



# Post Oflag 64 Item

2009 – Winter

### Editor and Mailing Lists

Elodie Caldwell  
2731 Terry Avenue  
Longview WA 98632-4437  
[elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us) or  
[elodie-oflag64@comcast.net](mailto:elodie-oflag64@comcast.net)

### Printing and Mailing

Kathy Ezell  
428 Bargello Avenue  
Coral Gables, FL 33146-2802  
[kezell@podhurst.com](mailto:kezell@podhurst.com)

### Treasurer

Bret Job  
4240 Trail Ridge Ln  
Minnetonka MN 55345-2254  
[bretjob@heartlandamerica.com](mailto:bretjob@heartlandamerica.com)

### Webmaster

Bill Caldwell  
2731 Terry Avenue  
Longview WA 98632-4437  
[webmaster@oflag64.us](mailto:webmaster@oflag64.us)

### 2010 Reunion Hosts

Carole and Phil Lester  
2501 Mollimar Dr  
Plano TX 75075-5501  
[philcareless@verizon.net](mailto:philcareless@verizon.net)

### Contributors to the ITEM

John Albree  
Eleanor Bertrand  
Jean Christensen  
Vaughn Edsall  
Lynn Kanaya  
Lucy Lussenden



## Ft. Collins Reunion: OUTSTANDING

CONGRATULATIONS and MANY THANKS to Julie Gionfriddo who hosted this year's Oflag 64 Reunion at Ft. Collins CO. She with her volunteers worked tirelessly to insure that a marvelous time was had by all. As has been the case each year, the Ft. Collins reunion was a GREAT success. Arrangements for the hotel, tours, meals, speakers, etc. were all first class and we're grateful for the time and energy that was devoted to putting things together. (Please see Lucy Lussenden's comprehensive report on pages 3-5 of this ITEM.)



Next year's reunion in Dallas TX will be hosted by Carole and Phil Lester (daughter and son-in-law of Herm Littman) and their committee of volunteers from Texas. Watch for more information in the Spring 2010 ITEM.



Best Regards,  
*Elodie Caldwell* (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)

# A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

## 2008-2009 Treasurer's Report By Bret Job



### Oflag 64 Postage Fund Summary

Beginning Balance December 2008	\$12,979.28	
Total Donations	\$2,235.00	
Total Expenditures		\$5,811.96
<b>Current Balance September 20, 2009</b>	<b>\$9,402.32</b>	

### Expenditures Detail

2008 Winter Edition Item Printing/Postage	\$1,341.13
2009 Spring Edition Item Printing/Postage	\$1,341.12
2009 Summer Edition Item Printing/Postage	\$1,368.24
2009 Fall Edition Item Printing/Postage	\$1,366.45
Mailings & Office Supplies Reimbursements	\$68.37
Mailings & Office Supplies Reimbursements	\$140.00
Mailings & Office Supplies Reimbursements	\$108.10
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$78.55</u>
Total Expenditures	\$5,811.96

### Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the postage fund. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.

WIN BALL  
GAIL BROWN  
JANET ELLSWORTH  
RAY & NANCY KLINKENBORG  
ROSA LEE  
ROYAL LEE  
"BOO" & CATHERINE NUNNALLY  
ROBERT O'NEILL  
BARBARA RICHINS  
KAREN ROSSI  
CONNIE WELCH

### Reunion Donors

GAIL BRADFORD BROWN  
PAT WATERS

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail your donation to:

**Bret Job**  
4240 Trail Ridge Ln  
Minnetonka MN  
55345-2554

or

**Elodie Caldwell**  
2731 Terry Ave  
Longview WA  
98632-4437



## 2009 OFLAG 64 REUNION SUMMARY

By Lucy Lussenden



This summary of our 2009 Reunion is for all those Kriegies and their families who were not able to attend this year, and for those who did attend and would like to relive their memories.

This year's reunion was held in Fort Collins, Colorado, hosted by Julie Gionfriddo, daughter of our late kriegy Jack Rathbone. Julie handled the arrangements for the reunion almost single-handedly. This was quite a feat considering Julie is a working Veterinarian Ophthalmologist teaching in the Veterinarian School at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Gail Bradford Brown, "Brad's" daughter, helped Julie with arrangements, too. I hope I haven't left out anyone else who may have helped. Julie sure knows how to put on a great party. She deserves many, many thanks for all of her hard work and planning. Julie provided us with perfect weather as well—warm temperatures, sunshine, and blue skies. She even brought her husband, Jim, to the Saturday night Reunion dinner for the first time. What more could we ask for?

About 10 Kriegies attended this year's reunion along with their wives, children, grandchildren and other family members and friends. Together about 84 people were at the reunion. Many Kriegies were unable to attend this year either due to health concerns or conflicts in schedules. The Kriegies who could not come were sorely missed, but were in our hearts and minds the whole time. The late Bill Warthen's family could not attend. The Rosenthals, the Baums, the Heislars, the Chappells were among those unable to attend. On the other hand, we had the joy of seeing "Brad" Bradford, Herm Littman, "Doc" DiFrancesco, Ed Graf, Ray Klinkenborg, and their families, and many others. Marcia Kanners came alone this year. Her son David passed away earlier this year, and it was he and his wife who often accompanied Marcia. We had the good fortune of meeting Karen Rossi, a grandniece of Col. Thomas Drake, who attended for the first time. She was warmly welcomed and told by our Kriegies how much they loved and respected her uncle. Several families were only able to attend the dinner on Saturday evening, and we were happy to see them. Evelyn Korber, widow of kriegy Bill, and her family were among those who came and whom we hadn't seen recently. I apologize to all those whose names I have missed.

A few of Julie's favorite cousins assisted her in various ways. One cousin, Micah, had prepared a software program, which was shown at the Business Meeting. The program showed photos of some of our Kriegies, giving the dates and places where they had been captured. Another cousin, Cheri, brought an assortment of lovely gifts, handmade by another relative, which were raffled off after Saturday evening's dinner. A third, "Ginny", attended the reunion from Houston, where she works in research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Clinic. She assisted Julie throughout the reunion and offered explanations of some of the things we saw on our tours. All in all, Julie has some very interesting and well-informed family members, and we enjoyed their company immensely.

The reunion was held at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Ft. Collins. This is a beautiful hotel with excellent accommodations. They provided us with a large conference room for our meetings and meals on the first floor, right across the hall from our well-stocked hospitality room. Beverages, snacks, and fruit were available in the hospitality room. Maps, stories, and other items of interest were on display there. The room was open throughout the entire reunion, including the morning of the Memorial Breakfast.

Thursday was check-in day, as usual. In our "goodies" bag was the itinerary, a print out of all the Kriegies and family members addresses and those whose e-mail addresses Elodie Caldwell presently has, a list of businesses in Fort Collins who offered special discounts to us as a show of appreciation for the sacrifices made by members of our "greatest generation." Brad Bradford's daughter, Gail, gifted us with T-shirts imprinted with "Oflag 64" and a photo taken by Jack Rathbone of the beautiful Rocky Mountains printed on the front. Also included were the words "POW Reunion, September 2009, Ft. Collins, Colorado." Some of us wore these shirts at times during the rest of the weekend.

On Friday morning we held our Business Meeting after breakfast. Elodie conducted the meeting and brought us up to date on improvements and changes made to our Oflag 64 website. Our new site name is

OFLAG64.US. Elodie's husband, Bill, has been responsible for improving and maintaining this important site, and we thank him very much for that. We have all been able to stay in touch and informed because of this website and the outstanding work being done by Elodie and her family. Many people have been able to find us who are seeking information about Oflag 64 and to learn about what life was like for their loved ones in the POW camp.

Elodie announced that next year's reunion would be hosted by Herm Littman's daughter, Carole. The reunion will be held in Dallas on a date that will not conflict with the Jewish High Holy Days. Bob O'Neill brought this matter to our attention during the meeting, and we are very grateful to him for that reminder. "Doc" DiFrancesco talked about the POW-Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress and encouraged all POWs to get their story included in this project. The budget was presented orally by Bret Job, who said there was about \$9,000.00 in the fund. He has provided a printed copy of the full budget, which appears in this ITEM. We were told about Dale Nitz, who has a traveling POW exhibit that he is taking across America. Dale sleeps in the back of this van containing the exhibit and moves from town to town, usually staying only one day and night. He receives no funding for this project except for whatever donations he receives from visitors to his exhibit. Dale is doing this because he thinks that it is vitally important for everyone to know about the hardships and sacrifices endured by our veterans. Dale brought his exhibit van to our main library here in Livonia recently. Charlene and I met Dale, toured his exhibit, and were very impressed. Jimmie Kanaya told us about Dale Nitz, and we thank him for that information.

