A Tribute To Our Nurses

Tentative Schedule
Orlando, Florida

Tuesday, May 4, 2004
7:00 PM-11:00 PM Hospitality Host Bar

Wednesday, May 5, 2004
8:00 AM Church Service  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM Registration  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM Executive Board Meeting  
7:00 PM-11:00 PM Hospitality Host Bar

Thursday, May 6, 2004
8:00 AM Church Services  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM Tentative Shopping Bus  
Back

Friday, May 7, 2004
8:00 AM Church Service
9:00 AM-3:00 PM Registration
9:30 AM-12:00 Membership Meeting
12:00 Widows Luncheon
7:00 PM-11:00 PM Quan Party & Dance Host Bar

Saturday, May 8, 2004
8:00 AM Church Service
10:00 AM-11:30 AM Memorial Service
6:30 PM Head Table Reception
7:00 PM Banquet

You need seat assignment when you register so we know how many dinners to order.
Looking Forward

Now that Albuquerque is history, we must look forward to 2004. We will have a good program planned around “A Tribute to Our Nurses”, our Angels.

Place: Orlando Airport Marriott
Dates: Tuesday, May 4, 2004 to Saturday, May 8
Returning Home: Sunday, May 9, 2004
Cost: Your loose change
Rates: $72.00 s/d.
Rates good for two days forward or back

May 1, 2003

TO: All ADBC Members
SUBJECT: Membership
Life Members .............. 2687
Widows ..................... 1702

John Crago
Membership

Our organization became incorporated in the State of Massachusetts on January 25, 1948. The charter identified many purposes for the association, including the following: “To care for the widows and orphans of our deceased or unfortunate comrades and to assist and make lighter the circumstances of our comrades who have been injured or handicapped as a result of service in World War II.”

In past years each commander has appointed a committee on legislation to assist in preparing and supporting legislation that would accomplish objectives of our charter. In the years shortly after World War II, most of our group were highly dissatisfied with the treatment afforded them by the Veterans Administration. This caused them to avoid the very body that was set up by our government to achieve the objectives of our charter. After many years of complaints, members of Congress finally began to realize that those former prisoners of war of the Japanese military during World War II were still suffering from the residuals of their starvation, mistreatment, and being utilized as slave labor. Therefore, in the year 1978, Congress held hearings relative to the many health problems of these former prisoners of war and mandated a thorough study and research with and report to Congress of their findings (Public Law 95-479). Section (b) of that law reads as follows: “Such report shall include recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as the Administrator considers may be necessary to assure that former prisoners of war receive compensation and health-care benefits for all disabilities which may reasonably be attributed to their internment.” The Veterans Administration published the study in May 1980. One of the major findings of this study which is essential for understanding the entire study is that the POW experience was characterized by starvation diet, poor quality or non existent medical care, “death marches,” executions and torture, has historically been an extremely harsh and brutal experience. Past National Commander Art Bressi was one of the principal witnesses to testify before the committee that mandated the study.

Subsequently, Congress in the year 1981, passed legislation granting a large number of presumptive disabilities and diseases on behalf of the former prisoners of war under Public Law 97-37. This law led to the granting of 100% disability compensation to most of the prisoners of war that were interned in Japan. I might add, I testified twice before the Congressional sub-committee on behalf of this bill. Also, I must add that a witness on behalf of the Veterans Administration testified against the enacting of Public Law 97-37 before this same sub-committee, which to me was very shameful inasmuch the spokesman delved very highly on the cost of such a program.

On or about this time our organization also attempted to go through the United Nations Human Rights Committee to assist us in obtaining compensation from Japan. Ralph Levenberg and I traveled to Ottawa, Canada to attend a meeting with five other nations whose prisoners of war of the Japanese military were severely mistreated and utilized as slave labor. We sent a delegate to attend the United Nations’ Human Rights Committee in Switzerland, however, our delegate found the Japanese strongly lobbying against our effort and of course no positive results came from the meeting. It was discovered also, that many countries that had delegates at this meeting were supporting positions of their governments which might involve law suits against these nations because of their involvement in serious human rights violations in the past. It was very obvious that this approach should be abandoned.

In the year 2000, the office of Senator Bingaman introduced a bill (S1302) which would award each of our Japanese prisoners of war or their surviving widow the sum of $20,000. Wayne Glass, who was the office spokesman for the intended legislation, knew that hearings probably would not be held on this bill, had a section attached to the Defense Authorization Act, which authorized the prisoners of war that were interned in Japan. The Senate approved the legislation and it went to a Senate-House conference where Congressman Stump of Arizona placed a hold on our legislation, thereby eliminating it from the Defense Authorization Act. Because of the actions of one Congressman, our effort on the award proved to be fruitless. It was appalling to us that one man stood in the way of us receiving this just compensation.

A somewhat similar action took place this year in the Senate. Senator Hatch proposed an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Act (S1300) which would have awarded all surviving former prisoners of war of the Japanese military the sum of $10,000. Senator Hatch gave a very persuausing talk on the Senate floor on behalf of the amendment. After a motion was made to pass the amendment, Senator Stevens made a motion to reconsider. However, Senator Inouye immediately made a motion to lay Steven’s motion on the table. On July 27, 2003, the amendment was passed by voice vote of the Senate and subsequently sent to a conference with the House on HR 2685, the Defense Appropriations Act. The conference report was then returned to the Senate for final approval. The Senate voted 95-0 for approval of the final conference report on September 25, 2003. The Defense Appropriations Act was then sent to the President who signed it on September 30, 2003 as Public Law 108-87. I then called the office of Senator Jeff Bingaman and spoke to a staff person named Anita Chavez and asked her what happened to Senate Amendment 1300 which was approved by the Senate on July 27, 2003. Her reply was that the Amendment was eliminated from the Defense Appropriations Act. She had no idea who was responsible for having the amendment eliminated from the bill. It is amazing and appalling that the senate on one hand votes unanimously to approve the compensation on July 25, 2003 and then on September 25, 2003 they voted d95-0 to eliminate it from the Defense Appropriations Act. It appears to be hypocrisy on the part of the Senate in the way they handled Senator Hatch’s amendment. The dictionary defines hypocrisy as “pretending to be what one is not.” Was the initial passage of the amendment a publicity stunt to appease veterans? Anyway, we are heavily disappointed that the same senators who by voice vote approved the S Amdt 1300, unanimously voted to eliminate it from the Appropriations Act. We are quite sure that they all voted aye to show support of our troops in Iraq. Remember, your senator voted to eliminate the amendment also.

There are a number of other pieces of legislation in the hopper relating to prisoners of war, however, no action has been taken on any of them. Two that we are interested in are HR 850 and S 1239. If no action is taken on any of these pieces of legislation they will be carried over to the next session of Congress. We will continue to update you whenever or whatever action is taken on legislation affecting the well being of former prisoners of war of the Japanese military.

LITIGATION

We were anxiously awaiting for the new term of the United States Supreme Court to see what action, if any, the court decided on our appeal of an adverse ruling on our litigation by the 9th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Shortly after the court convened, an announcement was made that the court had rejected our appeal of the above-mentioned adverse ruling on our litigation.

Linda Goetz Holmes contacted Bonnie Kane, one of our litigation attorneys and wanted to know where we stood on litigation on the west coast. her remark was that all is not legally lost. On October 9, the Casey firm filed an amended brief with the California Appellate Court, which has been instructed by the California Supreme Court to reconsider the POW cases in light of the Garamand (Holocaust insurance companies doing business in California) ruling by the United States Supreme Court, which previously ruled that the California statute as applied to insurance companies was unconstitutional, inasmuch as California should have known that there was an
executive policy in place dealing with the Holocaust claims (Stu Eizenstat et al) and therefore the California law infringed on foreign relations. This was a split 5-4 decision. Attorney Casey has argued that the U.S. has not had an Executive Agreement or negotiations under way with the Japanese companies, so the same reasoning does not apply to our litigation — unless one incorrectly interprets the 1951 peace treaty. The lower court had already acknowledged that the 1951 treaty is not harmonized because Article 14 conflicts with Article 19 of the peace treaty. The Casey firm points this out in their new brief. The brief also points out that the California statute is merely procedural, and not substantive (it does not address limitations), and the U.S. Supreme Court has always ruled that states have the right to use their own procedural rules. The Federal courts must defer to the manner in which State courts interpret their own statutes. If there is no conflict between the 2nd and 4th California District courts, the defendants could conceivably petition the California Supreme Court to hear their petition, but we have been told that the California Supreme court only agrees to hear 5% of its petitions. So if the CA Supreme Court declines to hear the defendants’ petition (which is a 95% possibility), we can proceed with our cases.

The current filing of briefs is on a fast track, because both sides only have 15 days to file supplementary briefs (from last Monday’s U.S. Supreme Court rulings) and another 15 days to respond to each other. Then any friends of the court briefs must be filed within 14 days. Bonnie Kane points out that it was only after the Holocaust cases were dismissed that negotiations between companies and slave labor victims occurred. And the fund that was set up in 1999 now has 6,000 German firms participating. The most interesting thing is that a German professor recently informed our attorneys that the German public is not aware that the Japanese companies have so far gotten away without paying one cent to their slave labor victims. He said Germans will be outraged to learn this. We surely will be in a position to notify them of this information immediately. As you can see, our litigation effort continues despite certain legal setbacks and the fact that our State Department supports the Japanese position on these law suits. We deeply appreciate the effort that our attorneys have made and continue to make on our behalf. They are a dedicated group and we will continue to support their effort, in the words of one of our noted statesmen, “until hell freezes over.”

There are many factors that support the need of our government recognizing the accomplishments, mistreatment, and the views of other nations relative to the defenders of the Philippine Islands (1941-1945) which support granting them a monetary award as outlined in the following paragraphs:

**WHAT THE SACRIFICE OF THE AMERICAN DEFENDERS ACCOMPLISHED**

Not too many people realize that we only had a peace time armed force in the Philippines prior to World War II. We were totally unprepared for war there. The plan to defend the Islands did not envision reinforcement or relief of the Philippine Garrison. With a small army committed to continental defense and a general agreement that in the event America went to war it would adopt a defeat-Germany first strategy, the U.S. Military reluctantly concluded that the Philippines must be sacrificed if the Japanese attacked. However, those brave and distinguished Fil-American defenders of the Philippines, many untrained and had never shot a rifle before, stood up and held at bay a much superior force of Japanese invaders for almost five and one half months. Their surrender came about because of disease and starvation. This had truly been a medical defeat, the inevitable outcome of a campaign of attrition without replenishment.

Holding these well-trained Japanese forces at bay for such a long period of time gave our nation time to send troops and armaments to Australia, thereby, thwarting a possible landing of Japanese troops on the continent of Australia. This in the judgment of many historians shortened the war in the far east by at least six months, saving countless lives and other resources. Therefore, the total sacrifice of these patriotic men and women that defended the Philippine Islands can never really be measured nor can any one comprehend their contribution to our precious gift of freedom.

**THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR INTERNMENT**

After the surrender of Bataan, no one envisioned what would come next. First, came the Death March, then the horrible filthy POW camps at O’Donnell, Cabanatuan, and Bilibid; then came the Hell Ships transporting American POWs to Japan for slave labor purposes. Then came starvation diets, lack of medical attention, beatings, atrocities such as torching our POWs at Palawan, beheading and vivisection of some of the B-29 crewmen, and more. Statistics show that 37% of the American POWs died while a prisoner of war, whereas, only 1% of the POWs in Germany died while a prisoner of war. The residual effects of the prisoners of war of the Japanese military still haunt the former POWs to this day. There has never been an accountability by the Japanese government or its industries for this extreme mistreatment of American prisoners of war. The media seems to have ignored the actions of the Japanese military. Even the U.S. Department of State supports the Japanese position as to accountability for their actions during World War II.

**POSITION OF OTHER NATIONS AS TO AWARDDING POWS COMPENSATION**

Canada, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Australia governments have recognized the unique internment circumstances of those held as prisoners of war by the Japanese military and have awarded compensation to them or their surviving widows. The United States government is the only nation that fought the Japanese forces in the far east that has not awarded these brave and distinguished former prisoners of war some sort of compensation. Because these patriots of the past believed in a free United States of America to safeguard, with their lives if necessary, its spirit of freedom, all americans today enjoy that legacy. It is shameful that our government has not seen fit to recognize these forgotten heroes of the past.

Also, the German government and some of their large industrial plants has set aside four billion dollars to settle slave labor claims that occurred during World War II. The Japanese government and its industrial giants have decided to ignore the matter of slave labor and they have been supported in the courts by our own State Department.

**LEGION**

When I was young I’d watch the Legion march by
then one day a legionaire said to me
“It’s time for you to take my place”
and I stepped into his place in the Legion ranks
And the Legion Marches On.

Since that day I’ve fought beside the great and small
Known the great joy of victory, sadness and anger of defeat
spent long days with friends and a few enemies
And faithfully stayed my place in the ranks
And the Legion Marches On.

Now after nearly half my life on the roles
I see it’s my turn to step from the ranks and to another I say
“It’s time for you to take my place”
And will watch him enter the Legion ranks
And the Legion Marches On.

