

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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October/November/December 2018



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Honor. Remember. Respect.

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



WWI
100
YEARS

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2018



va.gov



October-December 2018

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Sad news. Our National Commander Charles Susino, Jr. passed away in New Jersey. Past National Commanders Carroll Bogard, James Lollar and Alex Salinas also died. And finally, life member and friend of AXPOW, Sen. John McCain, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Their obituaries are with their comrades in this issue's TAPS.

TAPS Additions from last issue:

Sascha Jean (Weinzheimer) Jansen. In 1942 she and her immediate family were interned in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in northern Manila where they spent three years as civilian prisoners of the Japanese.

Robert Ehrart. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve; he was activated in April 1941 and shipped to the Philippines. Therese "Terry" Wadsworth Warne. Terry was a civilian living with her parents on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines when WWII started.

For their complete obituaries, please see the July-Sept EX-POW Bulletin.

COVER: Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 400,000 active duty service members, veterans and their families. Service to country is the common thread that binds all who are remembered and honored at Arlington.

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Deadline for the Jan-Mar 2019 issue is Dec 1, 2018.

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

From the
Directors &
Officers:

We wish you
and yours
peace for this
holiday season



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Oct-Dec 2018



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National Sr. Vice Commander Ted Cadwallader

In my position as Senior Vice Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of war (AXPOW) and, in the wake of the passing of our National Commander Charles Susino, Jr, I have been asked to make a statement for this issue of the *Ex-POW Bulletin*.



National Commander (NC) Charles Susino, Jr. has passed from the scene and leaves us with his vital, living legacy in the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was a leader in AXPOW on virtually every level and was currently serving his second NC term in an extended term. Charles represented the interests of all of us, particularly those who served in WW II, as he did. Please see the Taps section of this Bulletin for a description of his full, active life. We will miss Charles and continue to respect all he stood for.

My membership in this organization is due to my status as a civilian ex-internee.

Let me briefly describe my background. Being born in the Philippine Islands my age was just over three years on December 7, 1941. The Japanese invaded the Philippines shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack. On January 2, 1942 the capitol city of Manila was occupied by main forces of the 14th Imperial Japanese Army under the command of LTG Masaharu Homma. Immediately "enemy aliens," American, English, Australian, and other civilian nationalities representing nations at war with Japan were rounded up, some at the point of more than one bayonet, and ordered to report to the 50 acre campus of the University of Santo Tomas in the north part of Manila with few personal belongings or food. Some of the internees were sure we would be released or liberated by the American Army in 2-3 weeks. Many of the internees, including my immediate family, were to spend 37 months as civilian prisoners of the Japanese in the concentration camp eventually referred to as the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Some of us were killed, some died of malnutrition, most lost homes and holdings, and all of us suffered. History reveals military POWs of the Japanese suffered terribly and died en masse in the Philippines.

As noted above, my current title is listed as Senior Vice Commander of this organization until such time as the AXPOW Board of Directors may designate a revised leadership organizational structure serving under the guidance of our CEO, David Eberly.

news from hq



Clydie Morgan, COO

Welcome to Fall! After a long and hot summer, it is welcome.

We have such good news. After much work and effort, AXPOW is now a donation deductible charity. All donations, gifts and bequeathments are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. AXPOW is now a C3 charity. Now is the time to go out for big donations from local businesses and companies. We are now supporting several scholarships administered through the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia. This is also the home to the National Prisoner of War Museum. It would be nice to, one day, be able to expand the museum to open it up for researchers and students. Keeping the POW story alive and relevant is a main goal of AXPOW. Being a C3 charity will help us reach this goal.

It is time to renew your annual dues to AXPOW. You will receive a notice in the mail later this year but doing it now saves AXPOW time and money.

We still offer Certificates of Captivity and Challenge Coins for sale. The coins are \$13 and make nice gifts and tokens of appreciation. The certificates make a nice gift for the former prisoner of war and their families. They are \$25 and can include a photo of the former POW. See the pages in this magazine for more information.

If you name AXPOW in your will, please use our post office box number as the address:

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from the CEO



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Lest We Never Forget

A couple years ago I made reference to the Doolittle Raiders' Last Man Standing tradition wherein a prized bottle of Hennessy VS cognac was set aside to be opened by the last surviving member of their historic squadron. In the spirit of camaraderie, however it was shared earlier on November 9, 2013 by the final four airmen at The Air Force Museum. Then, finally that day came for Lt. Col. Richard Cole, when he alone raised his silver goblet and toasted his squadron mates.

Lest we never forget these heroes.

Sadly, in this Bulletin you will read the memorial to our Commander Charles Susino Jr. and three Past National Commanders: PNC Lollar, PNC Bogard, and PNC Salinas. It is fitting that we lovingly salute these men as AXPOW leaders, and also the gallant manner in which they served our country. Our greatest generation members share no common unit patch and now span the globe. For them we must individually raise a toast and continue to show our love and

appreciation for their service and return with honor.

Lest we never forget these leaders and those who served along side them.

As I write this, our Daily Press ran a front-page story paying tribute to another member of the greatest generation. Pvt. 1st Class Robert White of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment was just awarded a Bronze Star after nearly 75 years for his heroic actions during D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. My point in relating this local news is to remind you that while our heroes are falling fast, there are still those comparatively few among us that must be recognized, listened to, and hailed as soldiers, sailors, and airmen who did things we may never have imagined to guarantee our freedoms.

Lest we never forget those who have served.

Finally, as members of AXPOW and NOK (next of kin), we must continue to pay tribute to those who have the courage to serve today. The women and men who put on the uniform are making tremendous sacrifice.

Lest we never forget those who serve today.

David



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392.

What Is Peripheral Neuropathy?

The name of the condition tells you a bit about what it is: Peripheral: Beyond (in this case, beyond the brain and the spinal cord.) Neuro-: Related to the nerves - Pathy: Disease

Peripheral neuropathy refers to the conditions that result when nerves that carry messages to and from the brain and spinal cord from and to the rest of the body are damaged or diseased.

The peripheral nerves make up an intricate network that connects the brain and spinal cord to the muscles, skin, and internal organs. Peripheral nerves come out of the spinal cord and are arranged along lines in the body called dermatomes. Typically, damage to a nerve will affect one or more dermatomes, which can be tracked to specific areas of the body. Damage to these nerves interrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body and can impair muscle movement, prevent normal sensation in the arms and legs, and cause pain.

Types of Peripheral Neuropathy

There are several different kinds of peripheral neuropathies that stem from a variety of causes. They range from carpal tunnel syndrome (a traumatic injury common after chronic repetitive use of the hands and wrists, such as with

computer use) to nerve damage linked to diabetes.

As a group, peripheral neuropathies are common, especially among people over the age of 55. All together, the conditions affect 3% to 4% of people in this group. Neuropathies are typically classified according to the problems they cause or what is at the root of the damage. There also are terms that express how extensively the nerves have been damaged.

Mononeuropathy

Damage to a single peripheral nerve is called mononeuropathy. Physical injury or trauma such as from an accident is the most common cause. Prolonged pressure on a nerve, caused by extended periods of being sedentary (such as sitting in a wheelchair or lying in bed), or continuous, repetitive motions, can trigger a mononeuropathy.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a common type of mononeuropathy. It is called an overuse strain injury, which occurs when the nerve that travels through the wrist is compressed. People whose work requires repeated motions with the wrist (such as assembly-line workers, physical laborers, and those who use computer keyboards for prolonged periods) are at greater risk.

The damage to the nerve can result in numbness, tingling, unusual sensations, and pain in the first three fingers on the thumb side of the hand. The person may awaken at night with numbness in their

hand or discover that when they perform activities like using a hair dryer, the numbness is more noticeable. In time, carpal tunnel injuries can weaken the muscles in the hand. You may also feel pain, tingling, or burning in your arm and shoulder.

Here are examples of other mononeuropathies that can cause weakness in the affected parts of the body, such as hands and feet:

Ulnar nerve palsy occurs when the nerve that passes close to the surface of the skin at the elbow is damaged. The numbness is noted in the 4th and 5th digit of the hand. Radial nerve palsy is caused by injury to the nerve that runs along the underside of the upper arm and can occur with fractures of the humerus bone in the upper part of the arm.

Peroneal nerve palsy results when the nerve at the top of the calf on the outside of the knee is compressed. This leads to a condition called "foot drop," in which it becomes difficult to lift the foot.

Neuropathy can affect nerves that control muscle movement (motor nerves) and those that detect sensations such as coldness or pain (sensory nerves). In some cases, it can affect internal organs, such as the heart, blood vessels, bladder, or intestines. Neuropathy that affects internal organs is called an autonomic neuropathy. This rare condition can cause low blood pressure or problems with sweating.

Polyneuropathy

Polyneuropathy accounts for the greatest number of peripheral neuropathy cases. It occurs when multiple peripheral nerves throughout the body malfunction at the

medsearch, cont'd...

same time. Polyneuropathy can have a wide variety of causes, including exposure to certain toxins such as with alcohol abuse, poor nutrition (particularly vitamin B deficiency), and complications from diseases such as cancer or kidney failure.

One of the most common forms of chronic polyneuropathy is diabetic neuropathy, a condition that occurs in people with diabetes. It is more severe in people with poorly controlled blood sugar levels. Though less common, diabetes can also cause a mononeuropathy.

The most common symptoms of polyneuropathy are:

- Tingling
- Numbness
- Loss of sensation in the arms and legs
- A burning sensation in the feet or hands

Because people with chronic polyneuropathy often lose their ability to sense temperature and pain, they can burn themselves and develop open sores as the result of injury or prolonged pressure. If the nerves serving the organs are involved, diarrhea or constipation may result, as well as loss of bowel or bladder control. Sexual dysfunction and abnormally low blood pressure also can occur.

One of the most serious polyneuropathies is Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare disease that strikes suddenly when the body's immune system attacks nerves in the body just as they leave the spinal cord. Symptoms tend to appear quickly and worsen rapidly, sometimes leading to paralysis. Early symp-

toms include weakness and tingling that eventually may spread upward into the arms. Blood pressure problems, heart rhythm problems, and breathing difficulty may occur in the more severe cases. However, despite the severity of the disease, recovery rates are good when patients receive treatment early.

Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy is a chronic form of Guillain-Barre where the symptoms continue for months

tion. Known causes of acquired neuropathies include:

- Diabetes
- Several rare inherited diseases
- Alcoholism
- Poor nutrition or vitamin deficiency
- Certain kinds of cancer and chemotherapy used to treat them
- Conditions where nerves are mistakenly attacked by the body's own immune system or damaged by an overaggressive response to injury
- Certain medications
- Kidney or thyroid disease
- Infections such as Lyme disease, shingles, or AIDS

Hereditary neuropathies are not as common. Hereditary neuropathies are diseases of the peripheral nerves that are genetically passed from parent to child. The most common of these is Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1. It is characterized by weakness in the legs and, to a lesser degree, the arms — symptoms that usually appear between mid-childhood and age 30.

