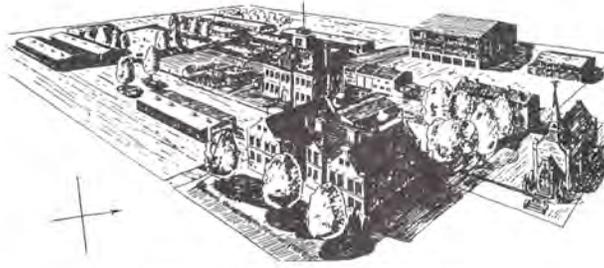


# Post Oflag 64 Item



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed-wire fences or guard towers  
(Drawn by Jim Bickers)

## 2ND QUARTER 2015

### Editor/Printing and Mailing

Elodie Caldwell  
2731 TERRY AVE  
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437  
[elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

### Treasurer

Bret Job  
4240 TRAIL RIDGE LN  
MINNETONKA MN 55345-2254  
[bretjob@heartlandamerica.com](mailto:bretjob@heartlandamerica.com)

### Webmaster

Bill Caldwell  
2731 TERRY AVE  
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437  
[webmaster@oflag64.us](mailto:webmaster@oflag64.us)

### Contributors to this issue

Eleanor Bertrand  
Monica Stewart Bishara  
Bonnie Boyd  
Shelly Dupuy  
Krystyna Piórkowska  
Pat Waters  
Mariusz Winiecki

**Oflag 64**

## 2015 OFLAG 64 REUNION NEW ORLEANS September 10-13

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

We're excited to be able to bring another Oflag 64 Reunion to you. Thanks to Eleanor Bertrand for getting the ball rolling with information about exhibits, hotels, restaurants, etc. near the WWII Museum. Also thanks to Shelly Dupuy, Group Sales Manager of The National WWII Museum, for finalizing our activities for the reunion and to Bonnie Boyd, President and CEO of BBC Destination Management, for coordinating everything at the hotel, etc.

Much of our reunion will be spent at the WWII Museum as you will see from the itinerary on page 4. You will also notice there is a considerable amount of free time to spend in New Orleans. A city bus tour is available each day with hop-on/hop-off points throughout the day, giving you the freedom to plan your own sightseeing itinerary. The ticket is valid for 3 days and costs \$39 for adults. The tour includes 18 stops including a Cemetery walking tour, a French Quarter walking tour, and a guided tour of the Garden District. Buses run from 9:30 am until 5:30 pm, every 30 minutes. Departures run from Jackson Square, Basin St. Station and you may board or exit the bus at any stop. Other points of interest can be found by Googling: New Orleans Points of Interest.

Thanks to Pat Waters, our reunion host, for suggesting this reunion and for helping make it happen.

Our best to you always,  
Elodie and Bill Caldwell



## A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

### 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.

**MARY SHULAR HOPPER**  
(in memory of William A. Shular, Jr.  
& all the other Oflag 64 heroes)

**ANNE KREUTZER**  
**TED ROGGEN**

**And Anonymous Donations**  
(one in memory of Joe Seringer)

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



### THANKS TO ALL WHO....

....contacted Colonel Barlow at the US Embassy in Poland and also individual congressmen and women to request donations for MOAS in Szubin. And thanks for contacting us with your actions on behalf of MOAS and the Oflag 64 site. At this point, it is unknown what the final outcome is or will be with respect to donations and preservation efforts, but we will keep you informed as we learn more.

Krystyna Piórkowska (as of June 7) learned that the full transfer of the remaining barrack to the country government had not yet taken place but they expected to demolish it right away.

She has suggested that the local museum be transferred to the "white house". The museum has outgrown its facility and this would help preserve the white house. Otherwise....the same possible fate awaits.

Again, we will keep you posted as time goes by and as we learn anything new.