In my later years I’ll again watch the Legion march by
And remember that I was asked and joined the ranks
Knowing when I die my spirit will still live in the roles
For as ages ancient and for ages yet to come
The Legion Marches On.

_________ Major D 20020812
ANGEL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR
Lt. Mildred Dalton Manning


Recognitions and Citations: Bronze Star Medal, Victory Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters (Hosp. #2 Bataan 1941-42).


Lt. Mildred Manning was born in a farm house out in the country in Jackson County, Georgia in 1915. To go to school it was necessary that she move into town and live with her grandparents in Jefferson.

The town of Jefferson was blessed with an exceptionally fine school, The Martin Institute, from which she graduated in 1932, and in the depth of the Great Depression. She went to Atlanta to study nursing at Grady Hospital. She worked for a time as head nurse at Grady, but filled with a desire to see the world, she joined the Army and took training at Fort mcPherson and Fort Benning, and was sent to the Philippines at her request.

“I asked for the Philippines,” Lt. Manning reports, “because from there you could travel all over the Orient.” She was in the Philippines only six weeks when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, and, on the same day, her facility in the Philippines.

It was the next May when she was captured.

For the previous four months she had been on day and night duty attending the wounded soldiers in the field as General MacArthur’s army retreated through the jungles and swamps of the Bataan peninsula. Lt. Manning and the other ninety-eight Army and Navy nurses were the first unit of American women ever sent into the middle of a battle. She was on the last boat to leave Bataan for Corregidor, having to wait for the Japanese planes to cease strafing before departing.

“Corregidor is just a rock, and before the war the army had cut tunnels all in there,” she said. “Our hospitals and many supplies were in the tunnels. That’s where we were when the surrender by General Jonathan Wainwright came.”

“We were told that the Japanese soldiers were coming and that we would be captured,” she said. “We didn’t know what to expect … we were told there might be raping and killing.”

The next morning the nurses were called out and lined up, and the Japanese soldiers walked up and down looking them over.

“As a condition of surrender, General Wainwright had negotiated a promise from the Japanese that the nurses would not be harmed … I think they didn’t know what to do with us as they had no women in their army. We were moved to a civilian internment camp (Santo Tomas) in Manila.

“The food the first two years was adequate, but the last year the prisoners had only one cup of rice twice a day,” she said. They were malnourished and many, including Lt. Manning, suffered from beriberi, the results of which plague her even today.

“But the nurses were not physically mistreated. I think that we were very fortunate. No one had much food that last year, including their people,” she said.

First on Bataan, then moved to Corregidor, they were under almost constant shell fire, were always hungry, close to starvation, had horrendous diseases to deal with despite a shortage or even a complete lack of proper medicines, getting little or no sleep, nothing in the way of recreation — yet they were a true band of angels, inspiring all the men whom they were there to help. In a squalid prison camp, they remained giants, despite their small size … They were the bravest of the brave, who endured unspeakable pain and torture. Americans today should thank God we had such women.

—Stephen E. Ambrose

We are not likely to see another group of women like these in the American military. Neither the modern army nor the modern navy has an all-female nursing unit.

Although I have used the epithets of “hero” and “angel” throughout, I have tried not to aggrandize my subjects — they were, from first to last, nurses. To call a woman a nurse, however, is to give her more than a moniker. In an ironic way, the ethos of a nurse is like that of a soldier. Research has shown that soldiers fight not for their country or for a cause, but out of love for their comrades. They care deeply about the men in the mud beside them, and they are willing to risk all and endure anything to prove it.

This same ethic — call it an ethic for the other person — is instilled in every nurse. From their student days forward, nurses are told that they have an almost sacred obligation to those in their charge — “The patient always comes first” — and, thus, caring for the sick and injured becomes a kind of prepossessing sentiment, like comradeship. Even now, decades later, the Angels feel it. During my interviews, it was not their own fears or suffering that most haunted them, it was the memory of a certain evening on Bataan in April 1942 when they received word that the peninsula was about to fall to the enemy and they were ordered to leave their patients, just leave them there on bamboo beds in the middle of the jungle in the path of the (Continued on Page 6)
advancing enemy, thousands of wounded and bleeding and feverish men, unarmed and utterly helpless. Some of the nurses thought of refusing that order. They wanted to stay because that is what a comrade does, that is what a nurse does. But they were soldiers too, and soldiers obey orders. So they left — and for the rest of their lives they have regretted it. Fifty years later, I watched them weep inconsolably in the telling. That kind of loyalty and sense of sacrifice and duty stands out in sharp relief in our era.

Nursing is also an intimate profession, much more so than the profession of medicine. Surgeons and physicians perform their tasks then depart. It is the nurse who remains at the bedside, changing the bloody dressing, washing the injured body, listening carefully to every beat of the heart. It is one thing, of course, to do all this in the safety of a Stateside hospital; it is quite another to do it in the middle of a jungle, starving and afraid and wracked with malarial tremors. So we will not call them heroes or angels, but what they were, what they are — women, made remarkable by history and ennobled by suffering and love.

We can learn many lessons from such women. First, that loyalty, sacrifice, obedience and discipline are genderless. Honor may have begun as a male code but the sense of selflessness it requires is much more characteristic of women. The abiding camaraderie that sustained the nurses under fire and in prison should have surprised no one. They prized their affiliation, their sorority, their womanhood because, as women, they were more naturally comrades than men. I do not mean to suggest that women cannot act independently or that among us there are no individualists. History has long since put that canard to rest. Instead, I think that men feel compelled to prove themselves in isolation, while women feel compelled to prove themselves in accord. The voice of a woman is the voice of connection, and this inclination to keep close, to define oneself through affinity, kept the women going.

—Elizabeth Norman, Author

WE BAND OF ANGELS

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The Department of Defense Ceremonial Bugle

This is in response to your interest in and inquiry about the Military Funeral Honors ceremonial bugle. I am pleased to inform you that the testing of the ceremonial bugle and the evaluation of the data has now been completed. The resulting data indicated that the system is reliable and endorsed by over 96 percent of the families surveyed. As a result, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) has approved the use of this commercial product by military units throughout the Department of Defense effective August 7, 2003.

In exploring innovative ways to enhance the delivery of military funeral honors, the Department turned to technology to develop the ceremonial bugle. It is intended to be a dignified alternative to the pre-recorded Taps played on a stereo, but will not be used as a substitute for a live bugler when one is available.

The manufacturer, S & D Consulting International LTD., established a website for you to use in ordering the ceremonial bugle. Veterans Service Organizations, National and State Cemetery Directors, Funeral Directors, and others may access this website and place one on order if they desire. The website is located at www.ceremonialbugle.com. This site will answer your questions on system components, cost, warranties, and delivery schedules.

Thank you for your interest in this project and your continued support of our veterans and their families.

Sincerely,
Mark Ward
Senior Policy Advisor
Mortuary, Casualty, and Funeral Honors

Veterans Recognised on Second Day of Fiesta with a Special Tribute from Gov. Richardson and Free Balloon Rides

By Katie Burford
Journal Staff Writer

Balloons aren’t the only thing for which New Mexico is known. It’s also known for its long history of distinguished military service.

On Sunday, those two points of pride met during a Salute to New Mexico veterans on Day Two of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

“We’ve got a rich, rich and dynamic legacy,” John Garcia, secretary of the state Department of Veterans Services, told a crowd gathered for the special tribute. “We’re unlike any other state in the Union.”

The event began at about 10 a.m. with a flyover by a stealth fighter jet and other aircraft, both modern and vintage. A ceremony followed on the main stage during which Garcia read a proclamation from Gov. Bill Richardson declaring Oct. 5 a day to salute veterans. Politicians and high ranking military officials took turns at the microphone to give thanks for the sacrifices made by veterans, young and old.

Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., told the crowd that during the past year, “a new generation” had been reminded of the importance of military service.

This is the first year for the tribute to be included as part of the fiesta line-up.

“It’s really kind of neat to have 100,000 people here to honor these folks,” fiesta board president Art Swenka said during the ceremony.

The sound of an artillery blast from across the fiesta field brought the hour-long event to a close.

Earlier in the morning, all willing and able veterans got an insider’s view of the fiesta — from above. Members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps escorted the veterans, one by one, from a tent to the launch sites of their designated pilots. Doughnuts, green chile stew, warm tortillas, and hot coffee were provided while they waited.

Agapito Silva, an 83-year-old World War II veteran and survivor of the Bataan Death March, was among those to sign up.

Although his first-ever ride was cancelled because the pilot had concerns about wind, Silva said the tribute day was a “beautiful” idea and would like to see it become a permanent feature of the fiesta. Organizers gave him a balloon ride rain check, good for any other day of the fiesta.

As the mass ascension got under way, Garcia said having the tribute at such a well-attended event showed families of veterans how much their service was appreciated.

As the adage goes, “Freedom has a flavor the protected will never know,” he said.

Can Anyone Help?

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor and do receive The Quan publication. I also was a member of the 200th Coast Artillery.

I note in an article entitled Convention Notes on page 4 of the July issue which stated that about 2,000 soldiers of the 200th went to the Philippines.

My question is “How many of these 2,000 returned to the states after the war?” I have heard this figure before but have forgotten.

Would you please furnish me with this figure?

Sincerely,
F. Earle Bergquist
1001 Elmwood Dr.
Abilene, TX 79605-3932
SALUTE TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED

The brutal killing in 1944 of 139 U.S. prisoners by the Japanese may be little remembered today. But the few remaining survivors of the massacre don’t want it forgotten. A new historical marker at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery tells the awful tale.

By Elizabethe Holland
Of the Post-Dispatch

On Dec. 14, 1994, Eugene Nielsen and 149 other U.S. prisoners of war on the Philippine island of Palawan reported to work for their captors as usual — malnourished, plagued with injuries and illnesses and barely clothed, if clothed at all.

Nielsen, an Army private, noticed something peculiar about the Japanese captors that day. They didn’t scream at the men to make them work faster and harder. They weren’t quick with their clubs and other means of torture.

His sense was right. Later that day, the guards herded the Americans into three air-raid trenches at the Puerto Princesa Prison Camp, dumped fuel into the pits and set them on fire with torches and grenades. Prisoners who attempted to escape were killed with machine gun fire or bayonets.

In all, 139 Americans died in the massacre. Eleven somehow, miraculously, escaped. But greatly to the chagrin of Nielsen, 87, and other former prisoners held captive on Palawan, the events that day have been regarded as little more than a footnote, if even that, in history books.

On Saturday, however, a handful of veterans determined to preserve and pass on the details of the massacre will dedicate a historical marker at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where most of the victims were buried in 1952.

“They’ve got to know in history exactly what happened,” said Glenn McDole, 82, of Ankeny, Iowa, one of three remaining survivors of the massacre.

Of the 139 victims, 123 were buried at Jefferson Barracks. Family members of the others requested their remains be buried elsewhere.

The Palawan grave is the largest mass grave site at the national cemetery in south St. Louis County. But until recently, anyone examining the large, flat, gray stone that marks their shared resting place would learn nothing more than the names, ranks and branches of service of the men buried there — that and the day they all died.

“The Japanese tortured them … and nothing was told to anyone,” said Joseph E. Dupont Jr., 82, of Plaquemine, La. “That’s what upsets us — that the world doesn’t know. We hope that this will be a steppingstone for more information to come out.”

The men killed were Americans who were taken prisoner in 1942 by the Japanese at Corregidor and Bataan in the Philippine Islands, then a U.S. possession. The most infamous atrocity of that time and place was the Bataan Death March, in which Japanese guards brutalized American and Philippine prisoners.

Unlike other savage acts of the time, however, the massacre at Palawan — where prisoners had been taken to build an airstrip for the Japanese — hasn’t been mentioned in some of the most respected military reference books. And only in recent years has the incident garnered significant attention in books focused on what happened in the Philippines during wartime.

The realization that few people knew of the horrific incident became even more difficult to swallow two years ago when, during a reunion of World War II survivors in St. Louis, a number of former prisoners visited the grave site.

Dupont, a prisoner on Palawan who successfully baked a case of malaria and was taken off the island before the massacre, became upset that there was no explanation of the slayings at the site. There is a brief account of the massacre in the cemetery’s chapel, but Dupont and others who suffered on the island believed more was needed.

When Dupont returned home from the reunion, he spearheaded an effort to raise money among fellow Marine Corps veterans for a marker. The former private was overwhelmed with the response. Cemetery personnel installed the brass marker atop a marble stone in the spring.

Dupont will be at the ceremony Saturday, as will Nielsen and McDole and others who experienced staggering degrees of abuse at Palawan.

McDole, who has recounted his experiences in high schools throughout Iowa, is expected to tell some of his story — how he slipped out an escape hatch the prisoners had fashioned in the trench and then made his way naked down a cliff below.

For two days the Marine Corps sergeant hid in a mound of trash and then behind some coral before he swam into the bay to escape. He was forced to leave behind a friend whose arm had been shot off, he recalled. McDole was taken to safety after Philippine fishermen found him atop a fishing trap.

Nielsen hopes the storytelling Saturday will fall to McDole alone. Nielsen tells his story to those who ask, but not with long pauses and a deep sense of sadness.

He made his escape, he recalled, after forcing his way through barbed wire outside the trench.

