul, the capital of South Korea. By August, South Korean and US forces were pushed back to the Pusan perimeter on the southeastern coast of the Korean peninsula. They remained there until 15 September when the landings at Inchon were followed by the Pusan breakout on 16 September. On the

27<sup>th</sup> of September Seoul was recaptured by UN forces. Less than two weeks later US and South Korean (ROK) forces crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and headed toward the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. The push north continued until November when Chinese Communist troops entered the war. By the end of November UN forces were again in retreat southward. Seoul fell to Communist forces for the second time on 4 January 1951.

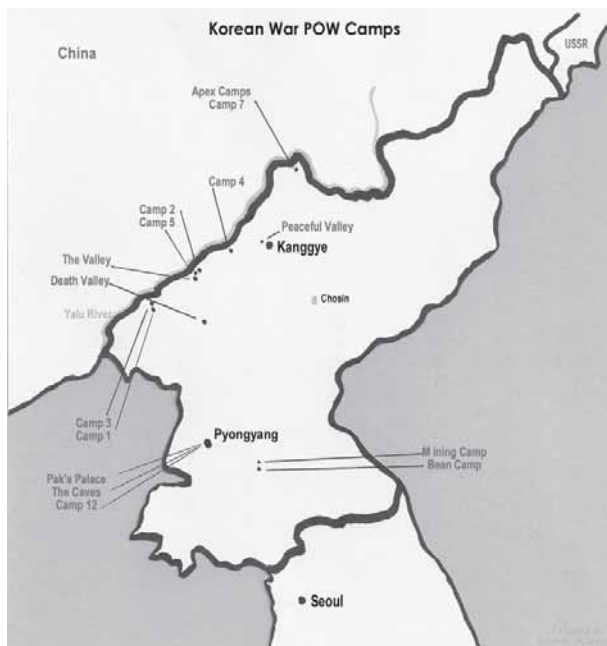
By the end of January 1951 UN forces were again attacking northward, reaching Seoul in the middle of March. Just over a year after the start of the war, on 10 July 1951, armistice talks began. These talks continued for two more years with little change in the amount of territory held by either side. An armistice was signed on 27 July 1953.

There are some serious misconceptions concerning the Korean War. The first is that the Korean War was lost. In fact, not only was the Chinese Army defeated but the North Korean Army as well. US forces fought against both armies as part of the United Nations effort to drive them out of South Korea. The United Nations passed several resolutions pertaining to the invasion of South Korean territory. The first was Security Council Resolution 83, passed on 27 June 1950. It recommended that members of the United Nations furnish assistance to South Korea to repel the attack by the North

Koreans. The resolution called for North Korea to withdraw its forces to the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. No UN resolution called for anything more. None of them called for the taking of any North Korean territory. The results of the war were just as asked for in Security Council Resolution 83. The United Nations, with the bulk of the forces coming from the US, won the Korean War. US forces did exactly what they were asked to do, just as American service men and women have done in every war they have fought in. They were asked to save South Korea and its people from Communist domination and they did so. Proof of that can be seen by comparing life in South Korea today to life in North Korea.

American troops involved in the Korean War paid a price for their participation. They were seen by many in the public back home as having lost the war. The American public was used to World War II style battles and victories. But Korea was different. Americans did not see that difference and few were directly involved in the war. This made it easy for the general public to accept the misconception we had lost the war. It also became easy for them to accept the misconception that Americans who fought there must have been of lesser quality than American troops in previous wars.

A tremendous price was paid by those Americans who became prisoners of war in Korea. First, a larger percentage of American POWs died as prisoners in Korea than any war



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since the American Revolution. Second, most of those POWs who survived were assumed by the folks back home to have cooperated with the Communists. Albert Biderman talks about American POWs being subjected to the propaganda of the Communists as prisoners during the war and then being subjected to the propaganda of fellow Americans after their return home. He says, "The theme of this propaganda was that there had been wholesale collaboration by the American prisoners with their Communist captors..." and that this behavior showed the American military man to be weak. This misconception came from some magazine articles and two authors whose writings were accepted as being well researched. In fact, those writings were full of gross errors.

For example, articles accepted as fact by the American public stated that 33% of US POWs were guilty of some kind of collaboration and 14% were guilty of serious collaboration with the enemy. A study for the Secretary of Defense, however, found only 192 cases of what the report termed "improper behavior". That amounts to 4.3% of all American POWs. Only fourteen of those were actually brought to courts martial. That amounts to 1/1000th of all American POWs. Yet, over fifty years later, there are still inferences in the media about the large scale "brain-washing" of American POWs in the Korean War. Even the fact so many died as POWs was held against them-as if they died simply because they were weaker than Americans in previous wars. This remains a terrible injustice to the men who suffered through the POW camps in North Korea.

A common argument found in literature claiming a weakness in American POWs is that fewer British POWs died and fewer collaborated with the Chinese. The actual numbers do not support either of those claims. The first argument is if the British could survive so should have the Americans. Let's look at those survival rates. There were no British troops captured from July through December 1950, during which time almost 4,000 Americans were captured. No more than one hundred and sixty British troops were captured prior to the end of April 1951 when six hundred were captured at the Imjin River. Over 90% of the US Army deaths occurred among those taken prisoner prior to March 1951. The point is almost all of the dying among American POWs took place prior to the point at which British troops were first captured. British figures give a total of 1,148 POWs with a death rate of about 15%. From April 1951 through July 1953 there were 1,333 US Army troops captured. Their death rate was 13.5%. The survival rate for British and US Army troops captured during the same time period is statistically identical. The second argument is that far more Americans openly cooperated with the Chinese. Again, the facts do not support the argument. The British military found 12% of their soldiers actively collaborated with the Chinese and 8% actively resisted. The US Army puts Americans actively collaborating at 15% and those who actively resisted at 5%.

American POWs are constantly insulted in literature with the accusation they died in such large numbers because they simply gave up. The term "give-up-itis" appears frequently in discussions about Korean War POWs. Once again, people who use the term show either an ignorance of the fact or a willingness to ignore the facts. Until the spring of 1951 the POWs were fed primarily a diet of corn or sorghum, also known as millet. Frequently meals were raw, uncooked, corn or

sorghum. Soon after their initial capture many, if not most, of the prisoners developed chronic diarrhea. They assumed that happened because they drank water that had not been boiled (they had no means to boil it) or used contaminated snow to quench their thirst. Those assumptions are valid but it also happened because of their diet. Their diet of corn and sorghum caused the disease pellagra. The first symptom is diarrhea.

Pellagra is defined by four Ds: diarrhea, dermatitis, dementia, and death. It is a systemic nutritional wasting disease first recognized in the early 1700s. The cause of the disease is a lack of niacin. For two hundred years the disease was a major problem for poor peasants in Europe who subsisted on a diet of corn. It continues to be a problem for many poor in India who subsist on sorghum/millet. Yet for centuries Latin Americans have been pellagra free while subsisting on their staple of corn. The POWs in Korea assumed a lack of adequate boiling of the corn left unsoftened husks that caused their GI problems. They were partly correct. The inadequate boiling left sharp edges on the husks that irritated the walls of the intestinal tract. But the inadequate boiling was a much more serious problem. The reason Latin Americans can subsist on a diet of corn that causes pellagra for others is the fact they soak the corn for long periods of time before cooking it. That breaks down the outer shell, so no sharp edges, but most importantly, the soaking allows the release of the niacin within the corn. It is the lack of niacin which leads to pellagra. In India the sorghum contains the necessary vitamin but also contains an amino acid which prevents the niacin from being utilized. The niacin deficiency leads to pellagra. This vitamin deficiency leads to the body producing hunger-suppressive endorphins. Your body chemistry tells your mind you are not hungry. The individual will become weak, apathetic, disoriented, fall

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into a coma, and die. All of this can happen in less than two months. What appeared to be POWs giving up were symptoms of the disease they contracted as a result of their diet. Once more rice was introduced into their diet and the prisoners themselves took over food preparation the death rate dropped to almost zero. In addition to pellagra the POWs had to deal with dysentery, nutritional edema, fevers, bronchitis, tuberculosis, scurvy, infectious hepatitis, and pneumonia.

Thousands of Americans did not cooperate with the enemy and thousands of Americans did not simply give up and die. Those are myths perpetuated by early writers on the Korean War and accepted by far too many since then. A third insult commonly found in writings on the Korean War is the "fact" no Americans escaped from the POW camps in North Korea. This "fact" is apparently meant to prove the POWs were not of the caliber of Americans in previous wars, specifically World War II. The fact is that American POWs held by the Germans or Italians could pass as Germans or Italians, both in looks and language. Except for a small number of American POWs who were of Oriental descent this was not the case in Korea. The fact is that only a handful of American POWs held by the Japanese in WW II escaped. Those few that did were helped by the local populations who were terribly oppressed by the Japanese. The fact is that many Americans did escape from the North Koreans or the Chinese before they reached the permanent camps on the Yalu. The US Army lists 670 escapes where an individual reached US forces. The US Army lists 5,961 as the total of Army personnel captured. That means according to official figures at least 11% of the POWs escaped during the Korean War. Figures for World War II and Vietnam give escapes at 2% and 4% respectively. So the fact is that there

was a higher percentage of successful escapes on the part of Americans in Korea than in any other war. It is true no Americans successfully escaped from the permanent camps along the Yalu. However, there were many attempts, including individuals who made multiple escape attempts from those permanent camps. In 1952 alone there were at least 41 escape attempts just from from Camp 2. This amounts to 12% of the POWs in only one camp. Any discussion of Korean War POWs collaborating, or not trying to escape, or dying because they were somehow deficient in character is completely invalid and a terrible insult to those Americans held as prisoners in Korea. Executions and Death Marches

As early as 5 July 1950 US troops were captured as North Korean forces pushed south. By the end of the war 7,245 Americans had been captured. Of this number 2,847 died as prisoners of war. Many historians feel that at least 1,000 Americans were executed shortly after their capture in the early months of the war and are not included in the official figures. In either case, Americans held as prisoners of war in Korea died at a rate far above POW deaths in every war since the American Revolution. The numbers above give a death rate of 39%. Add 1,000 to each of the above figures and the death rate was over 46%. There was one mass grave discovered holding 7,000 South Korean bodies. How many Americans were buried in unmarked graves? Throughout the war American bodies would continue to be found in shallow graves, hands wired behind their backs, killed execution style with shots to the back of the head. If we assume just one quarter of the 8,000 still missing were captured, the overall death toll for POWs rises to 52%. (Accurate figures are hard to obtain when looking at Korean War POWs. Different sources frequently cite different numbers. For every statistic used here you will probably be able to find another.)

Right from the beginning of the war American POWs were treated differently than in any previous war. From July to November 1950 there were seven documented incidents in which a total of over 200 American prisoners were very deliberately executed by the North Koreans. The number of executions with no witnesses can only be guessed at.

On 5 July an American officer observed North Korean troops as they shot and bayoneted 33 wounded Americans in an aid station. The officer was himself captured shortly after. On 17 July 1950 North Koreans overran a group of about 20 American wounded. They were being cared for by a surgeon wearing a Red Cross armband and a chaplain wearing a cross. All were immediately shot. The surgeon survived. In mid August a group of about 45 American POWs was taken to a ravine. When captured their boots had been taken and their hands were tied behind their back. In the ravine they were shot. Four survived to tell the story.

In late September about 60 American POWs held at Taejon were forced into ditches with their hands wired behind their backs. They were executed in groups of 14 at a time.

In mid October twelve American POWs were shot by their North Korean guards while being held in a hut near Naedae. Five of the twelve survived to tell the story.

In late October about 180 American POWs were being sent north from Pyongyang in open railroad cars. A fifth of their group had already died as a result of being marched 250 miles in three weeks. On 30 October the train arrived at the Suncheon tunnel. The prisoners were taken in small groups to nearby ravines - to be fed, they were told. The North Korean guards shot 68 of the prisoners. Others died when conditions

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in the tunnel exacerbated their already serious medical problems.

In early November an American patrol was captured near Kaesong. While being marched away they were shot by their guards with no warning. One of the thirteen survived.

In December 1950 five American bodies were found which had been stabbed repeatedly by sharpened bamboo sticks. A medical examination showed no single wound had caused death. They had been tortured, some stabbed as many as twenty times. In many cases the victims had their hands tied or wired behind their backs. In almost every case the North Koreans checked the bodies for signs of life and shot or bayoneted any who reacted. Survivors frequently had multiple wounds. These executions were only the beginning.