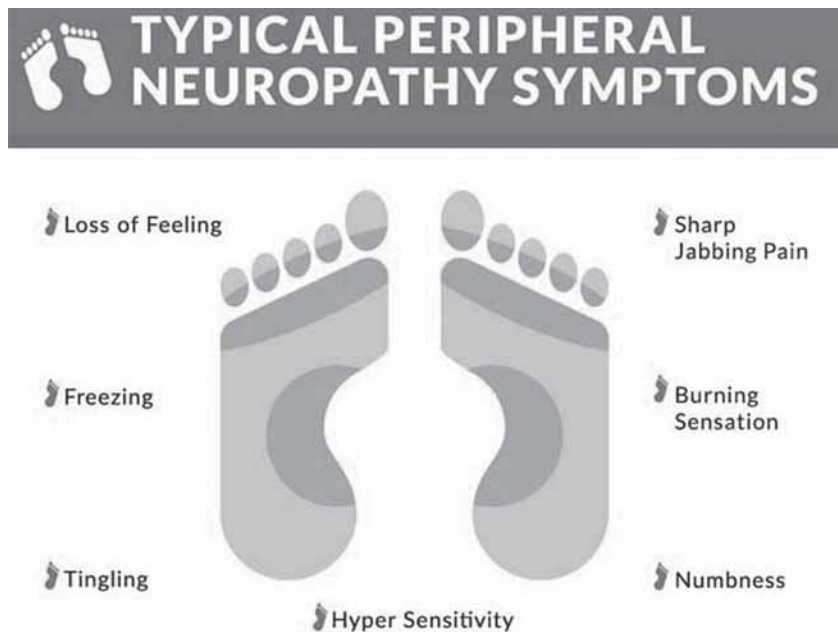
This disease is caused by degeneration of the insulation that normally surrounds the nerves and helps them conduct the electrical impulses needed for them to trigger muscle movement.

Idiopathic neuropathies are from an unknown cause. As many as one-third of all neuropathies are classified in this way.

Complications

Complications of peripheral neuropathy can include:

- Burns and skin trauma. You might not feel temperature changes or pain on parts of your body that are numb.
- Infection. Your feet and other areas lacking sensation can become injured without your knowing. Check these areas



and even years. Early diagnosis and treatment is crucial for CIDP patients, 30% of which risk eventually being confined to a wheelchair.

What Causes Peripheral Neuropathy?

There are many factors that can cause peripheral neuropathies, so it is often difficult to pinpoint the origin. Neuropathies occur by one of three methods:

Acquired neuropathies are caused by environmental factors such as toxins, trauma, illness, or infec-

medsearch, cont'd...

regularly and treat minor injuries before they become infected, especially if you have diabetes mellitus.

Falls. Weakness and loss of sensation may be associated with lack of balance and falling.

Prevention

Manage underlying conditions

The best way to prevent peripheral neuropathy is to manage medical conditions that put you at risk, such as diabetes, alcoholism or rheumatoid arthritis.

Make healthy lifestyle choices

For example:

Eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein to keep nerves healthy. Protect against vitamin B-12 deficiency by eating meats, fish, eggs, low-fat dairy foods and fortified cereals. If you're vegetarian or vegan, fortified cereals are a good source of vitamin B-12, but talk to your doctor about B-12 supplements.

Exercise regularly. With your doctor's OK, try to get at least 30 minutes to one hour of exercise at least three times a week.

Avoid factors that may cause nerve damage, including repetitive motions, cramped positions, exposure to toxic chemicals, smoking and overindulging in alcohol.

Diagnosis

Peripheral neuropathy has many potential causes. Besides a physical exam, which may include blood tests, diagnosis usually requires:

A full medical history. Your doctor will review your medical history, including your symptoms, your lifestyle, exposure to tox-

ins, drinking habits and a family history of nervous system (neurological) diseases.

Neurological examination. Your doctor might check your tendon reflexes, your muscle strength and tone, your ability to feel certain sensations, and your posture and coordination.

Your doctor may order tests, including:

Blood tests. These can detect vitamin deficiencies, diabetes, abnormal immune function and other indications of conditions that can cause peripheral neuropathy.

Imaging tests. CT or MRI scans can look for herniated disks, tumors or other abnormalities.

Nerve function tests. Electromyography records electrical activity in your muscles to detect nerve damage. A probe sends electrical signals to a nerve, and an electrode placed along the nerve's pathway records the nerve's response to the signals (nerve conduction studies).

Other nerve function tests. These might include an autonomic reflex screen that records how the autonomic nerve fibers work, a sweat test, and sensory tests that record how you feel touch, vibration, cooling and heat.

Nerve biopsy. This involves removing a small portion of a nerve, usually a sensory nerve, to look for abnormalities.

Skin biopsy. Your doctor removes a small portion of skin to look for a reduction in nerve endings.

Treatment

Treatment goals are to manage the condition causing your neuropathy and to relieve symptoms. If your lab tests indicate no underlying condition, your doctor

might recommend watchful waiting to see if your neuropathy improves.

Medications

Besides medications used to treat conditions associated with peripheral neuropathy, medications used to relieve peripheral neuropathy signs and symptoms include:

Over-the-counter pain relievers.

Medications containing opioids.

Anti-seizure medications.

Topical treatments.

Antidepressants.

Therapies

Various therapies and procedures might help ease the signs and symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS). Electrodes placed on the skin deliver a gentle electric current at varying frequencies. TENS should be applied for 30 minutes daily for about a month.

Plasma exchange and intravenous immune globulin. These procedures, which help suppress immune system activity, might benefit people with certain inflammatory conditions. Plasma exchange involves removing your blood, then removing antibodies and other proteins from the blood and returning the blood to your body. In immune globulin therapy, you receive high levels of proteins that work as antibodies (immunoglobulins).

Physical therapy. If you have muscle weakness, physical therapy can help improve your movements.

Surgery. If you have neuropathies caused by pressure on nerves, such as pressure from tumors, you might need surgery to reduce the pressure.

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Congress is busy trying to get re-elected this year, but a few items are worth noting. In November, all members of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate is up for election.

A couple of highlights from the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 that could be of interest:

Medals and Awards

Atomic Veterans

The law creates a new "Atomic Veterans Service Certificate", to honor retired and former members of the Armed Forces who are radiation-exposed veterans. Since most Atomic Veterans are pretty old, or have passed (the testing ended in 1962), this certificate will also be available to family members.

Military Working Dog Handlers

The law will create a medal and commendation that will be available to military working dog handlers.

Additional Provisions

MWR (AAFES) Use for Veterans

Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, service-connected disabled veterans,

and family caregivers will be eligible to use MWR retail and lodging facilities starting in 2020. They may have to pay a surcharge. No word on how base access will be worked out for those who don't already have it.

Space-A Travel

Totally disabled veterans are now eligible for Space-A travel.

Veteran Bills Before Congress

It is important to know that if these bills are not passed and signed by the end of term, they will need to be reintroduced again with the new Congress

H.R.303/S.66 (Retired Pay Restoration Act) Referred to Committees: Armed Services; Veterans Affairs

H.R.4106/S.1990 (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2017) Referred to Committees: Veterans Affairs

H.R.333 (Disabled Veteran's Tax Termination Act) Referred to Committees: Armed Services; Veterans Affairs

H.R.3272 (Veteran Education Empowerment Act) Referred to Committee: Veterans Affairs

H.R.4571 (Fair Access to Insurance for Retired [FAIR] Heroes Act of 2017) Referred to Committees: Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means.

S.591 (Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act) Referred to Committee: Veterans Affairs. See also S.2193

S.1198 (Veterans Care Financial Protection Act) Referred to Committee: Veterans Affairs.

S.2117 (Fair Access to Insurance [FAIR] Heroes Act of 2017) Referred to Committee: Veterans Affairs.

S.2193 (Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017) Referred to Full Senate.

VA Mission Act

The VA MISSION Act is the most massive comprehensive health care reform bill passed out of Congress in over 25 years. It was signed into law by President Donald Trump on June 6, 2018. VA has quietly begun working on implementing these major changes but recognizes it can't do so without veterans' help.

VA wants to know what questions veterans have about the VA MISSION Act as VA moves forward in rolling out these huge health system changes. While the veteran service organizations (VSO) have started working with VA to implement the legislation, veterans are central to making the transformation smooth and in helping the department meet the very tight deadline mandated by Congress.

Passage of the VA MISSION Act signaled Congress' readiness to implement major changes in VA's health care system - seen by some congressional leaders as long overdue reform.

legislation, cont'd...

One of the most significant changes veterans will see in the next few months is the elimination of the Veterans Choice Program, established in 2014, to provide temporary relief and help VA rebuild internal capacity to reduce long wait times for veterans seeking health care. A new, streamlined community care program will replace Choice and consolidate multiple community care programs currently managed by VA into a single program.

A few other major changes veterans can expect to see are:

The expansion of VA's comprehensive caregiver support program, opening up the program to eligible pre-9/11 veterans;

Veterans and their doctors will be able to decide the best option on where the veteran should get their care, whether inside VA or in the community;

More telehealth programs; and,

Walk-in health care services with local community providers.

What would normally take three to five years to implement such massive system changes, Congress gave VA one year from the enactment of the MISSION Act to replace the Choice Program and two years to implement the caregiver program expansion.

Late in August, the VA gave VSOs a little peek under the tent as to the rough timelines the department is working under to combine and implement the new commu-

nity care program and walk-in care services over the next year.

Here's generally what they know:

- Phase 1, June - October 2018. Build the operating structure, access and eligibility criteria, new veteran care contract agreements, and new competency standards for community providers; and, draft regulations.

- Phase 2, November 2018 - February 2019. Complete and test the operating structure and elements initiated in Phase 1; continue rollout of the new community care provider network; begin educating and training VA staff; and, finalized regulations.

- Phase 3, March - June 2019. Transition and begin operation of the new walk-in care and community care program; continue educating VA staff; continue rollout of new community care provider network; begin using new competency standards for community providers; publish regulations; and, end the Choice Program.

Recovery Operations from North Korea

\$10M To Cover Anticipated Increased Workload

On Aug. 21, 2018, Senate lawmakers backed adding \$10 million to their defense budget plans for next year to offset what they

hope will be more expenses related to returning the remains of fallen U.S. combat troops from North Korea in the near future. The move, part of the fiscal 2019 defense budget debate in the Senate follows a similar move by House lawmakers in June and all but guarantees a hefty boost for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency if both chambers can settle on a defense spending plan by the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1st.

Provision sponsor Sen. Deb Fischer (NE) said the move will ensure that DPAA officials will have the resources needed in coming months to increase their workload and processing as negotiations with North Korea progress. "For the families of those lost, this is a long-awaited opportunity to gain closure and to give their loved ones the respectful, dignified remembrance they deserve," she said on the Senate floor just before the 85-0 vote. "For the families of those lost in service, it is never too late to offer closure, and for our heroes in uniform, it is never too late to remember and to honor their sacrifice."

More than 35,000 Americans died on the Korean Peninsula during the war, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. Of those, 7,700 are still listed as missing in action, with 5,300 believed to be on North Korean soil.