(Continued on Page 8)
"It was hard to believe what was going on," he said. "I realized it was either get out or die." Like McDole, he took refuge in a heap of trash and then a coral reef. His escape grew more complicated, though, when he was spotted working his way down a beach. Japanese guards shot at him, he said, as he tried to take refuge. He was hit in the leg and the armpit, and a third bullet grazed his temple.

After losing a good bit of blood and being temporarily knocked out, he managed to go on. After some nine hours of swimming in the dark, he landed on a sandbar. After navigating through a mangrove swamp and then a field of grass that cut into his naked skin like serrated knives, he came across a Filipino who led him and three other survivors.

RESERVATION REQUEST
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ADBC National Convention 2004
$72.00 per room plus 11.5 tax
May 3, 2004-May 8, 2004

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How many rooms? _______________
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Type of room requested: __________ King __________ Double/Double
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Type of room requested is not guaranteed.

In making your reservation, we request you either:
1. Enclose a check or Money Order for one night's room and tax charges equal to $80.28 for each guest room reserved.
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2. Guarantee the room with a credit card. If so, please complete the information below.

The Orlando Airport Marriott regrets that it cannot make your reservation without one of the above. Deposits will be refunded only if cancellation notification is given up to 24 hours prior to arrival.

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Signature: ____________________________________________________________________________

If no credit card is available, all rooms must be guaranteed by one night's payment of $80.28.
RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE THE CUT OFF DATE TO GUARANTEE GROUP RATE. ANY REQUESTS MADE AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. ROOMS MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE CUT OF DATE BUT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GROUP RATE.

Reservations may be made by calling our toll-free reservation number 1-800-766-7652, faxing this form to (407) 851-7171 or send requests to 7499 Augusta National Dr., Orlando, FL 32822.

S:/Dawn/Forms/Reservation Form #2
Fountain Enhances VA Hospital

Benefactor was WWII nurse, prisoner of war

By Carmen Duarte
Arizona Daily Star

A nearly 10-foot-tall fountain carved out of cantera stone by craftsmen in Queretaro, Mexico, will be dedicated Wednesday in the main courtyard of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, commonly known as the VA hospital.

The fountain is a legacy of the late Madeline Ullom, a prisoner of war and decorated World War II Army nurse, said Lucius D. Legg, a friend of Ullom and administrator of her estate. Ullom, who lived in the Winterhaven neighborhood, died two years ago at the VA hospital at age 90, and was buried in her native O’Neill, Neb.

The fountain represents “respite, beauty and comfort” for the staff and volunteers who have provided 75 years of health care to America’s veterans, said Legg. Ullom left money to the hospital that provided for the fountain and its maintenance.

A walkway around the fountain was expanded to accommodate four concrete benches where visitors can enjoy the view and sounds of the fountain’s water, said Kathy Kretschmer, a health systems specialist for the hospital.

“Water is known to be a healing element. It represents life and cleansing,” she said.

Curtis Kekahbah, a member of the Kansa Indians of Oklahoma and a traditional Indian counselor at the hospital, will bless the fountain during the dedication ceremony.

Kekahbah said Ullom was a “loving, caring person” despite her POW experiences.

“She understood what liberty was about, and this fountain will be here as long as the VA hospital is here. It is a testament to her life and what she endured. I am honored to give the blessing,” Kekahbah said.

“Madeline was foremost a nurse, and she was always thinking about the patients,” said her friend Legg. “Anything that deals with pleasant surroundings or has therapeutic value would be important to her. She made people feel comfortable, and when she was here she always was speaking to someone. She was no stranger,” he said.

Legg said Ullom often wondered how she could make the hospital special. Her influence resulted in a display of about 40 prints of paintings of desert scenes and landscapes in the south and east wards.

He also remembered how she cherished the POW Remembrance Park dedicated in 1999 in front of the hospital’s main administrative building.

Ullom as born in Nebraska in 1911 and studied nursing at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, graduating in 1938 at the top of her class, Legg said. After graduation, she joined the Army Nurse Corps and served at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., until 1940, when she volunteered for overseas duty in the Philippines.

She was one of the Army and Navy nurses referred to as “The Angels of Bataan and Corregidor” and was featured in “Time for Fear,” a book by Phoenix author Diane Fessler.

Ullom was among more than 100 military nurses captured in 1942 when the Philippines fell to the Japanese. In a 1998 Arizona Daily Star interview, she talked about being a prisoner for 33 months, and how she and fellow nurses treated the wounded and those suffering from dengue fever, malaria, beriberi, scurvy and malnutrition.

In an internment camp where more than 4,000 were held captive, Ullom’s weight dropped to 80 pounds. On Feb. 3, 1945, American forces liberated the prisoners.

Ullom retired as a lieutenant colonel and moved to Tucson in 1964. She testified before Congress several times about her POW experiences. Among her commendations was a Bronze Star.

Thank You

Dear Mr. Vater,

We read each issue of Quan looking for veterans information. I often find names of friends from the military. I was in a Japanese P.O.W. camp for 43 months.

I don’t see or hear from many P.O.W.s anymore, but I would like to.

My wife and I live here on a farm, where I have been since returning from World War II.

I just want to thank you for continuing the Quan.

Sincerely,
Pat Boone
407 Boone White Rd.
Leitchfield, KY 42754-8102

Help Needed

Does anyone remember my father, T/Sgt. Ray Monical Johnson, who was assigned to the 3rd Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group? He was earlier on Bataan, then made the Bataan Death March, dying (death was given as June 25, 1942) probably at Cabanatuan after having been at Camp O’Donnell. He originally was from Indiana, but enlisted in Texas. He was married with three sons. I was told that he once injured his foot playing baseball. I can be reached at:

Robert Johnson
2800 Dillard Road
Brenham, TX 77833
E-mail: Robert.Johnson@Halliburton.com
To Former Fourth Marines:
Surrendered, yes. Defeated, NO!

We’ve been to Alb and enjoyed the thrill of watching spider webs form on the bottles in Frenchys Pub. Anymore, we don’t drink, we don’t smoke. About all that’s left is listening to stories about events that probably never happened, or if they did have been exaggerated beyond recognition with the passage of time.

But, we didn’t go to Alb to carouse. We went to see old comrades, maybe for the last time. And the warm fellowship in the hospitality suite highlighted the reason we were there. An interesting fact became apparent to me (I read minds) and that is that every man there looked at the other Marines and thought, “My God they all look old. I’m glad I’ve held my age so well.” You don’t have to confess if you don’t want to, but I know that I look younger than the rest of the jarheads. Bill Kerr is the exception. He showed youth and Olympic potential when he did a swan dive off the hotel van. It was greeted with such gasps of amazement that he promised when he recovered he would show us his back flip off a bar stool.

Lots of former Marines live down here in cotton country. We’ve developed our own culture. For example when we take our dog for a walk we both use the same tree. And we agree with Bill Clinton when he said, “If we don’t succeed we run the risk of failure.”

Duane Heisinger was 10 years old in 1941 when his father, Samuel Lawrence Heisinger, then Assistant District Attorney in Fresno, California volunteered within the California National Guard for active Army duty in the Philippines. After Corregidor fell in 1942, Samuel became a Japanese POW spending three years in Japanese prison camps. He died seven months before war’s end in a hold on a Japanese ship in route to Japan.

After retiring to Virginia, Duane began the search for his father. He spent years traveling to the Far East and throughout the United States talking to survivors of those days also finding several who knew his father or had lived in the same prison camps. The writing tells of his search for a father and the faith of a son.

The result is Father Found, that covers the hopes and expectations both at home and in the Philippines of those days when America was not ready, but responded to the war that came. Duane Heisinger’s book is a narrative of his father’s life from the time he left Fresno until his death. Much of the story is taken from interviews, diaries, letters, notes and scraps of paper left in the camps in bottles and cans retrieved after the war telling of events around these men.

ORDER INFORMATION
Cost is $20.50 postpaid, check or cash.
Duane Heisinger
7401 Bull Run Drive
Centreville, VA 20121
(E-mail): Heis56@aol.com
MAIL Book To:
Name:_____________________________________________
Street:_____________________________________________
City, state, zip: ______________________________________

Check the author website: http://www.fatherfound.com for additional information.
Publisher is Xulon Press, 2003; ISBN 1-59160-497-4; Soft cover, Non-Fiction, 576 pp, 40 images, end notes, full index and bibliography. Hard cover also available.
Father Found is also available through XulonPress.com, Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com or Borders.com.

Plaques Will Honor Philippine Scouts

The two plaques mentioned above that were dedicated on September 26 and 27 at the Admiral Nimitz Museum will recognize the Philippine Scouts as a group, as well as the three individual Scouts who received the Medal of Honor. The text will read as follows:

THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS
In grateful memory of the more than 12,000 gallant officers and men of the U.S. Army’s Philippine Scouts, half of whom died in combat or during the Bataan Death March or in Japanese prison camps. Scouts were awarded 3 Congressional Medals of Honor, 34 Distinguished Service Crosses, 134 Silver Stars and 31 Bronze Stars for combat bravery from December 1941 to May 1942.

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society 7/4/2003

ORDER INFORMATION
Cost is $20.50 postpaid, check or cash.
Duane Heisinger
7401 Bull Run Drive
Centreville, VA 20121
(E-mail): Heis56@aol.com
MAIL Book To:
Name:_____________________________________________
Street:_____________________________________________
City, state, zip: ______________________________________

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Father Found is also available through XulonPress.com, Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com or Borders.com.
The 59th National American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Convention is fast approaching, May 4-8, 2004 in Orlando, Florida. Have you made your reservations? The rooms are only $72.00, no matter how many people occupy a room. So, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS today. Joe Vater emphasizes the importance of PRE-REGISTERING as soon as possible, so they can make proper arrangements at the hotel. It is difficult nowadays in dealing with the hotels as they insist the convention planners hold to their predictions for rooms, meals and meeting spaces. They need your information on your plans as soon as possible. Mail your PRE-CONVENTION REGISTRATION form to:
Duane L. Heisinger
Executive Secretary
7401 Bull Run Dr.
Centreville, VA 20121

The convention should be exceptional this year — special recognition will be afforded the Angels of Bataan and Corregidor. And since they are a part of us, we can bask in their glory. And besides, Florida is always a fun place.

Our Widows and Angels luncheon is scheduled for 12:00 noon, Friday, May 7, 2004. Last year, in Albuquerque, at the Widows and Angels Luncheon, there was a smaller attendance than usual. I realize that it is difficult for many of you to travel, but you who can, please make every effort to be there. It won't be long before none of us will be around to carry on. Let's make a good showing! SEE YOU THERE!!!

Oryoku Maru

About the voyage of the Oryoku Maru, there seems to be a misunderstanding because of a difference in the shipping lists. Perhaps this will explain it a bit clearer:

The Oryoku Maru was a 7,362 ton cargo ship that departed Manila on December 13, 1944 with the following list of passengers:
1,619 P.O.W. s
30 Not Americans
1,589
1,500 Japanese Troops
547 Japanese Women & Children
1,127 Crewmembers & survivors from other shipwrecked ships
4,763 On Board (plus 728 ashes of war dead)

On December 14 it was bombed and strafed by planes from the USS Carrier Hornet at 0300 hours. Result: 50 dead; 236 on the Brazil Maru. 16 died on the Enoura Maru and 5 died on the Brazil Maru. New Year’s Eve was at Takao and 6 more died on the Brazil Maru. On January 6, 1945 all of the remaining P.O.W.s were moved to the Enoura Maru in Takao Harbor. The Enoura Maru was bombed, a bomb hit the hold and killed about another 300. About 900 P.O.W.s remained and they were moved back to the Brazil Maru.

On the 14th of January 1945 the Brazil Maru was underway as part of a convoy bound for Japan. Another 15 died before sailing and about 40 P.O.W.s died daily during the 18 day voyage from Formosa to Moji, Kyushu, Japan. At Moji, there were only 450 survivors from the original 1,610 P.O.W.s which tells us that 1,769 P.O.W.s were murdered in transport by the Japanese!!!

Wm. E. Bray, CWO W3 USA Ret.

FLORIDA CHAPTER ADBC CONVENTION

The Florida chapter held their annual convention at the Holiday Inn Riverfront Bradenton, Florida on September 25, 26 & 27, 2003.

At the regular meeting held on Friday new officers were elected for 2003-04. They are: Commander Owen Boothroyd, Sr. V/Cmdr. Randy Edwards, Jr., V/Cmdr. Charles McAtee. Duke Fullerton accepted another term as Treasurer (only his 26th) as did Byron Kearbey as Secretary, Harold Feiner as Judge Advocate/chaplain and Historian Chester Deller (another newcomer with only 40 years as historian). Board members elected were Chester Deller, Nick Hionedes, Steve Raymond and Harold Feiner.

Commander Nick Hionedes conducted the General Meeting. The membership passed a motion to hold all of our future conventions in conjunction with the Bataan & Corregidor Foundation’s Friendship Day held on April 9 each year in Kissimmee, FL. That means we will have our 2004 convention in April. We all like the Filipino group and think the Memorial Park in Kissimmee is an ideal place to pay tribute to our nation, honor our dead comrades, and celebrate our continued friendship.