Those prisoners not immediately executed were marched from their point of capture to temporary holding points. These were not camps but often homes or buildings in small villages or even caves. They would be held at these locations for a few weeks or a few months, then marched to permanent camps. One American captured at the end of Nov. 1950 did not reach a permanent camp until Easter of 1951. Most of that time was spent being moved - on foot, during the Korean winter - from one place to another. POWs in the Korean War traveled by train, truck, jeep, barge, ox cart, and in at least in one case, on the back of a cow. But most of all they moved from point A to point B on foot. In many cases bare feet.

When first captured, it was not uncommon for POWs to have their boots and any heavy outer clothing taken away. The standard food ra-

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tion was one or two rice balls a day and little water. Medical care was minimal, if any at all. The extreme cold, minimal diet, and lack of medical care for wounds immediately began to have negative effects on the POWs. When these circumstances forced prisoners to fall behind on forced marches they were executed. These marches should be as well known as the Bataan Death March, but like most facts relating to the Korean War, the American public is almost completely unaware of these events.

The Tiger Death March is well known to those POWs who survived and serious students of Korean War POW issues. The name comes from the nickname given to the Korean officer in charge of the group. The Tiger Death March began on Halloween 1950, but many of its participants had been captured as early as July. Sixty-five of the military POWs died before the march began. Prior to that Halloween day they had already experienced lack of food, water, and medical treatment. They had been marched from one temporary location to another and then back again. They had been strafed and bombed by US planes. They had seen fellow POWs beaten and shot. In early September another POW spotted the Tiger Death March group in Pyongyang. He described them as "...ragged, dirty, hollow-eyed men..." wearing what he could barely recognize as American uniforms. Another POW described them as, "...crawling with lice. A large proportion of them had no shoes. They wore light-weight summer fatigues." The sick, "...walked like figures in a slow-motion film...".

On 9 October the group left the town of Manpo on the Yalu River in northwestern North Korea. From 9 October to 31 October the American military POWs slept in fields, often as it snowed. On the first day of the march the Tiger shot an American officer because the POWs were not keeping up with the pace he demanded. This execution took

place in front of the entire group as an example of what would happen to others who failed to keep up. The prisoners slept in the open or were crammed into unheated buildings. This went on for nine days, crossing a mountain pass in the process. On some days they received raw corn, the same corn normally given to farm animals. Other days they got nothing. Those who could not keep up were executed by the guards. Those executed included a seventy-six year old nun. Others froze to death at night. Seventy of the group had died before the March even began. About 100 were executed or died on the March itself, a death rate twice that of the Bataan Death March. Unable to recover from the effects of the March, POWs continued to die. Within a week and a half after 9 November 24 more POWs died. By March 1951 the death toll was 21 of 59 civilians, 400 of 650 enlisted men, and 23 of 35 officers. Lasting nine days, covering one hundred miles, sleeping in the snow, crossing mountains, little or no food, executions by the guards, all resulting in a death toll of at least 50%, the Tiger Death March should be embedded in the American mind as firmly as the Bataan Death March or D-Day. According to a 1994 Rand report, when this group was finally turned over to Chinese control in October 1951 only 232 were still alive. Those numbers put the death toll at 70%. (References to the Johnnie Johnson list have 262 alive in August 1953. Did 744 begin the March or 758? The Johnson list has 496 names, but that should include all deaths from July 1950 on. It is extremely difficult to get accurate numbers.)

And there were other death marches. In early 1951 there were 320 American POWs who were marched from a collection point to Bean Camp. They marched two to three weeks, beginning each day's march as the sun set and stopping just before dawn. Orders were given by the Chinese the wounded were not to be carried. The prison-

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ers were fed as the night's march began and when they stopped each morning. They ate with their hands, some using their caps as bowls. While marching through South Korea the locals would often sneak them extra food. Once in North Korean territory the diet changed. Each meal was the same - cracked corn molded into a ball with soya bean paste. The corn was not ground and was poorly cooked, leaving sharp edges which caused more problems when diarrhea set in. They received water only at dawn. Diarrhea hit them early in the march. If they had to empty their bowels they would try to move to the front of the column and squat so they could rejoin as the column passed. If they were not ready by the time the end of the column passed by the guards would club them and leave them to freeze. Some POWs got up from this beating and continued marching, some did not. The lack of vitamins brought on night blindness. This caused some POWs to walk over the edge of bridges and mountain ledges. During the day they were housed in huts. Some days not everyone could fit inside and some were forced to stay out in the cold with no fires to help keep warm. Those inside had no fires either, but they did have body heat and were out of the wind. Every evening a few more were dead. The first week of the march they had to perform calisthenics every evening.

One day they were kept in a village which was also a Chinese Army ammunition dump. American jets strafed the village, killing some POWs and injuring more. For the last few days of the march their Chinese guards let them carry those too weak to make it on their own. The enlisted men refused to do so, as did the senior officers. The junior officers did what they could. Of the 320 POWs who began the march to Bean Camp, 120 arrived at the camp. That is a death rate of 62%

and does not factor in those deaths after arrival at Bean Camp. History has not even bothered to give a name to this atrocity.

One Seoul to Pyongyang march included 376 American POWs. They began from Seoul on 26 September 1950 and covered 250 miles in three weeks. On arriving in Pyongyang the group numbered 296 (death rate 21%). (The distance from Seoul to Pyongyang is only 130 linear miles. The guards on these marches frequently got lost. Many times they would reverse their route for no apparent reason.)

About 1,000 POWs were marched from Kuna-ri to Camp 5, arriving after 300 died (death rate 30%). On 24 April 1951 350 POWs left Bean Camp on a march to Camp 1. The next day another group of 350 left. About 17 May only 210 of the original 700 arrived at Camp 1. Over the next few weeks 100 more were brought into camp. The twenty-two day march led to a death rate of 55%. On 20 May 1951 about 500 POWs were marched from a collection point to the temporary holding center at Mining Camp. They marched for forty-six days with little food, shelter, or medical care. Only 50% survived the march.

On 16 September 1951 150 to 175 POWs left their temporary camp on the way to Camp 3. None of them had shoes. Forty seven made it to Camp 3 on 16 October, a death rate of 68%.

Next came the temporary camps. Circumstances for the POWs did not improve.

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## Brad Bennett To Head Andersonville

Brad Bennett has been named the superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site, effective July 5, 2009.

“We are very proud to have Brad joining our team in the Southeast,” said David Vela, regional director for Southeast Region.

“He has a broad base of Park Service knowledge and experience and has proven himself to be an excellent

manager and educator. We know he will be a great leader for Andersonville.”

Bennett has served in multiple management posts during his 18-year National Park Service career, including two Civil War sites – as acting superintendent of Georgia’s Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in 2008, and as acting superintendent of Virginia’s Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in 2001.

He also held several positions in Alaska Region, beginning with a 2002 detail as a management assistant in the remote Western Arctic National Parklands, based in Kotzebue. He went on to serve as superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, manager of the interagency Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage, and most recently as the Alaska Region’s chief of interpretation and education.

Bennett started his National Park Service career in 1991 as a Student Conservation Association volunteer at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. During his tenure there, he served as a seasonal interpreter, visitor use assistant, park guide, park ranger, and interpretive specialist.

His career progression ultimately lead him to become the first manager of the \$25 million dollar orientation and transportation complex on the South Rim, which opened in 2000.

During a subsequent assignment at Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia, Bennett worked with planning and development teams on several interpretive media projects across the National Park System, including Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama.

Bennett grew up on the front range of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains and met his wife, Emma-Gray, at the University of Southern California. Prior to securing his first permanent position with NPS, Bennett worked as a paralegal with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and as the volunteer coordinator for the Mountains Education Program, a non-profit organization that introduced Los Angeles children to their first outdoor experiences in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

“I am humbled and honored to join park staff, partners, and volunteers to care for Andersonville and tell its powerful stories,” Bennett said. “The ongoing commitment of many dedicated people will ensure that this special place continues to offer meaningful experiences to present and future generations.”

Brad, Emma-Gray, and their three school-aged children journeyed from Alaska to Georgia in early July, partially to be closer to family members who live in the Southeast Region.





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## Vietnam POWs & the Medal of Honor

### Part II Posthumous

Summary: Eight Vietnam POWs were awarded the Medal of Honor. They were VADM Jim Stockdale, USN; Col. Bud Day, USAF; Col. Don Cook, USMC (Posthumously); Capt. Lance Sijan, USAF (Posthumously); Capt. Rocky Versace (Posthumously) for action above and beyond the call of duty as POWs and Col. Leo Thorsness, USAF, SGM Jon Cavaiani, USA and SGT William Port, USA, for action prior to their being captured. Here are their citations:

Posthumous Awards of the Medal of Honor went to these men whose valor as POWs certainly went above and beyond the call of duty.

#### **Col. Donald Cook, USMC (Posthumously):**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while interned as a Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 31 December 1964 to 8 December 1967. De-

spite the fact that by so doing he would bring about harsher treatment for himself, Colonel (then Captain) Cook established himself as the senior prisoner, even though in actuality he was not. Repeatedly assuming more than his share of harsh treatment, Colonel Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life. Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well. Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomitable spirit, and passed this same resolve on to the men whose well-being he so closely associated himself. Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct far above that which could be expected. His personal valor and exceptional spirit of loyalty in the face of almost certain death reflected the highest credit upon Colonel Cook, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service.

#### **Capt. Lance Sijan, USAF (Posthumously)**

While on a flight over North Vietnam, Capt. Sijan ejected from his disabled aircraft and successfully evaded capture for more than 6 weeks. During this time, he was seriously injured and suffered from shock and extreme weight loss due to lack of food. After being captured by North Vietnamese soldiers, Capt. Sijan was taken to a holding point for subsequent transfer to a prisoner of war camp. In

his emaciated and crippled condition, he overpowered 1 of his guards and crawled into the jungle, only to be recaptured after several hours. He was then transferred to another prison camp where he was kept in solitary confinement and interrogated at length. During interrogation, he was severely tortured; however, he did not divulge any information to his captors. Capt. Sijan lapsed into delirium and was placed in the care of another prisoner. During his intermittent periods of consciousness until his death, he never complained of his physical condition and, on several occasions, spoke of future escape attempts. Capt. Sijan's extraordinary heroism and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Armed Forces.

#### **Capt. Rocky Versace (Posthumously)**

Captain Humbert R. Versace distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period of 29 October 1963 to 26 September 1965, while serving as S-2 Advisor, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Detachment 52, Ca Mau, Republic of Vietnam. While accompanying a Civilian Irregular Defense Group patrol engaged in combat operations in Thoi Binh District, An Xuyen Province, Captain Versace and the patrol came under sudden and intense mortar, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from elements of a heavily armed enemy battalion. As the battle raged, Captain Versace, although severely wounded in the knee and back by hostile fire, fought valiantly and continued to engage enemy targets. Weakened by his wounds and fatigued by the fierce firefight, Captain Versace stubbornly resisted capture by the over-powering Viet Cong force with the last full measure of his strength and ammunition. Taken prisoner by the Viet Cong, he exemplified the tenets of the Code of Conduct from the time he entered into Prisoner of War sta-



## namPOW continued...

tus. Captain Versace assumed command of his fellow American soldiers, scorned the enemy's exhaustive interrogation and indoctrination efforts, and made three unsuccessful attempts to escape, despite his weakened condition which was brought about by his wounds and the extreme privation and hardships he was forced to endure. During his captivity, Captain Versace was segregated in an isolated prisoner of war cage, manacled in irons for prolonged periods of time, and placed on extremely reduced ration. The enemy was unable to break his indomitable will, his faith in God, and his trust in the United States of America. Captain Versace, an American fighting man who epitomized the principles of his country and the Code of Conduct, was executed by the Viet Cong on 26 September 1965. Captain Versace's

gallant actions in close contact with an enemy force and unyielding courage and bravery while a prisoner of war are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the United States Army.