The \$675 billion Senate defense appropriations bill, in line with House spending levels and previously agreed upon bipartisan budget levels for fiscal 2019, is expected to be passed by senators later this week as part of a package with education and Health and Human Services funding legislation.

andersonville



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Andersonville National Historic Site continues recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the National Prisoner of War Museum throughout 2018. Park Guide Jennifer Hopkins and Museum Curator Bridget Beers selected a number of objects from the park's collection to highlight through social media posts and a special temporary exhibit. The exhibit will contain items from various conflicts that depict clothing, everyday utensils, items created from prisoner ingenuity, and diaries and drawings of camp life. The exhibit will open in September in time for our POW/MIA Recognition Day event.

Once again the park is partnering with The Ride Home and Georgia Southwestern University for this annual event. At 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19th at Georgia Southwestern University's annual Convocation, David Keller will discuss his research into factors affecting Union and Confederate prison camps. On Friday, September 21st, The Ride Home will escort former Prisoners of War (POWs) from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts to the National Prisoner of War Museum, where a ceremony will be held at 9:00 a.m. Featured speakers for

the ceremony include William Pebly, a former POW held by the Germans during World War II, and the family of Commander Michael Hoff, Missing in Action in Vietnam.

In November, the park will offer visitors the opportunity to experience the museum and historic prison site after dark during our annual Night Museum event. From 6:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m. on November 10th, living historians will give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for Union prisoners struggling to survive winter at Camp Sumter. At 7:00 p.m., guest speaker Gary Morgan will discuss the Raiders, a group of Camp Sumter prisoners who committed crimes against other prisoners.

The park is also looking forward to this year's Wreath Across America event on December 15th. Will we meet last year's record number of 3,300 wreaths, or exceed it? This event, conducted in partnership with the Civil Air Patrol, gives visitors the chance to place wreaths on the graves of those buried in Andersonville National Cemetery as a way to remember and honor them. Anyone interested can sponsor one or more wreaths by following the link on the Wreath Across America website.

We invite you to join us this fall for one or more of these commemorative events and help us continue our mission to preserve and share the stories of Camp Sumter, all American POWs, and those buried in Andersonville National Cemetery.

The "Victory From Within" traveling POW exhibit is now on display at the Coronado Quivera Museum in Lyons, Kansas. A couple of the large shipping crates for the exhibit were apparently damaged during transit, and two audio

wands and one interactive touch screen were also reported to be malfunctioning. The park is working with the Coronado Quivera Museum staff and National Park Service staff at nearby Fort Larned National Historic Site to address these needed repairs. We invite those in the Lyons, Kansas area to make a trip to the Coronado Quivera Museum to see the park's traveling POW exhibit. In 2019, the exhibit will move to Heroes Hall in Costa Mesa, California.

The park continues to meet its goals of preservation and promotion of POW research this year through several projects that will create digital versions of collection items, making them more accessible to researchers, family, staff, and others while protecting the objects themselves. Hundreds of photographs will be scanned. The POW Oral History collection is being converted from DVD video format to Mpeg4 files. Over 100 oral histories from the Lewis Carlson audio cassette collection are being migrated to digital format. Finally, the park is converting resource management VHS recordings to digital format. These projects will ensure collection items are safeguarded while still providing a way to view and even "use" a version of them for research, education, and other purposes.

Another research and preservation project initiated this year is a three-year geophysical survey of the park, conducted by the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). This survey will use ground penetrating radar, magnetometer, conductivity meter, and resistivity meter instruments to map anomalies beneath the surface without digging or otherwise disturbing the site. The goal of the project is to pinpoint and explore evidence of key features of the prison and surrounding sites, such as hospitals.

andersonville, cont'd...

During this first year of the three-year project, SEAC staff examined three high priority areas. The south slope of the enclosure near the South Gate was surveyed in hopes of finding evidence of the sick call enclosures, gallows, and barracks buildings that historic references indicate were located in the vicinity. Surveys conducted on the north slope of the enclosure near the North Gate were focused on pinpointing the Sutler's store. Some surveys were also conducted at the site of the Third Hospital, which was located in what is now a large field adjacent to the Star Fort. Information gained from this project will help us learn more about life inside the Civil War prison during its use to confine Union soldiers in 1864 and 1865.



Numerous other projects have been completed or are underway to improve park facilities, ensure protection of resources, and enhance visitor experience. The park is working with the Federal Highways Department to resurface all park roads. The heat, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in the POW Museum are being replaced to better protect items on exhibit. An electrical panel is being installed on the Curatorial Building to allow for generator power during severe weather and so maintain protection of the museum's collection. Solar power is being added to the

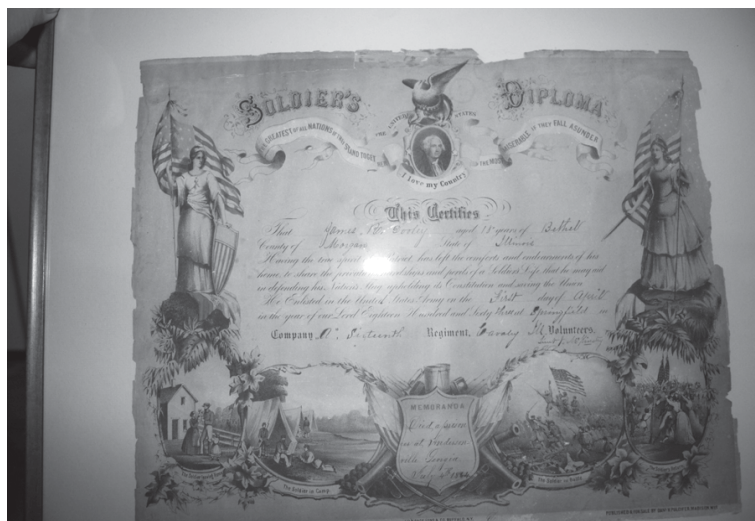
park's electronic gates to reduce energy usage. Sections of the boundary fence that were damaged during a car wreck have been replaced. And youth crews from American Conservation Experience (ACE) will be working with the park over the next 6 months to clean, set, and align headstones in the National Cemetery, conduct grounds maintenance on the prison site, and clear vegetation along the park boundary.

As always, such volunteers and interns play a vital role at the park; we could not successfully manage and preserve the park without their help. Two interns, Jessica Greenman and Maci Mark, were sponsored through the Gettysburg Institute and helped with museum operations this summer. Local volunteers Gloria Beard, Jodi Todd, Megan Dolan, Robert Gill, and Jimmy Culpepper are supporting the park's interpretive, museum, and library programs. Michael Ramey just completed a three-year internship for our cemetery program and was instrumental in getting thousands of historic burial records entered into a national database. Earl Dupree is volunteering with our maintenance program to help care for the national cemetery and other park grounds. Resident volunteers Jerry and Rosemary Higgs and Kurt and Sandi Nelson will arrive in October and November, and bolster the park's staffing

during the upcoming winter season. The challenges of maintaining over 20,000 gravesites, assisting 130,000 visitors, educating thousands of students, conducting 180 funerals, and much more with only 10-15 employees are overwhelming. We would not be able to maintain or preserve park resources, offer interpretive tours, educate school groups, promote POW research, or accomplish many of the things we do without the valued help and contributions of these interns and volunteers.

Several other changes in staff are occurring. We are pleased to welcome Adam Childs, a new member of our maintenance division, and Ryan O'Connell, who will join us in September as a seasonal park guide. It is with both sadness and well wishes we note the departure of maintenance team member Todd Wooten, who has accepted a position with the U.S. Forest Service, and interpretive team member Jake Koch, who is taking on a new position at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in Colorado. We wish them both the best in their new adventures.

The park's museum collection continues to grow. This past year, gift donations included Vietnam era



andersonville, cont'd...

nated by Charles Lopez, and an additional World War II diary to the John E. Bills Jr. Collection by his son John E. Bills III.

The park is processing additional donations from Norman Bloch belonging to his father Jacque Bloch, a World War II POW, and from the first National Park Service Superintendent of Andersonville, John E. Jensen.

These objects, like all items donated to the park's collection, will be preserved and cared for in perpetuity. They will be valuable objects now and in the future for those researching prisoner of war topics, for family members researching their family's history, for educating visitors about prisoners of war, and for possible use in exhibits. The park's ultimate goal is to create a virtual exhibit of these objects online that can be viewed from anywhere in the world.

If you are interested in donating an item to the National Prisoner of War Museum collection, please contact our Museum Curator at 229-924-0343 ext. 113.



"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us." -Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936)

Reflections on Andersonville

Maci Mark~Intern

When one first sees Andersonville National Historic Site it takes a few moments to understand what one is looking at. It is an open field of bright green grass, a few trees over in the corner, monuments scattered about and two reconstructions of the stockade that formerly stood there. It is hard to balance the understanding of the peaceful, scenic view the visitor is looking at with remembering what happened at Andersonville and how many men suffered and died there.

When I drove around and explored the site for the first time I did not understand what I was seeing. Who were the monuments for? How many people lived here? And what were the earthworks for? After a few days I started to understand how Andersonville operated and what it looked like in the 1860s. This was with the help of the Park Rangers and other materials shown in the National Prisoner of War Museum.

Andersonville brings peace and serenity to a place haunted by its past. Andersonville is haunted, not in the ghost sense, but by the suffering that happened there. One cannot look out on the grounds without thinking about how they are standing where someone died. Did his family know he died there? But the perfect scene that is Andersonville now will hopefully bring some closure about those men who suffered over 150 years ago. They may not be able to see it, but the guests who visit Andersonville today, regardless of if they have a connection to someone who was at Andersonville, are able to take a moment and understand what those soldiers went through. They

can also see them peacefully laid to rest in the cemetery.

This combination of peaceful scenery combined with its haunted past creates a great place to reflect on our country and what it means to believe in a cause.

These men stayed at Andersonville and suffered, giving their lives for the Union in some cases, instead of joining the Confederates. It was a conscious decision on their part, preferring death to dishonor. This is a phrase that shows up on many of the monuments at Andersonville, but I do not think it can be properly understood until one stands out on the prison site and comprehends what those men were giving up. They were giving up their family, their friends and loved ones, their story. Because of what they gave up, today we have this place to learn about what happened in the Civil War, this peaceful place to stand and reflect on the suffering of those men.

Andersonville teaches us many things, and I learned a lot during my time there. But one of the most important lessons it teaches us is what we are willing to do for a cause we believe in.

During my time at Andersonville I was able to reflect on and understand what it means to believe in your cause, and also how important family is. Many prisoners just wanted to go home to their loved ones. They would always write letters to their wives or mothers, and whenever they got out they would say how it was the hope of going home that got them through.

The National Prisoner of War Museum also helped my understanding grow as it illustrated all American Prisoners of War experiences. It showed how they were different but at the same time similar. All of the soldiers put their lives on the line and suffered for a cause or country that they believed in.