We were fortunate in having a great speaker and a real nice guy. Brad Smith of Bradenton, Florida was a Navy Pilot shot down over Vietnam. He was a POW for 7 years and he shared some of his experiences with us. Brad requested to attend our Quan party in addition to the banquet so he could have more time to meet us and exchange stories with us. With the time at the Quan party and the banquet, everyone got a chance to talk with Brad and meet his lovely wife Kirsten. This was the first guest speaker I can remember who stayed with us until the parties were over. As a matter of fact, he was one of the last to leave. He was more like one of us than a guest. We all thanked him for coming and making our convention one to remember.

Our memorial service was held on Saturday at 9:30 AM. Everyone was there. This year we held the memorial for the men and the wives that passed away since our last convention. We had a total of 40 names on the list. One of those on the list, PNC and Past Chapter Commander Frank Bigelow, was deeply missed by all of us at this meeting. Commander Nick Hionedes had a beautiful service culminating with the tolling of the bell as each name was called out, with taps following immediately after the last name was tolled.

Next Florida Chapter Convention will be April 9 & 10 in Kissimmee, FL.

Respectfully submitted,
Byron Kearbey, Secretary

PACIFIC ALAMO:
The Battle for Wake Island
By John Wukovits

In December 1941, 400 marines and hundreds of civilian construction workers toiled feverishly to fortify Wake Island. Hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, on the day that would “live in infamy,” Japanese planes flew over this tiny coral atoll in the Pacific Ocean and bombed the twelve marine aircraft on the ground, knocking out any aerial resistance. On December 11, the first wave of invaders arrived. In the riveting PACIFIC ALAMO (New American Library Hardcover; July 2003; $24.95), historian John Wukovits breaks new ground with his account of the pitched battle and gallant defense that has been compared to overwhelmed Texans fighting at the Alamo.

PACIFIC ALAMO: The Battle for Wake Island
By John Wukovits
New American Library Hardcover
July 2003 • $24.95
0-451-20873-0
Seeking Help
I have been in contact with members of the ADBC website since August 2002 concerning information about my uncle, Major Miller P. Warren, Jr., that served and died in the Philippines during WWII. I have learned so much about my uncle’s experiences through the contacts listed on the ADBC website.

My Uncle, Major Miller P. Warren, Jr., U.S. Army, 0-019280 was a USMA Graduate, Class of 1933. He entered the service from Midlothian, Texas. After graduation from West Point Academy, he was stationed in San Antonio, Texas where he served as a Captain in the 57th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts. In 1940 he transferred to Fort McKinley, Philippines where he served as a Company Commander of an Infantry Company of the Philippine Scouts. In August 1941.

Miller’s first combat began on December 8, 1941 in the defense of the Philippines against the Japanese invasion at Lingayan Gulf and ended with the U.S. surrender of troops at Bataan. Miller was held from April 9, 1942 to January 9, 1945 as a Japanese POW. He survived the Bataan Death March and Japanese POW Camps in the Philippines. (I do not know the POW camps where he was held.) He died on January 9, 1945 on the Hell ship, Enoura Maru* while being transported to Japan. His name appears on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines which states his final status as “Missing in Action or Buried at Sea.” However, an eye-witness account stated that he was buried on a beach in Takao Harbor, Formosa. Miller’s combat awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

POW’s (286) were killed or shot in the water by the Japanese as they tried to escape. The survivors were loaded on the Enoura Maru and the Brazil Maru, two other Japanese freighters. The Enoura Maru took a direct hit by a U.S. Navy bomber, killing over half of the 500 POWs; the survivors were put aboard the Brazil Maru and they arrived in Moji, Japan on January 29, 1945. Only about 400 of the original 1619 were still alive. The Enoura Maru was sunk in Takao Harbor on January 9, 1945, by the U.S. Navy aircraft from the USS Hornet.

The majority of the above mentioned information about Miller P. Warren, Jr. was given to me through written correspondence with Royal R. Reynolds, Jr., Brig. General USA, 1521 23rd South Road, Arlington, VA 22202-1526. Royal and Miller were classmates of the class of 1933 at West Point Military Academy.

In an effort to find more information about Miller’s experience, I corresponded via email with J. E. Olson and bought three books from him, and also numerous books and other authors relating to the pacific WWII Campaign. I have learned much from the books, but Miller was not mentioned except as a Captain in the Philippine Scouts and shown in one of J.E. Olson’s books in a group picture taken in June 1941. I remain in search for records that will document the POW camps that Miller was held from April 1942 to December 1944. Thus far, I have not been successful in finding this information.

Stuart Pryor’s uncle: Miller P. Warren Jr.
Major, U.S. Army, West Point Graduate, 1933
0-019280, 57th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts
Entered the Service from: Midlothian, Texas
Died: January 9, 1945; Missing in Action or Buried at Sea as stated on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines
Combat Awards: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart

Sincerely,
Stuart Pryor
6617 Co. Rd. 206
Grandview, Texas 76050
Home phone: 817-866-2282
Work phone: 972-723-7211
EMail: grace@hpnc.com

VA Looking For Former POWs
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking former prisoners of war not currently using VA benefits to contact VA to find out if they may be eligible for disability compensation and other services.

More than 23,000 former prisoners of war (POWs) already receive compensation from VA. This year, the department mailed information about benefits to another 4,700 known former POWs not on its rolls. However, VA estimates there could be as many as 11,000 more POWs for whom it does not have an address.

The VA has expanded policies to cover increasing numbers of former POWs as new illnesses have been found related to captivity. The VA is asking former POWs not receiving benefits who did not receive a VA letter recently to call the department at 1-800-827-1000.

Nine out of ten former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their service pre-dates the use of Social Security numbers as a military “service number.” That, coupled with the decades that have elapsed since their service, makes it difficult for VA to track down those who have not opened a file with VA in recent years.

The most recent expansion of VA benefits for former POWs was a July regulation that added cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases to which entitlement to disability compensation is presumed in former POWs. Similar policies making it easier for former POWs to obtain compensation have been enacted for POWs detained for 30 days or more who develop specific illnesses.

Former POWs have a special eligibility for enrollment in VA medical care and are exempt from making copayments for inpatient and outpatient medical care. They have the same copay rules as other veterans for medications and for extended care. Free dental treatment for any dental condition is available to former POWs held for more than 90 days.

More information about VA services to former POWs is available at http://www.va.gov/bin/21/Benefits/POW/.

WWII PHILIPPINES — TODAY
Death of Gen. T. Yamashito, JIA
By Steve Watson — in the Philippines

A few items have been gathered from recorded history in the Philippines and current updates, on the death by hanging of Gen. Yamashito. He was hung at the former American Soldiers Detention Center, Camp Eldridge, Los Banos, Province of Laguna, on the island of Luzon, on February 24, 1946.

His body was sewed into a sheet, and buried in one of 25 graves. Others hung that morning were: Lt. Col. Seichi Ohta and the torturer Takuma Higashiji.

Los Banos was the place where Japanese Imperial Army butchered about 2,000 men, women and children — every living being they could find.

The hanging took place six miles from Lupow, No. 10, and the American prisoners stockade at Los Banos.

Today, the burial place of Gen. Yamashito is located in the New Bilibid prison, Muntinlupa, Laguna.

Another WWII Japanese General was executed: Lt. Gen. Masahura Homma, who ordered the murderous Bataan Death March. He was shot by an American firing squad on April 4, 1946, at the POW Camp, Los Banos, Laguna.

Also, Lt. Gen. Mikotaro Tajima was hung during the night. He was the General who ordered the death of three American Naval fliers.

The New Bilibid Prison at Muntinlupa was built to replace the old Bilibid Prison in Manila. The New Bilibid Prison today is the burial site of the “Tiger” of Malaysia whose remains rest in the Japanese Cemetery War Memorial.
**PRE-CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

We have had good past results with the pre-registration application, beats standing in long lines. We are going to change the card a little. The 1st line will be your 1st name (Bill/William for instance). On the P.O.W. Camps line use only your favorite. The rest of the blank fill out as stated. The banquet ticket should be exchanged for table reservations. **DO NOT send money. Pay when you come to the convention. Cut Off Date April 14, 2004.**

REGISTRATION CARD — PLEASE PRINT

FIRST NAME ________________________ GUEST ___________
FULL NAME ________________________ PHONE ( _____ ) ________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY ___________________________ STATE ___________ ZIP __________
UNIT IN P.I. ____________________________
P.O.W. CAMP ____________________________

Mail to: Duane L. Heisinger, Executive Secretary
7401 Bull Run Dr., Centreville, VA 20121

**PRE-REGISTER**

It is very important that those who are planning to attend the 2004 Airport Marriott Convention pre-register as soon as possible so that we can make proper arrangements at the hotel. It is difficult nowadays dealing with the hotels as they insist we hold to our predictions for rooms, meals and meeting space.

We need your information on your plans as soon as possible. Thank you.

---

**American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc.**

(including any unit of force of the Asiatic Fleet, Philippine Archipelago, Wake Island, Mariana Islands, Midway Islands and Dutch East Indies. 12/7/41-5/10/42.

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304-737-1496

Name (Please Print) ____________________________ Highest Rank ___________

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- Overseas Caps only sizes 6%, 7% ..................................... 28.00

**Pins**

- 3” X 2” ............................................. 6.00
- Caps, Blue ............................................. 8.00

All items shipped require 15% postage

---

**Nurses Memorial**

Dear Joe:

A memorial to the Fil-Am Nurse Corps will be unveiled on April 9, 2004 at Limay, Bataan.

On that same date commemorating the Fall of Bataan, our group has been invited to attend the Araw Ng Kagitingan (Day of Bravery) ceremony at Mt. Samat, a spectacular location commanding the Bataan battle fields.

Please tell your many friends among the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor that their deeds are not forgotten.

Members of our party may walk as much or as little of the Bataan Death March trail and we will make frequent stops at kilometer markers placed in memory of many who endured that infamous ordeal.

Kilometer markers are available for sponsorship by relatives of those men who participated in the March.

To receive a brochure describing the “Ghost Soldiers of Bataan” tour departing April 4, 2004, please call toll free 800-842-4504.

Yours sincerely,
Robert F. Reynolds

---

**POW Camp to be Preserved**

The remains of a World War II prison camp in northeast China where Japanese soldiers forced Americans and other Allied prisoners to work as slaves is to be preserved as a historical site. The authorities in Shenyang, China, decided in late September that what is left of the former Mukden camp would be protected and opened to visitors. The decision came after former American P.O.W.’s visited the camp, partly to bring attention to the need to preserve it. The decision also comes as tensions are rising between China and Japan over a host of issues. More than 1,500 P.O.W.’s were held at Mukden from 1942 until the end of the war. The camp had one of the highest death rates of any concentration camp.

Jim Yardley
*New York Times*
October 9

---

**Served on Corregidor**

My beloved brother Maurice H. Cohen was 1st Lt. in the Coast Artillery on Corregidor — was also at one time with ground forces for air force. He fought in the jungle and then was captured and was killed on the “hell ship” Maru (?). He was a close associate of General Wainwright. He died Dec. 15, 1944.

Jordan Cohen, WWII veteran
2334 Thorndyke Ave. W #401
Seattle, WA 98199-3567
jordanandlillian@msn.com

---

November/December, 2003 — 13
Lieutenant Colonel Hattie Brantley (from left), Captain Ethel “Sally” Blaine Millett and Captain Earlyn “Blackie” Black Harding holding a flag that an unknown POW hid for liberation day. The picture was taken in San Antonio, Texas, May 1999, during the 54th National Convention of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc.

John Bristow, Glenn Bowers, Gen. Joseph Moore, Ret., Harold Poole, and James Huff

On April 12, 1945, freed from the Santo Tomas imprisonment, the nurses are loaded into U.S. A
as Prison by American troops after nearly three years of
Army trucks to begin their trip home. Nurse Mildred Dalton
singing.