Elodie reminded us to watch for a program that includes our own Jimmie Kanaya on The History Channel HD. The History Channel is preparing to launch a new 10-part series called "WWII in HD". It will air in the 4th Quarter of 2009. The program is scheduled to begin airing on November 15. The program will air two episodes a night for five days (Sunday through Thursday nights). Jimmie will be in episodes #7 and #9, a Wednesday and Thursday. There will be still shots of Jimmie in promos. Thanks to Jimmie's lovely wife, Lynn, who brought this to our attention. Of course, these dates may be changed by The History Channel, but watch for this to run in the next few months.

After lunch, our tour guide and her bus driver took us to the Budweiser Plant for a tour. The plant guides did a great job escorting us through the facility and explaining how beer is made using various ingredients to get different kinds of beers. We saw the huge vats where the beers were brewing and the assembly line of how the beer is bottled and prepared for delivery all across the country. An especially wonderful part of this tour was to the stables where we got to see the gorgeous Clydesdale horses and their beautiful tack. The guide explained the criteria used to decide which horses are chosen to become members of this impressive team. Part of it depends on their color and markings, their size, and their dispositions and personalities. It's not just "any old" horse who can have the honor to pull the big red Budweiser beer wagons! At the end of our tour we were treated to a complimentary glass of any kind of beer we wanted to try. That was a lot of fun, as was perusing through the gift shop before we left there.

After our Budweiser tour, we were given a tour of Fort Collins itself. We had a very fun and efficient tour guide with us who explained about the many things we were seeing on the route. Part of our tour included the campus of Colorado State University, including the veterinary clinic where Julie worked with "all God's creatures great and small." Julie told us that she has treated just about every kind of creature you could think of. These include snakes, birds of prey, including owls, fish, house pets, and wild animals. Julie performed a very delicate and complicated surgery on the eye of a great-horned owl in her clinic while the late Steve Irwin watched. You may remember Steve as the famous "Crocodile Hunter" on his TV show from Australia. Steve and his family were touring America a few years ago on a combination family vacation and the making of a film to be used at a later date on his show. This surgery was filmed at the time and shown on Steve's television show later in the year. If you had ever seen Steve's show, you know how enthusiastic and excited he got about his work. Needless to say, he was sure excited and impressed by Julie's precision and skill. I saw this show and was very impressed with Julie's amazing work. I know where I'll take my pet if I ever get one and it needs eye surgery!!!

Our tour then took us through the city and past some very interesting places. At the end, some of our group exited the bus and shopped in the old town for a while. The others returned to the hotel to rest. The bus later picked up the folks who had stayed in town.

Saturday morning began with breakfast together in the conference room. Our guest speaker at breakfast was Betsy Markey, Colorado Freshman U.S. Congresswoman. Elodie provided me with a summary of Ms. Markey's visit, as I was unable to attend the breakfast. Following is Elodie's report:

Ms. Markey spoke about the need and the right we all have to live in a safe democracy and what that means to us as citizens of our country. She also emphasized the debt of gratitude we all owe to those who have sacrificed their lives either by giving their own or by serving in WWII and subsequent conflicts up through today. She spoke to the Kriegies particularly, thanking them for their selfless service, especially during captivity.

As a congresswoman, she is working with bipartisan committees and has co-sponsored:

1. a bill to extend the GI Bill to the national guard as well as to the reserves
2. a bill to treat traumatic brain injuries that result from combat

Congresswoman Markey was elected last November and has been in office just since the beginning of this year. She went around the room before breakfast shaking everyone's hands and introducing herself. She was an enthusiastic speaker and seemed to know what she was talking about. Ms. Markey answered questions from the group after her speech.

Following breakfast, our tour guide took us up to Rocky Mountain National Park. While the bus driver maneuvered the narrow, winding road leading up to the top, our guide pointed out places of interest along the way. She told about a terrible flood that had occurred years ago in the canyon. A huge wall of water rushed down through the very narrow canyon and washed away hundreds of homes, businesses, people and all the things connected with the homes, like huge propane tanks that were used for heating the homes. No one in the area will ever forget that terrible storm. Our bus climbed slowly to an elevation of almost 10,000 feet at our destination on the top of the mountain. We saw breathtaking vistas in every direction we looked. Julie pointed out many high peaks that her dad had climbed during his lifetime in the mountains, some more than once. Her mom and dad had spent their honeymoon in the mountains, climbing the peaks. Our late kriegy, Jack, loved the mountains so much that he photographed them over and over. One of his beautiful framed photos was one of the gifts raffled at Saturday evening's dinner. We returned to our hotel in time to change and prepare for our evening dinner.

Our guest speaker at dinner was Dr. Tom Sutherland. He had been Julie's professor at CSU. Dr. Sutherland and his wife, Jean, wrote a book entitled *At Your Own Risk*, copies of which were available gratis that evening. Dr. Sutherland told us how he had been teaching at Beirut American University in Lebanon when he was taken hostage in 1985. He was held for almost seven years in various locations during that time. He told an amazing story of how he and other hostages survived those years, some of which were in windowless rooms. Terry Anderson later became a hostage, and was held with Dr. Sutherland. He and his wife, Jean, were very interesting speakers and we were held spellbound by their stories.

Our Memorial Breakfast ceremony began with the presenting of the colors by a Color Guard from Colorado State University Military Sciences. Evonne Pierce provided lovely music with her guitar and sweet voice. Our speaker was Leonard Sokolowski of the Unitarian Church. After a brief talk, he read the names of our Kriegies lost since the last Reunion. Sadly, the list grows longer every year. Afterward we all said our "good-byes" with hugs and "just one more picture" of each other until next year. I close with the following quote:

***Printed on the front of the Memorial Breakfast Program:***

***"Let no man believe that there is a stigma attached to having been honorably taken captive in battle. Only the fighting man ever gets close enough to the enemy for that to happen. That he is not listed among the slain is due to infinite care of providence. Be proud that you carried yourselves as men in battle and adversity. You will be enriched thereby."***

***--Col. Thomas D. Drake***

## 2009 Ft. Collins Reunion Attendees

### **O. L. "Brad" Bradford - Kriegy**

Gail Brown (daughter)

Elodie Caldwell (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)

Bill Caldwell (son-in-law)

Janet Ellsworth (daughter)

Barbara Richins (daughter)

Barry Richins (son-in-law)

Michelle Craig (daughter of William Higgins)

Bill Craig (son-in-law)

Jean Davis (sister)

Grover Davis (brother-in-law)

Rosetta Hargrove (daughter)

Daniel Higgins (son)

Mack Higgins (son)

Linda Sachetti (granddaughter)

Ryan Sachetti (g-grandson)

### **Vincent "Doc" DiFrancesco - Kriegy**

Maria Christmann (daughter)

Brad Christmann (grandson)

Tim Christmann (grandson)

Rosa Lee (daughter)

Patrick Cochran (son-in-law)

Robert Galloway (grandson-in-law of

John K. Waters)

Tillson Galloway (g-grandson)

John Galloway (g-grandson)

Patton Galloway (g-grandson)

Julie Gionfriddo (daughter of Jack Rathbone)

James Gionfriddo (son-in-law)

Virginia Scofield (niece)

Cheri Thieben (niece)

### **Edward Graf - Kriegy**

Judy Knight (daughter)

Tim Knight (son-in-law)

Katie Foster (granddaughter)

Patrice Avery (friend)

Daniel Gregoire (friend)

Nicholas Durst (friend)

### **Don Graul - Kriegy**

Lisa Job (daughter of Ray Holmquist)

Bret Job (son-in-law)

### **Jimmie Kanaya – Kriegy**

Marcia Kanners (widow of Victor Kanners)

Anne H. Kreutzer (daughter of Nathaniel Hoskot)

Tom Kreutzer (son-in-law)

### **Ray Klinkenborg – Kriegy**

Nancy Klinkenborg (wife)

Evelyn Korber (widow of William Korber)

Mike Korber (son)

Rob Korber (son)

Mary Mason (daughter)

Mike Mason (grandson)

Debbie Boblet (granddaughter)

Keith Boblet (grandson-in-law)

### **Herman "Herm" Littman - Kriegy**

Sue Dana (daughter)