Best to you,  
Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)



If you have anything to submit for print in the ITEM, please contact Elodie at the contact address on the front page of this publication. If you send photos, digital scans of original photos or anything that can be sent in .jpg format is great. If you are unable to scan photos, I would be glad to scan the originals and send them back to you. Documents can be sent in .pdf format. If you are unable to convert them to .pdf format, I would be glad to do so and then send you back the original. Thank you very much. Elodie



**2015 OFLAG 64 REUNION – NEW ORLEANS**  
**Thursday, September 10 – Sunday, September 13**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
Please Print

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$200 per person - Includes: the museum admission for all three days, museum boxed lunches, Ugly Dog Saloon lunch, chartered buses, a fully stocked hospitality room for the whole weekend, and the Banquet on Saturday evening. All other meals will be "on your own". **See payment information below.**

**Remember to mark your banquet meal choice:** (B) Beef (C) Chicken (V) Vegetarian  
(If you or your guest(s) plan to attend the **BANQUET ONLY**, the cost is \$40 per person.)

REGISTRANT: \_\_\_\_\_ Kriegy Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice \_\_\_\_

NOTE: If not a Kriegy, please let us know which Kriegy you're related to: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending: ALL  or Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4  Banquet only

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Kriegy Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice \_\_\_\_

Attending: ALL  or Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4  Banquet only

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Kriegy Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice \_\_\_\_

Attending: ALL  or Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4  Banquet only

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Kriegy Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice \_\_\_\_

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Attending: ALL  or Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4  Banquet only

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Kriegy Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice \_\_\_\_

Attending: ALL  or Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4  Banquet only

Are special hotel/transportation accommodations needed? Yes  No  If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM  
AND CHECK NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 16, 2015 TO** →

*Please make your check payable to Pat Waters and  
write "2015 Oflag 64 Reunion" on the memo line.*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Waters  
412 RICE HOPE DR  
MT. PLEASANT SC 29464-9273  
Email: [gpwaters41@gmail.com](mailto:gpwaters41@gmail.com)  
Phone: 843-881-6021

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> AT:  
The Westin New Orleans Canal Place Hotel**

1-504-566-7006

Online <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1763>

The group rate is \$149+tax per night, and is available until August 16. **Please mention 2015 Oflag 64 Reunion.**

## **2015 OFLAG 64 REUNION ITINERARY**

*(Changes to this itinerary may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.)*

**~ Transportation will be provided from the Hotel to the Museum and back ~**

### **Wednesday, September 9**

4:00 - 6:00 Hotel Check-in, Early-Bird Reunion Registration at the Hotel  
6:00 - Dinner on Your Own, Free Time

### **Thursday, September 10**

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast on Your Own at the Hotel, Morning Briefing at 8:45  
9:00 - 11:00 Reunion Registration at the Hotel  
11:00 - 11:30 Welcome and Opening Ceremony (Posting of the Colors)  
11:30 - noon Arrive at WWII Museum, Check-In  
Noon - 1:00 Boxed Lunch in the Museum function room  
1:00 - 3:00 Beyond All Boundaries (Solomon Victory Theater)  
3:00 - 5:00 Continue Visiting Museum or Free Time  
5:00 - Dinner on Your Own, Free Time

### **Friday, September 11**

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast on Your Own at the Hotel, Morning Briefing at 8:15  
8:30 - 9:00 Arrive at WWII Museum  
9:00 - 11:00 Tour Normandy Invasion/European Theater  
11:00 - 12:00 Skype with Mariusz Winięcki in Poland  
Noon - 1:00 Boxed Lunch in the Museum function room  
1:00 - 3:00 Tour US Freedom Pavilion/Boeing Center  
3:00 - 5:00 Continue Visiting Museum or Free Time  
5:00 - Dinner on your own, Free Time

### **Saturday, September 12**

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast on Your Own at the Hotel, Morning Briefing at 8:15  
8:30 - 9:00 Arrive at WWII Museum  
9:00 - 11:00 Campaign of Courage Building – Road to Berlin  
Noon - 1:00 Lunch at the Ugly Dog Saloon  
1:00 - 2:00 Business Meeting  
2:00 - 4:00 Panel Discussions/Sharing Time  
4:00 - 5:00 Continue Visiting Museum or Free Time  
5:00 - 6:00 Pre-Dinner Happy Hour or Free Time  
6:00 - 9:00 Farewell Dinner at the Westin Hotel, Memorial Program, Speaker, Presentations if any,  
Closing Ceremony (Retrieval of Colors)

### **Sunday, September 13**

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast on your own at the Hotel and Goodbyes  
9:00 - 11:00 Hotel Checkout  
11:00 - Departure

**Hotel Hospitality Room available during all free times until 9 pm**

## WWII Museum Productions/Exhibits

*Beyond All Boundaries*, showing exclusively in The National WWII Museum's Solomon Victory Theater, is a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. Narrated by executive producer Tom Hanks, *Beyond All Boundaries* features dazzling effects, CGI animation, multi-layered environments and first-person accounts from the trenches to the Home Front read by Brad Pitt, Tobey Maguire, Gary Sinise, Patricia Clarkson, Wendell Pierce and more. Please arrive 10–15 minutes prior to your scheduled seating.