45th Convention: L-R, Berdine Armstrong, Cora Brandt
Christmas Wishes

“Season’s Greetings” and “We are Wishing Everyone Good Health”
The Carl Allen Family

Sincere “Holiday Greetings” to All
Agnes and Art Akullian

“Merry Christmas and to All God Bless”
Mildred Arslanian and Family

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year”
Ceil Ayres

“Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes for a Healthy, Prosperous New Year”
Marlene and Francis Anges

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”
Rose Aquilian and Family

A “Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year”
Martina Aldred

“Our Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season”
Albert and Nancy Allen

Our Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season
Norma and P/N/C Joe Alexander

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All”
Donald E. Abbott

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2004
James A. and Margie E. Allen

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Ernie Bales

A Healthy New Year to All Especially My “192” Tank Buddies
Pat and Louise Boone of KY

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All”
Annette Bloskis and Family

“Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to All”
Grace Brehm and Family

“Joyful Holidays to All”
Joe and Iduna Boudoff

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All”
Bob and Alison Branch

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year
John E. and Rose Bowler

“Christmas Greetings” to all the Quan Members and Especially to All those of M Unit #4 Chemical Company
Walter L. Bell

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All
Charles and Marie Balaza

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
P/N/C Art Beale

Season’s Greetings and All Our Love
Hersheal and Pat Bouskey

“Happy Healthy Holidays”
Ella Barna and Family

“Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to All”
Phyllis Baltzer and Family

Our Sincere Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Rose Bridges and Family

From Every Branch of Our Family Tree Go Our Best Wishes to All. We Hope it is a Season of Merriment and Good Tidings to All.
Gold Star Mother Brayseau’s Family

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.
Thelma Bensing

Wishing You All a Christmas Filled with Wonderful Surprises and a New Year Filled with Happiness
Lou G. Cusano

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Teresa Copley

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Leon Campbell

Greetings of the Season and Warm Wishes for the Year 2004
Lester J. Chase

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
William A. Curtis

“Holiday Greetings to All”
Gerry Cantinell

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year 2004
John and Alyce Connor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Mary Curley and Son

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Eve Christ and Family

Wishing All Our Friends a Very Happy Holiday
Ruth Castor and Family

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Florence and P/N/C John Crago
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Tom and Rose Calderone

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless.
Ruby Chatham

Season’s Greetings to All of the 803rd Engrs.
Clarence and Juanita Campbell

I Wish Each of You a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy Healthy 2004.
Love,
Lora Cummins

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to All
Jack and Libby Cross

To All P.O.W.s and Families
A Merry Christmas and a New Year Full of “God’s Blessings.”
Lillian Carr

Merry Christmas and Good Health to All. We Love You.
May God Bless Each of You.
Wayne and Willa Mae Carringer

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to Our Friends
Charles and Ann Dragich

“Season’s Greetings.”
Anabel C. Dunigan

We Wish You a Holy Christmas Season and a Healthy, Happy 2004
Much Love to All Our Friends in A.D.B.C.
Lee and Eleanor Davis

Greetings and Warm Thoughts for Christmas and the New Year
Chet and Frances Dellar

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All Members
Frank Dice

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year
Therese and P/N/C John Emerick

Happy Holidays to All
Mrs. Betty Earhart and Family

Mountains of Joy and Blessings for the Holidays and Big Blue Skies for the Coming Year
Glenda Elliott and Family

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Evelyn and Earl Ellsworth

To all My Dear Friends
A Joyous Holiday Season
Good Health to All
Harold Feiner

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Joe Filko

God Bless to All on Christ’s Birth
Peg and P/N/C Jim Flaitz

We Wish All Quan Buddies the Happiest of Christmases and a Healthy New Year
Esther and Larry Freeman

Christmas Greetings to All Veterans
Deacon Joe and Sallie Durrett

Farmer

Enjoy the Christmas Season
“Keep Healthy”
Have a Drink on Us
Dale and Peg Frantz

Christmas Greetings and New Year Wishes to All the Surviving 19th Base Squadron Men
In Memory of My Husband Joseph
Risa Fragale and Family

Season’s Greetings to the Men of the 228th Signal Operations Co. (Sep)
The Entire A.D.B.C. Staff and A.D.B.C. Members
Richard E. Francies

Season’s Greetings to A.D.B.C. Members and their Families for a Joyous Christmas 2003 and a Happy New Year 2004
Barbara and Arie Geurtz

Wishing Each and Everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Guevarra

Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year
Sue Gagnet

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to “You All” from the Sunny South
Tired Mary Grayson

Season’s Greetings to All Especially my 192 Tank Buddies
Shirley and Frank Goldstein

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Prosperous New Year to All
Bob and Gretchen Gwaltney

To all the A.D.B.C. Troops “Happy Holidays”
Dolly Goodrow

Season’s Greetings to All
Phil and Jeanette Goodman

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year
Enos Gould

Greetings and Best Wishes for a Healthy Happy New Year
Martha Grill

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Mary Hank
May Your Heart Overflow with Joy and Love this Christmas
Dorothy Hassler

Our Prayers for a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas Season
Twila Hatcher and Family

“Holiday Greetings” to All Our Members
Neal Harrington

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Tom Hatten

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season
Walter and Helen Helkowski

Merry Christmas — Peace Throughout the World in the New Year
Catherine Hauser

Season’s Greetings to All and God Bless
Jim and Barbara Hammond

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Ray Harper

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Judith and Duane Heisinger

Happy Holidays to All of Our Friends of A.D.B.C.
Nick and Ann Hionedes

Merry Christmas and May God Bless You All
Billee Holliman

Season’s Greetings to All “God Bless”
Elsie Houser

May All Enjoy the Holiday Season and Enjoy the Fruits of New Year
Jim and Alta Huff

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Georgia Jordan

Season’s Greetings to All Henrietta and P/N/C Edward Jackfert

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year
Ruth and Warren Jorgenson

Best Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season
Bea Johnson (Widow of Sgt. Edward M. Johnson)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Mary Jaggers and Family

Holiday Greetings Best Wishes to All
Morgan E. Jenkins

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Harry and Cecillia Johnson

Merry Christmas and a Great New Year to All
Betty and Louis Kolger

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
P/N/C John Koot

Holiday Greetings to All Fellow P.O.W.s and Their Families, Wherever They Are
Jim and Marge Kerns

Season’s Greetings to All
Ed Kluemper

May Your Christmas be Filled with the Joy of Personally Knowing Christ Jesus as Your Savior
Jim and Franziska Kell

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All
Gerald and Anna Kelly

Holiday Greetings to All
Holly and Chuck Kaelin

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Darlene and Bryon Kearhy

Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year
Walter Lamm and Family

Wishing You Health, Peace and Joy
Kathie and P/N/C Ralph Levenberg

Merry Christmas and May the New Year
“Bring Good Health and Peace to All”
Charlotte Long and Family

May All Enjoy the Holiday Season and a Happy Healthy New Year
Merle and Frances Lype

For a Truly Merry Christmas and Life’s Best from Day to Day
Louie and Dottie Lachman

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to James Flaitz, Clifford Keller, Andy Miller, Glen Pilkington, Art Reynolds, Anton Urban
Clarence K. and Irene Larson

Merry Christmas and All of God’s Blessings for the New Year
Sis and Jerry Lambo

Merry Christmas and God Bless All of My Friends at A.D.B.C.
Eddy Laureen
X Mukdenite #250

Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes for a Healthy Prosperous New Year
Paul and Edna Langford

Our Wishes to All for a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy new Year
Mike Liskomsky and Family
Best Wishes to All for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Delbert and Doris Lynn

Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Peg and Bernie Miller

Season’s Greetings to All  
Bea Menozzi

Season’s Greetings to Kentuckianna Chapter Members and All A.D.B.C. Members  
Louise and Joe Mihok

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Wilbur and Alice Marrs

We Pray Your Holidays Will be Filled with Everything Good and Joyful “Our Love”  
Ben and Geri Meek

Season’s Greetings to All  
Maude and Paul Moore — 440 Ord.

Best Wishes to All for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Doris and Wayne Miller

Merry Christmas to All and Enjoy Each Day of the New Year  
Shirley Matheny & Family

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All A.D.B.C. Members  
Hilda Miller

“Mele Kalikimaka Hanoli Makahihi Hou”  
John Moyer

Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Norma Mascavage and Family

Season’s Greetings to All  
P/N/C Andy Miller

Wishing All My Dear Friends a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
Love  
Rose Marangiello

Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes to all  
Irene Minier

Wishing You All a Blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
Bill and Eileen Milne

Christmas Blessings and a Happy New Year  
Donnie H. Russell Mathis

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Mr. & Mrs. John Macynski

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All  
Francis and Dorothy Mosher

Season’s Greetings and Good Health to All Members of A.D.B.C.  
Lucy and P/N/C Omar McGuire

Our Good Wishes to All for a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year  
The John McCorts Family

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All  
Alden McEwen

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All  
John McCambridge

A Blessed Christmas and a Happy Prosperous Healthy New Year to Our Fellow “Defenders” and Their Families  
Carl and Fay Nordin

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All  
Eva Neil

Happy Holidays  
We Cherish the Bond We Share with Our Military Friends  
P.O.W. Joseph and Ruth Nespojohn

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All  
Capt. Mary J. Oberst Ret.-A.N.C.

We Wish All Our Friends a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year  
John and Mary Oleksa

“Holiday Greetings” to All Surviving Buddies of Bataan and Corregidor  
Vincente and Celia Ojinaga

Season’s Greetings and Good Health To All of Our Friends in A.D.B.C.  
Dorothy Oestreich

Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All  
George and Edith Omys and Family

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year  
Eleanor and Ed Pessolono  
In Memory of John S. Matule — 803 Eng.

Very Best — Holy and Happy Holiday Season  
Dorothy Patrizio

May Your Christmas be a “Blessed One”  
Audrey and Fr. Bob Phillips
Peace and the Blessings of Good Health and Joy at this Blessed Holy Season.

Elizabeth M. Peace
Widow of David Peace Jr.
(803rd Eng. Co. C)

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year
Margaret Petak

Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes to All
Jean Pruitt and Family

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Mr. and Ms. Leo J. Padilla

Good Health and Happiness in the Year 2004
Ted and Marvella Provost

Love, Good Health and Season’s Greetings
Doris Perez and Family

Merry Christmas and a Happy Year Year to All
Dorothy Perry and Family

We Wish Our A.D.B.C. Members a Blessed Christmas and Gratitude for the New Year 2004
Bill and Mary Pat Parks

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Menandro and Teofila Parazo

Best Wishes and God Bless Everyone
Nicki and Paul Reuter

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Bob and Bettie Rosendahl

Merry Christmas to All and a Happy New Year
Peter and Betty Retterak

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to 803rd
Meda Rutz

Happy and Healthy Holiday Season
Camille Romanzo

Wishing All the Members of A.D.B.C. a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Joyce and P/N/C Melvin Routt

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
Bertha Ray

From Our House to Yours Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year
Marie and Steve Raymond

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All

Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes for a Healthy Prosperous New Year
P/N/C John Rowland

Holiday Greetings to Everyone Josie and Gil Soifer

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year
Kay Sandor and Family

Our Prayer for All a Blessed Christmas and Peace for the New Year
P/N/C Al Senna

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Shirley B. Soloman

To All Our Ex-P.O.W. Friends Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Socorro and Agapito Silva

Merry Christmas to All Harold Spooner

Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year
Helen and Dewey Spruiell

Wishing All of You a Joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy Happy New Year
Jean and Bill Sniezko

Happy BHolidays to All of You “Blessed Who Are Still Alive”
Ed “Tommie” and Dorothy Thomas

Happy Holiday Season to “All My Friends”
Jayne Tray

“Praise the Lord for the Gift of Salvation this Christmas Day”
Fern L. Theriac

Holiday Greetings to All Our Friends and the Canadian Hong Kong P.O.W.
Pat Urban

A Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year to All
Helen and P/N/C Joe Vater

Best Wishes for the Holidays and for Health and Happiness Through the Year
Jan and Fred Vinton
Happy Holidays to All
Bob and Bernie Voyler
17th Pursuit Sqd.
Mukden — Kamioka

Season's Greetings and
Best Wishes for a Healthy New Year
Alice and P/N/C Joe Ward

A Blessed Christmas and
Peaceful, Healthy New Year to All
Irene Wonneman and Family

Peace and Joy to All
Helen and P/N/C Hank Wilayto

Happy Holidays to
All Our Friends in A.D.B.C.
Elsie and Ralph Wheeler

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All
Dorothy Wells

A Blessed and Happy Holiday Season
to All
Wanda Woodall

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All
Wesley and Irene Wells

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to All
Richard Willstatter

Holiday Greetings and
Best Wishes to All
Stella and John Yale —
Co. C 31st Inf.

Merry Christmas and
Happy 2004 to All
Genevieve and Milton Young

“Christmas and Chanukah”
Greetings to My Buddies
and Their Families
Louis Zimmerman and
Gladys Nathan

Season's Greetings to All
Leslie Zimmerman

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All
Sandy and Zip Zipeta

From the desk of
Lora
3 June 2003

Dear Fellow Widows,
Here is the list of attendees at the Widows and Angels Luncheon. There are two or
three that I could not read. I haven’t figured a way to get the correct addresses. I
assume all of you got home safely and I will see you in Orlando next year.

Love,
Lora

AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR
WIDOW’S AND ANGEL’S LUNCHEON
Hilton — Albuquerque, New Mexico
23 May 2003

Chaplain Robert Cook and Joan
NMV AHC 125
1501 San Pedro SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Rev. Robert W. Phillips
200 Seneca Trail
Maitland, FL 32751

Alex Encinias
Decision Review officer
VA Regional Office
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Cecelia Ayers
8 Washington Drive
Kulpmont, PA 17834

Annette Bloksis
4930 Brightwood
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Rose Bridges
410 Church St.
Catasauqua, PA 18032

Julia E. Britton
18430 Kedzie Ave.
Homewood, IL 60439

Lora Cummins
1 Towers Park Lane
San Antonio, TX 78209

Mary R. Curley
221 Eveline Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Virginia Dessauer
2117 East 59 Place
Tulsa, OK 74105

Floramund E. Difford
Wallace E. Difford
5340 West Eagle Lane S.W.
Tumwater, WA 98502

Glenda Elliott
1205 Yellow Pine
Missoula, MT 08302

Mary R. Grayson
P.O. Box 323
Georgetown, FL 32139

Mary Jaggers
177 West Park Drive
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Anna R. Lucero & daughter
2620 Al (?) N.E.
Albuquerque, NM

Edith R. Mazer
327 Fanshawi
Boca Raton, FL 33432

Charlie Mills
1416 Le Conte Drive
Riverside, Ca 92507-5984

Jean Pruitt
109 Young Drive
Sweetwater, TN 37874

Judy Pruitt
25 Windsor Road
Brookline, MA 02445

Katherine Sandor & Kathy
341 South Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

Mary Senders & guest
117 Whispering Pines
Waveland, FL (?)