Pat Dana (son-in-law)

Carole Lester (daughter)

Phil Lester (son-in-law)

Larry Littman (son)

Michael Littman (son)

Lucy Lussenden (widow of Don Lussenden)

Charlene Drozdak (friend)

David Drozdak (friend)

Lynne Meltesen (daughter of Clarence

Meltesen)

David Lee (son-in-law)

Grace Meltesen-Lee (granddaughter)

Gayle Meltesen (daughter)

### **Boyce "Boo" Nunnally – Kriegy**

Catherine Nunnally (wife)

### **Robert "Bob" O'Neill - Kriegy**

Jeanne Boyd (friend)

Gail Rahal (widow of Nick Rahal)

Karen Rossi (great niece of Thomas Drake)

Jon Rossi (great nephew-in-law)

### **Darwyn Walker – Kriegy**

Carolyn Walker (wife)

### Special Guests

Colorado Congresswoman Betsy Markey

Evonne Pierce

David Pierce

Leonard Sokolowski

Mrs. Sokolowski

Dr. Thomas Sutherland

Dr. Jean Sutherland





# MAIL CALL



**LTC JOHN A. ALBREE from Columbus NC** sent word that John L. Creech passed away in early August. He and John Creech were good friends and saw each other every day. John Albree was able to participate in the memorial service for John Creech and delivered a statement from our Oflag 64 family. **Please see the TAPS section for John Creech's obituary and words spoken at the memorial service.** *Thanks so much, John, for keeping us informed of the events surrounding John Creech's death and memorial service. And thanks for being the spokesperson for the Oflag 64 family. You rendered a great service to us all. Please keep in touch.*

**TY ANKROM from Circleville OH** (nephew of the late Ernest "Snap" Ankrom) emailed the sad news that his uncle recently passed away. **Please see the TAPS section in this ITEM for his obituary.** Snap had been suffering from cancer diagnosed a year ago. His daughter stated: "He was a great man; admired and liked by all who knew him." *Thank you, Ty, for sending the news. We extend to you and the rest of Snap's family our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences. We know he will be missed. Please write again.*

**WIN BALL from Tryon NC** (widow of the late James C. Ball) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note. She had knee surgery in August and was not able to make it to the Reunion in Ft. Collins. *Thank you very much, Win, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We so much appreciate the support our Oflag 64 family gives to mailing the ITEM. We hope your surgery went well and that you'll be as good as new in a very short time. Please write again.*

**BRANDON BIES** (from the National Park Service, and one of the guests who attended the Business Meeting at our D.C. Reunion) recently emailed regarding our request for Oflag 64 MIS-X and tunneling information. He wrote: "I



applaud you in your efforts to include the MIS-X story on your website. If the NPS (National Park Service) can provide you with any information, we'd be more than happy to have it included." He also stated that the NPS would love to hear "our" stories. *Thank you so much, Brandon, for your willingness to share information with us. We will be in contact soon. And thanks for keeping us in mind for your project. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

**COLLEEN CAMARA from Mountain View CA** (niece of the late Joseph Hryhorec) recently found our web site and asked to be added to our mailing list. She also provided her uncle's death date which has now been added to the TAPS list on our website. She commented on "how coincidental dates can be in one's life. Uncle Joe was taken POW on December 2, 1944 which years later was a very happy date for me; my son was born in 1982 on that day." *We're happy, Colleen, that you have found us, and welcome you to our Oflag 64 Family. We have a great group, always friendly and willing to share information. Thanks for the TAPS information on your uncle. Please write again.*

**JEAN CHRISTENSEN from Loveland CO** (widow of the late Robert C. Christensen) sent information regarding VA benefits for widows whose veteran husbands died from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). **Please see the Information Station for more details.** *Many thanks to you, Jean, for making us aware of this important benefit. It's wonderful that the VA now recognizes ALS as service connected! Best wishes to you. Please let us hear from you again.*

**PETE CORBETT from Marietta GA** (son of the late William J. Corbett) sent word that his father passed away in early August. **Please see the TAPS section for William's obituary.** *Thanks, Pete, for your email. We were saddened to hear of your dad's passing. Another great Kriegy, patriot, and hero will certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May the support of others and wonderful*

*memories help to ease your loss. Please write again.*

**BILL CORY from Louisville KY** recently sent a letter to be forwarded to Wilbur Sharpe regarding the newspaper article about him in the last ITEM and also about the secrecy of the tunnel project as it was taking place right before the eyes of the Germans. He also sent a more current photo of himself to be used in the ITEM and on the website. *Thanks, Bill, for your letter and photo. Great picture, I might add. We appreciate all the information and photos you have shared with us as we've worked to update our website. Please keep in touch.*



**NILS COWAN from his new residence in Seattle WA** (producer who worked on the MIS-X documentary) recently sent apologies to our Oflag Kriegies for the decision National Geographic made to omit "our story". He is interested in our efforts to collect stories and commends our association for getting this material together. He also sent thanks to all the Kriegies for their continued help and inspiration. *Thanks, Nils, for writing. It was good to hear from you again. Thanks also for your continued interest in our Kriegies' stories. Best to you in your new assignment in WA.*

**KAREN CRANDALL** (Niece-in-law of the late Robert W. Crandall) recently contacted us and asked to be added to our email list. She asked about capture and camp arrival dates as well as what we know about VA information. In her email she wrote: "...Interestingly, VA has documentation that he [Robert Crandall] died in the POW camp. I am certain that was not the case. His brother, Uncle William told me a long time ago, that his brother Robert had a chance to come back to the states but opted to stay in Italy after the POW camp. Can the VA have the wrong information? I wonder. FYI: West Point had dedicated the pool in memory of Robert W. Crandall in May 1989. He was the WP Swim Team captain '38-'39. You can Google Crandall Pool West Point. Robert is buried at West Point." She also mentioned that Robert's only surviving sibling, age 93, was just presented with Robert's Purple Heart by the VA. The article can be found

at:  
[http://fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090901/GJNEWS\\_01/709019893](http://fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090901/GJNEWS_01/709019893)  
*Karen, thanks so much for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thanks also for sharing information about Robert and for sending his POW ID card and the Purple Heart article. It's great hearing about these wonderful men. Please keep in touch.*

**PAIGE DERSHAM** (granddaughter of the late Osie O. "Jim" Turner) found our website and wrote the following: "My grandfather served in World War 2 and was captured, and put into Oflag 64. He passed away sometime ago, and we are very much interested in finding his friends that he wrote of. Please make the reunion members aware of my quest in finding them, and the stories they possess. My grandfather passed on documents to my mother and one of them is a folded piece of paper with names and addresses; we believe the people listed were important, and might be his companions from that gruesome time." *Thanks, Paige, for writing. We have sent out an email query and know you will hear from others soon. A brief check of the database roster on our website ([www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us)) shows some with same names and some with similar, but not same names. We hope you'll be able to find the information you're seeking. Please keep us updated from time to time.*

**DAVID FERGUSON from Westlake Village CA** (nephew of the late Clarence Ferguson) recently found our website and identified his uncle in one of the camp photos. He wrote: "Discovering your blog was exciting for me and very recent. Had no idea there was so much out there about Oflag 64. The reading of other people's experiences, after being so familiar with my uncle's account, has made me so appreciative of that generation and their sacrifices. Sadly, they are disappearing quickly but will never be forgotten. I would like to add, my uncle's service to his country did not end with his repatriation. He served as a district judge for most of his life and was a civic leader until the last few years of his life. His entire life was dedicated to responsible government. His county in Texas was the only one in Texas completely debt free at his passing and had been for the past fifty years." In another email, he mentioned his uncle's book, which you will note as #8 in the

Publications Section of this ITEM. *Thanks, so much, David for contacting us. We have added you to our email list as requested. Thanks also for the information you shared on your uncle. We have added him to our TAPS list on line. These men certainly have left a great legacy, haven't they? We hope you'll write again.*