### SGT William Port, USA:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Port distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company C, which was conducting combat operations against an enemy force in the Que Son Valley. As Sgt. Port's platoon was moving to cut off a reported movement of enemy soldiers, the platoon came under heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force. The platoon was forced to withdraw due to the intensity and ferocity of the fire. Although wounded in the hand as the withdrawal began, Sgt. Port, with com-

plete disregard for his safety, ran through the heavy fire to assist a wounded comrade back to the safety of the platoon perimeter. As the enemy forces assaulted in the perimeter, Sgt. Port and 3 comrades were in position behind an embankment when an enemy grenade landed in their midst. Sgt. Port, realizing the danger to his fellow soldiers, shouted the warning, "Grenade," and unhesitatingly hurled himself towards the grenade to shield his comrades from the explosion. Through his exemplary courage and devotion he saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and gave the members of his platoon the inspiration needed to hold their position. Sgt. Port's selfless concern for his comrades, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

## pow-mia



**PNC John Edwards  
Chairman**

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

## US Pilot's

### Remains Found in Iraq After 18 Years

*August 2, 2009*

Remains found in Iraq's Anbar province are those of Navy Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, who was shot down flying a combat mission

in an F/A-18 Hornet on Jan. 17, 1991, Defense Dept. officials reported.

The Pentagon's announcement resolved questions about the fate of Captain Michael Scott Speicher, who some believed had survived his shoot-down and been taken prisoner by Iraq.

Bone fragments and skeletal remains were recovered in the desert last week by U.S. Marines stationed in Iraq's Anbar province, thanks to a tip from an Iraqi citizen, the department said. It said they were identified as Speicher's by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Speicher's F/A-18 Hornet fighter was shot down over west-central Iraq on January 17, 1991, the first night of the first Gulf War, which eventually drove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

An official Navy history identified Speicher as the first American casualty of the conflict. Some reports

had emerged that Speicher, 33 when he was downed, might have survived and become a captive of Saddam.

On January 11, 2001, Speicher's status was changed from killed in action to missing in action. The U.S. intelligence community had concluded that Baghdad could account for Speicher's fate but was concealing information, according to an unclassified summary of its findings released in March 2001.

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

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## civilians



Walter H. Riley, Chairman  
14521 Cyprus Point Drive  
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### The Siege of Santo Tomas (part 4)

I remarked on the danger to shack dwellers if bullets were to be flying, and offered to go over and interpret if Lloyd wished to request permission to allow shack dwellers to go for safety to the Main Building. Lt. Abiko was out in front of the Ed. Building giving orders to soldiers who jumped on bicycles and were hurrying off. He gave us 20 minutes freedom to move folks in for safety. The electricity had gone off and so our loud speaker system was out of commission. That meant going out and shouting the permission, and because it might involve meeting sentries who didn't know of the permission, I went along too.

That job over and folks safely inside, I told Lloyd that I would camp out in the First Aid Clinic in the Main Building so that I would be easily found by either Japanese or internees. On "air raid" we were supposed to have someone there for contact between the two sets of authorities. I was supposed to be off my feet, but by getting a steamer chair it looked as though I could do it without too much strain.) A few minutes later I was just settling in when we saw rock-

ets flare at our gate. Several rockets had been sent up and machine gun fire from tanks had been audible. They told me the Commandant was calling for the Committee and they were starting over so I trailed along and caught them in the open before we reached the Ed. Building. There they had gotten a pressure lamp to going which illuminated the lobby. We were shown into the Commandant's office. He motioned us to sit down, taking me by the arm and telling me to sit next to him. Lloyd was next, then Carroll, then Stanley. (Lloyd and Carroll were the two committee men. A third had been arrested and removed from camp. Stanley was the other interpreter.) He was interpreter from the start of the camp, but after I came there was a gradual shifting and in the period August to the end I was the one who had most of the interpreting for the Commandant. The Commandant said that we knew that he had been waiting for the time to come to turn us free.

It looked as though tonight were the night. Tank (or tanks) were at the gate. Here an aide whispered in his ear and he said, not the gate but the inner gate. On pretense that I needed to know whether it was tank or tanks I asked him, and he said many tanks. We could hear shots and shouting. Soon we heard tanks rumbling on the walk and things out of doors became turmoil, for the internees in the main building began to stream out. In the Ed. Building the Japanese blocked the stairs and permitted no one to come down (though a few did get down by rope). The Commandant asked for someone to go out and bring in the ranking American officer that he might turn over the rolls to him. I started to my feet, but he grabbed my arm and told me to stay, Earl Carroll and Stanley were permitted to go. The Lieutenant in charge of the guard was not present. (Later it turned out that he had gone to the gate and had been on the point of throwing a hand grenade when he was shot through

the arm and side. He was taken to the first aid clinic and there his wounds were dressed after which he was put in the camp jail in the main building.)

Two of the J. staff who had always been friendly, Ohashi and Hirose, were over at the Main Building with a lieutenant from headquarters (his name slips me). What talk went on there I don't know, but that lieutenant was deprived of his sword, map case, automatic, flag, and canteen. He returned to the Ed. Building. The other two considered themselves as having been captured without their having gone through the form of surrender. We waited for a half hour but Carroll and Stanley failed to return. I had a chance to arrest a looter (internee) and to look out the commandant's bedroom window at his orders to see if the wrecking of his two trucks (drawn up in readiness for taking out the J. stall) could be stopped. Of course the boys didn't stop wrecking the trucks. At last the Commandant grew weary of waiting and I told him I thought I could find an officer. He allowed Lloyd and me to go in search of one. I lost Lloyd then but I found in the turmoil of people in front of the Main Building, a Major Gerhardt who was willing to take responsibility. His Colonel had been wounded at the gate, I heard later. Major G. said there was nothing to negotiate with the Commandant. The Americans had captured the camp and the Japanese could surrender if they wished, or else. He would give them ten minutes to make up their minds and surrender. He referred me to a Lieutenant M-(I have forgotten his name). Yelling the name at the top of my lungs I went around trying to locate him. I found him at last in the dark at the East end of the Ed. Building.

**(FINAL INSTALLMENT IN  
THE NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER ISSUE)**



**September 8-13, 2009. The AX-POW National Convention** is being held in Boise, Idaho.

**September 11, 2009. The National Memorial Service** will be held at the AXPOW National Convention in Boise. More information will be at the convention.

**September 11, 2009. The Next-of-Kin reunion** will be held at the National Convention in Boise at 7PM. We will meet and greet everyone and discuss what and where we want to go in the Organization. We would like to see all NOKs there if possible. It is going to be a lot of fun.

**Sept. 23-28, 2009. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Korean War Veterans Association reunion** will be held at the Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA. All Korean War Veterans welcome! Great side trips to the Korean Memorial, Valley Forge and Lancaster County. Contact: Charles & Judy Egresitz, 717-652-4088, 717-497-6971; [apebble@aol.com](mailto:apebble@aol.com).

**Sept. 23-27, 2009. The 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association** will hold its Annual Reunion at the Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, Topeka, KS. Delegations from cities in Europe the 35<sup>th</sup> Division liberated in WWII will attend. For details, call Col. Robert Dalton, 785-267-3295; or [www.35thInfDivAssoc.com](http://www.35thInfDivAssoc.com).

**March 5-6, 2010. The USS Houston Survivors Association Annual Reunion** will be held at the Houston Downtown Doubletree Hotel. Feel free to stay a couple of days into the next week @ our *USS HOUSTON* rate, \$89.00. The group rate is now in the system - you may make your reservations by one of

the following. Call 1-800-222-TREE and give the group name of *USS HOUSTON* before requesting your dates of stay. For more information, contact Lin at: [lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net)

looking  
for



Dorothy Miller would like to contact my husband's buddies. Info: Samuel Miller of Pennsylvania; 28<sup>th</sup> Division, 103<sup>rd</sup> Army Engineers, Company "B"; captured Battle of the Bulge, Interned at Stalag 9B. Sam died Sept. 22, 2008. Please contact me at 561-383-5058 or 321-987-9147; 9857 Via Grande West, Wellington, FL 33411.

I was in the 5th Infantry Division, 2nd Regiment and Company B, I think in 1943-45. I joined my unit in Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland late in 1943. Spent 9 months there before landing on Utah Beach, France on July 10th of 44. Our Unit was in a holding position in a French farm yard (not bad duty) until we moved into the line on July 27th. I was captured that same day. The last few months of 44 and until the end of May, 45 I was in a work camp at Adorf, Germany, working on the railroad. I finally escaped after three attempts on May 1, 45 just 7 days before the war was over in Europe. I am looking for and hoping to be in contact with any guys that may have been with me at any one of those steps along the way. I have found 5 guys who were in the work camp at Adorf. My name is Fred Scheer, 2626 Peachtree Rd., N.W., Unit 703, Atlanta, GA 30305. My phone is (404) 841-6264. My e-mail is [foscheer@mindspring.com](mailto:foscheer@mindspring.com).

I am writing a book and am hoping you could help me. My father, Richard W. Bridges, was the pilot of a B-24 shot down on October 1, 1943, just after his aircraft, the Fascinat' Witch, bombed Wiener Neustadt, Austria. German fighters killed three crewmen. Six others bailed out, landed in the Austrian countryside and were captured within two days. My father kept the plane steady and was about to jump out of the Fascinat' Witch when the plane exploded. His parachute miraculously opened, and he landed just inside Hungarian territory. A day later, he stumbled upon a Hungarian village. He must have been a sight — shoeless, burned on his face and hands and still in his flying coveralls. The locals put salve on his burns, fed him and called the authorities. My father, who died in 2003, told me that he believed he was the first American POW in Hungary. He was a POW in Hungary at various camps until about April 1, 1944, when he was transferred along with several other American airmen (who had been subsequently captured in Hungary) to a German-run camp in Zemun, Yugoslavia, across the river from Belgrade. He and several others escaped from the camp on what I believe was the night of April 17, 1944, during the lull of a major bombing raid by the USAF against Belgrade. He and at least one other American airman hooked up with Tito's Partisans and were rescued out of Yugoslavia in an OSS mission on July 20, 1944. I am trying to find any other POWs in Hungary in the first part of 1944 and any POWs held at Zemun — or any written accounts of men held in either place. Could you or anyone else in the association help me? I would be most grateful. I am a foreign correspondent based in Caracas, Venezuela. Thanks so much! Tyler Bridges; [tbridges@mcclatchydc.com](mailto:tbridges@mcclatchydc.com).

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# Installation of a Grand Army of the Republic and an Ex-Prisoners of War Grave Marker



appropriately shown by the gusting wind. Afterwards, SUVCW Commander Beau Moore provided a brief history of the 79<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry was Corporal James's military unit. SUVCW and American Ex-Prisoners of War member, Christopher Blair, unveiled the medallions of his g-g-g grandfather.

And, a patriotic wreath was presented by the Fort Worth SUVCW Camp. After this wreath was placed behind Corporal James's grave, the Boy Scout Venturing Crew 1872 was again involved in the ceremony by performing an artillery salute. The salute was given through the firing of three canons.

On June 20, 2009, a cool breeze blew through the dry day at Thurmond Fairview Cemetery in New Fairview. Corporal Cyrenius W. James would have been proud of how many people attended a ceremony that honored his service to America, on this hot summer day.

The ceremony started with a friendly greeting, provided by UNT student Casey Blair, a g-g-g grandson of Corporal James. Then, Fort Worth SUVCW Camp chaplain Gene Willis led an invocation. The prayer was followed with a brief history and purpose of the SUVCW, spoken by Vice Commander Hal Hughes. The Boy Scout Venturing Crew 1872 presented colors, which were ap-



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To close the ceremony, American Ex-Prisoners of War-Fort Worth Chapter Commander, Mel Stevens, gracefully provided a benediction. The SUVCW retired the colors and all attendees sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic, with Truitt J.

Rogers leading the hymn with the strumming of his guitar.

Jack Christopher Blair  
 Life Member, AXPOW  
 jack.blair@mavs.uta.edu

## INSTALLATION OF A GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC GRAVE MARKER

for  
**Cyrenius Waite James**  
 04 January 1831 to 08 July 1911  
 Corporal  
 Company B, 79th Regiment  
 Illinois Infantry  
 20 June 2009, 5:00pm  
 Thurmond-Fairview Cemetery  
 Wise County, Texas

### ORDER OF CEREMONY

<b>Greeting</b>	<b>J Casey Blair</b> Third Great Grandson
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Gene Willis</b> Chaplain, Gen. J.J. Byrne Camp No. 1, SUVCW
<b>Brief History and Purpose of SUVCW</b>	<b>Hal Hughes</b> Gen. J.J. Byrne Camp No. 1, SUVCW
<b>Presentation of Colors</b>	<b>Texas Camp No. 1, SUVCW</b>
<b>History of 79th Illinois Infantry</b>	<b>Beau Moore</b> Commander, Gen. J.J. Byrne Camp No. 1, SUVCW
<b>Unveiling of Medallions</b>	<b>J Christopher Blair</b> Third Great Grandson
<b>Presentation of Wreath</b>	<b>Camp No. 1, SUVCW</b>
<b>Artillery Salute</b>	<b>Boy Scout Venturing Crew 1872</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>Mel Stevens</b> Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War - Ft. Worth Chapter
<b>Retiring of Colors</b>	<b>Texas Camp No. 1, SUVCW</b>

### BIOGRAPHY

Cyrenius Waite (C.W.) James was born in Russell County, Kentucky on January 4, 1831, where he made his living as a farmer. Twenty years later on March 18, 1851, he was married to Annemie (Elizabeth) Jane Bell in Russell Co., of whom she bore him two children, John and William Henry "Baby" James.