Darleen Shope
179 Forkner Chapel Road
Sweetwater, TN 37874

Mona Ventresca
816 Hunter Street
Catasauqua, PA 18032
John Alves

John Alves was born in June, 1918 in Salinas, California. He entered the service in 1941 and was sent to the Philippines where he served with the 194th Tank Battalion, Co. “C”. He was on Bataan when it was forced to surrender. He was in Mukden, Manchuria when the war ended. He died January 3, 2003.

Delos L. Alvis

Delos L. Alvis passed away on February 16, 2003 in San Angelo, Texas at the age of 90. He was buried in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas with full military honors.

Mr. Bland remained active in POW life Members of Concho Valley Chapter of the AX Prisoners of War.

Albert J. Bland

Albert J. Bland, a World War II prisoner of war and survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March, died of cancer Wednesday at the Perry Point Veterans Affairs Hospital. He was 87.

Mr. Bland was born in Toronto and raised in Egg Harbor, N.J. He was an outstanding high school athlete and played football — as a formidable 240-pound tackle — while attending Washington College in the early 1930s.

He enlisted in the Army Air corps in 1937, and was serving as a mechanic at Nichols Field in the Philippines during the early days of World War II.

Out of food, ammunition and medical supplies, and overwhelmed by superior Japanese forces, American and Filipino troops defending the Bataan Peninsula surrendered April 9, 1942.

In the wake of the surrender of Bataan and Corregidor a month later, about 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers — Mr. Bland among them — were marched 65 miles by their Japanese captors to a railroad for dispersal to prison camps.

An estimated 17,000 perished during the brutal trek, which became known as the Bataan Death March — many of the prisoners murdered along the way.

Those who survived endured years of malnutrition, disease and torture as they languished in POW camps or were forced to work as slave laborers building railroads or in shipyards, coal mines and factories. Thousands died in the camps while awaiting liberation by Allied forces.

“He didn’t talk about it a whole lot, and I didn’t know about it until I was in high school,” said a daughter, Louise B. Winney, a teacher from Falls Church, VA.

“He said they would not have surrendered had they known what was facing them. They would have fought to the death. And if it hadn’t been for the Enola Gay, he wouldn’t be here,” she said, referring to the U.S. plane that dropped the first of two atomic bombs, forcing the Japanese surrender.

Mr. Bland, along with another soldier, managed to survive the forced march carrying a buddy who was unable to walk. He later endured a voyage aboard the Oryoku Maru, one of the notorious “hell ships” that transported POWs to Japan.

He survived imprisonment in the Philippines, Formosa, Japan, Korea and, finally, Manchuria, existing on daily rations of a small ball of rice and a bowl of watered-down pumpkin soup.

“He would not allow rice in his house. He figured he had eaten enough during the war,” said Bill Winney, a son-in-law.

Mr. Bland told of witnessing six Americans beheaded or shot at the start of the death march, and a Japanese officer who executed a soldier whose truck had bumped his car.

“After that, he said they knew they were in for a tough time,” Mr. Winney said.

“I still hate their guts. I can’t shake it off,” Mr. Bland said of the Japanese troops in a 1995 article in The Sun. “They were brutal, not only to us but to their own people.”

Mr. Bland’s liberation came aug. 20, 1945, at Mukden in Manchuria, where he had been held in a POW camp. He weighed just 98 pounds and was blind from malnutrition. He spent a year recovering in a hospital.

He returned to the Air Force and retired in 1957 with the rank of master sergeant. He later worked in quality control for Martin-Marietta, Conrail and a now-defunct munitions company in Elkon. He retired in 1981.

Mr. Bland remained active in POW issues and helped create the Prisoner of War Medal that was established by Congress in 1985. He was also a past national commander of American Ex- Prisoners of War and a member of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, a survivors group.

In a White House Rose Garden ceremony in 1988, Mr. Bland was one of six former POWs decorated with the Prisoner of War Medal by President Ronald Reagan.

“He was a good and honest guy who worked hard for the POWs,” said Paul W. Reuter of Oxon Hill, a former POW and Bataan Death March survivor.

“He died on the 58th anniversary of the day he was liberated,” Mr. Bland’s daughter said.

Plans for interment at Arlington National Cemetery were incomplete.

He also is survived by his wife of 58 years, the former Alberta Fairbrothers; two other daughters, Alberta B. Bernstein of Bel Air and Susan B. Dilworth of Joppatowne; and seven grandchildren.

Gene P. Boyt

Memorial services for Gene P. Boyt, 86, of Chickasha, were held on Monday, September 15, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Funeral Home Chapel.

Gene P. Boyt was born March 29, 1917, in Houston, Missouri, son of Ernest Boyt and Margaret (Phemister) Boyt. He died September 11, 2003, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Gene’s father was an oil field worker, so Gene grew up living in many towns in Oklahoma. He went to high school in Drumright, Oklahoma, and graduated in 1935. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and then attended the University of Arizona.

Gene graduated from the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla, Missouri, in 1941. He then joined the United States Army and was sent to the Philippines as a lieutenant in the Engineering Corps.

He was captured and taken prisoner on April 9, 1942, and was held for three and one-half years, serving two and one-half of those years in Japan. He survived the Bataan Death March and was in a Japanese prison camp when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed during World War II.

He was released and returned to the United States, stationed at Borden General in Chickasha. He married Betty Ruth Dietrich on May 30, 1946, in the Chapel of Borden General Hospital.

After discharge, Gene was an engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation, building hydro-electric dams. He helped with the building of the Davis Dam in Bull Head City, Arizona, Palisades Dam in Idaho, Flaming Forge Dam in Utah, and blue Mesa and Morrow Point Dams in Colorado. He also assisted in the construction of two dams in Puerto Rico, for the Puerto Rico Water Source Authority. He retired in 1975, and returned to Chickasha.
Gene was a much-decorated soldier, having been awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, three Presidential Citations, the Philippines' Presidential Citation Medal, and the Oklahoma Medal of Valor.

Gene and David Burch co-authored a book titled “Bataan, A Survivor’s Story,” published by the Oklahoma University Press, which details his life and war-time experiences. The book will be released in February 2004.

Gene was preceded in death by both parents, one brother, and one sister.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Ruth, of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Marvina Boyt, and Thomas and Janice Boyt, four grandchildren, Brandon Robert Boyt, Shoni L. Boyt and Abbie Rae Boyt, and Kami Ruth Boyt.

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John R. Boswell

John R. Boswell died peacefully with his family present, September 23, 2003 at the age of 83.

Born in Bonifay, Florida in 1920, he was the fourth of five sons of a farming family.

At the age of 17, John joined the Marines. In 1939 he was stationed in Shanghai, China. He stayed in Shanghai until November of 1941 when he was transferred with the rest of the Fourth Marines to the Philippine Islands.

Two weeks after arriving in the Philippines, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the United States was at war with Japan. With all supply lines to the Philippines cut off, and the US Navy destroyed, it would only be a matter of time before Japanese forces would take the Philippines.

On May 5, 1942, his 22nd birthday, John was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese on Corregidor. In 1943 he was transferred with the rest of the Fourth Marines to the Philippine Islands.

During the Death March between Bataan and Capas, John and other prisoners were forced to walk through jungles and across rivers. They were forced to walk for 30 miles a day, averaging 15 miles a day. John died of malaria, dysentery and other ailments.

In 1944, still a POW, John was put in the hold of an unmarked Japanese cargo ship for transport to Japan. As they entered the ship, they were packed in so tightly that men could not fall down even if they lost consciousness. The dead were taken out every morning, as were the five-gallon buckets that were used as latrines.

On one occasion, John’s canteen was stolen by another desperate GI. If not for his friend, Charlie Kirklen sharing his water, John would not have survived.

John, who had been in the Philippine tropics, was now heading for the freezing north of Japan. Here, he was forced to work in the Mitsubishi mines.

In 1945, he contracted pneumonia, and became so ill that he was unconscious for two weeks. It was the summer of 1945 and John was barely hanging on, when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The very next day, the Japanese released the Red Cross medical supplies to the prisoners. John recovered and was liberated.

John served a total of 20 years in the USMC. He met his wife, Paula, when he worked security for the American Embassy in Lisbon, and Paula, a native of Holland, worked for the Dutch Embassy.

After retiring from he Marines, John became a teacher. He retired from teaching in 1977. After his retirement he became an active member of the local veterans groups. He was a sought after speaker, discussing his WWII experiences to many organizations and youth interested in learning this piece of American history.

John is survived by his wife of 51 years, Paula, daughter Joyce, son, Luke, daughter in law, Mary Ellen, and their children, Emily, Megan, Martine, and Dalton, and brother Jake of Bonifay Florida.

Services celebrating his life were held Friday, October 3 at the Veterans Hall in Danville, CA. He had lived in Danville since 1969. He was interred at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Edward Ernest Chavez

Edward Ernest Chavez, 85, was liberated from the bonds of this earth into the loving arms of the Lord on July 4, 2003.

He was born in Encino, New Mexico, but grew up and lived in Albuquerque. To many family members and friends he was a hero. Eddie survived the Bataan Death March and was held captive by the Japanese for 3½ years. During the Death March, Eddie carried one of his fellow soldiers, Foche Trixier, with the help of David Chavez, throughout the march, as reported by Foche’s sister. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Philippine Distinguished Unit Citation, American Defense Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, Philippine Defense Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. He transcended the inhumanity of the horrendous experience of war and captivity and lived a life of kindness and caring. He was liberated in 1945 and learned that his parents had both died while he was held prisoner.

He married his sweetheart, Josephine Fulgenzi, of Las Vegas, New Mexico in San Francisco upon his return. Ed retired from the State of New Mexico Probation and Parole Office in 1980. He was a past Commander of the Bataan Veterans Association. He was a magnificent father of two loving daughters, Dolores Chavez Waller and virginia Chavez Myers. Eddie was a caring and loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. He took it upon himself to selflessly help family members, friends and those less fortunate than he whenever the need arose. Those who knew and loved him were honored to be a part of his life. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Josephine Chavez; daughters, Dolores and Virginia and her husband John Myers; grandchildren, Patrick and Lauren Myers; sisters, Jennie Guzman, Corrime Sandoval and Aurelia and her husband Joe Trujillo; and many loving nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eduardo T. Chavez and Luisa Armijo Chavez, his son-in-law, Roderick allen Waller, his sisters, Cruzita Montoya, Lucille Chavez and brother, Julian Chavez. Rosary was recited on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at French Mortuary, Wyoming Blvd. Chapel. Memorial Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, July 9, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. at Risen Savior Catholic Community, 7701 Wyoming Blvd. NE. Interment of Cremains will take place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery following the Mass.

Feliciano L. Cruz

Dr. Feliciano L. Cruz, O.D., survivor of the infamous “Death March,” passed away Sept. 18, 2003, after a lingering illness. He was 84.

Maj. Cruz held the rank of captain when he was called to active duty at the onset of World War II. He belonged to the 71st Field Artillery Division of the USAFFE (U.S. Armed Forces Far East), under Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, Filipino and American troops had inflicted heavy casualties on Japanese forces and were able to delay the occupation of the Philippines for three months. Because of their stubborn stand in Bataan Peninsula, the Japanese forces exacted a full measure of revenge on Filipino and American soldiers when they surrendered, by forcing them to walk about 60 miles to the internment camp in Capas, Tarlac. This “Death March” later on became known as the cruelest and most inhumane treatment of prisoners done by an occupying force.

Maj. Cruz miraculously survived the ordeal despite suffering from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery and other ailments. After the war, he resumed his flourishing practice as an optometrist in Bacolod City and later in Manila.

An active Baptist layman, Cruz was a major donor in the construction of the new building of the Central Philippine University’s College of Theology in Iloilo City, Philippines, which was later named as the Pagsuberon Cruz Hall.

Cruz lived in Reston. He is survived by his wife, Esther Pagsuberon Cruz; children Cito and Sue, Uriel Tito and Vernie, Benjamin, Louella, Carmena, Ester Lily and Luther and Joy; grandchildren Kris, Karisa, Karlan, Nikki, Quennie, Milbert, Denise, Alexandria, Ryan, Tiffany, Nina and Timmy. Siblings Pificacion, Quenbegeo, Sergia Cruz, Carmencita Gumban, Leticia Cruz and Navidad Mockon. In-laws Ignacio, Levi and Noel Pagsuberon.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2003 — 23
William I. Dietch

William I. Dietch, 80, of De Moines, IA, died August 24, 2003 surrounded by his loving family at home. He was born Sept. 22, 1922, the son of Daniel and Maude Dietch. He graduated rom Grundy Center High School in 1940 and immediately enlisted in the navy. He was a prisoner of war (POW) in the Philippines and Japan for 42 months, after being captured in Corregidor.