**JUDY CASNER FLETCHER** from Woodbridge VA (daughter of the late Al Casner) recently realized a connection to Julie Gionfriddo, this year's reunion hostess. To Julie, she wrote: "My dad, Al Casner and your dad were roommates in POW camp. They become good friends. I remembered as a little girl, your dad would get together with us when he came to Washington DC. I remembered that your dad collected antique maps and one time we went to a place in Alexandria, VA to look at these maps. They would exchange Christmas cards over the years too. My dad is now 91, almost 92. He lives with us In Woodbridge, Va. He has dementia and Parkinson Disease so he won't be able to come to the reunion in FT. Collins. My husband is from Denver, and his mother lives in Aurora. I also have a cousin, who lives not far from your childhood's house. So it is really a small world. Next time I come to Colorado we will have to get together to talk about our dads. I wish you a fun and a successful reunion. Tell everyone hello for my Dad".....In an email just recently received, Judy reported the death of her father. **Please see the TAPS section in this ITEM for his obituary.** *Thanks, Judy, for the glimpse into yesteryear. How interesting it is to learn more about the daily lives of our Kriegies post war. Thanks also for letting us know about your father's passing. We are saddened to hear that we have lost another great patriot and hero. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please write again.*

**MARK GRAY** (son of the late William R. Gray) recently emailed: "My father, William R. Gray died August 25, 2009. He really enjoyed your organization, thank you for all the work you put in on it.....He would have really enjoyed attending the reunion in Fort Collins, but the realities of his invalid condition the last two years would have made the trip far too strenuous. **Please see William Gray's obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM.** Mark also asked

that we continue to send the ITEM to Jean, William's widow. *Thanks, Mark, for informing us of your dear father's death. Our fathers were such valiant patriots and heroes. We truly miss those who have passed on. Jean is on our mailing list and will receive future ITEMS. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

**LISA HANNON** from San Juan WA (daughter of the late James J. Hannon) recently contacted us with information that her father passed away in January of 2008. She commented: "He was a legend and a hero to all who knew him and missed greatly every day." *Thank you, Lisa, for writing and sharing information about your dad. And, welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We know that losing our loved ones is difficult. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please keep in touch.*

**BILLY HAYNES** (grandson of the late William P. Haynes III) recently found our website and asked to be added to our mailing list. He added: "My grandfather was in Oflag 64 and is in your Database, Lt. William P. Haynes 3rd. I am extremely big into family and my family history and trying to find out more about him...My dad (his son) was absolutely thrilled seeing this website and seeing his name in capture information on the site." Billy also wrote that he actually has a short 5-page book/story that his grandfather wrote on how he escaped from Oflag 64. He asks: If you just so happen to know anything regarding my grandfather, that would be great!" Billy also asked that his grandfather be added to our TAPS list. *Thanks, Billy, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have added your grandfather to our website TAPS list and look forward to receiving more information about him. We hope to hear from you again.*

**DAVID HENRY** from Ft. Worth TX (son of the late Robert T. Henry, Jr.) recently wrote in response to our request for Oflag 64 MIS-X and tunneling stories. He made brief mention of his father's escape from the march with Amon Carter, Jr. and Johnnie Jones. Due to Amon Carter's association with the MIS-X project, David suggested communications might be appropriate with living family members in TX. *Thanks, David, for your suggestions. Thanks also for the 1989 scanned obituary and photo of your father. We hope you'll keep in touch.*



**VICTORIA HERRING from Des Moines IA** (daughter of the late Clyde E. Herring) took a trip recently to Europe and visited Szubin and Oflag 64 while she was there. She has posted her album

online and photos can be seen by going to the following web address:

<http://gallery.me.com/victoriaherring#100332>

There are also some photos associated with her father's war years at this web address:

<http://victoriaherring.typepad.com/serendipity/2009/08/clyde-herrings-photos-from-world-war-ii-and-in-pow-camp-in-poland.html>

Just copy and paste into your browser and you'll get there quickly. *Thanks, Victoria, for sharing these great photos. Please write again.*

**SHARON HUTCHISON from Arlington TX** (daughter of the late "Ike" Franklin) recently emailed us in response to our request for Oflag 64 MIS-X and tunneling stories. She mentioned the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth/Dallas TX area and suggested they might have information to share. She also included a couple of links to historical information online. *Sharon, we appreciate all the information you've shared. We especially appreciate the Oflag 64 Database that you have provided for our website. We hope you'll write again soon.*

**SUSAN LOWE JONES** recently contacted us with the following request: "My father is looking for the videos made about Oflag 64. He has the POW Odyssey video but has read info on two other ones that have interviews with former POW's. If you can help me find them I would appreciate it. I think one was mentioned in an earlier 2009 issue of the Oflag 64 he receives in the mail." Susan has also asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Susan, for writing. I believe the two videos you were talking about were interviews done for the MIS-X documentary with Joe Seringer and Wilbur Sharpe. We have not received copies of the videos as of yet. We'll keep you posted when that happens. Please write again.*

**ELISSA JUSKALIAN from VA** (daughter of George Juskalian) is looking for an original copy of the photo that was published in the Summer 2009 issue of the ITEM, page 14. If you have a copy and



would be willing to send it for scanning, please send it to Elodie at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. George Juskalian is included in the photo. *Thanks Elissa for calling. We hope to hear from others soon. Please keep in touch.*



**LYNN KANAYA from Gig Harbor WA** (wife of Jimmie Kanaya) wrote that she would not be able to attend the reunion this year due to a sick puppy and a bad knee. *Lynn, you were greatly*

*missed at our reunion this year. Many people asked about you. We know you would've come if you could. Hope your knee heals quickly and that we'll see you again next year in Dallas.*

**JUDY KNIGHT from Naperville**

**IL** (daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf) recently wrote that her daughter, Katie, will be undergoing radiation everyday for a total of 7 weeks. Judy will be traveling to Colorado to be with Katie as she begins treatment and will play the rest by ear. She mentioned that some people experience side effects from radiation and some don't so we'll just have to see. She asks, in Katie's behalf, for thoughts and prayers that this treatment will take all the cancer out of her body. *Thank you, Judy, for writing and updating us on Katie's treatments. It was great to see you all at the reunion in Colorado, but we know it was a stressful time with medical concerns. Please keep us posted.*



**ROYAL LEE from Mankato MN**

recently sent a much-appreciated donation to the Postage Fund. In a recent email he expressed sadness at the passing of Al Casner stating: "The article on Al Casner brought tears to my eyes. Al was one of my closest friends in Oflag 64." *Thanks very much, Royal, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate your support! We understand the feelings you expressed at the passing of Al. Another great Kriegy will certainly be missed by all who knew him. Please keep in touch.*

**GENE LIGGETT from Vancouver WA** emailed regarding his recent trip to Washington D.C. to visit the Holocaust Museum and the WWII



Memorial. He expressed feelings experienced as he walked through a German box car and the memories it brought back. His visit to the WWI Memorial was quite enjoyable. He stated that the whole

trip was one that he will never forget nor regret. *Thanks, Gene, for sharing your experiences with us. Our best to you. Please write again.*

**TONY LUMPKIN III from Austin TX** (grandson of the late Tony B. Lumpkin) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He spoke of attending future reunions and updated us on his grandfather's passing in 1979. *Thanks, Tony, for writing and updating us on your grandfather. And, welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We look forward to meeting you at future reunions and to learning more about your grandfather. We hope you'll write again.*

**SUSAN MASTERS from Stow MA** (daughter of the late Kriegy William Corbett) recently sent an obituary and picture of her late father for the ITEM. **(Please see the TAPS section at the end of this ITEM.)** Susan, who asked to be added to our email list, is also the sister of Pete Corbett who has been a part of our group for quite a while. *Susan, welcome to our Oflag 64 Family and thank you for sending the information on your dad. It's so hard to see these dear men go, but we know there are wonderful memories to help us get through the difficult times. Please write again.*

**BILL MCCULLOCH from Woodbridge VA** (from Military Historical Tours) has sent information about a 2010 "American's In Enemy Hands" tour for Oflag 64 Kriegies and their families. If you are interested, please contact him at: Major Bill McCulloch, USMC (Ret), Director-Sales and Marketing, Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way-Suite 202, Woodbridge VA 22193-5285. You can also access tour information from our Oflag 64 website at: [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us) (not .org) *Thanks, Bill, for sharing this tour information. We hope members of our group will be able to take advantage once more in this great opportunity.*

**DALE NITZ from Port Orchard WA** is a collector of POW and other veteran's souvenirs and is looking for a picture of the "bird" radio that was used at Oflag 64 and on the march to

Hammelburg. If you can help Dale, please contact him at [cnitz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cnitz@worldnet.att.net). *Thanks, Dale, for sharing this request with Jimmie Kanaya who has, in turn, shared it with our group. We would love to see a picture as well. Please contact us again.*



**ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ** sent a short note along with a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thank you very much, Bob, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. It is so much appreciated. It was good seeing you at the reunion again this year. Hope to see you at many more. Please write again.*

**DON PATTON from Minneapolis MN** (from the WWII History Round Table) has sent information about a 2010 tour to Germany including the site of the Hammelburg Raid. If you are interested, please contact him at: Donald G. Patton, Colonel (Retired-US Army), WWII History Round Table, 7220 Fleetwood Drive, Edina MN 55439. You can also access tour information from our Oflag 64 website at: [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us) (not .org) *Thanks, Don, for providing this tour information. We presented it at our recent reunion and hope members of our group will be able to participate in this great event.*

**BRIAN ROSE from Kansas City, KS** (grandson of Robert J. Rose) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. In looking through our website photo gallery of Kriegies, he noticed one that included his grandfather. He asked for information about when the photos were taken, circumstances behind the photos, connections, etc. We've been able to narrow down some of the requested information and have forwarded it on to him. *First of all, welcome Brian to our Oflag 64 family. We have a wonderful group, all so willing to help and share information. We would love to hear from you again.*

**GEORGE and ARLENE ROSENTHAL from Oldsmar FL** recently wrote to say: "We will certainly be with you



in spirit as you celebrate yet another OFLAG 64 reunion. We wish you great success and tell all our friends we will miss everyone and also tell

my shopping buddies I look forward to the reunion next year. We will be praying for them at the Temple during our High Holiday Services for a New Year filled with good health and happiness.” *Thank you both for writing. You were greatly missed at our reunion this year. We felt so badly that our reunion conflicted with Rosh Hashanah. At the time everything was being scheduled it was not printed on any calendar we had, so we send sincere apologies for the oversight. Hope all is well with you both. Please keep in touch.*



**KAREN ROSSI from Panama Beach City FL** (great niece of the late Thomas D. Drake) recently met with George Juskalian and his wife and daughter, with Wilbur Sharpe and his daughter, and with Tom and Anne Kreutzer, to learn as much as she could about her great uncle. They had a wonderful time together and much information was shared. Karen was so excited to learn about Oflag 64 and more about Thomas Drake, that she and her husband changed their original plans for September and attended the Oflag 64 Reunion in Ft. Collins instead. *Thanks, Karen, for contacting us and keeping us updated on your recent meeting. There is almost nothing more exciting than having new information available to you. We were so happy to meet you and your husband at the reunion. We hope you'll write again.*

**SUSAN VAN VLIET SCOTT from Cocoa FL** (daughter of the late Jack Van Vliet) recently contacted us and mentioned that she has a taped interview of her Dad taken during the 1995 reunion. (If you would be interested in a copy, please let Elodie know. She will make contact with Susan.) She also emailed a link to information on the Katyn Forest Massacre. Here's the link:  
[http://www.electronicmuseum.ca/Poland-WW2/katyn\\_memorial\\_wall/kmw\\_vanvliet.html](http://www.electronicmuseum.ca/Poland-WW2/katyn_memorial_wall/kmw_vanvliet.html)  
*Thanks, Susan, for contacting us. We look forward to a copy of the interview. The site you suggested is also linked on the links page of our website (Stories/The Katyn Incident). We hope you'll keep in touch.*

**JOE SERINGER from Cape Canaveral FL** will no longer be living in Wooster OH. Florida is now his permanent residence. We know the

folks in Wooster will miss him, but what a great place to move. Joe's new address is: Puerto Del Rio, 768 Lago Drive, Building 15, Unit #404, Cape Canaveral FL 32920-4642. We're happy to have this new information. *Thanks to Joe's daughter, Pat, for this new information. We expect to hear great reports from you Joe. Please keep in touch.*



**SARA SHADE from Muncie IN** (granddaughter of Wilbur W. Bishop) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She also informed us of her grandfather's passing in August of this year. **Please see the TAPS section for his obituary.** She also expressed appreciation for information she has found on our website. *Thank you, Sara, for writing and informing us of your grandfather's passing. It's hard to see our dear Kriegies passing on, but we recognize their great sacrifices and service during a difficult period in our country's history. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please write again.*

**BARBARA SIEGER from Upper Marlboro MD** (daughter of the late Alfred H. Moss) wrote recently to let us know of her father's death in January of 2008. She wrote: "He always spoke highly of your organization and newsletter. He was very proud of his service and time spent at Oflag 64." Barbara also said that she has a POW camp photo which includes her dad and will send us a copy for our website. *Thank you, Barbara, for contacting us and for sharing a little about your father. We look forward to receiving the camp photo which includes him and will add it to our website as soon as possible. We have added your name to our mailing list as requested. Please write again.*

**ANDREA STANLEY** (granddaughter of the late Austin L. Knapp) recently found our website and has asked to be added to our email list. She also wrote: "My grandpa was WOJG Austin L. Knapp who was a POW in Oflag 64. We have his journal that he kept during the war and have researched his capture quite a bit. I would like to also find out if we can get his journal in the National Archive to preserve it. He passed away in 1993 but I want to know as much as I can." *Thanks for writing, Andrea, and for letting us know about your grandfather. How exciting to*

*have his journal! We hope you'll get the answer you're looking for from the National Archives website. We look forward to meeting you soon and hope you'll keep in touch.*

**RENE TESAR from the Czech Republic** recently emailed and expressed interest in the Oflag 64 tunneling project. Rene's association with our group comes through research on Oflag 64 Kriegy Otto Masny and the approach of the Red Army commanders to Oflag 64 Kriegies when liberating the camp. Information about the dark sides of history has been concealed for over 40 years in that country and Rene would like as much WWII information as possible. If you would like to share information through email with Rene, please make contact at: [rene.tesar@worldonline.cz](mailto:rene.tesar@worldonline.cz) *Thanks, Rene, for writing again. We appreciate your interest in past Oflag 64 history. Please contact us again if there is assistance we can give.*

**BOB TIEMSTRA from The Netherlands** recently wrote about his experiences as a Dutch citizen held at Oflag 64 during WWII. As an interpreter and guide, when captured he was attired as an American soldier with a SHAEF patch on his jacket. So as not to be found out, he gave a fake name and serial number. A little more of his story can be found in the entry below by Frank van Lunteren. *Thanks so much, Bob, for writing. What an amazing story (one which we would like to print in our next ITEM)! Thank you also for your sacrifices during the war. Our best to you. We hope you'll write again.*

**FRANK VAN LUNTEREN from Arnhem, The Netherlands**

recently sent an interesting email regarding another Oflag 64 Kriegy. He wrote: "I have some good news to report: I have found another Oflag 64 member: Gerhardus Terpstra (listed in the Oflag 64 database). His real name however is Bob Tiemstra and he is Dutch! While attached to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in Holland, he was captured on October 6, 1944. As he wore an American uniform (distributed by a Dutch Captain Bestebreurtje attached to the 82nd ABN Division) and knowing that Germans would shoot Dutch civilians who helped Americans, he claimed he was an American officer/interpreter. I have promised him the weblink to the Oflag 64



website and I will also send him your e-mail address, so that he can contact you himself. Among the paperwork he still has are letters to him from Colonel Goode and Lieutenant Colonel Van Vliet. In a separate email, Frank sent updated information on one of our Kriegies who had previously been lost. He was Jon ZUMSTEG, previously shown on our records as John ZURNSTEG. *Thank you so much, Frank, for this great news. We eagerly await word from Bob Tiemstra. Thank you also for keeping us updated on items of historical significance involving our Oflag 64 Kriegies. Please let us hear from you again.*

**PAT WATERS from Mt. Pleasant SC** (son of the late John K. Waters)

sent a very thoughtful and generous contribution to the Ft. Collins Reunion account to help defray costs. In Julie Gionfriddo's words: It really helped take the worry out of whether or not there would be enough money." Pat hoped to be able to drop in at least one day but it wasn't possible this time around. We were happy to see Robert Galloway and sons Tillson, John and Patton and wished we could have seen Pat and Martha as well. *Thanks so much, Pat, for your wonderful contribution to the reunion. We missed you and Martha but enjoyed the letter you sent, read by Tillson at our banquet. Hope to see you in the future. Our best to you both.*



