



## AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR, INC.

Including any unit of force of the Asiatic Fleet, Philippine Archipelago, Wake Island  
Marianna Islands, Midway Island and Dutch East Indies.

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Harold E. Feiner

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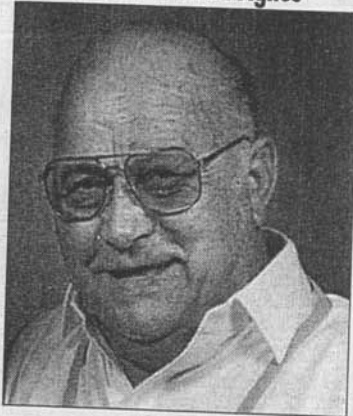
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Feb. ;26, 2003

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Dear JOE: I'm forwarding information regarding the recent death of our friend and comrade FRAN AGNES. FRANCIS W. AGNES, Capt. USAF (Retired). Past National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War. Passed away on February 9, 2003 in Everett, Washington. Fran was a member of the 20th Pursuit Squadron, Clark Field, P.I. He was an Air Mechanic working on P-26; P-35: and P-40 aircraft. He went into Bataan and participated in the defense of that area until the surrender on April 9, 1942. He made the Death March and was imprisoned in Camp O'Donnell, Camp Cabanatuan and Hiro-Hata. Fran served for 22 years on active military duty with Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force retiring in the grade of Captain. He was employed by the Washington State Job Service for 25 years. In 2001 he was Convention Site Chairman for the AEXPOW's; he was Chair of the Governor's Advisory Action Committee; Chairman of the Tahoma National Cemetery Support Group and was very active in veteran's legislative actions in the State of Washington. Fran is survived by his dear wife Marlene, three daughters and two sons, thirteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Fran was buried with full military honors in the Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, Washington.

**Francis Wilfred Agnes**



*Fran, you soared with the Eagles  
And now you are soaring with the Angels  
And you are now safely home.*

USAF Captain (Retired) Francis W. Agnes of Everett, Washington, passed away February 9, 2003. He was born April 28, 1922 at Haynes, North Dakota. Son of Francis P. Agnes and Pauline Krawczyk.

He was educated through the 8th grade in North Dakota. He moved with his family from North Dakota to Wenatchee, Washington, in 1936 and graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1940.

He served his country with pride for 22 years - 7 years in the U.S. Army Air Corp and 15 years in the U.S. Air force, retiring with the rank of Captain. In 1940, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp and was assigned to the 20th Pursuit Squadron. While stationed in the Philippines, he was captured at Marvellas, Philippines Islands, where he endured the infamous Bataan Death March on April 9, 1942. He was held as a prisoner of war for 3½ years, and liberated from the Hiro Hata prison camp in October, 1945. He witnessed the atomic bomb explosion at Hiroshima.

After retiring from the Air Force and returning to civilian life, he continued to serve his country with pride. He was employed by Washington State Job Service for 25 years from 1962 to 1987, and retiring as Operations Manager from the Job Service in Spokane, Washington.

His work in each community he lived was unselfish: coaching Little League baseball, instrumental in bringing National League Junior Baseball to Spokane, and was a major force in the building of many baseball fields throughout the area. He worked with the Association Retired Citizens and his service association veterans' groups for the betterment of veterans and their families in the State of Washington. Fran's leadership was instrumental in the implementation of Tahoma National Cemetery at Kent, Washington. The Cemetery was dedicated September 26, 1997, and opened for interments October 1, 1997.

Fran was pre-deceased by his parents, a brother and one sister. Fran is survived by his spouse, Marlene Agnes, 3 daughters: Rose M. Dennis (Frank), Bellevue, WA; Sonya L. Verlanic (Kevin) Missoula, MT; Kathleen M. Freeman (Thomas) Burien, WA; 2 sons: David W. Agnes, Burien, WA, and Gregory S. Agnes, of Simpsonville, SC; 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by special nieces and nephews, cousins and a special aunt and uncle.

Fran was an active member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was installed as National Commander of this great organization, serving with pride from 1990-1991, and also served as National Convention Site Chairman, American Ex-POWs. He was also a member of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor; the Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA; the American Legion; Disabled American Veterans; Veterans of Foreign Wars; NAUS (National Association of Uniformed Services), Military Officers (formerly TORA), the Everett Elks, Wenatchee Eagles Aerie #204; and served as Chair of Tahoma National Cemetery Support Group. He was also a member of the Washington State Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAA), a Board member of Snohomish County Human Services Veterans Assistance Board and a committee member of Washington State WWII Veterans. He was Chair of Washington State's Veterans Legislation Committee.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in memoriam to American Ex-Prisoners of War, National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, Texas 76010; or, in honor of his grandson, Matthew Dennis, to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at 530 Dexter Avenue North, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98109. Closed casket visitation will be on Thursday, February 13, 2003, from 2-4:00p.m. at Purdy and Walters with Cassidy Funeral Home at 1702 Pacific Avenue, Everett, Washington. Services with full military honors will be held at Generational Hope Christian Center, 26060 SE 216th Street, Maple Valley at 11:00a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2003. Interment, following the reception, at Tahoma National Cemetery, 18600 SE 240th Street, Kent, Washington.

**Purdy & Walters  
with Cassidy**



1702 Pacific Ave - Everett  
(425) 252-2191



**USAF CAPTAIN (RETIRED)  
FRANCIS WILFRED AGNES**

**Bataan Death March Survivor**

**Unit: 20<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron**

**Assignment: Aircraft Mechanic**

**Prisoner of War locations:**

**Camp O'Donnell, Philippines**

**Camp Cabanatuan, Philippines**

**Hiro-Hata, Japan**

**Highest Award: Bronze Star**

Francis was an aircraft mechanic with the squadron. He worked on P-26's, P-35's, and P-40's. He was with his unit on December 8, 1941 when the Japanese bombed and strafed Clark Field, destroying everything in their path. He fought with the infantry back to Bataan, survived the Death March and subsequent internment at Camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan.

While at Camp Cabanatuan he worked mostly on the hospital side of the camp. He also worked kitchen detail and when he was well enough he was on wood cutting details. From Cabanatuan he was transported on the hell ship Oka Maru to Hiro-Hata, Japan where he was used as slave labor anywhere needed. His labor included working in the steel mills, unloading ships and working in the coal yards.

After his liberation in 1945, Francis became active in numerous veteran's organizations. In 1990 and 1991 he was the National Commander of American EX-POW's. In 2001, he was Convention Site Chairman for EX-POW conventions, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Action Committee, Chairman of the Tahoma National Cemetery Support Group and was very active in veterans legislative actions in Washington State.



**Past National Commanders of American Ex-Prisoners of War  
(And the late Jessie Brown, former Secretary of Department of Veterans Administration)**