He retired in 1960 after 20 years of naval service as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. Bill then earned his degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He retired in 1985 from the State of Iowa Board of Inspections and Appeals. Bill demonstrated by example his strong values of patriotism and serving his community. He was a member of V.F.W.-P.O.W. association, Link Associates and Douglas Ave. Presbyterian Church.

He enjoyed golfing, bowling and playing cards. At home his garden and yard provided him with many hours of relaxation. To his family he was Mr. Fix-it, since he was able to accomplish all home repairs.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a son, Daniel.

Bill is survived by his loving wife (Violet) of 56 years; three sons, William I. Dietch II, David Dietch, Michael Dietch; and two daughters, Patricia (Dietch) Hertema and Joann Dietch and eight grandchildren.

Services were held Aug. 27, 2003 at his church with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery, Grundy Center, Iowa, with the 21 gun salute and full military honors.

Russell James Hutchison

Russell James Hutchison, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, born July 7, 1916, and died on October 4, 2003 in Livermore, CA at the age of 87 years.

Mr. Hutchison resided in Livermore, CA for the past 35 years. He was a Lt. Col. (Ret.) U.S. Army and a 1940 graduate of the University of New Mexico with a BSCE.

Mr. Hutchison served 34 years with the majority served with the Army Corp. of Engineers, was Project Engineer for Sandia Corporation for 6 years and Consulting Engineer for Vinnell Corporation for 2 years.

He started his military career in 1933 when he joined the 111th Calvary Unit of the New Mexico National Guard, in 1941, his National Guard Unit was sent to the Philippines and was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3½ years of captivity as a prisoner of war. He was awarded the Bronze Star for secretly building and using a SW radio receiver while he was in the Davao Prison Camp on Mindanao Island. This is described in Gavin Daw’s book Prisoners of the Japanese: POW’s of World War II in the Pacific. He served 8 years in several U.S. Nuclear weapons programs during the 50’s, became the U.S. Corp of Engineers Area Engineer for Saudi Arabia in 1960 and managed the construction of the architecturally stunning Civil Air Terminal in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, was promoted to Permanent Lt. Col. in the Regular Army in 1962 and was awarded the Legion of Merit during his last military assignment area engineer of Hawaii. He retired from the Army in 1967 and worked 6 years with Sandia Corporation as a project engineer, he ended his professional career by returning to Saudi Arabia in the mid-70’s, where as an engineering consultant, he managed the design and construction of a training base for the Saudi Arabia National Guard.

His affiliations included: Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Retired Officers Association, American Defenders of Bataan/Corregidor and the San Francisco Begonia Society. His hobbies included: flower gardening, radio and stereo electronics, auto mechanics, world traveling and especially loving his devoted wife and four children.

He is survived by his spouse of 65 years, Barbara R. Hutchison; his daughter Lynn Hutchison Simpson; sons, Clyde R. Hutchison, Bruce R. Hutchison, Brian R. Hutchison; 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Ralph C. Lewis

Ralph Crockett Lewis, 86, of Sallisau, passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2003 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Taps were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2003. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving with Battery B, 200th Coast Artillery in the Philippines until the fall of Bataan on april 9, 1942. He was held prisoner for 42 months.

He is survived by his wife Faye of 56 years. Also three daughters, 1 son, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great grandsons.

Victor L. Mapes

Victor Mapes, 84, of the Soldiers and Airmans Home, Washington, D.C., died August 12, 2003. He was a member of the 14th Bomb. Sq., 19th Bomb. Gp. stationed at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands at the time of the initial Japanese attack just 10.5 hours after the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii. On Dec. 26, 1941, he, along with his crew, was transferred to Mindanao Island to establish air operations against the Japanese. He was captured on May 10, 1942 and spent over two years at the Davao Penal Colony on a farm detail for the Japanese. He was one of over 800 POW’s aboard the Japanese freighter “Shinyo Maru” near Zambanga, Mindanao when the ship was torpedoed. Of the POW’s aboard, 82 survived by swimming eight miles to land, were picked up by American guerrillas, who treated their wounds and contacted the submarine Norwall for transit to Australia.

He retired a Master Sergeant from the USAF at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. and for the past three years has resided in the Old Soldiers Home. He is survived by a sister Myrtle living in Florida.

Frank Marion Morrisette, Sr.

Frank Marion Morrisette, Sr., “Grandpa Frank”, passed away at the VA Medical Center on September 24, 2003. “Grandpa Frank” was born on the Umatail Indian Reservation on October 27, 1919 to Frank Urban and Olive O’Harra Morrisette. He attended a one-room country school in Adams, Oregon, Dufy School 1-8 grade and graduated in 1938 from Adams High School. He was a track member, played baseball and was named “All Star” on his basketball team. His basketball team went to State and won the championship in 1938.

He missed the first draft but when he turned 21 years old, he enlisted in the Army in Pendleton, Oregon. On Mother’s Day, May 10, 1942, Frank became a POW, two and 1/2 years in the Philippines and one year in Japan. He was a POW for 42 months. While serving, he became a cook. War ended in August 1945 and he was sent to Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, California on October 3, 1945. While there, he found out about the death of his one and only brother and best friend, Wesley I. Morrisette. He had been killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Frank was then sent to Spokane Boxter General Hospital in December 1945 through February 1946. He was discharged with honors. After he was discharged, he came home to Walla Walla, Washington where his folks had moved.

He married Dorothy V. Wickizer on March 9, 1946 and was married for 29 years. They had three sons and later divorced. When his boys were young, he was involved with Wesley’s sports. He loved to collect coins and did for many years.

He was manager of the VFW in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Frank then went to work at the Washington State Penitentiary and retired in 1972. He was a member of the VFW Post #466, College Place, Washington. He loved going to the banks, Bi-Mart and Inland Printing delivering “cakes” to his girls.

He is survived by his three sons: Wesley & Colleen Morrisette, Frank & Cindy Morriseatte, Daniel & Dana Morriseatte, seven grandchildren and some great grandchildren.

He loved his country and his family. He would always put messages on his cakes and one of the things he would say is “God Bless America.”
John Allen McCarty

John Allen McCarty, 88, of Henly, died at his home June 15, 2003, after a brief battle with cancer. McCarty was born in Henly on April 23, 1915, to L.C. and Cora McCarty. He was the middle of five children.

McCarty is preceded in death by his wife of 33 years, Carolyn Wilson McCarty; siblings, Otis, Lynn, Clyde, and Faye Twidwell McCarty.

He is survived by daughter, Chris; and granddaughter, Emily McCarty, both of Houston; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Lynn (June) McCarty and Ms. Clyde (Jerry) McCarty, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

McCarty was a rancher in Henly and also lived 18 years in Galveston County while working in the recreation industry.

McCarty joined the Army in 1941 and was sent to the Philippines later that year. He fought on Bataan and was taken POW when it fell April 9, 1942. He survived the Death March and captivity in Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He weighed only 76 lbs. when liberated, having lost 94 lbs. to malnutrition and various diseases. Among the numerous decorations he received for service to his country are two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars, as well as four decorations from the Philippine government. McCarty was tagged for death three times in “Zero Ward,” but survived because of his strong faith in God, his will to live, and the prayers of his mother.

In honor of his mother, and the mothers whose sons never returned, McCarty gave flowers on Mother’s Day for many years to the mothers in the area. He was loved by family, friends, and the community and was an inspiration to all. One line stands out in one of the few letters his parents received during the war:

“This will not last forever; so with faith in one God and one America, I remain as ever.” He will be missed.

Services were at Crofts Funeral Home in Blanco at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, 2003, with Graveside Services following at the Blanco Cemetery.

Joseph Salyer

Joseph Salyer, 81, died Monday, April 7, 2003, at Los Villas Del Norte.

Born Dec. 8, 1921, in Cincinnati, he lived in Escondido for 27 years. He retired in 1979 as the owner and operator of P.E. Brown and Company Insurance Adjusters. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, and was a prisoner of war in Japan for 3½ years.

Mr. Salyer is survived by his wife of 25 years, Roberta Salyer; daughter Connie Bartoe; grandchildren Joseph and Timothy Bartoe and Jennifer Hall; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Alhiser-Comer Mortuary Chapel. A private graveside service at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego.

Roland E. Stickney

Roland Edgar Stickney, 87, of Manchester, New Hampshire, died April 6, 2003 at the Manchester Veteran’s Medical Center Nursing Home. Roland joined the Army Air Corps in October 1940 and was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines when WWII began. On August 8, 1942 he was taken prisoner by the Japanese when Bataan fell. Roland survived the Bataan Death March, three and a half years of Prisoner of War Camps, the Hell Ships and forced labor camps. He was liberated in September 1945.

While at Fort Devens for medical rehabilitation, Roland attended a dance and met Erna Neuhaus who was to become his wife. They had two children, Robert and Joyce. Roland supported his family as a pharmaceutical salesman. He worked first for the PJ Noyes Company of Lancaster, and then later for Mallard, Inc. until his retirement in 1973. For a brief period, during the 1960’s Roland worked construction and helped build the New Boston Satellite Tracking Stations and the St. Anselm’s gym floor.

For recreation Roland enjoyed fishing and hunting with family and friends. He also enjoyed playing golf. He was a lifetime member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor and enjoyed meeting with his fellow POW’s at national conventions as well as local group meetings. Roland corresponded with these men right to the end of his life. Their connection was very strong and meaningful to him.

Roland and Erna were baptized on October 29, 1977 and became active members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Bedford. Their church and church family were very important to them and were especially supportive in their later years.

Roland Stickney was a loving husband and father and a loyal friend throughout his lifetime. His connection to people was his connection to life. He had wonderful sense of humor and was known at the VA Nursing Home where he spent his last two years as a great story teller, a walking history book and above all, a gentleman. Roland enjoyed playing bingo and spent many hours working on ceramics, developing his painting technique. He enjoyed visitors and looked forward to his visits to the Back Room Restaurant, people watching at Lake Massabesic and drives along New Hampshire back roads. His enthusiasm for life diminished when his beloved wife Erna died in September 2002.

Roland will be greatly missed by his children, extended family and his friends.

Arthur F. (Art) Standlee

Arthur (Art) F. Standlee, age 83, of Sacramento, CA, died on Friday, June 13, 2003. He was born on March 31, 1920 in Kimberly, Idaho, the son of Stella L. Holmes and Roy W. Standlee. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers; Kenneth C. Pearce and Roy Standlee, Jr. and a great-grandson Brandon Russ. He is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-three years, Minnie Belle; his children Marvin W. Standlee, William/Joan Woodall, Robert/Tuey Woodall, Beverly/Ron Capps; adopted son George/Lee Beck; two brothers, Bill/Dale Pearce and David Standlee. Also, seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews, whom he loved dearly. He proudly served his country from May 21, 1941 until he was discharged as a corporal on April 7, 1946. While in the army he drove vehicles in the Philippine Islands prior to being captured by the Japanese. He survived the Bataan Death March and was a prisoner of war for forty months. He retired from PG&E after thirty-five years of service. Funeral services were held at Sacramento Memorial Lawn on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.

William Herbert “Bill” Thomas

William Herbert Thomas, 84, died July 26, 2003. He was born in Bowling Green, Indiana on January 30, 1919 and was a direct descendant of David Thomas who was the first white settler of Clay County in 1810.

Mr. Thomas was an honors graduate of Rose Hulman Institute and had retired from Allison’s in 1982, where he was Chief Design Engineer for large gas turbine engines, for 35 years. Among his many accomplishments were patents for gas turbine related devices. He also spent a number of years at Rolls Royce as the Senior Project Engineer for Allison’s.

Mr. Thomas was a member of the first operational squadron of B-17 aircraft to fly the Pacific during World War II. His squadron arrived at Clark Field shortly before American entry into the war. Following the surrender of the Philippines, eight members of his group refused to surrender and spent several months in the jungles of Mindanao before being captured by the Japanese. He spent 42 months in a Tokyo POW camp before being rescued at the end of the war. His squadron was awarded the distinguished Flying Cross and Mr. Thomas received the Purple Heart Medal. He was a member of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor.

Mr. Thomas had been a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Automotive
Engineers and had functioned as chair-
man for a number of research projects in
different societies. At the time of his death,
he was on the Eagle Creek Park Advisory
Board and the Eagle Creek Foundation.
He was a member of the Traders Point
Christian Church.

Mr. Thomas was preceded in death by
his first wife, Lillian Rose Swearingen in
1975. Survivors include wife Laura; daugh-
ters Candace Hess of Salem, Oregon, Dr.
Debra Thomas-Weible and Lise Brown,
both of Palm Harbor, FL; step-daughters
Sharon Maple of Indianapolis, Cheryl
McGinley of Lebanon; seven grandchil-
dren; stepmother Mary Thomas of Brazil,
IN; brothers Seibert Thomas and Dr.
Clayton Thomas. Mr. Thomas was buried
in Fairview Cemetery in Bowling Green, IN,
forever as a Hoosier.