**CONNIE WELCH** (daughter of the last Kriegy Austin Knapp) recently wrote: "I am so please to have found this site." In a subsequent email she wrote: "This site in particular is such a great source of information. My Dad would have loved what it offers." She also wrote that her dad never spoke of his confinement but kept a journal while he was at Oflag 64. She has helped identify basketball team members in our Kriegy Gallery web page, found an article in one of the ITEMS about him and his tailor shop, and plans to scan her dad's journal soon. *Connie, we're happy that you have found us. We welcome you to our Oflag 64 family and look forward to more communications from you. Thanks for your help with photo identification. Our best to you and your family.*

**MARIUSZ WINIECKI from Szubin Poland** (an Oflag 64 history buff) has recently found our

website and wrote: "I'm the citizen of Szubin. For few weeks I'm regularly visiting the Oflag 64 page reading the original 1943-45 Items, related stories and memories of Kriegies, watching photo galleries, etc. From this website I've learned a lot about the history of Oflag 64 prisoners. I found it very interesting and exciting. Now I'm looking for some more material to learn from about the history of Oflag 64. I hope that someone from your community - the ex-prisoners and war veterans from Oflag 64 - might be helpful to get it. I'm also very interested in reading the article by Jack Van Vliet "Escape Artists" presented at one of the photos following

the link: "Oflag 64 photos from the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum". Unfortunately it is not possible to read it directly from the photo. Could anyone be so kind and post me the copy of the article, that I'd be able to read?" *Thanks so much, Mariusz, for writing to us. We're happy you have found our website. We have sent an email to the museum to see if they might be able to share information with us. We will let you know as soon as we hear. We have also contacted Robert Galloway who produced the POW Odyssey DVD. We will send other requested information as soon as it is available. Please write again.*

## INFORMATION STATION

**Thanks to Jean Christensen, widow of Robert C. Christensen, for the following important information:**

On September 23, 2008, LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), was made a presumptive condition for all veterans who served in our armed forces for at least 90 days.

This means that the widows of those veterans who died of Lou Gehrig's disease in years past are eligible for the VA widows' monthly benefit, which is very substantial.

Many people are not aware that a veteran's death due to this disease is now considered service-connected.

This benefit affects widows of all veterans, not just former POWs. Send inquiries to:

Fred Campbell

3312 Chatterton Drive

San Angelo TX 76904

fredrev@webtv.net.

For more information, you can also access the VA Benefits web page at:

<http://www.alsa.org/fil#BAD63CD>



As is stated on the Library of Congress website, the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from World War I through the present Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medial volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Stories can be told through personal narratives (audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs), correspondence (letters, postcards, v-mail, personal diaries), visual materials (photographs, drawings, scrapbooks).

If you haven't yet submitted your story, and would like to participate, go to the following web page to get started: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html> There are five easy steps to follow. If you do not have internet access, ask a friend or relative to go to the site for you to learn how you can participate.

We hope you'll consider participation. None of your stories should be lost.

## MIS-X or Tunneling Project Information Needed

Dear Oflag 64 Family,



We were all disappointed that the portion of the MIS-X story involving our Oflag 64 POWs could not be included in the recent National Geographic documentary. We feel that the Oflag 64 piece of MIS-X history is important to know and we would like to preserve as much of the story as possible from those who were involved in the MIS-X project or knew about it. So far those we know who were involved with MIS-X were: James D. Alger, John H. Van Vliet, John K. Waters, Amon Carter, Royal Lee, Harry T. Schultz, Joe Seringer, Wilbur Sharpe and two others, last names Bowman and Wilson. We are also interested in the Oflag 64 tunnel project. Many were involved with that including Bill Cory, Spud Murphy, Hervey Robinson, and Bill Fabian .

If you are a Kriegy and are able to share your story or stories regarding the MIS-X or tunnel projects, or if you are a family member of a deceased Kriegy in possession of these stories, please either email me or send stories to my street address. Our hope is to put "our MIS-X story" on our website. Write to me at the contact address on the first page of this ITEM. Thanks so much for your help.

Best Regards,  
Elodie Caldwell

## Jimmie Kanaya Debuts



# WWII IN HD



**August 21, 2009 The History Channel is preparing to launch a new 10-part series called "WWII in HD". It will air in the 4th Quarter of 2009.** Calling it "one of the network's most ambitious projects to date", HISTORY says the series promises to be "the most visually astonishing [World War II](#) drama/documentary ever shown on television a view through the eyes of 12 Americans who fought in or contributed to the war effort."

Emmy Award winner Gary Sinise (CSI:NY) will narrate. In addition, individual war stories of these 12 Americans will be voiced by the following actors: *Jack Werner*: JUSTIN BARTHA *Rockie Blunt*: ROB CORDDRY *Richard Tregaskis*: TIM DEKAY *Archie Sweeney*: MARK HEFTI **Jimmie Kanaya: JAMES KYSON LEE** *Charles Scheffel*: RON LIVINGSTON *Shelby F. Westbrook*: LL COOL J *Robert Sherrod*: ROB LOWE *Bert Stiles*: JOSH LUCAS *Jack Yusen*: JASON RITTER *June Wandrey*: AMY SMART *Nolen Marbrey*: STEVE ZAHN HISTORY says it has preserved and restored thousands of hours of color archival footage for the documentary, unearthed from archives and private collections across the globe and never seen by most Americans. "The archival footage has been restored to pristine condition through advanced HD technology," a press release from the company notes. "Some of this "lost" footage has not been seen since the 1940s. Artfully shot contemporary HD footage will be seamlessly blended in to reveal what has become of the places where men fought and died.

"Diaries, journals, interviews and Dolby "soundscape" also are incorporated." The series follows a handful of people as their personal journeys cross-connect with one another throughout the [war](#). Their stories, culled from diaries, journals, and new interviews, will help recreate the war's events "not as detached historical facts, but rather as profound experiences on the level of a great Hollywood epic. The

veterans themselves also appear, recounting their experiences first hand,” says HISTORY. As part of HISTORY’s multi-media partnership with the Library of Congress and its collection of nearly 140 million items, History also will incorporate original Library of Congress audio recordings from [World War II](#) into the series. “This is HISTORY at its core,” said Nancy Dubuc, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the History Channel. “We are committed to preserving our heritage and the remarkable digital technology of “WWII in HD” will go a long way in ensuring that we never forget the sacrifice made by the [Greatest Generation](#).”



Hi all: The program is scheduled to begin airing on November the 15. The programs will air two episodes a night for five days (Sunday through Thursday nights). Jimmie will be in episodes #7 and #9 pm: a Wednesday and Thursday. There will be still shots of Jimmie in promos. Lynn Kanaya *Thanks so much, Lynn, for keeping us informed. We're looking forward to this production.*

## A Good Deal for Veterans

In recognition of your service to our country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants this Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009. As you may recall, Applebee's launched a pilot program last year on Veterans Day offering free entrees to military service personnel and veterans. Because the response was so overwhelmingly positive, Applebee's is extending the invitation throughout the country this year. We would appreciate your help in spreading the word.

Please help us share details across your various communication channels. All U.S. veterans and active duty military with proof of current or former military service will eat free at all Applebee's nationwide on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.



### Valid Veteran and Active Duty Identification to Obtain Free Entree:

- U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card
- U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card
- Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
- Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW)
- Photograph in uniform
- Wearing uniform

Applebee's web address is: <http://www.applebees.com/vetsday>



Submitted by Eleanor Bertrand

## ITEM COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are welcomed and appreciated. Here are some nice comments from some nice folks.



THANK  
YOU!