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namPOW news



Robert Certain
eagle@unchainedeagle.com

FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF FREEDOM

In August 2018, 125 former POWs from Vietnam, plus another 300 or so family members and friends, gathered at the Omni Hotel in Frisco TX to celebrate the friend-



ruary and March 1973 and have enjoyed our freedom every day since. Most of us arrived on Wednesday, August 15. On Thursday morning, we toured the George W. Bush Presidential Center. As we returned to the hotel, we were hosted to lunch by the Dallas area US Armed Forces As-

sociation of Vietnamese-Americans. They showered us with thanks and praise for what American warriors had done for them in our attempt to secure their own freedom in their homeland. We were proud to welcome them as fellow Americans all these years later.



That afternoon we traveled by bus caravan to the Perot Legacy Hall to view the amazing collection of memorabilia belonging to one of the best friends we NAMPOWs have ever had. We knew much of his story from our long association with him, but there were many surprises that came to our attention while we gazed at memorabilia spanning a lifetime of personal achievement and patriotic service to our country. Of special note to us was the section devoted to POW/MIAs.

Friday morning we ventured to the Cavanaugh Flight Museum to get up close and personal with some historic airplanes in their collection from WWI through Vietnam, including an F-105, many Navy planes and several MiGs. The Dallas Model A Ford Club was also present with a

ships forged in the prisons of Vietnam. We were released and repatriated during the months of Feb-

namPOW, cont'd...

number of their restored cars and trucks.



In the afternoon we again traveled by bus caravan (always escorted by Dallas Police motorcycle officers) to Ross Perot's Circle T Ranch. The festival event included posting of the colors, an air show with a B-52 flyover, an amazing dinner of BBQ beef, chicken and sausage, a delightful country



western band, and lots of time to enjoy the fellowship of friends, family, and fellow former POWs. The speaker for the evening highlighted the ongoing 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

We completed our reunion on Friday with a business session in which Dr. Tom McNish was elected President and plans were discussed for our next couple of reunion opportunities, including one in Portland ME in 2019 to visit Lee Humiston's 20,000 square foot museum of all things NAMPOW. Later in the morning we had the opportunity for a tour of the Dallas Cowboys draft war room and the Super Bowl Station with a display of all five Super Bowl trophies, rings and memorabilia. Finally, on Friday evening we put on our finery and enjoyed a farewell banquet reception and dinner.

"For those who fight to protect it, freedom has a flavor that the protected will never know." Forty-five years of freedom continues to have that wonderful flavor.



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Saigon Update: Destruction of Historical Building Underway



A historical building related to U.S. military history is now being destroyed here in Saigon, to make way for modern buildings - The two photos (April and July) are of the east stairway entrance of the former SAMIPIC mansion which served as the headquarters of the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) and then of the Military Assistance Command VietNam (MACV) before eventually becoming the headquarters of Republic of Korea Forces VietNam in 1966-1973. "Then" photo April 2018 "Now" photo July 18, 2018, both photos by Paul Blizard. Submitted by George Fryett.

PaulBlizardVietnamWarHistory.Org



Mary Schantag, Chairman
P.O.W. Network
info@pownetwork.org

More than a Memory – Maybe

Master Sgt. Charles Hobert McDaniel, a U.S. Army medic from Indiana, once wore the sole dog tag returned from North Korea at the end of July.

Fifty five coffins of remains and personal items were transferred in multiple dignified ceremonies, until they arrived at Dover Air Force Base where anthropologists have begun the painstaking work of identification. Still unknown, is whether there are any remains for MSGT McDaniel.

The remains appear to have been from more than one location, according to Kelly McKeague, Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He noted that one of the locations was Sinhung-ri in the area east of the Chosin Reservoir, where independent family researchers know of at least 55 losses, most from a battle fought late in 1950.

News reports appear to differ on whether we can expect 55 identifications, or each coffin might contain mixed remains from multiple individuals.

The search continues for family members whose DNA is necessary for final identification.

According to the (DPAA) website, those eligible to donate DNA reference material are: "... a maternal relative (maternal mother, maternal aunt, brother, sister [mtDNA testing]), a paternal relative (father, brother, paternal uncle, paternal cousin [Y-STR testing]), or a nuclear relative (father, mother, brother or sister [auSTR testing]) of a missing service member, you are eligible to donate a DNA reference material.

Depending on your relationship to the missing service member you could be a reference for multiple testing methods (mtDNA, auSTR and/or Y-STR). For example, if the father is the missing service member and is survived by his son, his son is an eligible nuclear (auSTR) and paternal (Y-STR) reference. AFDIL is attempting to collect at least 2 mtDNA references, 2 Y-STR and 2 auSTR references for each missing service member.

As of January 2015, the percent of missing service members that have some type (mtDNA, auSTR, or Y-STR) of a family reference on file varies by the conflict:

- Vietnam War – 81%
- Korean War – 89%
- Cold War – 83%
- WWII – 4%

Efforts for family reference collection are ongoing. If you or someone you know is a valid DNA reference donor for a missing service member please contact the respective service casualty office for information on participating. For World War II collections, family references are being collected

on an as needed base due to the fact that a large number of missing individuals were lost in deep water losses and are not recoverable at this time."

In 2016, an article ran in the UK The Sun, headlined "CAGED IN KOREA - Kim Jong-Un is still holding elderly British and American prisoners of war in death camps SIXTY years after Korean War, experts claim."

The article went on to say "CIA documents also suggest an unknown number of Western soldiers were abandoned at the end of the war" and "CIA documents, one as recent as 1997, also suggest the existence of the prisoners, left abandoned by their governments at the end of the war."

Missing from the public discussions are those Last Known Alive. For Korea, the number is thought to be over 1000 individuals.

The co-chair of Honor-Release-Return, Jim Moyer, reminds us that "Recovery of LIVE Military personnel does/did not fall under DPAA/DPMO/JPAC mission – SecDef, Pentagon, JSOC, State Department & White House as well as Intelligence Agencies are units involved in such action."

Those agencies have made no comment on the negotiations with North Korea or the effort to bring attention to those who were "Last Known Alive."

So where are Major Sam Logan, seen in a contemporary propaganda film, alive in North Korea, or Roger Dumas, Last Known Alive in Camp 5. Is anyone negotiating for their return?

pow/mia cont'd...

Meanwhile, DPAA announced they have identified the 100th USS Oklahoma sailor, and Petty Officer 1st Class Arthur Glenn was laid to rest on August 23rd. He was one of 388 personnel unidentified after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

News was also shared that the brother of Ann Mills Griffiths, Chairman of the Board and National League of Families Spokesperson, was identified in August. CDR James Mills was a Naval aviator, who went down over water near North Vietnam in September 1966. He was flying off the USS Midway. The pilot, Captain James Bauder, was recovered and identified in 2017.

Griffiths wrote "Only once each year is the visibility sufficiently clear in that coastal area to maximize recovery efforts.

Those identifications bring the total announced identifications in 2018 to 78 from World War II; 27 from North and South Korea; and 6 from Vietnam and Laos.

In mid-August, the POW returnees from Vietnam celebrated the 45th Anniversary of their Homecoming in Frisco, TX. It was a glorious affair, as the returnees, families and friends, joined Ross Perot for a tour of Perot's Legacy Hall, and enjoyed an evening at the Circle T Ranch.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, COB,ED, National League of POW/MIA Families UPDATE: August 31, 2018

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: DPAA announced on 8/24/18 that CDR James B. Mills, USNR, CA, was accounted for on 8/20/18. Listed as MIA on 9/21/66, NVN, his remains were recovered in June, 2018. Earlier in the month, DPAA announced that Col Richard A. Kibbey, USAF, NY, was accounted for on 8/6/18. Listed as MIA ON 2/6/67, NVN, his remains were noted as returned on April 13, 2017.

The accounting for CDR Mills and Col Kibbey brings the number still missing from the Vietnam War down to 1,594. Prior to that, and dated 7/17/18, DPAA released the name of Col Frederick M. Mellor, USAF, listed as MIA, NVN, on 8/13/65.

Prior to this posting, the most recent Vietnam War accounted-related release was on May 31st when DPAA posted the name of LCDR Larry R. Kilpatrick, USN, of GA, though he actually was accounted for on May 18th. Listed as MIA on 6/18/72 in North Vietnam, remains were recovered 12/14/2015. Nearly a month earlier, on April 5th, DPAA posted the names of two Vietnam War personnel as accounted for. Col Peter J. Stewart, USAF, of FL, listed MIA 3/15/66, was recovered 12/12/15 and ID'd on 2/1/18. Army SSGT Marshall F. Kipina, of MI, listed MIA 7/14/66 in Laos, was recovered 2/17/16 and ID'd 2/1/18. Prior to that, DPAA posted the

news that LTC Robert G. Nopp, USA, of OR, listed as MIA 7/14/66, was recovered 2/17/16 and ID'd 2/1/18. On January 18th, DPAA released notice that Col Edgar F. Davis, USAF, of NC, listed MIA in Laos on 9/17/68, recovered 4/29/15 and ID'd 12/22/17, is now accounted for, the first such announcement since September 11th of last year. At that time, DPAA reported the accounting for CAPT James. R. Bauder, USN, of CA, listed as MIA 9/21/66 in North Vietnam, recovered 6/11/17, and ID'd 8-28-17. The number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is 1,594. Of that number, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,248 (VN-453, VS-795); Laos-291; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7.

Since formed in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 989. A breakdown by country of these 989 Americans is: Vietnam – 670, Laos – 274, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,052. These 63 Americans, accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, were not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Combined, a total of 282 have been accounted for from Laos, 725 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

civilians

Hearts and Minds

Curtis Brooks
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402-327-8550

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor the Japanese set out to conquer all of South East Asia. Manila in the Philippines was occupied on January 2nd, 1942. Within days the Japanese rounded up American and other Allied civilians, nearly 4000 of them, for internment in a camp established at the University of Santo Tomas compound in the northern section of Manila. Internment was to last over three years; starvation dogged their existence in the final year of incarceration.

The night of February 3rd, 1945, was, for the internees of the Santo Tomas Internment camp one of deliverance, freedom, food (!) and explosive exuberance over a long-awaited almost unbelievable gift of liberation.

Well, for most of the camp that was true; for the 200+ of us in the Education Building, the smaller (much) of the two main buildings in the camp, while we shared the wonder of the arrival of the American soldiers, there was a catch; we weren't free. The Ed Building as we called it, was the quarters and headquarters of the Japanese garrison of the camp. They occupied the first two floors of the three story building. Internees occupied the third. The Japanese stayed put, we were stuck, still prisoners, in effect, hostages. The building was surrounded on all sides by American soldiers who poured

machine gun fire into the building. There was some firing on the part of the Japanese as well. In time, in the dark of night, in the turbulence of the time, a truce was arranged. Firing stopped.

So there we were, a massive American presence on the outside, Japanese hold-outs, 67 of them, on the inside and us. We watched and waited.