He spent after working in KY, Texas and C.W. moved to Chattanooga, Georgia. He was here on the great pioneer C.W. who was called George Mack, Square Martin, Mary Martin, Andrew Jackson, Harvey and Sarah Ellen "Old" James. Truitt J. Blair, D.D. where 1848, enlisted on August 1, 1862, as a volunteer Private under Colonel Allen Sutherland. One month later on August 10, 1862, in Yellow Creek, he was assigned and mustered into Company B of the 79th Regiment of the Volunteer Infantry. On December 30, 1862 and January 2, 1863 the 79th Reg. was stationed near Northcross, Tennessee at Camp 5th, where the regiment engaged in the battle of Stones River. James was captured on December 31, 1862 by the Confederate Army, along with about 3,000 other Union soldiers. After the capture in Murfreesboro, TN, he was transferred to a Prisoner of War camp in Thomas, Georgia. James spent time in a P.O.W. in GA until April 20, 1863, when he returned to his company. One year and one month after Cyrenius Waite James was transferred from prison on June 1, 1864, he was promoted to Full Captain. Then on September 2, 1864, James was totally wounded in the left leg during a battle in front of Campy's Station in a reconnaissance effort. Corporal James was returned out of service on June 11, 1865 at Camp Baker, San Antonio, TX and discharged on June 23, 1865.

In 1871, he and his family relocated to Waco, Texas Co., Texas from TX where he made good to them but lost children, Miss Ann and Maria when James. After having returned to Texas, James was no longer able to farm, because of his condition. After his service, he settled the U.S. government for a \$10.00 increase in his pension for the remainder of his life. On July 8, 1911, Cyrenius Waite James passed away in Wise County, Texas at the age of 80.

### THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Who says there ever was a day of the coming of the Lord,  
 He is coming and this is a sign when the great work is done,  
 He has raised the banner, "Hymn of the Republic" and  
 He will be marching on.

(Chorus)  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 He will be marching on.

It has been a great work in a hundred years of war,  
 He has raised the banner, "Hymn of the Republic" and  
 He will be marching on.

(Chorus)  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 He will be marching on.

He has raised the banner, "Hymn of the Republic" and  
 He will be marching on.

(Chorus)  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
 He will be marching on.

# Your Stories



## A different take on moon landing

By James H Warner

July 20, 2009, marked the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing by astronaut Neil Armstrong. Almost everyone who was alive at the time will remember the day. They will remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news.

I, too, remember where I was and what I was doing on that day. However, I did not hear the news of the moon landing for several more years. I was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam and on July 20, 1969, I was in a small box that sat out in the sun in the third month of a prolonged interrogation about what the Communists were convinced was an escape attempt. Although we did not hear any news about the actual moon landing, the Apollo program did affect us in an interesting way because we thought the landing had happened several months earlier.

One morning in late December 1968, we heard the customary hiss as the loudspeaker system began warming up for what we anticipated would be the usual propaganda session from radio Hanoi. To our surprise, however, at 8 a.m., instead of radio Hanoi, we heard a man with a British accent say, "This is the BBC Hong Kong. The American astronauts become the first human beings to come under the gravitational influence of another celestial

body." And then the radio went dead.

We never knew whether they wanted us to hear this or if it was a terrible mistake by someone who had been surreptitiously listening to the BBC.

An hour later, we were taken out to wash. The first man out of our cell was Air Force Capt. Kenneth Fisher. We had not rehearsed what happened next. Ken looked up and could see the moon in the clear winter sky. He came to a stop, snapped to attention and saluted the moon. Instantly, the rest of us caught on. As each of us left the cell, we came to a stop, snapped to attention and saluted the moon.

The guard who was on duty in the guard tower leaned out to see what we were saluting. He had to lean so far that his pith helmet fell off. He almost dropped his rifle and, for a second, we thought he would fall out of the tower himself.

Navy Lt. j.g. Ted Stier went up to one of the guards and pointed at the moon and spoke the Vietnamese word for the United States, "Hoa Ky." He then pointed at the ground and said "Vietnam." He then made a pantomime as though he were operating a very large piece of artillery. Pointing at the moon again, and again speaking the Vietnamese word for America, "Hoa Ky," he began rocking back and forth with his imaginary artillery piece while crying out "boom, boom, boom" to show that American artillery, if placed on our moon, would have the range to hit North Vietnam. Ted walked away while the guard continued to stare doubtfully at the moon.

Later that morning, our political officer called Ken Fisher, who was the senior officer in our cell, out to interrogation and demanded an explanation of our conduct. Now, we didn't hear the whole news report from the BBC, so we assumed it meant somebody had landed on

the moon. Ken explained since Americans were the first to land on the moon, it must belong to us. Therefore, we were just showing respect for our country by saluting when we saw it.

He told the political officer, whom we called "Louis the Rat," that despite American ownership of the moon, we would allow Vietnam to continue to use our moon to time their lunar new year. However, Ken added, they would have to change the Vietnamese word for moon. In Vietnamese, the word for the moon is actually two words, "ma trung." The word for American is "my." Therefore, Kenneth said, they would have to call our moon "my trung." Rat got very angry and sent Kenneth back to our cell.

Thereafter, at every opportunity, we asserted American ownership of the moon. This soon spread throughout the camp and guys began saluting the moon whenever they saw it.

We didn't learn about our error in timing of the moon landing until early 1973, when we were joined by some of those shot down in 1972. By that time, however, the other news about what was going on in the real world was so interesting that we paid little attention to the moon landing. In any case, our story about the landing, even if premature, sounded better to us.

*James H. Warner of Rohrer'sville, MD is a retired attorney. He was a naval flight officer in the Marine Corps, flying in F-4B fighter/bombers in Vietnam. He was a POW for 5 1/2 years*

# Capturing Bataan Perspectives

by Alice A. Booher



*Ben Steele*

At a nongovernmental organizational (NGO) Gala Salute to POW Women held in Washington, D.C. in March 1992, many of you first met Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Norman, the daughter of two WWII veterans, then finishing up extensive research on her book on the American Army and Navy women (dietician, physical therapist and mostly nurses) who became POWs in the Philippines. Beth's husband Michael, a well respected journalist for the *NY Times*, *Washington Post* and *GQ* magazines, edited the resulting manuscript for Beth's well received book, *We Band of Angels* (Random House, 1999; Simon and Schuster Atria paperback, 2000). He suggested that they should document the men's story as well.

For over a decade, the Normans did exhaustive research, interviewing more than 400 people, taking a trip

to Japan, three trips to The Philippines, forays across CONUS interviewing Bataan survivors and utilizing more than 2,000 documents and books, many previously undiscovered in English, various Filipino dialects, and Japanese (recorded on-site, contemporaneously translated and then translated again CONUS for accuracy and content). In addition to the 40 POW women Beth had interviewed for her own book, they both interviewed another 100 men who made the Bataan Death March, including some of you and many others you know so well. The Normans readily acknowledge and liberally cite many of the fine books already written by Americans about the Bataan POW experience, (e.g., Sidney Stewart's *Give Us This Day* and Richard Mallonee's *The Naked Flagpole: Battle for Bataan from the Diary of Richard C. Mallonee*.)

As Beth Norman explained in correspondence to this author in July 2009, at some point in their journey to tell the Bataan Death March story, they jointly reached the conclusion that they should write a book that included the perspectives of everyone involved: American POWs, Filipino soldiers and civilians, and former Japanese soldiers. Throughout the Normans have strongly insisted that they never had any intention of excusing what the Japanese did, as there is simply *no* excusing the atrocities they committed, but through communication with and amongst all parties involved, there might be some understanding as to the foundations of such brutal behavior. This is an extraordinary goal - one which is by no means easily approached let alone approximated. Part of the uniqueness of the project is that they have not spared the harsh glare of day on what was done, a sordid and complicated saga if there ever was one; but endeavor to annotate the aggregate circumstances, no matter the intent and/or result. Within this premise, while each reader must individually

judge the extent of the success of the hypothesis based on their own realities and experiences, for all there are insightful parallels meshed in a unique viewpoint on this most personal story for many of you, your friends and families.

Beth says that her husband Michael, whose own MOS was as a combat radioman in Vietnam (USMC 2/9, 1967-1969), felt that the story of Bataan and its aftermath was the worst war story he had ever heard. He felt that if they could write about Bataan in a way that put the reader personally and intimately *at* surrender, *on* the Death March, *in* the prison camps and *on* the hell ships, they might be able to make the reader feel the truth of war—the individual cost.

The Normans are grateful for the deep resources and cooperation made available from and by American former POWs as facilitated via veterans organizations like the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC), the Battling Bastards of Bataan (BBB), American Ex-Prisoners of War (AXPOW) and others including individuals who simply dared to step up to the plate.

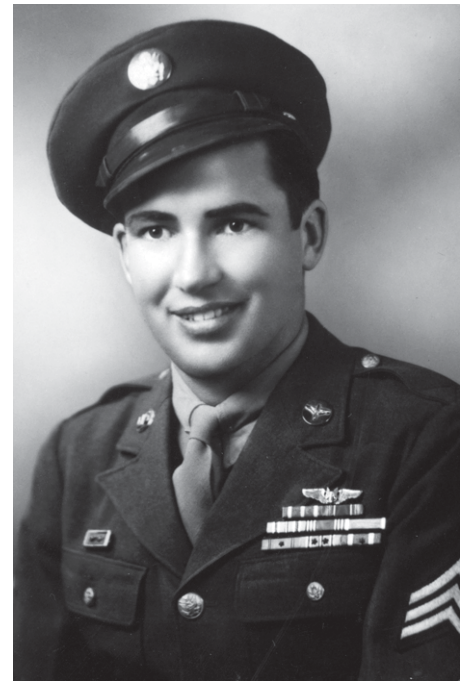
They had colleagues in the Philippines who helped them find veterans and civilians to be interviewed. They walked the length of the Death March, an experience that viscerally helped them sense the stifling heat; smell the rotting, teeming, unforgiving living jungle; visualize the areas where the men were penned; and feel the Old National Road under foot. One can only imagine that it might have been a comparable but much more powerful version of the intense emotion this author had at the Andersonville POW Museum in Americus, GA for the first time, and rounding a corner, abruptly encountered the original Cement Cross from Camp O'Donnell, brought CONUS by Bataan survivors. As the late MAJ Richard M. Gordon, [author of *Horyo*, and editor of *The Bataan Banner*, the news-

letter of the BBB, and one former POW who assisted the Normans] said of the Cross, it was “to remember the precepts of courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice displayed by the men of women of and on Bataan”. That equates to the essence of what the Normans tasked for themselves.

Finding Japanese willing to speak on the Bataan story was understandably a more nuanced, difficult and delicate task. They were able to work with a thoughtful Japanese journalist, Kyoko Onoki, a middle-aged woman who wanted to learn more about her country in the war. Kyoko went to Japanese veteran’s organizations and approached individual participants. Eventually, the Normans themselves traveled to Japan and interviewed one prison guard at a coal mine where American and British soldiers worked as slaves (this man spent 7 years in Sugamo Prison in Tokyo for his war crimes) and 22 former Imperial soldiers, including Masahiko Homma, LTG Masaharu Homma’s son, who contributed photos as well as written documentation, much of a very personal, family

nature. He himself had become a POW of the Russians at the end of the war.