I continue to enjoy reading the Oflag 64 ITEM with all the news of the good folks involved. ~ **Win Ball, Tryon NC**

I particularly enjoyed this ITEM. The poignant comments from Robert Galloway brought back memories of each Kriegy quoted. Bill Sharpe's story was fascinating. Thank you for making the publication better and better! ~ **Kathy Ezell, Coral Gables FL**

## OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

I think you have a wonderful site here. I always wanted to ask Uncle Joe about his experience, but he was a very quiet type and [I] respected his mood. ~ **Colleen Camara, Mountain View CA**

Discovering your blog was exciting for me and very recent. Thank you for your work in maintaining this blog. ~ **David Ferguson, Westlake Village CA**

Thanks a lot for this website! The website looks great by the way! I like the website and everything you guys have done! ~ **Billy Haynes**

Thank you for creating this site! It's an incredible wealth of information! ~ **Tony Lumpkin III, Austin TX**

I can't thank you enough for the valuable information you have shared. ~ **Sara Shade, Muncie IN**

My father, Austin Knapp, was at Oflag64. I am so pleased to have found this site...This site in particular is such a great source of information. My Dad would have loved what it offers. ~ **Connie Welch**

### New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Colleen Camara – Niece of the late Joseph Hryhorec  
Karen Crandall – Niece-in-law of the late Robert W. Crandall  
Kathryn Northcutt Cunningham – Daughter of the late Enoch L. Northcutt  
Paige Dersham – Granddaughter of the late Osie "Jim" Turner  
David Ferguson – Nephew of the late Clarence M. Ferguson  
Lisa Hannon – Daughter of the late James J. Hannon  
Billy Haynes – Grandson of the late William P. Haynes III  
Susan Lowe Jones – unknown relationship  
Tony Lumpkin III – Grandson of the late Tony B. Lumpkin  
John Northcutt – Son of the late Enoch L. Northcutt  
Brian Rose – Grandson of the late Robert J. Rose  
Sara Shade – Granddaughter of the late Wilbur W. Bishop  
Andrea Stanley – Granddaughter of the late Austin L. Knapp  
Connie Welch – Daughter of the late Austin L. Knapp  
Mariusz Winiecki – Oflag 64 history buff from Poland



## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, write to the author or publisher or click on the links below. New and used copies are often available from online sites.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandemere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4AUA>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1)
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0)
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17)
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0)
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17) or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. [http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1)
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) [http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1)
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway Media, LLC; 900 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 108; Mount Pleasant SC 29464 (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway Media, LLC)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) [http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1)

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) [http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1)
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1)
15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1)
16. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York, NY (\$11.00) [http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1)
17. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) [http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1)
18. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 [http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1)

### Other Publications

**NEW INFORMATION:** The publications listed immediately below are out of print but the online versions can now be accessed by logging onto our website at [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us). Click on the Looking for Lost Men link at the top of the Database page or click on the Brave Young Men link on the POW Accounts page.

<b>Original Roster-Oflag 64</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>The Oflag 64 Directory</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>The Men of Oflag 64</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>Hammelburg Roster</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>Tribute to TF Baum</b>	<b>POW Accounts</b>

#### **WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945** by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Will soon be available on the Oflag 64 website.

**My Tour of Russia** by Herb Garris, P. O. Box 1693, Pinehurst NC 28370-1693

**Press Releases** by Ted Roggen, 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95)

**Vic Kanners Diary.** Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, [dkanners@comcast.net](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.)

**The Waters Story.** Contact Pat Waters, 412 Rice Hope Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9273

**A 1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo** is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund. Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

## TAPS

### *Ernest Ankrom "Snap"*

1921 - 2009



ANKROM Ernest "Snap" Ankrom, 88, of Circleville, died October 8, 2009 at Pickaway Manor. He was born April 13, 1921 in Pickaway County, the son of Roy and Marie (Neff) Ankrom. He was U.S. Army

1st Lt. H Company 179th inf. 45th Div., P.O.W., retired from Columbia Gas of Ohio, member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Elks Lodge #77, American Legion Post 134, Charter President of Circleville Sertoma Club. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Lois Jean (Fausnaugh) Ankrom; and son Jeff Ankrom. He is survived by his daughter, Sandy Williams of Circleville; daughter-in-law, Sally Greene of Atlanta, Ga.; grandchildren, Stacey (Kyle) Lowe, Brett (fiance Kendall Enmark) Williams and Kit (Shaun) Benzel; great grandchildren, Mallory Lowe, Lili and May Benzel; brother, Bill (June) Ankrom of Circleville; sisters, Vivian Rasor and Norma Jean Fleming of Columbus, Maxine Allison of Circleville and Phyllis Hulse of Darbyville; sister-in-law, Nancy Fausnaugh of Stoutsville; special friend, Freda Lasure of Heath and several nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday October 13, 2009 at the WELLMAN FUNERAL HOME, Circleville. Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Berger Health Foundation Rainbow Fund, 1280 N. Court St. Circleville or Hands for Disabled.



Published in The Columbus Dispatch on October 10, 2009.

The online obituary was found at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=134207358>

### *Wilbur W. Bishop*

1916 - 2009



BISHOP Wilbur W, born Oct 13, 1916 in Lowes, KY, passed away on Fri, Aug 28, 2009. Wyman is survived by his wife Ruth (Mulholland) Bishop, his six children Judy and Buddy

Campbell, Mimi and David Shade, Steve Bishop, Susan and Bobby Mastin, Phillip and Mary Beth Bishop and David & Tina Bishop, three nieces Jayne Norville, Lynn Miller and Gayle Ayala as well as 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Wyman was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Leta Bishop, brother W.T. Bishop, sister Mildred Robertson as well as his nephew, William T. Bishop III. Mr. Bishop was a graduate of Paducah Tilghman High School and the University of Kentucky where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. He served honorably as a Captain in WWII and was a P.O.W. Mr. Bishop was a Kentucky Colonel and an avid Wildcat fan. He was a devoted family man recently celebrating 64 years of marriage. He was an active member of his church, Calvary Baptist in Lexington. Donations in his memory can be offered to Calvary Baptist Church or the Lexington Chapter of the American Red Cross. Arrangements are being handled by Milward Funeral Directors. Visitation is on Sun, Aug 30, 2009 between 3-6pm, Milward-Broadway Services will follow at the funeral home on Mon, Aug 31, 2009 at 11am. Burial will be at the Lexington Cemetery. [www.milwardfuneral.com](http://www.milwardfuneral.com)



Published in Lexington Herald-Leader on August 30, 2009

The online obituary was found at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kentucky/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=132055488>

*H. Alexander Casner*

1917 - 2009

We were recently informed of the death of Al Casner on October 16. He would have been 92 on October 26. The funeral arrangements have not yet been made but he will be buried at Arlington. The obituary was not available at the time of this printing but will be available in the next ITEM. Our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies are extended to his family at this sad time.



*William J. Corbett*

1920 - 2009



CONCORD – William John Corbett, 88, of Concord died Aug. 1, 2009, at Concord Hospital.

Born in New York City, he was the son of William Hyson and Ida (Klein) Corbett.

He was a finance executive for American Airlines for 32 years.

He and his wife, Lois (Amy) Corbett, formerly lived in Peterborough.

He was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church.

During World War II, he served as an infantry Army officer and was a prisoner of war.



In addition to his wife, survivors include two sons, Michael Corbett and Peter Corbett; three daughters, Karen Corbett, Susan Masters and Amy Funk; a sister Doris Dillon; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

A memorial Mass is at 1 p.m. today at St. Peter Catholic Church, 135 N. State St., Concord. Burial will follow at 2:30 p.m. at the N.H. State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Bennett funeral Home, Concord, is handling arrangements.

Bill's printed obituary was published in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript on Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

*Rolland W. "Bill" Corbin*

1920 - 2009



Rolland W. "Bill" Corbin, 89, passed away Friday August 21, 2009 in Tavares FL. He was born June 10, 1920 in Graettinger, Iowa to parents James and Ethel (Nilson) Corbin of Mason MI. Mr. Corbin retired after 35 years of service from Consumers Power Co. of Lansing MI. In 1980 and in 1983 moved to Florida. A US Army Veteran of WWII and Korea, he served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Alaska and later as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant with the 361<sup>st</sup> Infantry in Italy and Captain with the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Korea. He was Past Commander of the Lake Monroe Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War (FL), and Disabled American Veterans #87 (FL), and Adjutant Treasurer of the Military Order of the Purple Heart #507 (FL).



He is survived by his wife of 63 years Bette, of Eustis; Sons William James (Terry) Corbin of Downingtown PA and Dale Franklin Corbin of Grand Island FL; Grandson Michael, two step-grandchildren, Brad Bond VT, and Barbara Bond PA, Sisters Josephine Moore of Mason MI and Nelcie Houser and Ruth Wood of Lansing MI. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, brothers Robert and Richard, and sister Macie Carpenter.

Visitation will be held Monday August 24, 2009 from 1-2 PM at the Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, Leesburg FL with service to follow at 2 PM. Additional services and interment will be in Michigan. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to American Ex-POW, PO Box 1437, St Petersburg FL 33731. Condolences may be left at:

<http://www.beyersfuneralhome.com/leesburg/obituaries.php>

Beyers Funeral Home, Leesburg FL, handling arrangements.