In my diary I wrote, *Huge fires have sprung up in the city and are burning unchecked.* The destruction of the city, the Pearl of the Orient, the only home many of us had ever known, had begun. Looking out the front windows it seemed the whole American army was in the grounds of Santo Tomas, trucks, artillery, jeeps, tanks, with machine guns emplaced at intervals, pointing up at us. And there, right on the entrance to our building was a huge tank, very menacing, right below us. The hatch was open and the gunner looked up and smiled. We spoke, questions and answers, the liberating soldier and the still-imprisoned internee, across the lines, two worlds. A rare occasion in war, perhaps unique in the Pacific theater. I later met the gunner, John Hincke at unit reunions and became fast friends. A true soldier, unflinchingly brave, he was, truly, one of the 'greatest generation.'

And so we waited and watched. We knew there were negotiations but knew none of the details. Tense yet exuberant; the Japanese sullen, the city burning. Then in the middle of the afternoon we heard a commotion from among the houses outside the camp a

block or so away. It got louder and louder; cheering, yelling, waving Filipinos poured out of their houses and stood along the sides of the street. We wondered what was going on; People burst out of the houses just across from the walls of the camp, again cheering and waving with unbridled enthusiasm.

The reason for this demonstration? There were two American soldiers on patrol walking down the middle of the street, the first American liberators these Filipinos had seen. The demonstration was impressive, indeed, awesome, not the slightest doubt whose side they were on, they cheered as much as we had. In the web and woof of history, somebody had done something right.

The truce worked. The following morning the Japanese filed out, carrying their weapons and were escorted by 1st Cavalry troopers, through the streets of the city to approximately their own lines. And we were, finally, also free. An episode, perhaps unique in many ways, in the Pacific war. And 73 years on, the cheering and the waving in the midst of battle, stay with me.

BACEPOW
Bay Area Civilian Ex-
Prisoners of War.
Membership is open to all
former prisoners
of the Japanese, their
families, and friends.
There is an active
descendents group.
www.bacepow.net
Commander, Angus
Lorenzen



March 1-2, 2019. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations will host its annual 'Day of Remembrance. For more information: usshouston.org; contact@usshouston.org.



Hello,

My daughter and I just wanted to send quick email to let you know how helpful your page has been. At the end of the school year my daughter, Addison, did one of her final school projects on wartime vehicles and weapons. Even after the school year ended, she seemed to really take an interest in history. Over this summer we spent hours watching documentaries and reading books about the World Wars. During our research for her project and after we finished the project we found a ton useful sites but your page has probably been the most interesting.

Addison asked me to share this article with you: <https://www.titlemax.com/articles/cars-tanks-airplanes-of-wwii/>. She found it was very interesting and thought it would be a great addition to the information on your page.

We would love to know what you think and I know Addison would be excited if you added it to your page.

Thanks again,
John and Addison

What is the origin of the 21-gun salute?

The use of gun salutes for military occasions is traced to early warriors who demonstrated their peaceful intentions by placing their weapons in a position that rendered them ineffective. Apparently this custom was universal, with the specific act varying with time and place, depending on the weapons being used. A North African tribe, for example, trailed the points of their spears on the ground to indicate that they did not mean to be hostile.

The tradition of rendering a salute by cannon originated in the 14th century as firearms and cannons came into use. Since these early devices contained only one projectile, discharging them once rendered them ineffective. Originally warships fired seven-gun salutes—the number seven probably selected because of its astrological and Biblical significance. Seven planets had been identified and the phases of the moon changed every seven days. The Bible states that God rested on the seventh day after Creation, that every seventh year was sabbatical and that the seven times seventh year ushered in the Jubilee year.

Land batteries, having a greater supply of gunpowder, were able to fire three guns for every shot fired afloat, hence the salute by shore batteries was 21 guns. The multiple of three probably was chosen because of the mystical significance of the number three in many ancient civilizations. Early gunpowder, composed mainly of sodium nitrate, spoiled easily at sea, but could be kept cooler and drier in land magazines. When potassium nitrate improved the quality of gunpowder, ships at sea adopted the salute of 21 guns.

The 21-gun salute became the highest honor a nation rendered. Varying customs among the maritime

powers led to confusion in saluting and return of salutes. Great Britain, the world's preeminent seapower in the 18th and 19th centuries, compelled weaker nations to salute first, and for a time monarchies received more guns than did republics. Eventually, by agreement, the international salute was established at 21 guns, although the United States did not agree on this procedure until August 1875.

The gun salute system of the United States has changed considerably over the years. In 1810, the "national salute" was defined by the War Department as equal to the number of states in the Union—at that time 17. This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations at 1:00 p.m. (later at noon) on Independence Day. The President also received a salute equal to the number of states whenever he visited a military installation.

In 1842, the Presidential salute was formally established at 21 guns. In 1890, regulations designated the "national salute" as 21 guns and redesignated the traditional Independence Day salute, the "Salute to the Union," equal to the number of states. Fifty guns are also fired on all military installations equipped to do so at the close of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Today the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Gun salutes are also rendered to other military and civilian leaders of this and other nations. The number of guns is based on their protocol rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.

Source: Headquarters, Military District of Washington, FACT SHEET: GUN SALUTES

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Your Stories



Holiday stories and poems from
the families of our POWs.
Merry Christmas ~ Happy
Hanukkah to all

A Genuine Hero

by Beth Dawson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

My dad is a genuine hero.
For five months they held the
Japanese at bay.
He fought right beside brave
Filipino Scouts.
With antiquated WWI equipment,
they say!

My dad is a genuine hero.
Though he surrendered to the
Japanese years ago
My hero then walked seventy
torturous miles.
The Bataan Death March it's
called now.
No food, no water for any of the
men.
This atrocity was certainly a sin.

My dad is a genuine hero.
For he survived that Japanese
cruelty show.
Yet again they were treated
inhumanely
Crowded into rail cars, worse
than cattle they were stowed

My dad is a genuine hero; he
then suffered in prison camps
You may know. As a Japanese
slave
At Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan,
Bilibid and Jenson
Now let this record proudly
show.

My dad is a genuine hero.
On three "Hell Ships" he lan-
guished below.
No ventilation, no sanitation, no
water for those men

Cruelty and abuse was all they
would know
(Two of those ships Americans
pilots did sink.
How could they know that our
soldiers were cargo)?
Yes, my dad is a genuine hero.
Liberated he weighed 87 pounds
and no more.
I finally met my hero the year
that I was four!
He loved his country right down
to the core, did this man.
God Bless the "Battling Bastards
of Bataan."
I can assure you, I'm your big-
gest fan!

True Heroes

by Nancy Messel Boberg
proud daughter
of Kenneth Messel

The freeing of Iraq by our Armed
Forces has brought a renewed
appreciation for the sacrifices
made by American soldiers. Return-
ing servicemen and women are
being greeted with respect and
admiration not seen since the end
of WWII.

Ever since my dad, a decorated
WWII lead Squadron Bombardier,
died one year ago, I have wanted
to tell everyone I meet how proud
I am of how well he served others
during his 81 years on earth. Ken
Messel always set his standard of
conduct very high; thus he left
this world a warmer and safer
place. Like other WWII veterans,
my dad was a modest man. He
touched numerous lives through
acts of kindness. However, so
many who benefited from his good
deeds knew nothing of his many
achievements. These accomplish-
ments included being awarded the
Distinguished Flying Cross by Gen-
eral Omar Bradley at the close of
the war.

Dad's many acts of bravery in-
cluded: caring for injured crew
members after his seat was shot

from beneath him; jumping from a
burning plane at 12,000 feet as
German fighter planes and German
civilians on the ground shot at
him; facing Hitler Youth firing
squad; and protecting the iden-
tity of a Jewish POW to prevent
the Nazis from burning him to
death. Despite acts such as these,
Ken Messel never considered him-
self an exceptionally courageous
man. In Dad's eyes, the heroes
were the men who died fighting
for the cause of world freedom.

There was no sense of entitle-
ment or feeling of commiseration
for the abusive treatment and
starvation inflicted by the Nazis
during Dad's capture, interroga-
tion, solitary confinement and sub-
sequent imprisonment at Stalag
Luft I. Dad's code of conduct was
based on accepting responsibility
for his actions and using his intel-
lect to move forward through
harm's way. No time was wasted
on resentment of others' actions.
He put the past behind him and
focused on valuing the precious
little time on earth to move in posi-
tive ways. Dad's POW experience
only served to reinforce his
strength of convictions and his
resolve to do good deeds for his
family, his many friends, and his
community at large.

Two months after my dad died,
his hometown newspaper provided
my family with yet another re-
minder of his altruistic approach
to life. The paper's historical re-
flection section described the na-
tionwide energy shortages of 1950
that resulted from the national
coal miners' strike. With local sup-
plies completely depleted and no
other sources of available energy,
Ken Messel, who was serving as
County Auditor, quietly took the
initiative and transferred what coal
remained from the courthouse to
the area orphanages and hospi-
tals.

As Dad always said, "When odds
seem insurmountable, realize that
doing the right thing for the
proper cause will enable you to
get the job done."

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stories, cont'd...

So, as we read reports of heroism by American troops who fought in Iraq, we can be reassured in knowing that today's children of these brave men and women will be tomorrow's proud adults. I'm confident that they, too, will be compelled to speak of their parents' honorable strength of character and compassion for humankind. True heroes expect no fanfare; they act out of goodness and faith in helping others.

A POW's Nemesis

by Bea Smith

Hours were like days;
Days were like weeks;
Weeks like months;
Years too long to count.

It was a time
When time meant nothing.
Time was only night or day.

It was a stretch of sameness;
There were no dividers.

Christmas? Really?
A New Year?
What happened to the old?

How much time can pass
Without meaning for one's soul?

How long since freedom set my
course
When I could come and go
see those I love, complete a job

Make plans, dream dreams
And feel the joy of it all?

How long since waking brings
only dread;
While nagging fear hands heavy
on my head?

How long since all was well,
With happiness by my side?

How much longer, Lord,
before I know
That time has not passed me
by?

What Does a Survivor Look Like?

by Ginny Suarez Klein
daughter of Mary Suarez

The survivor I know is my mother. Mary Young Suarez was born in Manila, Philippines on Oct. 16, 1923. She is the daughter of Maria Ramirez of the Philippines and Robert Young, a British subject born in the US.

Since my mother was a US citizen living in the Philippines, she became a prisoner of war during the Japanese occupation. My mother, along with her sister Alice Fox and brothers Fred and Robert Young, was sent to Santo Tomas to be interned. My uncles Bill and George Young had enlisted in the Army and eventually died in action in the Pacific.

At home, my grandmother, Maria, was bedridden with terminal cancer. At the young age of 17, my mother (whose father died when she was seven) was granted permission to leave camp to care for my grandmother. Maria finally succumbed to this disease and it was my mother who washed, dressed her and made arrangements for the burial.

While my mother was out of camp, she married my father, Carlos Suarez. My father was not a US citizen, so he was not interned. Dad was, however, best friends with my uncles Bill and George. A couple of years into the war, my mother was once again allowed to leave camp to care for her brother, Jim, who was losing his battle against TB. My mother nursed Uncle Jim with the limited resources available. She witnessed yet another death and was re-

sponsible for preparing her brother for burial. During the time my mother was caring for Uncle Jim, she was pregnant with my sister, Mary.