In the end, this cross-cultural perspective allowed the Normans to write about the Fall of Bataan and afterwards with a new and different voice, incorporating the unique cultural heritage of the involved parties, and integral use of occasional Tagalog and/or original Japanese phrases, always in content and translation. An excellent example of the linguistic impact is the primary title of the book: *Tears in the Darkness*. When faced with untenable options for dealing with battle as ordered from the Chrysanthemum Throne down, General Homma’s countenance was observed by one of his aides as seemingly filled with *anrui*, translated as “hidden grief, tears in the darkness”. The authors explain that *anrui* (pronounced on-RUE-ee), is a literal translation of the Japanese ideograph or kanji and “the word and the image it conveys are meant to explain that kind of pain and sorrow that, literally cannot be seen. The Normans noted that “among English idioms, the meta-

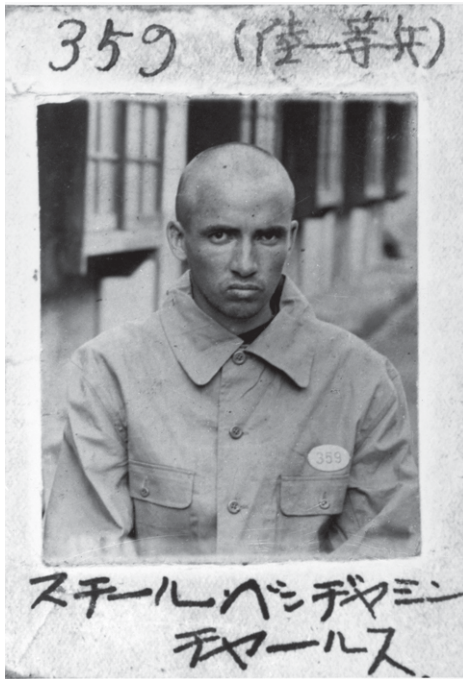


phor that best expresses this is ‘a broken heart’. It is true that some men – men of greed, ambition, or raw animus – love war but most, the overwhelming number who are forced to bear arms, come home from the killing fields and prison camps with *anrui*, ‘tears in the darkness’ “.

Utilizing a somewhat unusual writing technique, the book accentuates and alternates history and culture from the perspectives of the American, Japanese and Filipino participants; but it is also unique in that it juxtaposes documented details with exquisitely personal cameos of senior and junior, young and old, experienced and neophyte, officer and enlisted soldiers (infantry for the Americans, *hohei* or “step-soldiers” for the Japanese) and their families through diaries, letters and interviews. They also carefully assess the various pyramidal components of the indigenous Filipino fighting and nonfighting forces.

For the American point of interest, and already solidly into the re-





search which would result in hundreds of personal contacts, the Normans met, got to know and decided to primarily focus on a single American, U.S. Army Air Corps POW, Pvt. Benjamin Charles Steele, born in November 1917, a Montana cowboy, “Ben” to his comrades, and “Bud” to his family. Steele and his buddy Quentin Pershing “QP” Devore, of Colorado met onboard ship in October 1941 and nearly seven decades later, remain friends. Myriad Bataan survivors are featured, including some of you and many you know, but Steele as a personalized hub serves well to illustrate all facets of the situation, not only because of his unique personal charm, articulations and insights, but because he was in virtually all pertinent Pacific Theater venues starting at Clark Field and throughout captivity, working while a prisoner as road builder, stevedore, farm hand, wild beast meat dresser and coal miner. The numerous pen and ink drawings and caricatures by the talented, introspective Steele, who returned CONUS to become a recognized Western artist and art professor, are a special

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treat and establish credible alternative reflections. The Normans collaterally liked the idea of Steele growing up as a cowboy in Montana since nothing is more American in our psyche than the West and the cowboy. His youth and love of Montana life serve as a wonderful counterbalance with the war experiences.

Both Normans are historians and teachers at heart, as reflected herein. The publisher Farrar, Straus and Giroux calls their new literary reportage style as “Narrative Portraiture”. However it is described, the book is a commanding and valuable tool for historians. The Norman’s effort is extraordinary, and while it is no way exculpatory, the undercurrent malevolence of the Bataan story balanced with the humanity involved, does serve to be illuminating. Even though for many it may revisit old wounds, and certainly does not intend to heal all of those, the Normans have genuinely endeavored to provide a fresh, insightful, positive, persuasive and unequivocally worthwhile read whatever one’s viewpoint, experiences, purpose or constituency.

Remarkably the book has taken off on the “book charts” that measure such things, so it may have the practical effect of educating an en-

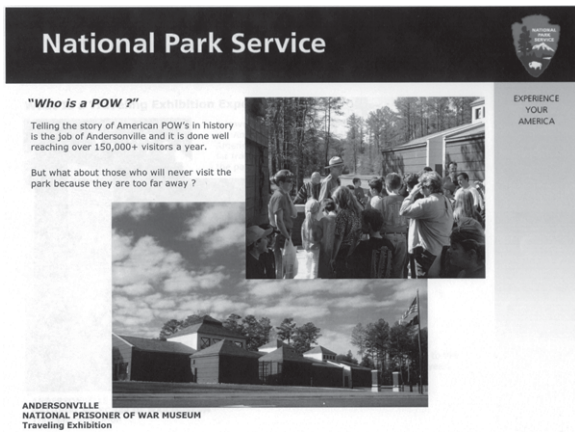


tire new group of folks on the Bataan Death March and the POW experience as a whole. As reported in the July/August 2009 issue of this [American ExPOW Bulletin](#), in the summer of 2009, and along with many of you, the Normans and Steele journeyed to San Antonio for the final convention for the ADBC where, among many other experiences and in the company of some 73 Bataan survivors, they witnessed the mixed response to the apology from the Japanese Ambassador to the U.S., Ichiro Fujisaki, on behalf of his country for the Bataan Death March asking that “the Japanese people should bear in mind that we must look into the past and to learn from the lessons of history”. According to the [Arizona Republic](#) of June 1, 2009, “(the Japanese Ambassador) said his country was extending a heartfelt apology for having caused tremendous damage and suffering to many people including POWs, those who have undergone tragic experiences”. The Normans, with the help of both subjective and objective data, well cover all participants, particularly Steele and his fellow American POWs, some 100 of whom are listed in acknowledgements as helping with the research; but also including the essence of enemies such a General Homma, commander of the army that invaded the Philippines, culminating in his arrest in 1946, trial in a military court and death for failing “to control the operations” of his men, thus “permitting them to commit brutal atrocities”, including the Death March. In numerous media interviews and book signings over the past months, on a website, and throughout the book, the Normans have accepted that not everyone may be entirely comfortable with their approach. They further suggest that multiple eye witnesses to history often differ. But they have made an extraordinary effort to offer a generous, realistic, articulate spectrum from which to view the truths of Bataan.

*Drawings by Ben Steele*



# National POW Museum Traveling Exhibit Project (Update)



The National Prisoner of War Museum was opened in 1998 fulfilling the historic site's legislative mandates to enhance the awareness and understanding of the sacrifices of American prisoners of war throughout history. This learning opportunity however, is provided to only a very small percentage of the general public, in particular those 150,000 yearly visitors to the park, who would want the opportunity to learn more about the American POW experience. Despite the success of the museum, few people know that Andersonville is the national memorial to ALL POW's in American history.

The historic site is working to produce a major traveling exhibition based on the current thematic exhibit halls of the National POW Museum. This new exhibition would be comparable in concept to the exhibits in the museum. The traveling exhibit will not replicate the current POW museum but rather complement and offer visitors a glimpse of what could await their visit to Andersonville. The exhibition would include cases, wall panels, freestanding displays and computer and AV equipment that would display the site's oral history collection.

The design of the exhibition would permit hosting by military museums, historical societies, schools and universities, galleries, commu-

nity libraries and other cultural institutions. The hosting institution would have to meet the required levels of security and environmental conditions of the National Park Service standards. However, objects selected for display would be those items least vulnerable to damage or deterioration. Receiving museums would pay the cost of shipping to the next location. The exhibit

would be hosted for three month periods.



The park would use this exhibit to reach a larger audience who are either unaware of or not able to travel to South Georgia. This exhibition would also encourage the American public to visit the only NPS site established "...to interpret the role of prisoner-of-war camps in history and to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps..."

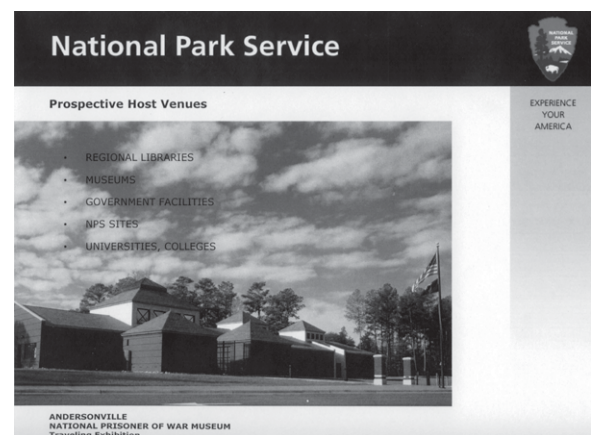
The estimate for planning, design and construction is approximately \$400,000. The planning phase of the project was completed in March 2009 with Concept/Schematic design documents submitted to the park by Museum Design Associates. The preliminary concept planning was funded by the Andersonville Trust with an NPS match. The site

entered into the "Full Design" phase contract in June 2009 with Museum Design Associates. Phase two is again being funded by the Andersonville Trust with a matching NPS grant. The design phase timeline is approximately 10 months.

The plan for the project, with funding appropriated and raised accordingly, is to do planning in FY2008 (completed), project design in FY2009-10 and fabrication in FY2011. The exhibit would be available for display at four locations per year for ten years.

This project is being developed by the staff at Andersonville National Historic Site in cooperation with the Friends of Andersonville and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. The Friends of Andersonville are receiving donations for this project. All donations are tax-deductible. Donations should be made out to the POW Traveling Legacy and sent to Friends of Andersonville, PO Box 186, Andersonville, GA 31711.

*Material Provided by Ed Dement, Andersonville Coordinator*



# News Briefs

## Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl Still Being Held Prisoner

On June 30th, an American Army Private fighting in Enduring Freedom disappeared from his base in Afghanistan near the Pakistan border. On July 18th, his identity was revealed when the Taliban released a video showing Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 23 of Hailey, ID. In the video, Bergdahl said that he was "scared I won't be able to go home."

The town of Hailey has been very supportive of the Bergdahl family. They have covered the town in yellow ribbons and have held many events, including a motorcycle rally, to help people remember that Bowe is still being held captive. A sign at Zaney's Coffee House where Bergdahl worked as a Barista reads, "Get Bowe Back."

Since his capture, an intensive search has been underway involving both U.S. and Afghan forces.

A spokesman for the Taliban said they are waiting for a response to their demand that the U.S. stop airstrikes in two regions of Afghanistan to determine the fate of Bergdahl.

Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker, a U.S. military spokeswoman in Kabul said, "Recovery efforts remain one of the largest ongoing operations and we are doing everything we can to get him back safely."

## Captain M. Scott Speicher Laid to Rest

It has been 18 years since Capt. Michael "Scott" Speicher was shot down over Iraq on the first night of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. Many people have been wearing a POW bracelet engraved with Speicher's name to keep him in their heart and mind. Because of those that continued generating awareness of Speicher's status as a POW by wearing a bracelet or writing a letter, the military kept searching for him.

Unfortunately, on August 2, 2009 the remains of Capt. Speicher were found in Iraq near the location of his plane crash. This was not the outcome we had hoped for, and our heart goes out to the family and friends of this American hero for the sacrifice he made for this country. Speicher was laid to rest on August 14th in the Jacksonville Memorial Gardens during a private service.

If you have a bracelet and would like to return it to the family, they are requesting that you send it to:

Military Affairs  
Veterans & Disabled Services Office  
Jacksonville City Hall  
117 W. Duval Street, Suite 175  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

## Medicare Reimbursement

Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee introduced legislation on July 28, 2009 that would allow VA to bill Medicare for third-party reimbursements of eligible veterans for nonservice-connected medical conditions. Currently, VA is prohibited from billing Medicare for third-party reimbursements for the treatment of enrolled, Medicare-eligible veterans for medical conditions that are unrelated to their military

service. Since the 1990s, The American Legion has strongly recommended Medicare reimbursements to supplement VA's health-care annual budget. Through congressional testimony and numerous interviews with the media, the Legion has promoted Medicare reimbursement as a new revenue stream for VA. James Koutz, chairman of the Legion's National Legislative Commission says, "The only criterion for access to VA health care should be honorable military service. Medicare is just an insurance payer, not a health-care provider." The measure, "Medicare Reimbursement Act of 2009" (H.R.3365), has been referred to three House committees for consideration.