**Published in the Lansing State Journal on 8/28/2009**

An online obituary was previously available at:  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ljsj/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=131991797>

## John L. Creech

1920 - 2009



**Columbus, NC-** John L. Creech, 89, of Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC, passed away August 7, 2009 in St. Luke's Hospital, Columbus, NC. Born in Woonsocket, RI, he was the son of the late Edward and Bessie

Faulks Creech. He was first married to Amy Wentzel Creech who died in 1984 and was the widower of Elaine Innis Creech who died in 2003. Dr. Creech was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a BS in Horticulture, received his MS Degree from the University of Massachusetts and his PhD from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Creech served in the U.S. Army during WWII where he was a POW from 1943 until 1945 and received both the Bronze and Silver Stars. He retired as director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in 1980 before moving to North Carolina.



Dr. Creech then served as interim director of the Western North Carolina Arboretum and remained active as a member of their Board of Directors until his death. He was a member of OFLAG64 Prisoner of War Association and numerous international scientific organizations.

Dr. Creech is survived by; two daughters, Diane B. Martin of Lavonia, GA and Victoria C. Waterstradt of Largo, FL; one son, John Creech (Connie) of Orlando, FL; his fiancée, Norma VanSchaick Kuhn of Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Charles L. Brittle, Jr., James

Hodge and Candi Atkinson and two great grandsons, Charles L. Brittle, III and Evan Atkinson.

A memorial service will be held 10:00 am Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Tryon Estates Auditorium.

Memorials can be made to the Western North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806-9315 or Hospice of the Carolina Foothills, 130 Forest Glen Drive, Columbus, NC 28722.

An online guest register was available at: [www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com). McFarland Funeral Chapel Tryon, NC

John's printed obituary was published in the Times-News on Saturday, August 8, 2009.

\* \* \* \* \*

**The following statement was read at John Creech's memorial service by John Albee, a good friend of John's.**

"John Creech was captured by the German army in North Africa in 1943. He was serving as an infantry officer in the US First Infantry Division, fondly known as the Big Red One.

John spent the remainder of World War II in a German POW camp in Poland. The camp was known as Oflag 64.

1471 American ground officers were POWs in Oflag 64 during the war. Approximately 145 of the former prisoners of war are alive today. John escaped from Oflag 64 in 1945 as the Russians were advancing toward Germany. He was liberated by the Russian army. John was a true patriot and a hero to his fellow POWs. He will always be remembered by those at Oflag 64 for the fresh vegetables he grew in his garden which were shared with his fellow captives as well as the German army guards.

George Juskalian, also a POW along with John, wrote in an email yesterday, 'Farewell, dear friend, with a parting thank you for making our world ever so much greener'.

Members of the Oflag 64 POW Association will miss John Creech as will all of you here today.

The survivors of Oflag 64 send their love and sympathy to John's family and especially to Diane, Victoria, John and Norma. God's Speed and God's love to our true friend and American hero."

In an email to John Albee, members of the Oflag 64 family expressed: "John Creech has been a pillar of strength in many ways and one we've all looked up to. Just won't be the same. We'll truly miss him, as we know you will too. Please give Norma a hug from the group."

\* \* \* \* \*

**The following are recollections of John Creech, expressed by George Juskalian in an email sent 8/9/09.**

Dear Elodie,

The sad news of John Creech's passing brought back two mental pictures -- one funny and endearing, the other serious and enduring.

In one of the lulls during our delightful reunion in Charleston, South Carolina, Lucine and I found ourselves in a car with John Creech, John Slack, Bob Keith (at the wheel) and his wife Vivian cruising all over Mt. Pleasant looking for a restaurant some local had recommended, but unable to find it. We were going around in circles. Finally, after passing the same corner for the third time, we decided to eat elsewhere, but not before Vivian got in her digs with a stinging, "Now I know why you guys got captured."

For our one "formal" meal of the day, we gathered in the main building's large hall, which had been the dining room when the building had been a school. The long rectangular tables accommodated ten. John and I were assigned to the same table along with John Slack, Irv Yarock, Herb Johnson, Bill Farrell and four others whose names I can't readily recall. Our meals were watery soups with embedded potatoes and/or rutabagas. Once in a while, if one were lucky, he would find a shred of horse meat in his plate.

But things got a bit better when the Germans assigned a plot of ground for gardening on the back side of the camp to each mess table. Each plot was about the size of a 9 by 12 rug, John, whose college major had been agronomy, volunteered to be our gardener. It was amazing how much John was able to coax out of that small piece of soil: beets, cucumbers, carrots, green beans, etc., the seeds of which were provided by the International YMCA via Sweden.

John went on to distinguish himself nationally and internationally in his chosen profession. He culminated his career as administrator of the National Arboretum in Washington.

Farewell, dear friend, with a parting thank you for making our world ever so much greener.  
George Juskalian

*Hyman E. Goodman*

*1921 - 2009*

Hyman Goodman, 88, of Huxley Avenue, died Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at the Miriam Hospital. He was the beloved husband of the late Lucy (Bozigian) Goodman.

He was a long-time employee of the US Postal Service and Providence College. Hy was a WW-II Army veteran serving in the European

Theater and was a P.O.W. He also received the Purple Heart and other awards.



Devoted father of the late Ronald Goodman. Dear brother of David Goodman of Coconut Creek, FL, Hy's late twin brother Maurice and the late Louis Goodman, Clara Spader, Sophie Tebrow and Ida Mendelstein. Loving grandfather of Melissa, Catherine and Andrew. Cherished great-grandfather of 3.

Graveside services will be held Friday at 11:00 a.m. in North Burial Ground, corner of North Main St. and Branch Ave., Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to your favorite charity. Shiva will be private. Arrangements by SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Cranston

*William R. Gray*

*1921 - 2009*

SPARTA -- William R. Gray, 88, died on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009 at Newton Memorial Hospital. He was born to Elmer and Fleeta Gray on July 1, 1921. He attended Colorado A&M College in Fort Collins, Colo., now called Colorado State University, from 1939-42, majoring in mechanical engineering and graduating with the Phi Kappa Phi award for achieving the highest scholastic honors in the graduating class.

Immediately after graduation he entered the U.S. Army Ordinance Corps as a Second Lieutenant. He fought in North Africa and participated in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. In Italy, while evaluating the salvageability of damaged tanks near the front lines, a German tank popped up out of the bushes and captured Mr. Gray and his driver. After surviving an American artillery attack on his captors, which killed one of his guards, he was taken north in a cattle car to Oflag64, a POW camp for American officers located in Poland. He was a POW for 18 months until liberated by the Russians in 1945. On returning home, he married his wife of 64 years, Jean Gray. He was in the California National Guard when war broke out in Korea, and fought for two years there, receiving the Bronze Metal. He remained in the reserve officer corps until 1970,



when he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He worked as an engineer at Picatinny Arsenal, retiring in 1977.

Mr. Gray is survived by his wife, Jean; his brother, Earl; three children, Bill, Mark and Julie; and three grandchildren, Joshua, Ian and Nickolaus.

He will be cremated and his ashes spread by a family member in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. The Goble Funeral Home, Sparta, is in charge of the private arrangements.  
<http://www.legacy.com/NjHerald/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=131976934>

*James J. Hannon*  
*January 2008*

We have recently been notified of the death of James J. Hannon, who passed away in January of 2008. No online information was available at the time of this printing.



*Alfred H. Moss*  
*January 10, 2008*

We have recently received word that Alfred H. Moss passed away in January of 2008. He was buried at National Cemetery. No other information was available.



## Preserving the Memory of American Patriots

Lest We Forget

American Military Heritage Preservation  
Society

### Our Preservation Activities

#### **Archives and Records**

Identification, restoration, archiving and, when appropriate, the heirloom quality preservation and display of American military documents, medals, uniform items, flags and citations.

#### **Monuments and Memorials**

Identification and dedication of geographic sites that are confirmed locations of historic American military significance. Placement of honorary/informational placards and monuments memorializing the individual sacrifices and accomplishments of local American veterans and /or their military units.

#### **Patriot Headstone Restoration**

Restoration, repair or replacement of deteriorated, vandalized or missing headstones from the graves of our American Patriots.

Please [contact us](#) for more information or if you would like to sponsor an American veteran or active duty service member or if you think we might be able to assist a veteran or their families. [Donations](#) are always appreciated.

The American Military Heritage Preservation Society is an Oregon Public Benefit, non-profit, corporation that is organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes.

Please visit these websites for more information and news stories:

<http://home.comcast.net/~amhps/site/>

[http://www.keizertimes.com/news/story.cfm?story\\_no=11909](http://www.keizertimes.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=11909)

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200991021045>

Vaughn S. Edsall, Founder