When the US forces liberated Manila, my parents and sister made the momentous journey to California and a new life. My mother survived all of that horror and sadness and went on to raise five children with my dad. She has made a meaningful and happy life for herself and her family.

Dedicated to Elwin Diehl and the Survivors from Co. M

by Carolyn Reubenking

You were a young man then.
You and the rest of Co.. M
as you marched off to war
leaving to defend other shores
and leaving loved ones with a
heavy heart
but eager and willing to do
your part.

You left for a strange and
foreign land
and followed each and every
command.
You wondered what you
would find
as you left your security behind.

You fought in battles, you did
your best.
You fought with courage and
little rest.
You ran out of ammo, water
and food.
Your situation did not look good.

When told to surrender, you did
not hesitate.
Driven by hunger and thirst you
accepted your fate.
They marched you 100 miles just
to wear you down.
Many nights you slept on a cold,
cold ground.

They loaded you

stories, cont'd...

in boxcars then
you and the others from Co. M.
A prisoner-of-war you had
become
but still you were better off
than some.

Soup of rutabagas and black
bread was your fare.
Anything else was extremely
rare.

Your body became so very thin
from the hunger you faced
deep within.
But you lived on from day to day
because there was no other
way.

Then after many months
had passed
the Russians liberated you at
last.
But they detained you for a time.
Eventually you made it to
American lines.

They took you to a tank for
de-lousing
and gave you all a good dousing.
They put you on a Liberty ship
bound for home
and back to where you had
come from.
With no fanfare or parades when
you arrived,
you were just happy to be home
and alive.

You were a happy young man
then.
You and the rest of the survivors
from Co. M.

Christmas in Mukden

December 1942

Submitted by John Bo
Author unknown

T'was the night before Christmas
And all through the house
Only one creature stirred
T'was a lean lonely mouse.

He nibbled with care
On a stale crust of bread

That some sleepy soldier
Had left on the bed.

The clothes were arranged
On the shelf board with care
The spoons and the bowls
and dishes were there.

But the thoughts of the men
Were not on the dishes
Some good old home cooking
Were their uppermost wishes.

A golden brown turkey
With rich flavored stuffing
With celery and spuds
We'd all soon be puffing.

To get down the cranberries
The olives and pickles
The salads and sauces
Our palates to tickle.

So dream away soldier
And forget your cares
Tomorrow the barley
And soup will be there.

Corn mush for your breakfast
Potatoes for lunch
With rich tiki tiki
And hard toast to crunch.

Don't moan for the goodies
And all the things nice
At least what we have now
Beats lugao and rice.

Our new resolution
Is no more to roam
And hope by next Christmas
We all will be home.

Junior's Coming Home

submitted by Stephen Carfora

My father has in his records a
poem that he said he found when
he was at Camp Lucky Strike at
the end of the war in 1945. He
found it on a cot in the barracks
or tent where his quarters were.

He's always wondered about the
poem and who the author might
be. He said that he's pretty sure
that a fellow POW wrote it.

I

Junior has come home at last
He's been through a bad ordeal
But the war is now a thing
of the past
How happy we may feel

II

Junior was a prisoner of war
In north Germany some-where
The Red Cross sent us bulletins
Concerning his welfare

III

It seems he survived the war
just fine
From the beginning to the end
But the Red Cross said its pos-
sible
His mind is around the bend

IV

So, of course he's not the same
dear boy
that we sent off to war
He's been so awfully shy and coy
As the Red Cross said - and more

V

It's little things he does at times
that worry me a lot
Like sleeping in the basement
On a broken army cot

VI

And chasing girls down side
streets
Catching them when they are
slow
And in the hush (quiet) of
evening
Yelling, "Come on, Joe"

VII

He rises early in the morning
And runs around the street
And insists on being counted
Before coming in to eat

VIII

He loves his chocolate bars and
jam.

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AXPOW National Conventions and Past National Commanders



1949	Hollywood, CA (BVO Changes its name to AXPOW-Ken Day elected)	Virgil McCollom
1950	El Paso, TX	Ken Day
1951	Chicago, IL	John Walker
1952	Albuquerque, NM	Ray O'Day
1953	Oklahoma City, OK	Robert Geis
1954	Ft. Worth, TX	William Berry
1955	New York, NY	James S Browning
1956	Kansas City, MO	Roger Bamford
1957	Birmingham, AL	Walter Yosko
1958	Tacoma, WA	Walter Yosko
1959	San Jose, CA	Leo J "Moose" Maselli
1960	San Antonio, TX	Paul Richter
1961	Miami Beach, FL	George Coates (civilian internee)
1962	Albuquerque, NM	Jack Warner
1963	San Antonio, TX	Alex Salinas
1964	Hot Springs, AR	Pat Wheat
1965	Shreveport, LA	Ralph Rodriguez
1966	Tacoma, WA	Rufus W "Willie" Smith
1967	Albuquerque, NM	Calvin Graef
1968	Longview, TX	DC "Bull" Massey
1969	Anaheim, CA	Chuck Towne
1970	Wichita Falls, TX	John Lay
1971	Pittsburgh, PA	Grady Inzer
1972	Portland, OR	Juan Baldonado
1973	Orlando, FL	Harold Page
1974	Las Vegas, NV	Walter Pawlesh
1975	St. Louis, MO	DC Wimberly
1976	Albuquerque, NM	Joseph Perry
1977	Houston, TX	Mel Madero
1978	Orlando, FL	Joe Schisser
1979	Pittsburgh, PA	Joseph B Upton
1980	Las Vegas, NV	Herman Molen
1981	Ft Worth, TX	Stanley Sommers
1982	Colorado Springs, CO	Charles Morgan
1983	Cleveland, OH	Charles Miller



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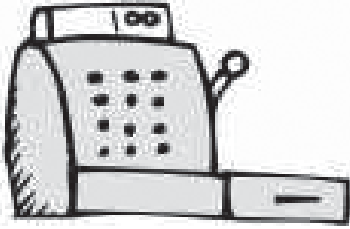
AXPOW National Conventions and Past National Commanders



1984	Seattle, WA	Clarence Earl Derrington
1985	Milwaukee, WI	Alfred P "Joe" Galloway
1986	Jackson, MS	Orlo Natvig
1987	Charlotte, NC	Curtis Musten
1988	Las Vegas, NV	Albert Bland
1989	Niagara Falls, NY	Milton Moore, Sr. *died in office
1990	Seattle, WA	John Edwards
1991	Tulsa, OK	Francis Agnes
1992	Evansville, IN	John Krejci
1993	Knoxville, TN	Chuck Minietta
1994	Albuquerque, NM	William Bearisto
1995	Des Moines, IA	Charles Prigmore
1996	Birmingham, AL	Larry Moses
1997	Tacoma, WA	William "Sonny" Mottern
1998	Baton Rouge, LA	Wayne Hitchcock
1999	Evansville, IN	Richard Throckmorton
2000	Louisville, KY	Zack Roberts
2001	Tucson, AZ	Bill Schmidt
2002	Rochester, MN	John Klumpp
2003	Greenville, SC	Maurice Sharp
2004	Arlington, TX	Paul Dallas
2005	Denver, CO	James Cooper
2006	Nashville, TN	Gerald Harvey
2007	Springfield, IL	Robert Fletcher + removed from office
2008	Kansas City, MO	Warren King
2009	Boise, ID	Jim Clark
2010	Albany, GA	Kenny Hanson
2011	Dayton, OH	Morris Barker
2012	Arlington, TX	Carroll Bogard
2013	Arlington, TX	Charles Susino, Jr.
2014	Arlington, TX	Jim Lollar
2015	Arlington, TX	Milton "Skip" Moore, Jr.
2016	Arlington, TX	Ed Dement
2017	Arlington, TX	Charles Susino, Jr. *died in office



contributions



GENERAL FUND

In memory of Alice Messler, by The Messler Family
In memory of Alice Messler, by Ruth Davis
In memory of Alice & William Messler, by William & Virginia Messler
In memory of Arthur I Goss, by Rocky Mountain Chapter
In memory of Ira Book, by George Bubash
In memory of Irving Bailey, by Dorothy Bailey
In memory of Isabel Hufnagel, by Linda Klug

In memory of Isabel Hufnagel, by William Triantafel
In memory of Isabel Hufnagel, by Susan Palmer
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr, by Bear Creek Elementary School staff
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr., by Norm & Betty Gustafson
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr., by Joseph Romelczyk
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr., by Gladys Rask
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr., by Edward Susino
In memory of NC Charles Susino, Jr., by Vietnam Veterans Chapter 233
In memory of Orville J Jackson, by Deanna Koopman
In memory of Orville J Jackson, by Carol Feltes
In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Department of Iowa
In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Ioway Great Lakes Chapter
In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Southwest Iowa Chapter

In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Mid-Iowa Chapter
In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Eastern Iowa Chapter
In memory of Roger Ancel Allen, by Robert & Carol Nunnally
In memory of Roger A Allen, by Carole Martin
In memory of Roger A Allen, by Sherry Beasley
In memory of Roger A Allen, by Kevin & Susan Rupe
In memory of Stephen Long, by Joanne Molen

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

In memory of PNC Carroll Bogard, by Jackye Ray
In memory of Sascha Jean Jansen, by Maryjane & Stephen Laznibat
In memory of Teresa Warne, by Maryjane & Stephen Laznibat
Beverly Jones, Melbourne FL
Lucretia Leen, The Villages FL
Robert Smith, Tomahawk WI
Tommie Waller, Sierra Vista AZ

Please send donations to: National Headquarters, PO Box 3444, Arlington, TX 76007-3444
Checks must be made payable to AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of War.



A number of years ago, one of our members made the decision to establish a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly that he truly cared about the future of AXPOW and wanted to leave a legacy to us. He and his wife are now gone, but their generous gift enabled them to demonstrate in a very meaningful way their commitment to the organization. Earlier this year, Garden State Chapter #1 in New Jersey made a most generous donation in honor of the chapter members and commander Bob Levine. A one-time scholarship to

Andersonville and support for the Bulletin became the beneficiaries of that generosity. And just recently, we received a large bequest from the estate of member Barbara Brown. All of these donations showed the commitment our members have to the future of AXPOW.

You can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we transition to a legacy organization.

It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner and they can add the following to your will or living trust:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, PO Box 3444, Arlington, TX 76007-3444, the sum of \$_____ or _____(named investment) or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families.

Please take a few minutes of your time to help. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at axpow76010@yahoo.com; PH: 817-649-2979 or CEO David Eberly at eberlydsl@verizon.net; PH: 757-508-8453

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Thank you!

new members



National Headquarters
PO Box 3444
Arlington, TX 76007-3444
(817) 649-2979

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

Mail to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
PO Box 3444
Arlington, TX 76007-3444
(817) 649-2979
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org



WELCOME!