## Veteran Statistics

Today, there are roughly 1.4 million on active duty, less than half the nearly 3.5 million people on active duty we had at the end of the Vietnam War. The estimated population of the United States on July 1, 2009 was 307,041,000. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 226,706,000 are in the work force. Throw in another 20,000,000 illegal aliens (no one really knows with certainty how many illegal aliens are in the United States), and you have a population base of roughly 327,041,000 that is being defended by 1.4 million. That equates to only four tenths of a percent (.4%) of the population is defending the other 99.6%. If you include the 1.3 million in the Guard and Reserve who are now used as if they were active duty forces, there are a total of 2.7 million people defending the 327,041,000, or roughly eight tenths of a percent (.8%) defending the other 99.2%. In 1970, there were over 45 million living veterans in the United States. In 1999 there were nearly 30 million veterans of which 18 million were in the work force.

# news briefs

## continued...

Today, the BLS reports there are 22,196,000 living veterans of which 12,169,000 are in the work force. Depending on the survey, upwards of 1,700 veterans now die each day!

This data has many ramifications. With 37 years of an all volunteer military, America now has two generations of citizens that have no idea of what really goes on in the military and the importance of having a strong military.

This lack of understanding impacts political and social attitudes towards the military. The population base for veteran service organizations is dwindling rapidly which is why many are changing their membership rules in order to maintain membership in a rapidly declining demographic environment.

Today, there are fewer defenders of our freedoms living who understand the importance of maintaining a strong military. And without a strong military, we cannot maintain our freedoms, our free market capitalist economy and our constitutional republic.

*~Source Vetjobs Veteran Eagle*

## WWII Prison Camp

### Sawdust Bread

submitted by Russ Gunvalson

Russ showed off his homemade version of sawdust bread at the Scott Hosier WWII Roundtable. Russ, along with Ken Axelson and Frank Goplen were POWs in Europe. They were joined by Joachim Pusch, a German soldier who surrendered in 1945 and John Gulbranson, who was held with his family in the Philippines.

Mix the following with a dough hook, if possible. If not, use a paddle.

DO NOT USE hand beaters or a whip as this mix is very stiff dough. Scrape sides several times so everything gets combined very well.

2-1/2 cups pumpernickel rye meal  
1 cup finely sliced canned beets (with all juice)  
1 cup sawdust  
1/2 teaspoon yeast  
3 Tablespoons molasses

After everything is mixed together well, add 1 cup of flour, a small amount at a time until the mixture comes together in a dough ball. Keep mixing, but don't add any more than 1/2 additional cups of flour. I mixed it for 20-25 minutes after the flour was in.

Pour a small amount of vegetable oil in a bowl, just enough to coat the dough, cover and let sit for 3-4 hours in a warm place.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Take dough out of bowl and shape into oblong loaf. DON'T push all the air out...this is not rising again.

Put the loaf on a baking stone or a cookie sheet. Sprinkle a little cornmeal on the stone or sheet first.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 45-50 minutes.

Russ Gunvalson  
4801 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, NW  
Rochester, MN  
[russidelle@charter.net](mailto:russidelle@charter.net)

## Health Care Reform

In ongoing discussions about health-care reform, President Barack Obama offered assurance to those receiving medical care through Tricare or the Department of Veterans Affairs: Your benefits are safe. Eligibility for health care

under VA or Tricare "will not be affected by our efforts at broader health-care reform," Obama told military reporters at the White House. Obama said he also made that point clear after meeting with the American Legion's national commander, Dave Rehbein, and executive director, Peter Gaytan. "I want to make sure that message gets out to our veterans," the president said. "I think it's very important to get the message out: If you are in the VA system and are happy with your care, great. We have no intention of changing your eligibility." While a new, national program won't force anyone to change health-care systems, Obama said it could offer benefits or geographic convenience that might make some veterans elect to join it. A national program "will actually give them more choices, more flexibility," he said.

Obama cited problems in U.S. health-care delivery systems, which he said cost more than other countries' programs and too often deliver less.

The VA "has probably made more progress than most systems out there in increasing quality" during the past 25 years, and could help shed light on better ways of delivering health care, he said. But the cost of delivering that care is high even at VA and Tricare consumes a big piece of the Defense Department's budget, he said.

With the fiscal 2010 budget reflecting the largest VA funding increase in 30 years, Obama told American Legion leaders he is committed to ensuring that VA provides America's veterans the highest-quality health care possible.

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Website Biography  
www.axpow.org

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

Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Unit

Where were you captured?

Date captured

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Date liberated

Medals received

Job in the military

After military service

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

Biography:(please type or print)

SEND TO: American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

**Please include your check for \$65 payable to AXPOW.**

If you have any questions, please contact Clydie Morgan, National Adjutant, at 817-649-2979;

~~HQ@axpow.org~~

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# Veterans Day for Veterans

As we all know, US Congress set aside November 11 of each year to recognize our country's greatest heroes, our veterans. However, many veterans are not allowed the day off from work to accept our gratitude for their sacrifices. Many are "blue-collar" workers that don't have the day off, and in some cases are forbidden from taking the day off to participate in Veteran's Day activities. I heard one man share a story that he asked for the day off and was told he could not have it. When he stated that he would take it without pay he was told that if he took the day off there would not be a job waiting for him on his return.

We are circulating petitions to bring awareness to this issue. We simply want a veteran to be able to take Veteran's Day off, a day created for him/her, without penalty from their employer. Our government felt that it was important enough to set aside November 11 to honor our veterans; we only want the right for all veterans to be able to participate in recognition activities if they choose.

I am attaching a copy of the petition we are using. We hope to be able to show our State Representatives and Senators that there is indeed an interest in this cause. We are getting interest and signatures from veterans and interested citizens across the country. We would like to ask AXPOW members to obtain as many signatures as possible by approaching local chapters of Veteran organizations, neighbors, and friends. Petitions can be returned to me at the address on the petition.

## VETERAN'S DAY For VETERANS (Also)

**We the undersigned call on our elected Representatives in the United States to amend Fed. Law 5 U.S.C. See 6103 and Pub. Law 94-97 (Stat.479). To Wit: Being that the Veteran who served in turn will be Honored by having the choice of being off from their employment on Veteran's Day.**

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

Please return completed petitions to: VDFVA Committee, Susan Vinson,  
Past Secretary-Treasurer, Palmetto Chapter AXPOW  
606 Old Friars Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

Please sign on top line and print your name on the line underneath.

1. _____	12. _____	23. _____
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3. _____	14. _____	25. _____
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11. _____	22. _____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# Members' forum



## Remote Recruiting

My daughter lives in Washington D. C.. I live in Tucson. How am I getting her involved in AXPOW?

I sent her an email, asked her to read my three articles in the Bulletin, and gave her the name of a local commander. I was not at all sure it would work.

To my surprise, she read the articles, and contacted the commander to arrange a chapter visit. I also did the same for my other daughter in Portland, Oregon, and she has done the same. The reason I was surprised is that I have not shared my involvement in AXPOW very much, and their response demonstrated their pride in their father.

I ask that if you have not done something like this that you try it. It is important, because I assume that the majority of us have children and grandchildren who live remotely.

By the way, I also offered to pay their first year membership fee if they are interested in participation after their first visit. Here are the specifics to augment the deal:

Tell them to go to our web site [www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)

Click "Bulletin Archives"

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Click the March/April issue, and read KEEPING AXPOW STRONG.

You might also suggest they read my articles in the May and June issues.

Click the October 2008 issue which lists all of our chapter commanders.

Tell them to pick the commander nearest them, and arrange a chapter meeting visit. (Hopefully, chapters will accommodate our employed children and grandchildren by arranging regular meeting on week-ends.)

OK, this is not easy, but shoot, we are in critical need of survival, and this procedure will definitely help. If you are not a computer dynamo, just send your kids a copy to this article. Like my girls, they will be proud to follow through.

Incidentally, if you have any ideas to recruit, let me know. We will publish it in the Bulletin. My address, etc. is on the 4th page of the Bulletin.

**Lew Sleeper**  
National Director, SW  
(address on page 4)

**From: Scott Brinkman**  
**[mailto:sbrink@microsoft.com]**  
**Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009**  
**7:25 PM**

**To: Clydie Morgan**  
**Subject: Hello**

I stumbled upon your web page and have spent the whole day at work reading the Bio's of the POW's. I work for Microsoft and I have been intensely glued to reading each Bio posted on your site today because its so interesting I just can't stop reading. I've never experienced or been exposed to anything like what I have been reading today. I have not been in the military, but some-

times wish, if I could do it all over again, I'd always wanted to be a military jet fighter pilot. As a younger generation I find military history addicting to learn about.

Thank you for sharing this info on your site, most people don't know what happened to these guys as P.O.W's or what they must have gone through. I've never met any of the people I just read about but I do feel I know something about them now, information that I wont forget. I look at their pictures and think to myself how strong, physically & mentally these people are. Its truly amazing, these are real hero's! I can't tell you how much I admire these people and their accomplishments especially after reading what they went through!

From a productive standpoint I didn't get much done today at work, but I walked away feeling fulfilled that I took the time and read about people that truly inspired me! I just wanted to send you a note letting you know I read your web site and found it very motivating, very informative, and it reached out and touched me.

Please tell your chapter members that there are people like me, who do read this information (BIO's), and who want to know, and who care, and tell them how much we respect and admire them for what they have given to future generations.

Respectfully yours,  
Scott Brinkman  
Redmond, WA

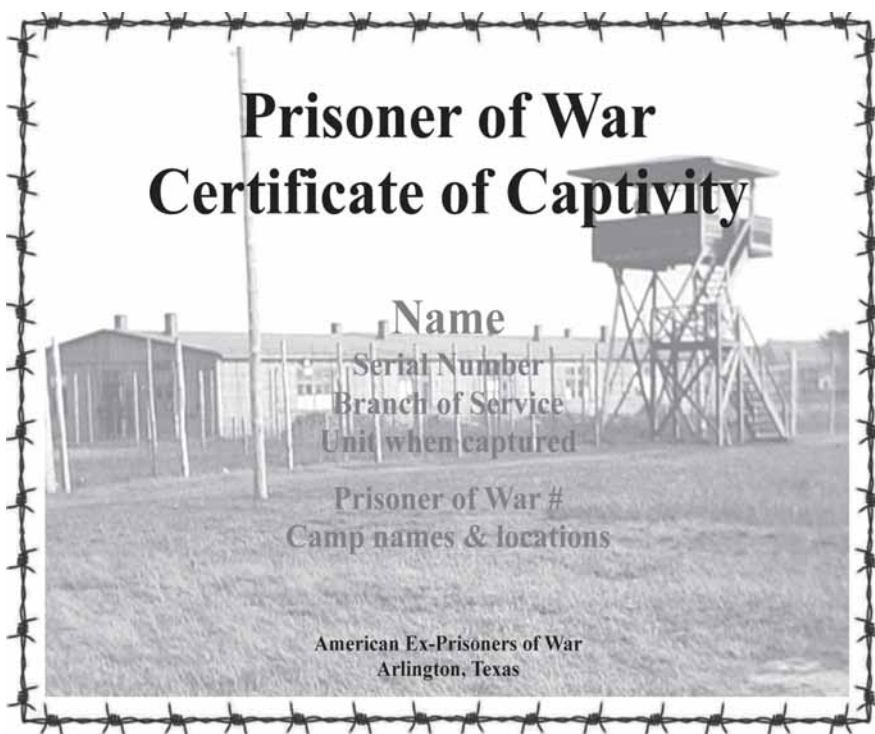
I'm a 46 year old American male (born 1962), I have three boys ages 16, 11, & 9, and have been married for over 18 years



# Certificate of Captivity

Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To purchase this certificate from AXPOW, send your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations, along with your payment of \$25.00. You may include a picture with your order.

Please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room.



## request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Life Membership Rates

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

### Annual Membership Rates

Single Membership	\$ 40
Husband & wife	\$ 50

### Mail to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5936  
(817) 649-2979 voice  
(817)649-0109 fax  
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org

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# contributions



Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 East  
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010. You can also  
make a donation with a credit card  
(MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-  
6492979. Thank you!