Niles Richard Thompson

Niles Richard Thompson would have
turned 88 on September 23, 2003. He
passed away July 30, 2003 at the Veter-
ans Nursing Home in Amarillo, Texas. A veteran of World War II, he
served in the U.S. Army as an Anti-
Aircraft Gunner with the 60th Coast
Artillery on Corregidor. A recipient of the
Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple
Heart, he was a POW in Japanese prison
camps for 42 months. Niles owned his
own business for many years and after
retiring became a builder in the Lubbock
area, where he continued to work well
into his 60’s. He is survived by his wife,
Wyona Nee Lee; his daughter, Nila Hill.
He was buried Aug. 18 in Arlington
National Cemetery.

Odell F. Turner

Odell F. Turner died at home on
September 4, 2003 after a long illness of
about three years. She was the wife of
Buck Turner, a member of Btry. G 60th
CA (AAA) on Corregidor. Odell was a life
member of ADBC & AX-POWS and a
member of Permian Basin chapter AX-
POWS. She will be missed by her family
and friends.

Joseph H. Via

Joseph H. Via, 80, of Carlson Road,
Hummelstown, died Tuesday, June 10,
2003 at the Hershey Medical Center.
Born December 30, 1922 in Manada
Hill, he was the son of the late Henry C.
and Laura Cathern Meadows Via.
He was retired from and was a member
of the Carpenter’s Union Local 287,
Harrisburg.
He was a U.S. Army Prisoner of War
during World War II; was a member of
the American Defenders of Bataan and
Corregidor, Inc.; the Quan; Disabled
American Veterans #50 of Camp Hill and
was a life member of Shellsville, V.F.W.
#9639; the American Ex-Prisoners of War
and the Harrisburg Ex-Prisoners of War.
Surviving are his wife, Susan C.
Guichirv; daughters, Brenda S., wife of
Donald Rabuck, Sandra J.; wife of Edward
Rehner; a son, Joseph H. Via II and his
wife, Beverly Black Via; a sister, Emma
Speirs; a brother, Howard D. Via; 8 grand-
children; 1 step-granddaughter; 11 great-
grandchildren; 5 step-great grandchildren
and several nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by brothers,
Cecil Via, Leon Via and Charles Via; sis-
ters, Nellie Zimmerman, Peggy Boyer and
Mary Anderson; a granddaughter, Julie
Rabuck and by a step-grandson, Edward
Rehner, Jr.
Funeral services were held at 10 a.m.
Saturday, June 14, 2003.

Lee B. Williamson

Lee B. Williamson was buried at the
Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery
Chapel in Evansville, WY, on July 7,
2003. No other details.

Sam Wood

Sam retired as a Commander in 1956
after serving 24 years in he Navy. He
loved the Navy and he travelled all over
the oceans, but primarily in the Pacific.
Quite a stretch for a young man born in
Philadelphia, Miss., who would probably
have been a farmer had he not joined up.
Sam was a shipfitter after becoming a
diver in 1936. He saw lots of action in
WWII and even earned a Silver Star for
bravery under fire while the Japanese
attacked the Cavite Navy Yard in the
Philippine Islands on Dec. 10, 1941. Sam
ever told me … I just discovered the let-
ter he received from the secretary of the
Navy, Frank Knox.
I met Sam in 1997 after the death of his
wife, Anne in July 1997. They had been
married 50 years. Sam said while Sam was
on duty in Perth, Aust. They lived on Coro-
rado island, right near North Island. Sam
was at home there until they wanted a qui-
eter life and they moved to Lawrence Welk
Resort here in Escondido, CA in 1988.
Sam was well-respected and loved by
all his neighbors and friends, always the
quiet friend who could fix anything and
happy to be of help for all. He died August
He is survived by me, his wife Marjorie,
his sister Christine Kemp of Kissimmee,
Florida and California.

Peter R. Wygle

Peter R. Wygle, 73, of Ventura died
from complications of non-Hodgkin’s lym-
phoma on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2003.
Pete was born May 1, 1930, in Sonora,
Mexico, where his father worked as a min-
ing engineer. The family went to the
Philippine Islands in 1938. When World
War II broke out they were interned in the
Santo Tomas Internment Camp from 1941
until 1945. Pete later authored a book,
titled “Surviving a Japanese POW Camp,”
which chronicled the three years he
spent as a civilian POW with his family.
In 1956, Pete graduated from UC
Berkeley with a bachelor of arts degree in
earth sciences. In 1975, he was a gradu-
ate of the United States Army Command
and General Staff College. Peter was
proud of his military service. In 1949, he
enlisted in the National Guard and his unit
was activated and sent to Japan during the
Korean War.
In 1953 he was honorably discharged
and then enlisted in the United States
Army Reserve in 1955. It was notable that
Pete began his service as an enlisted
man, was appointed warrant officer in
1960 and then received his officer’s com-
mision in 1964. Pete served as comman-
der of the 6252nd United States Army
Hospital Unit and he was unique in the
fact that he was one of two officers in the
Army Reserve to serve as commander of
a hospital unit without being a doctor. In
1981, he retired with the rank of colonel.
In his civilian life, Pete started as a field
scout for Standard Oil in 1958. He was
hired by the State of California’s Division
of Oil and Gas, where he worked from
1968 to 1978. Pete was one of the found-
ing director’s of the Well Control School at
Ventura College from 1978 to 1982. Pete
became the safety engineer at H&H Oil
Tool in Santa Paula in 1982 and was later
retired by the State Division of Oil and
Gas. He retired in 1994.
In retirement, Pete became a director of
the Alliance to Preserve the History of
World War II in Asia and served as the
chairman of the Civilian Ex-POW
Committee. He worked tirelessly for their
causes. Pete was a speaker for the SEA-
SONS Seniors Speakers Bureau.
Retirement allowed time for world travel,
many meetings across the United States
and time with his beloved computer.
Mr. Wygle is survived by his loving wife
of 49 years, Nancy; daughters and sons-
in-law, Julie and Jim Henderson; Leslie
Wygle and fiance Jeff Hill; Lauren and
Bruce Coenges and Andrea and Michael
Martin; grandchildren, Scott and wife
Jessica Chacon, Megan and Chris Pujol,
Jonathan and David Doenges, Casey and
Jake Henderson, and Stephanie and Sam
Martin; great-grandchild, Sydney Pujol;
brother-in-law, Jim Fulkerson; and
nephews, Jim and Joe Fulkerson.
William M. Yount

William M. Yount, 87, a survivor of the Bataan Death March who retired from the Air Force as a senior master sergeant, died of a heart attack September 8 at his home in Oxon Hill.

Mr. Yount was born and raised in Moffatts Creek, VA. His mother died when he was 8, and after his father left two years later, he was raised by a friend, Beulah Zimmerman, who survives and is living in Staunton, VA. He enlisted in the Army in 1934, joining the Army Air Corps, and was stationed in the Philippines at the start of World War II. After the march, he was a prisoner of war for more than three years. His decorations included the Purple Heart.

After the war, except for three years stationed in Erding, West Germany, in the early 1950s, he worked in base supply in the Washington area, first at National Airport, then at Andrews Air Force Base and finally at Bolling Air Force Base. After his retirement from active duty in 1962, he worked at the Bolling commissary until 1976.

Mr. Yount, who had been a resident of Oxon Hill since 1946, was a 32nd-degree Mason and a Shriner. He was a history buff and a chef.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Sadie B. Yount of Oxon Hill; two daughters, Gerry Harwick of Boca Raton, FLA, and Nancy Childs of Rockville; and two grandchildren.

George Piccirillo

George Piccirillo of Needham, died Oct. 25, 2003. He was the beloved husband of Mary A. (Campbell) and the devoted father of Joanne of Needham. He was the brother of Bernice Antonelli and her husband Anthony, Phyllis Antonelli and her husband Henry, Vito Piccirillo, Joseph H. Piccirillo and Paul Piccirillo. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral was from the Andrew J. Magni Funeral Home, 365 Watertown St., Rte. 16, Newton, Wednesday at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Joseph Church, Needham, at 10 a.m. Interment was at Newton Cemetery. He was a veteran of the US Army Air Force, WWII. He was awarded two Bronze Stars. He was also the president of the NE Chapter of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc., and a member of American Legion Post 440, Newton. He graduated from Bentley College.


The Chaplain’s Corner

“Christmas Giving”

As the joyous season of Christmas approaches we might stop a minute and consider the reasons why it is so widely celebrated, even among non-Christians.

When somebody mentions the word “Christmas” our thoughts tend to the commercial aspects of the holiday. Surely, the giving of gifts stems from the Wise Men from the East who came to honor the Christ-child and then laid their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh in the manger. The Wise Men knew that the Child was special so they brought gifts befitting of royalty. They gave freely of their meager belongings; thus they gave thanks for His birth.

They were very wise men, indeed. They knew that the Child was God’s own gift of Himself to the world that was lost in its pursuit of worldly successes, and was hurting badly because those pursuits had not brought meaning to their lives.

There was a void in the lives of the people and God gave His Son to fill that void.

As we make up our Christmas gift list this year let us think not of the obligation of giving, but rather, think how our gifts are our humble imitation of the giving of the Wise Men and, especially of God’s gift of His Son, the Christ-Child who would wipe away every tear and replace it with joy. In John’s Gospel he assures us that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

Our gift-giving should be done out of love, a reflection of God’s abundant love for all mankind.

In His service,
Fr. Bob Phillips+, SSC
National Chaplain and Web Site Chairman

Can You Help?

My uncle, Private Jesse Marshall of the 34th Pursuit Squadron, died in the Philippines on July 12, 1942 of malaria. He was from Evanston, Wyoming. I am seeking any information possible from anyone who knew him. He was a mechanic for the planes and was in the Bataan Death March. He went over on the S.S. Coolidge. In a letter he said he had done well in target practice during rifle training and was given by friends the nickname “Dead-eye Dick from Wyoming.” He volunteered for a mission on February 8, 1942 with three others, one of whom was Darrell Sharp of Idaho. We don’t know the names of the other two. They succeeded on the mission, but on the way back both were killed. Jesse was wounded in the leg but recovered and returned to combat service. Darrell Sharp was wounded in the arm and later had it amputated. Can anyone tell us the names of the other two, or was anyone acquainted with Jesse Marshall who could tell us about him at this time? His family would be very grateful to hear from you. In one of his letters he said the 34th Squadron had transferred from Texas to California before going over. My Uncle Jesse joined the Squadron in California. Thanks so much for any help or information.

Sincerely,
Louise Cook
1618 E. 8685 S.
Sandy, UT 84083
Email: CrystieC@juno.com

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2003 — 27
MOVING SOON?
Please let us know six weeks before you move what your new address will be. Be sure to supply us with both your old and new address, including the address label from your current issue. Copies we mail to your old address will not be delivered by the Post Office and we must pay 70 cents for each returned Quan.
ATTACH OLD ADDRESS LABEL HERE
My new address will be:

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CITY _________________________________
STATE ________________________________
ZIP ___________________________________

Mail to:
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American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor, Inc.
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*Change Service Requested*

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Dues are due each year June 1: $8.00

The only public library in the United States that has set aside a special section of its facilities available to include a special military collection of resources about the defenders of the Philippine Islands 1941-1945 was dedicated on November 4, 2003. Harold Feiner and Abie Abrams, both Death March survivors, attended this special ceremony. Also, PNC Joe Vater and his wife Helen and PNC Ed Jackfert and his wife, Henrietta attended the ceremony. Eugene Wei, President of the American Museum of Asian Holocaust WWII was the principal speaker. Ed Jackfert and Abie Abrams also gave short talks about the defenders of the Philippines and its heroic stand in World War II.

This collection, donated by PNC Edward Jackfert and others, contains maps, manuscripts, journals, books, audio tapes, VCR tapes, hundreds of photos, personal stories of POWs and hell ships, personal stories of atrocities, including the Palawan atrocity, beheading and vivisection of B-29 crewmen, mistreatment of American and Australian civilian POWs, photos of and stories about the Bridge over the River Kwai, photos of prisoner of war camps, Bataan operational reports, Philippine army operational report, many artifacts, and much, much more. The library constructed a large set of beautiful new cherry cabinets with glass doors to house these special military resources. The library has also installed a security system to protect the valuable contents of the library.

This library will be open to the public for examination of its documents and for research purposes. The library is currently cataloguing and indexing each document in this facility which could make it easy for research purposes. This material will be here forever providing information about the distinguished defenders of the Philippine Islands, therefore, it is their legacy and provides that they will not be forgotten for their accomplishments during World War II.

We are hopeful that many of our members and family will contribute books, documents or artifacts to this library that also will be available for examination and research by the general public. The latest contribution to the library was by Duane Heinsinger, whose father died on one of the Hell Ships transporting POWs to Japan for slave labor purposes. His book is titled Father Found. The library can be contacted at the following address: Brooke County Public Library, 911 Main Street, Wellsburg, W. Va. 26070, Attention: Mary Kay Wallace. The library’s telephone number is 304-737-1551. The library does have a web site and would like to link with other web sites that provide information on the defenders of the Philippine Islands and other areas in the Far East. This would be a tremendous source of information for the public about the conflict with the Japanese military during World War II and their mistreatment of prisoners of war.