Deanna Koopman
Patrick
Dubuque IA
Daughter of Orville J Jackson,
ETO,

Michael Lee Brazelton
Fairfax VA
USAF 357 Tact Ftr Sqd
Hanoi Hilton, Zoo, Zoo Annex,
Dogpatch 8/7/66 to 3/4/73

William F Grey
Orange City FL
Son of Frank Grey, ETO



Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

Name
Serial Number
Branch of Service
Unit when captured
Prisoner of War #
Camp names & locations

American Ex-Prisoners of War
Arlington, Texas

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 receive this
certificate from AXPOW,
please order from National
Headquarters. If you are
ordering at Convention, you
can place your order in the
Merchandise Room. We will
need your name, service
number, branch of service,
unit when captured, POW
number (if known), camp
names and locations. You
can call 817-649-2979 or
email:
axpow76010@yahoo.com.

You may include a picture
with your order.



taps



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



National Commander Susino

Charles Susino, Jr., affectionately known as Charlie, of East Amwell Township, NJ, died July 12, 2018 at the age of 94.

Born in New York City, Charlie was raised in New York City, NY and lived in Metuchen, NJ for over sixty-four years prior to moving to East Amwell Township a year ago.

Charlie was married to the love of his life, Lillian, for over seventy-one years. Lillian was Charlie's princess, and he always affectionately referred to her as "darling" or "sweetheart". He lived to make her happy and they never had an argument in all their time together.

Charlie was a United States Army Air Corps Veteran of World War II. He was captured and held as a Prisoner of War. In the early years after the war, he never spoke much of those horrors he witnessed. However, as time went on, he felt the need to speak out for those veterans and their families who, "did not have a voice" in his opinion.

From his biography, Charlie writes, "In World War II, I served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Force assigned to a B-24 Bomber as a gunner flying in the European

theatre. On March 5, 1944 over France on our 13th mission, our bomber was shot down by enemy fire. With the plane on fire, the crew parachuted out into enemy territory. The bomber spiraled upside down and lost one of its wings. I suffered injuries to both legs from shrapnel and was in time captured by the Germans.

There was no medical treatment provided. The Germans held us prisoners in deplorable conditions for 14 months. We never knew what or when we were going to eat and drink again, or even if. We never knew if we would live to see another day. We were moved between several prison camps during our captivity. At one point we were force-marched for 86 days, during which time I and several of my crew escaped. We were hunted by German soldiers with dogs, but we managed to elude them. We survived on whatever we could find to eat.

We eventually ran across an US Army truck which drove us to safety and to the 48th Field Hospital in Hanover. We arrived on May 8, 1945.

In civilian life, I have been active with veterans' organizations for several decades in various leadership roles, principally as a member of American Ex-Prisoners of War. I have served as AXPOW'S National Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Commander, Director of Legislative Affairs and have sat on the organization's Board of Directors. I also counseled other veterans on their benefits eligibility as an accredited National Service Officer. I also served as AXPOW's New Jersey State Com-

mander and as National Director of Legislative Affairs.

Facing the enemy twice, once on the battlefield and then again in their prison camps — and then at their mercy — is a life experience that never leaves your mind."
~Charles Susino, Jr.

Currently, he was serving as National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He also was a national service officer for many years for New Jersey, always helping anyone in need.

Charlie also tirelessly located public high visibility sites throughout New Jersey to locate where an American Ex-POW monument should be placed and helped raise the funds to have it erected.

Having met Presidents, Governors and many high ranking public officials, Charlie was well-respected by those on both sides of the aisle. Addressing Congress many times, his message always stressed the fact that veterans do not receive entitlements, rather they have earned them!

At one session of the Congress Veterans Affairs subcommittee, a comment was made about not applying COLA (cost of living adjustment) to the disability benefit checks and Charles's comments were loud and clear, "that would be unconscionable!" The viewing audience all starting clapping. Very rarely is there ever a noise made by the audience in a hearing that is not gavelled down.

Surviving are his cherished wife, Lillian; his children, Diane and her husband, Ted Harrington III and Charles Anthony and his wife, Debra; a brother, Edward; 6 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren; several extended family members; and many dear friends.

taps, cont'd...



Past National Commander Bogard

Carroll S. Bogard, 96, of Mason City, IA, died Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa. Celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 6th, 2018 at First United Methodist Church, 119 South Georgia Ave, with Mary Snell officiating.

Dr. Carroll S. Bogard was born April 23, 1922 in his family's farmhouse north of Renwick, Iowa. After the dustbowl, during the great depression, his family moved to Renwick above the pool hall they operated. He was able to pursue his passion for baseball with Renwick High School and with numerous town teams in the area. While attending a Goldfield dance he met the love of his life, Barbara Moseley. After graduating high school he attended business school in Des Moines enabling him to take a job in Washington D.C.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps, unable to be a pilot due to his color blindness, he trained in gunnery school and became a ball turret gunner and navigator's assistant in a B-24 Liberator. In 1944 he was stationed in England, his crew attempted 10 missions, but on the final mission they had to bail out over France on August 8th, 1944. After intensive interrogations he was held in Stallag Luft IV. During the last 3 months

of the war they were marched back and forth northern Germany to prevent their liberation. After being liberated in May of 1945 he returned home to marry Barbara Moseley on July, 8th that same year.

He decided to attend Oklahoma City University where Barb was interning for her dietetic degree. He pitched for OCU and played semi-pro for the Gassers against excellent teams including some from the "Negro Leagues."

He started teaching and raising a family in Inwood, Iowa. He moved to Des Moines and obtained his master's degree at Drake University then moved to Armstrong, Iowa where he became High School Principal and later, Super Intendant of Schools. During this time he joined a flying club and was able to get his pilots license and pursue his passion for flight.

In 1963 he and his wife and 3 children moved to Mason City, Iowa. He started as a teacher and assistant baseball coach, then Associate Principal, and ultimately High School Principal having earned his doctorate at Iowa State University.

In 1985 he retired and started driving veterans to the V.A Hospital in Des Moines, volunteering on mission trips to Latin America, and becoming active in the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization. He was their National Commander 2011-2012. One of his last official acts as commander was participating in the Veteran's Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and breakfast at the White House with President Obama.

After his home was in the flooding of 2008 he moved to the Village Coop. In 2017 he was presented the Service Above Self Award by the Mason City Noon Rotary Club.

His beloved wife, Barbara, and 1 daughter predeceased him. He leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 sister, 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren and their families.



Past National Commander Lollar

James Lollar, of Wills Point, TX and Phoenix, AZ, passed away August. 14, 2018. He was born and raised in Kilmichael, Mississippi, and joined the US Air Force a couple years after graduating from High School. Jim's combat duty included assignment to Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, in August 1967, and he volunteered for a 2nd tour and stayed until September 1969. During the 1st year, Jim was a bombardier on B-57 bomber and flew several missions as door-gunner on the UH-1 helicopter. During the 2nd year, Jim moved up to the AC-119, AC-47 and AC-130 Gunships. After a year's tour with NATO as a Combat Weapons Monitor with the Turkish Air Force, Jim was sent to flight training to become a "Tail Gunner" for B-52 Bomber Operations and then flew combat missions into Laos, Cambodia, South and North Vietnam out of Kadena AB, Japan, Utaoia RTAFB, Thailand, and Andersen AB, Guam.

During Operation Linebacker II, Jim was the sole survivor when his aircraft was shot down over Hanoi, North Vietnam and became a member of the 4th Allied POW Wing (Nam-POW) at Hoa Lo Prison, the infamous "Hanoi Hilton."

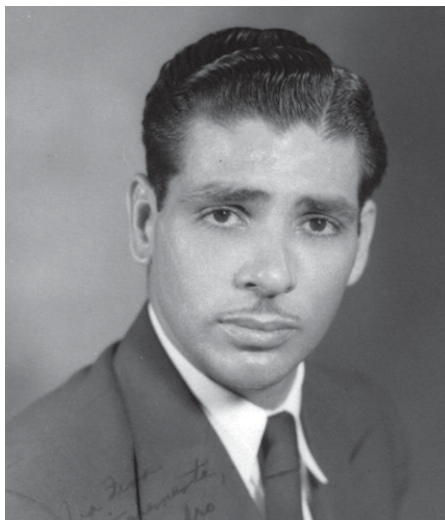
taps, cont'd...

Jim achieved the rank of Master/Sgt (E-7). After repatriating, he finished his BS degree in Accounting from Arkansas, was commissioned after OTS, and then completed an MBA in Financial Management at the University of Utah. After commissioning, Jim served as an Internal Auditor with the USAF Audit Agency and as Team Leader with HQ-Aeronautical Systems Division investigating government contractors on military procurement programs.

After leaving the military, Jim started his own carpentry company, Lake City Carpentry, Inc., building and re-modeling custom homes in Southern Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Northern Indiana. Once he retired, he and his wife, Debby, moved to beautiful Lake Tawakoni a few miles North of Wills Point, Texas. They "snowbird" back and forth to their 2nd home in Phoenix, AZ.

He was very active with the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization (AXPOW), Nam-POW Inc., and Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association (River Rats). Jim served AXPOW as National Director (2006-2010), National Junior Vice Commander (2010-2012), National Senior Vice Commander (2012-2013), and National Commander (2013-2014). Locally, he also served as Department Commander (2010-2014) and Department Adjutant/Treasurer (2009-2014) for the State of Texas, and as Commander (2007-2014) of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter.

Jim continued to actively support the Andersonville National Historic Site with annual trips/visits to participate in the POW/MIA Recognition Day festivities, and assists the "Homes for our Troops (HOFT)" project in various fundraising activities. HOFT is without a doubt the most gratifying job I've ever done: helping to raise funds to build "specially adapted homes" for our wounded warriors who have lost legs, arms, eyes, etc. in various conflicts around the world.



Past National Commander
Salinas

Alejandro (Alex) Salinas was born December 28, 1919, in Falfurrias, Texas. He passed away on April 26, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas.

Alex served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Floresville, Texas and joined the US Army in January, 1941. On December 7, 1941, he was on a troop transport ship headed to the Philippines, but due to the attack on Pearl Harbor, his ship was diverted to Australia; then on to the Dutch East Indies where he was taken as a Prisoner of War by the Japanese on the island of Java in 1942. He spent 3 ½ years as a slave laborer in Japan in Nagasaki (building ships), and in Japanese coal mines until the atomic bomb ended WWII. After the war's end, he returned home and after 1 ½ years in the hospital at Fort Sam Houston, he went on to attend Trinity University where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Biology. In 1951 he married Maria Norma Riojas. They were married for 59 years, until 2010, when she passed away.

Alex worked for the San Antonio City Health Department for 30 years, until his retirement. Alex was Past National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War

(1962-1963) after serving as National Director and Vice Commander. He was a Founding and Life Member of the "Lost Battalion", 131st Field Artillery, and USS Houston Associations. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Alex is survived by his sisters; Maria Celia Cruz and Viola Gutierrez, and a brother Amadeo (Mike) Salinas. He is survived by his three children: Alex C. Salinas (Raquel), Norma I. Reyes, and John C. Salinas (Cheryl); all three of San Antonio. Also, he is survived by seven grandchildren, as well as numerous cousins and relatives.