Contributions are not  
tax deductible at this time

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bette Witte, by Mary  
Ann Anderson  
In memory of Donald Dorman, by  
Ruth Dorman  
In memory of Edwin Grzywa, by  
Schlumberger IPC  
In memory of Frank Porell, by Carol  
Porell Cocheres  
In memory of Gordon Cox, by  
Dianne & Terry Hanlon (Miller  
Ford/Nissan)  
In memory of Joseph Venti Sr, by  
Richard & Roberta Ventimiglia  
In memory of Julia Markworth, by  
Maurice Markworth  
In memory of Paul Jurkovic, by  
Dorothy Jurkovic  
In memory of Staff Sgt Paul  
Bertram, by Mable Bertram  
Kennett, Mary Beth, LaPlata MD  
In memory of John 'Jack' Evans, by  
Joan Brown, Renee Watkins & Fam-  
ily, Ronald Brown & Family, Robert  
Brown & Family and Nancy Hummel  
& Family  
In memory of John 'Jack' Evans, by  
Ruth & Bill Dormer, Binny & Andy  
Elmes and Christ & Jeff Avey &  
Family  
In memory of Joseph Venti Sr, by  
Columbia Bank, Fair Lawn NJ

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In memory of Joseph Venti Sr, by  
Leisure Village West Bocce Club  
In memory of James A Caire, by  
Robert L Seitzinger

## BULLETIN

Haskel Yadlovker, Flushing NY

## LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of Irving Day Jr, by the  
Department of Maryland

## MEDSEARCH FUND

North Central Ohio Chapter  
In memory of Henry Dunning, by  
Phyllis Dunning  
In memory of Donat 'Don' Gouin,  
by the Northwest Central Ohio  
Chapter  
In memory of Elizabeth Woehlke, by  
the Department of Maryland

## NSO

In memory of Eric Biegler, by his  
loving widow, Rose  
In honor of Fred Campbell, by Sa-  
rah Jane Rodgers  
In memory of Luther Oakes, by the  
Department of Georgia

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Louis Staudenmeier  
PNC Jim & Chonita Cooper  
In memory of Kenneth Gordon, by  
son, Randy Gordon  
Tacoma Chapter  
In memory of Bill Fornes, by Laurel  
& Ray Reiersen  
In memory of our departed mem-  
bers, by the Vermont Chapter #1  
Mr/Mrs Merton L Jessen  
Maurice Markworth  
Helen P Beaven  
Edward H Wallner  
Walter Tyler  
Ernest & Edith Smith  
WR Matheny  
Frank Effinger  
Nicholas Zender  
Grant & Erma Jean Bird  
Mr/Mrs Charles McGhee  
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Francis Plumly  
Robert William Buntin  
Robert Seitzinger  
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Mable E Bertram  
Salvatore & Camille Crivelli  
PL Hertenstein  
Wayne & Margaret Porter  
PJ Rusha  
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NH  
WS Tyler  
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Dorman  
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Dean & Dorothy Christensen  
Frederic & Patricia Miller





# taps



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

**ANGLEN, George W**, age 84 of Columbia, MO passed away July 12, 2009. Shortly after graduating from high school he enlisted in the AAF. After his earning his wings, he trained as a pilot and his crew was known as "Anglen's Angels". He flew combat missions from England over Germany. After being shot down, he became a POW in Germany mainly at Stalag Luft 3. He survived the 4 month march from Poland to Moosburg Germany and was liberated by Gen Patton's forces. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Alice, and three sons. He was a member and treasurer of Central MO Chapter AX-POW.

**BLALOCK, William T**, of Salisbury, NC died July 25, 2009. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he was an ex-POW of World War II. He was chapter commander of the Hampton Roads POW chapter. Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years, Virginia Estelle, 2 sons, 2 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, 1 brother, 1 sister and nieces and nephews.

**BRANDANGER, Merlyn**, 86, of Pequot Lakes, MN died May 26, 2009. He was a member of Lakes Region Chapter, AXPOW (previously of Florida). He served with the AAF during WWII; he was captured in Germany and held 13 months. He leaves his wife, Shirley, 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

**BRAUN, William R. "Bill"** 87, of Old Fort, NC passed away June 8, 2009. During WWII, he was assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 461<sup>st</sup> BG, 764<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down on a mission over Ploesti, Rumania and he was captured. Bill served as commander of the WNC Chapter AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

**BRINSER, John William**, of Greeley, Colorado, died July 6, 2009. Assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 99<sup>th</sup> BG, 347<sup>th</sup> BS as a B-17 pilot, he was shot down and held as a POW in Luft 1. He is survived by his wife, Lorna, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 stepsons, 24 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**BURNS, Herbert**, of Rio, Wisconsin passed away April 12, 2009 at the age of 91. He was serving in the Army in the Philippines in WWII; he survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. Survivors include his beloved wife of 50 years, Marjorie and a large extended family and friends.

**CAIRE, James A.**, 90, of Biloxi, MS died June 17, 2009. During WWII, he served with the AAF as a member of the 27<sup>th</sup> BG. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 40 months of captivity in the Philippines and Japan. Jim was a life member of AXPOW, the MS Gulf Coast Chapter and ADBC. He leaves his devoted wife of 68 years, Anna and two sons.

**COPE, Ruby Sumner**, 82, of Chattanooga, TN died June 25, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, ex-POW Fred. Ruby and Fred were married 52 years before his death. She was a life member of AXPOW and the Chattanooga Chapter. She is survived by 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**CREECH, Ruby Grady** died July 14, 2009 in Goldsboro, NC. She was a member of the Coastal Plains Chapter in North Carolina. Ruby was the wife of the late Melvin Rudolph Creech. She leaves 2 daughters and 1 son.

**CRISSMAN, H. Glenn "Cris"**, 85 of Aberdeen, NC died February 21, 2009. He was in the Army Air Corps as a tail gunner on a B-24 in the 739<sup>th</sup> bomb squadron of the 454<sup>th</sup> bombardment group during WWII. He was a POW for almost 6 months in Germany. He was married to Elaine for 63 years. They had 7 children, 13 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

**FELSEN, Albert "Pancho"**, 89 years old, resident of Sierra Vista, AZ passed away June 8, 2009. Al was a WWII veteran and served in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines. When Japan captured those islands, some survivors of the defending armies were interned in Manchuria and Japan. Al was a prisoner for 3½ years, and was moved around to 8 Japanese prison camps. He served hard labor at Nippon Steel Mill. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Order of the Purple Heart, and American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. He is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 38 years, 2 sons, 6 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

**FONTAINE, Paul J.** 86, of Cumberland, RI died May 2, 2009. He was the husband of the late Ursula Fontaine. Paul was a POW during WWII in Germany. He was a member of the Rhode Island Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**FRANKEL, Daniel**, of Roswell, GA passed away March 23, 2009. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG and held as a POW

## taps continued...

in Stalag 7A. He was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his beloved wife of 60 years, Edna, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 granddaughters and 1 great-grandson.

**GIORDANO, Carl F.**, 92, of Crestline, OH died April 28, 2009. Carl was part of that special group landing at Omaha Beach; he fought in three battles during the crossing of the Moselle River before being captured. He was held at Stalag IIC until liberation. Carl was a life member of AXPOW. His wife, **Lillian GIORDANO** passed away 2 weeks after Carl on May 13, 2009. They are survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters.

**GOFF, Karl G.**, 87, of Bradenton, FL and Burton, OH died June 9, 2009. He served with the 703<sup>rd</sup> BS, 445<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF based in Tibbenham, England. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was captured, then force-marched before ending up in Stalag 7A. He was a member of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW. His wife of 60 years, Barbara, 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren survive him.

**HARRALSON, Richard A.**, beloved husband of Naomi, passed away April 20, 2009 at the age of 89. He was captured on Corregidor May 6, 1942, then held at Cabanatuan and Osaka Japan where he was forced into slave labor for Mitsubishi. He was a life member of AXPOW. In addition to his wife, Richard leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was dearly loved by all.

**HEROLD, Clement William "Bill"**, passed away June 17, 2009 in Sylacauga, AL. He is survived by Joanne, his loving wife of 58 years,

his sister, Betsy, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Bill was born in Baguio, P.I. on Oct. 2, 1927. Bill, Betsy and their parents were interned in the Philippines during WWII at Camp Holmes and Camp John Hay, Baguio. Bilibid Prison, Manila. He had been a life-member of AXPOW and Past Commander of the Cheaha Chapter, Alabama.

**HOOVER, Laura W.**, of Verona, MS died May 27, 2009. Laura was an active member of the Northeast MS Chapter, AXPOW. She and her late husband, Otho were friends of Princess Katherine of Rumania who helped so many POWs in that area during their internment. Survivors include 1 son and 2 grandchildren and many friends.

**JACKSON, Clark B.** died July 30, 2009. He served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force as bombardier on B-17s flying out of England until his aircraft was shot down on Black Thursday, Oct. 14, 1943. He was a POW at Stalag Luft III. Clark was a life member of AXPOW and the 49ers Chapter in Sacramento. He is survived by one son and three grandchildren.

**JONES, William H** of Bethany, OK passed away June 12, 2009. Bill was captured while serving in the Army in the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his wife Bernice, 1 daughter, 1 son and 3 grandchildren.

**KUTZ, John G., Sr.**, 89 died April 21, 2009. He was assigned to C Co., 151<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 326<sup>th</sup> Engineers Airborne Combat Paratroopers, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. He was a paratrooper on D-Day; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW until he escaped. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Olive, 1 son, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**LARSON, Kathleen**, 85, of Park Rapids, MN passed away May 8, 2009. She was a member of Lakes Region Chapter, AXPOW, serving as

its Chaplain for many years. She was the widow of ex-POW Melvin Larson, who was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. She leaves 6 children, 1 sister and 11 grandchildren.

**LEWIS, Frank Eugene**, of Mobile, AL died Jan. 30, 2009. He was a proud American and a brave soldier, proud of being an ex-POW. He is mourned by his wife of 57 years, Melba, and 2 sons.

**LILLIGREN, James P.**, member of the Fresno Chapter #1, passed away June 27, 2009. He was 87. During WWII, he served in Europe with the AAF. He was a POW there. James will be missed by his many friends.

**LOVELL, Cloral**, of Durant, Oklahoma, died in July, 2009. A member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, Cloral served in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tank Bn, Medical Detail. He was predeceased by his wife, Letha.

**MEDFORD, Howard D.**, 88, member of the James L Hale Memorial Chapter, AXPOW died June 21, 2009. During WWII, he served in England with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was shot down and taken prisoner. Survivors include 1 grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

**NORRIS, Alvi D.** of Danville, IL passed away June 17, 2009. He was captured in Korea while serving with the Army; he was held in Camps 3 & 5 for 33 months. Alvi was a member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 33 years, Marlene, 3 children and many grandchildren.

**OPP, Harry**, of Hazelton, ND, died May 11, 2009. A radio operator and waist gunner on a B-24 bomber, he was shot down over the Ploesti oil fields. He was captured and held POW until 1943. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene.

**PACK, Okey Dent**, 92, of Huntington, WV passed away June 16, 2009. He served in the Army Air Force and was captured on Bataan; he en-

## taps continued...

duced 3 ½ years in POW camps. Survivors include 1 daughter, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**PETROSKI, Henry "Hank"**, of Akron, Ohio, died July 8, 2009. He was a top turret gunner in the 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 2<sup>nd</sup> BG, 429<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held in Stalags 17A and 17B. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

**POCHE, Elmo James**, 85, of Powhatan, LA passed away April 19, 2009. He was a US Army veteran in WWII; he was captured and held in Stalag 2B in Germany for 18 months. He leaves his loving wife of 62 years, Betty Jo, 1 daughter 1 son, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and 2 brothers.

**REYNOLDS, Eleanor**, of Worcester, MA died July 1, 2009 surrounded by family. She is survived by her loving husband and partner of 69 years, Leo J Reynolds, 4 daughters, 2 sisters, 22 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, and a large and loving extended family. Eleanor was an active member of the Department of Massachusetts and the Central MA Chapter, AXPOW. She will be missed by her family and friends.

**ROBINSON, Chauncey L**, 88, of Hot Springs, AR passed away July 17, 2009. Bob enlisted in the Navy in January, 1941; he was stationed in the Philippines. He was captured in Manila, then held in Bilibid Prison, Cabanatuan, then later transferred by hellship to Japan, Camp #17, Fukuoka. Rob was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife of 63 years, Gloria, and devoted daughter.

**RUBENSTEIN, Arthur L.**, 84, of Canton, OH died June 11, 2009. He served his country bravely as an Army infantryman in the 78<sup>th</sup> Div. He was taken prisoner in the Battle

of the Bulge. Survivors include his loving wife of 62 years, Ruth, 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

**SALVATI, Peter E.**, 84, of Johnston, RI passed away June 27, 2009. He was an Army veteran of WWII; and an ex-POW for 15 months. Peter was a member of the Rhode Island Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 son, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 3 sisters and 1 brother.

**SPENCER, Albert E.**, 84, of Harrisville, RI died Aug. 29, 2006. During WWII, he served in the Army and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Rhode Island Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

**SPRUIELL, Dewey L.**, of Tyler, TX passed away May 25, 2009. He was 86. During WWII, Dewey was captured in the Philippines and was a Bataan Death March survivor. He was a POW for 3 ½ years. He was a great man and loved by many. He is survived by one daughter, 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**STEPHENS, Pauline**, widow of former POW Roy Valton Stephens, died July 21, 2009 at the age of 84. She lived in Tahoka, TX and was a member of the Hub of the Plains Chapter, AXPOW. Roy was a POW in the Japanese theater of the war, and he was a member also of the Survivors of Wake and Guam. She is survived by two children.

**STEVENS, Ruby M. (Weatherbee)**, 81, of Ashland, Ohio, died August 9, 2009. A member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, she was the wife of Porter Stevens, an Ex-POW in Germany.

**SUBLETT, H.W. 'Bill'**, of Houston, Texas, formerly of Big Spring, died August 1, 2009. Bill served his country in the Marines. He was captured on Corregidor and held cap-

tive 3 ½ years. Bill was an AXPOW life member since 1982, and was a member of the Permian Basin Chapter. He is survived by two children. His wife, Lorraine, predeceased him.

**SWEIBERG, James Joel**, of Vancouver, WA passed away March 15, 2009 at the age of 92. He was a carpenter on Wake Island when the island was attacked. He and other civilians immediately came to the assistance of the US Marines in defense of Wake. They were captured on Dec. 23, 1941 and he spent 3 years and 10 months in POW camps in China and Japan. His brother, Norman (who was captured on Wake with him) survives; he also leaves 3 children and several grandchildren.

**TIMPANARO, Jack "Tippy"**, 85, of Brick, NJ died Feb. 3, 2009. He served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 99<sup>th</sup> BG, 346<sup>th</sup> BS, flying out of Italy. His plane was shot down and he was captured and held in Stalag Luft III. He was a member of the New Jersey Chapter. His wife, Virginia, 1 son, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren survive him.

**UMSTOTT, Paul W.**, of McLean, VA passed away June 19, 2009 at the age of 85. During WWII, he served in the Army with the 117<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Cavalry. He was captured in France and held in POW camps in Germany. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Carolyn, 2 daughters, 2 sisters and 2 grandchildren.

**VINSON, Ralph Dean** of Whitney and Waco, Texas passed away July 3, 2009. He was 87 years old. He served in the 461<sup>st</sup> BG, 15<sup>th</sup> AF. His plane was shot down on Oct. 3, 1944 on a bombing mission over Munich. He survived the long march across Germany and Poland in the dead of winter. He leaves four sons and one daughter.

## taps continued...

**WALLACE, Henry J.**, 91, of Pawtucket, RI died April 20, 2009. He was captured while serving with the Army Air Corps in the Philippines. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years imprisonment. He was a member of the Rhode Island Chapter, AXPOW and ADPC. He is survived by 1 son, 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

**WEATHERMAN, Betty H.** 73, of North Augusta, SC died June 11, 2009. For 55 years, she was the loving wife of Carl Weatherman. He is a Korean ex-POW, held in Camps 5 & 3. She leaves behind 2 daughters, 2 sons and 7 grandchildren.

**WHITTENBURG, Floyd**, of Riverside, California, passed away November 27, 2008. After enduring the Bataan Death March, he spent the next 3 ½ years in several prison camps. In December 1944, he was loaded onto the Oroyku Maru, the last Japanese hellship to leave Manila. He arrived in Japan, then later was sent to prison camps in Jinsen, Korea, where he was liberated.

**WITT, Bette**, of Windom, Minnesota, died July 6, 2009. A member of the Prairieland Chapter, she was the widow of Kenneth, a POW in Stalag 4B.

**YOUNG, Laurence A. "Tiny"** of Weymouth, MA passed away August 6, at the age of 63. He was also a proud career member of the U.S. Army, M/Sgt-E-8 Retired, a decorated member of Special Forces, and a select member of the 56 Raiders of Son Tay in 1970. He was the loving father of one son, one daughter, two grandsons and one sister. He was also beloved by many friends and family, and was the one who was always doing for others, rather than for himself.

**ZUMSTEIN, Harry James** passed away on July 16, 2009 at the age of 85. He joined the Army in December 1942. After WWII and his time as a POW, he proudly continued serving our country in the Air Force until June 1974. Harry leaves behind his legacy of courage, honor and loyalty in God, family and country. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marjorie, 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Harry was a Life Mem-

ber of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and a long time member of the Tacoma Chapter.

### Ode to the POW

I was young and I was brave  
My nation called  
And I was ready

I left my family and my friends  
Trained to be my best  
And become my nation's elite

I flew the skies  
Trode the land  
And sailed the seas

I did my best  
Kept my word  
And paid the price

I never asked why  
Never gave up  
And never lost faith

My prayers were answered  
I finally came home  
We all came home, one and all

For as long as we remember  
Those who paid the ultimate  
price  
We can truly say they all came  
home

*Al Padilla, San Diego VARO  
Public Relations (Ret.)*

## national chaplain



James H. Beaver  
22644 Montego Bay Road  
Abingdon, VA 24211  
(276) 623-0875

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### Spiritual Sight II Kings 6: 13-17

The King of Syria was pursuing Elisha, the Man of God. He was told that Elisha was at Dothan. So the King sent his army to Dothan to bring Elisha to him. When the Servant of the Man of God was risen early one morning and had gone forth; behold a host of Syria compassed the city with horses and chariots. Elisha's servant said unto him, What shall we do? Elisha answered and said, fear not for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And he prayed and said, "Lord I pray thee, open my servant's eyes that he may see," and the Lord opened the young man's spiritual eyes and behold the

mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha.

Spiritual vision is so important; it helps us beyond the natural and see in our minds, not only what is, but also what can be. God gave the victory over Syria.

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would open our spiritual eyes that we may know you better and live for you, a better life. AMEN.

*Rev. James H. Beaver*  
REV. JAMES H. BEAVER



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(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

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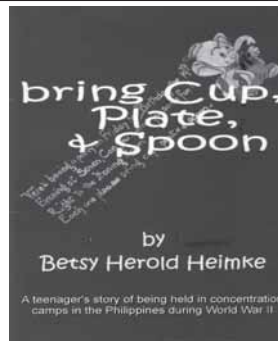
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BAD-05-08-11323

On Monday morning, 8 December 1941, we Brent School kids wildly cheered to a formation of air planes flying directly to Tokyo,, "Go to there and bomb it to smithereens!"

Several hours later we heard big BOOM-BOOM and saw thick black smoke rising from Camp John Hay... the American Army base in Baguio, Philippines. The sun played a trick on us so we couldn't see the big, round red "rotten fried egg" under the wings. Suddenly it dawned on us that those planes were Japanese. Twenty days later we were captured, ordered to meet at Brent School for a 3 hour or 3 day meeting that actually lasted for over three yreas of starvation, depravation, humiliation. Lacking utensliis in the Prison Camp, and for the few birthday parties, we had to tell our guests to bring CUP, PLATE AND SPOON.

BRING CUP, PLATE AND SPOON available from author: Betsy Herold Heimke  
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## 50/50 drawing

March 6, 2009  
Arlington, Texas

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

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:  
**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing**  
**3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40**  
**Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

### They Experienced Living Hell as POWs.

#### SILENT TEARS Lest We Forget



by  
STANLEY TOKARZ

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

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

send check or money order:

**\$25.00**

Stanley R. Tokarz  
70 Briarwood Circle  
Worcester, MA 01606



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[lbeeth@hotmail.com](mailto:lbeeth@hotmail.com)

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# new members

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



## Annual Members Welcome Home

Terry O Timar  
Granada Hills CA  
Son of John Timar, ETO

Harry Shevchuck  
Joyce  
Wilmington DE  
29 Inf Div 175 Reg Co L 1 Platoon  
12, 12A, 7A  
10/4/44-4/30/45

Harry Cecil Rodecape  
Fulton MO  
34 Reg 24 Div  
Marched, Escaped  
7/12/50-9/28/50

## Life Members Welcome Home

**\*new member to AXPOW**

Morton Gollin  
Alice 39560 39561  
Cathedral City, CA  
AAF  
Luft 3, 7A  
8/7/44-4/29/45

George H Bennett  
Angeline 39562 39563  
Columbus, OH  
15AF, 340BG, 97BS  
Luft 1  
9/13/44-5/11/45

Andrew M Bardagjy  
Helen 39564 39565  
Austin, TX  
L Co 411 INF 103 DIV  
Baden Baden, 5A, Ludwigsburg,  
Dulag, 11B

Carolyn Howie Boyle  
Peter 39566 39567  
San Francisco, CA  
Daughter of Dorothy Howie

Born 3 months after mother was  
liberated

Matthew Robert McGuire  
Marilyn I 39568 39569  
Sacramento, CA  
385 BG 550 BS  
Luft 1  
3/23/44-5/15/45

Rose Marie Friend 39603  
La Vale, MD  
Widow of Chauncey Friend  
Luft 4

Matilda Krupitsch 39604  
Bethpage, NY  
Widow of Willy Krupitsch  
Luft 1

Gene Qualmann \*39605  
Sun Prairie, WI  
Son of Helmuth Qualmann, ETO



Albert F Hamilton 39606  
Columbia SC  
CO K 351 Reg 88 Div  
7A  
9/24/44-7/21/45

Donald Everett McKenzie \*39607

Acampo CA  
AAC  
13, 7°  
2/7/45-4/29/45

Elsie Valeski \*39608  
Seymour CT  
Widow of Stanley  
Walesczyk  
Stalag 4, March  
6/23/44-5/45

Thomas D'Alcarno \*39609  
Staten Island, NY  
CO C 180 Inf 45 Div  
Stalag 2B  
9/30/44-4/12/45

Alexander Kreizer  
Adrienne 28401 39610  
Fairfield, CT  
CO L 19 Reg 24 Div  
Camp 3 KOREA

Ellen Manganelli 39611  
Massena NY  
Widow of Anthony  
Manganelli

Harry Jay Carroll \* 39612  
Lubbock TX  
Son of Harry J Carroll, ETO

Carol J Graff \*39613  
Sacramento CA  
Widow of Arthur Graff  
Fukuoka, Kashii, Kyushu  
Island

Sherilynn Timar Paul  
Robert \*39614 39615  
Granada Hills CA  
Daughter of John Timar,  
ETO

### Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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

(includes shipping and handling)

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

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

Mail orders to:

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

### AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

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

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	8.00	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
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
Black Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	USA Jeweled Pin	15.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00
Canvas Sport Cap (offwhite or tan)	10.00	Logo Necklace	5.00	3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Logo Earrings (pierced or clip)	5.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	7.00
Necktie w/logo	25.00	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	15.00	3" Blazer Patch	4.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	19.00	4" Blazer Patch	4.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel with cord	9.00	<b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)	3.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
Barbed Wire pin	3.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
Life Member pin	5.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	5.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Brooch pin	5.00	State Department Commander		AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
Logo pin	5.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	Service Officer · Legislative Officer		"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00

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QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

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For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

**Total: \$**

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR**  
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**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**  
**817-649-2979**  
**axpowqm@aol.com**

## *Agua Fria Chapter*



Vermont Chapter #1 members have been participating in the Rutland Loyalty Day Parade for 19 years. L/R: Richard Hamilton, Francis Angier, Bill Busier & Walt Zaluzny; PFC Cecil E Shay was honored June 6, 2009 with a presentation of Military Awards which he had earned in WWII and never received. The medals were presented by State Cmdr. Okla Edgell and SVC Edgewood Summit of West Virginia; During the Great Depression, the men and women of Ashland, PA decided to honor their mothers. They dedicated a statue of Whistler's Mother on Sept. 4, 1938. Shown are: Louis & Wynn Staudenmeier with grandsons Joseph & Patrick Labas.





### 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"

**\$13.00 plus s/h**



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

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway,  
Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
Or fax: (817) 649-0109  
e-mail: [Marsha.coke@axpow.org](mailto:Marsha.coke@axpow.org)

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No collect calls, please