ALLEGGER, Charles Willard, 93, of Palm Harbor, FL passed away June 30, 2018. During WWII, he served in the US Army. After capture, he was held in Stalags X11A, I1A, I1E. His wife, Etta, predeceased him. A brother, a daughter, 3 sons, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive him. He was a long-time member of the Florida Chapter, American Ex-POWs and will be missed.

ALLEN, Roger Ancel, of Oklahoma City, OK died June 6, 2018. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF, 759th BG, 459th BS. His plane was shot down over Austria, he was captured and interned at Luft IV, then marched across Germany. Roger and his late wife, Florine, were life members of AXPOW; Roger was past commander of the Central OK Chapter. He leaves 2 daughters, 3 grandsons and 9 great-grandchildren.

DEMERT, Donald G. of Williamsburg, VA died June 11, 2018 at the age of 95. During WWII, he was captured while flying over Germany as a B-17 pilot; he was held in Luft I, Barth until liberation. He charmed all who knew him with his interested, open and loving personality as well as his gift for gab. He is survived by Hildegard, his wife of 60 years, three sons and their wives, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

taps, cont'd...

DAILEY, Roy J., of El Dorado Springs, M O passed away June 26, 2018. He was 93. During WWII, Roy was captured while serving with the 4th Division. He was held in Stalags 12A and 4B until liberation.

FLEISCHAUER, William Jr., 94, of Greenwood DE died May 11, 2018. Bill served in the AAC during WWII; his plane was shot down, he was captured and held until war's end. Survivors include the love of his life, Nadine, 1 daughter, 1 son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and their families.

HARMON, Eugene, of Bartlesville, OK passed away Jun 8, 2018. He was 94. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 448th BG, 714th BS. He was shot down over Brussels, captured and held in Lufts 6 & 4 and survived the winter march across Germany. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Barbara, 1 daughter, 2 sons and their families.

HATCHER, George L Jr., 97, one of the last surviving members of the "Erwin Nine" died May 28, 2018. He was past commander of the East TN Chapter, AXPOW. George was captured while serving with the 457th BG flying out of England. He spent the remainder of the war in Luft IV, finally marching across Germany as the Allies pressed into Germany. His wife of 58 years, Virginia, predeceased him; he leaves 1 brother, 2 sisters, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and his special friend, Charlotte Edwards.

HUFNAGEL, Anthony Joseph, of Bloomingdale, IL passed away Aug 3, 2017. HUFNAGEL, Isabel passed away July 9, 2018. They are survived by 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and their families. They are missed by many.

IRVINE, Walter "Walt" Mathew, 90, of Nacogdoches, TX died March 22, 2018. He was the husband of

Elizabeth Lautzenhiser who was a civilian internee in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Manila, Philippines in WWII. Liz and Walt were married for 69 years and were long time members of AXPOW. Liz served as the commander of the San Antonio AXPOW Chapter No. 1 for a number of years. Walt was member of the U.S. Navy for four years, and served on LSM 375. Walt had a wry sense of humor, a clever wit, and wrote a book incorporating many of the uncanny adventures of his life. He is survived by Liz, four children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends. Walt is sorely missed by his family and those who knew him.

JACKSON, Orville J, 96, of Bellevue, IA passed away May 16, 2018. He served with Co B, 409th Inf. Reg., 103rd Cactus Div. in WWII. He was wounded and captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Orville was an active member of the NE Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 daughters and their families and special friend Betty Burton and her family.

KREMPER, Donald F., of Lexington, KY died May 25, 2018. He was 94. His plane was shot down and he was captured and held 1-1/2 years, then marched in the winter of 1945. Don was an active member of AXPOW and the Kentucky Chapter. He is survived by his wife Catherine, 1 son, 3 daughters, 2 nieces, 2 nephews, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

MATHEWS, Thomas Lee, of Grafton, WV died June 4, 2018 at the age of 93. Tom was captured while he was serving with the 45th Inf. Div., Co. E, 180th Infantry. He was Chapter Adjutant for the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter, AXPOW. Tom is survived by 2

nephews, 1 nieces, several great-nieces and great-nephews, and several great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

MCCAIN, John Sidney III, of Phoenix, AZ and Washington, DC passed away August 25, 2018 at the age of 81. Both his father and grandfather were Navy aviators, and John III followed in their footsteps. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1958, as his father had in 1931. John III was later shipped to Vietnam, where he became the third generation of his family to serve.

Lt Cdr. John McCain was a pilot assigned to Attack Squadron 163 onboard the aircraft carrier USS ORISKANY (CVA-34). On October 26, 1967, he launched in his A4E "Skyhawk" attack aircraft as the number three aircraft in the first division of a strike group against the Hanoi Thermal Power Plant.

The flight met with considerable resistance in the form of anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles (SAM) approaching the target. As he rolled into his dive, his aircraft was observed by his wingman to take a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire and to burst into flames. He was able to eject from his crippled aircraft and made brief emergency contact before his parachute landed in a nearby lake in Hanoi. He was captured immediately and confined in the Hanoi prison system, as was verified by Radio Hanoi broadcasts and later information gathered during his years of imprisonment.

He was severely injured, having broken both arms and his right leg, and his strength in coping through his recuperation was inspiring to many of his fellow POWs.

Years after the war, John returned to Hanoi and visited the site of the monument erected at the lake in Hanoi which celebrated his capture.

He left the U.S. Navy and ultimately was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982

taps, cont'd...

and again in 1984. He won the Senate seat vacated by Barry Goldwater from Arizona in 1986. During his terms in Congress, he has been involved in the issue of Americans still prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Vietnam.

John was a life member of AXPOW and NamPOW. He leaves his loving wife, Cindy, his mother Roberta, 3 daughters, 4 sons, 1 sister, 1 brother, and their families.

Source: Compiled by from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews, information from John McCain III. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK

MORGAN, Wallace, of Blythe, CA passed away March 15, 2018. He served with the 28th Inf. Div., wading ashore on D-Day. He was wounded in the Huertgen Forest, captured and held in Stalag XII, Berlin and finally Neubrandenburg. He leaves his beloved wife, Janet and two grandsons.

NOBLE, Bob, of Quincy, MA died Aug. 7, 2018 at age 93. He was captured while serving with the 87th Inf. Division and held in Stalag XIB. Bob was an activist in civilian life; a strong advocate for ex-POWs and all veterans. He and his late wife, Gloria, spent nearly 70 years devoted to community service and support of veterans. Bob served as Dept. Commander, Chapter Commander in MA. Gloria passed away in 2013. Bob leaves 3 daughters, 1 son and their families, 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

PETERS, Era C., 97, of Brookhaven, MS died Aug. 9, 2018. She was the widow of Robert Daniel Peters (ex-POW, Luft 1). Era was a retired registered nurse. She was a life member of AXPOW. She is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and their families.

SCHMIDT, Glenn E., 94, died in Carmichael, CA on July 24, 2018. Glenn was a member of Company A, 242nd Reg., 42nd Inf. Div. He was wounded and captured on January 9, 1945 in France, interned in Stalag IXB, Germany, and held until liberation. Glenn's first two wives predeceased him; he leaves his wife Janet, 1 brother, 1 sister, 5 children, 5 step-children, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Glenn and Janet were active members of the 49ers Chapter and long-time AXPOW members.

SHERMAN, Ray, of Belleville, WI passed away Aug. 1, 2018 at the age of 95. During WWII, he was captured at Anzio Beach while serving with the army. He managed to escape and make it to American lines at the end of the war. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Lendoris, 2 daughters and a number of nieces and nephews.

SHOFFIT, Alfred W., of Hereford, TX passed away May 23, 2018. He served with the I&R Platoon, Hdq. Co., 423rd Inf. Reg., 106th Div and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held mostly at Zittau on the German/Polish border. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 1 grandson, 4 granddaughters, and 13 great-grandchildren.

STENGER, Charles A. of Rockville, MD passed away April 29, 2018. During WWII, he served with the 106th Medical Corp. After capture, he was held in Stalags 3A, Nuremberg. After release, Charlie spent many years as chief psychologist for the Veterans Administration. He was responsible for the POW statistics keeping track of living ex-POWs that Congress and the VA relied on for benefits and claims. He was a long-time member of the POW Advisory Committee. Charlie was predeceased by his first wife; his wife,

Mary Lou, two step-children, three grandchildren and extended family survive him.

STRAHLER, Lawrence of Tucson, AZ died May 23, 2018. He was 95. He was captured after being badly wounded while serving with the 377th Reg., F Co. during WWII. He spent five months in German hospitals before being liberated. Larry's wife of 67 years, Mary, died in 2015. He leaves 4 children, 2 sisters, 1 brother, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and their families. He is greatly missed.

VANACORE, Anthony, of Staten Island, NY passed away March 27, 2018 at the age of 93. He was a former commander of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter. Anthony served with the 45th Inf. Div., D Company, 157th Reg. in Italy, the Rhineland and southern France. He was captured at Reipertswiller and held in XIIA and XB until liberated by the British. Anthony is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son and 1 brother.

WALDMAN, Marie Emma, of Mt. Lebanon, PA died March 30, 2018. She was 92. She and her husband, Norman (EX-POW in Germany) founded the Koal Krackin Klowns and the Greene County Hillbilly Band, entertaining area residents for years. Both Marie and Norman were life members of AXPOW. Survivors include her husband of 68 years, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and their families.

YOUNG, Lucy Luna, 96, passed away in Auburn, CA on July 25, 2018. Lucy was the widow of Robert "Bob" Young who was a civilian internee in the Philippines during WW II. They were both long-time members of AXPOW and valued members of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento. Lucy leaves a sister and brother, 7 children, 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was a guiding light for her extended family.

chaplain



Benny Rayborn

Worried Prayer?

Prayer. What is it? Talking to God? Praising God? Giving thanks to God for the good things in your life? Acknowledging God's presence in your life? The thoughts of your heart? Things you want?

Prayer is a lot more than all of the above things rolled into one. For one, it is communion with God. You are visiting God. And yes, we expect answers to our prayers. Usually we expect a "yes" answer while failing to realize that "no" is

just as much an answer as "yes". "No" is not the answer we usually desire. It has been said that some of the best blessings are unanswered prayers. In most cases that means a "no" answer.

We are taught to pray usually at an early age by our parents, "I lay me down to sleep, if I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to keep". In my experience, there is no faith as strong as that of a child. It is sad that as we grow, we often lose that trust in the Almighty.

Prayer is an acknowledgement of faith. Acts 2: 21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Not maybe. Not I hope so but "...shall be saved." Therefore it follows that prayer is putting one's hand in God's.

Prayer leads us through an invisible door in to the presence of God. However, worry leads away from trusting God into another room filled with disappointment and hopelessness.

God does not stop us from worrying. We have to stop ourselves from worrying. It has been said that prayer does not cancel worry. But worry will cancel prayer.

Most people who read this article probably have never been a prisoner-of-war. But imagine the worry that each of them must have shouldered. And with good reason. They were in the midst of the enemy. Things looked grim to minimize their situation. Who could they trust? Who could they turn to?

I would guess that most would have practiced Philippians 4: 6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

They had nothing but with God they had everything. In closing I will leave you with this question: What do you have?

Benny



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