- Elements of *Beyond All Boundaries* may aggravate certain medical conditions. These elements include loud noises, flashing lights, fog effects and sudden chair movements. Stationary seating is available.
- To assist hearing impaired guests, Assisted Listening Devices are available for *Beyond All Boundaries*. Please inquire at the Visitor Services desk in the Solomon Victory Theater.
- The film also contains images of a very graphic nature, including archival footage from the battlefields of WWII.

*Normandy Invasion – Pacific Theater, Night Drop Into Normandy*

*"I looked at my watch and it was 12:30. When I got into the doorway, I looked out into what looked like a solid wall of tracer bullets. I said to myself, 'Len, you're in as much trouble now as you're ever going to be in. If you get out of this, nobody can ever do anything to you that you ever have to worry about!'"* --Pvt. Leonard Griffing, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, US 101st Airborne Division

- The first men to see action on D-Day were the airborne troops. Three airborne divisions, two American and one British, dropped behind the landing beaches in the hours before dawn. Over 20,000 men, the largest airborne force ever assembled, entered Normandy by glider and parachute.
- The overall mission of the airborne divisions was to disrupt and confuse the Germans so as to prevent a concentrated counterattack against the seaborne troops coming in at dawn, and to protect the flanks of the invasion force at Sword and Utah beaches.
- Crashing into farm fields in fragile gliders, or descending in parachutes amid anti-aircraft fire, the airborne troops suffered heavy casualties. In the darkness and confusion of the pre-dawn hours, many units became scattered and disorganized. Some men who landed in flooded areas drowned. Despite these difficulties, groups of soldiers managed to form up and attack the enemy.

*US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center*, The World War II years were a time when the freedom of the world hung in the balance. Americans answered the call to protect that freedom with 16 million men and women serving in uniform and an untold number of citizens of all ages doing their part on the Home Front. It is their contributions we honor in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center.

- Exhibits and interactive experiences paint the picture of a nation mobilized for war — those who answered the call of service and those who supported our fighting forces by producing planes, ships, tanks and other vital machinery in unprecedented numbers.
- This is the story of America at war — on land, in the air and at sea — told in a way that will fully engage the senses, the mind and the heart.

*Road to Berlin: Campaigns of Courage*, The newest pavilion of The National WWII Museum brings to life the drama, sacrifices, personal stories, and strategies of America's campaign to defeat the Axis powers and preserve freedom. Dramatic exhibits explore how the United States' citizen soldiers and their Allies secured victory in the 20th Century's titanic struggle—a fight for civilization itself.

- The heart of the Museum experience, Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters—a 32,000 square foot pavilion—brings visitors inside the story of how the war was won. The Pavilion features two immersive exhibitions—*Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*, now open, and *Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries*, opening in 2015.
- From faltering first battles in North Africa to the bloody struggle at Germany's doorstep, the immersive galleries in *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* recreate actual battle settings and villages—with crumbling walls, bomb-torn rooftops, icy pathways, and a chillingly realistic soundscape—as the evocative backdrop for period newsreels, video histories, interactive kiosks, macro artifacts, and tag-able digital displays that dive deeper into the story. The result is a richly layered, multimedia experience that invites exploration and connection: Visitors walking in the shadow of Normandy's brutally dense hedgerows can imagine the challenges that followed D-Day; attending a mission briefing with the Bomber Boys brings visitors inside America's all-important air strategy; seeing personal artifacts—cigarette boxes, photographs—scattered over real Normandy sand is a touching perspective on the human cost of the war.
- Expansive in its scope, exhaustive in its detail, and captivating in its innovative design, *Road to Berlin* is a whole new way to understand America's story of the war in Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean.



# MAIL CALL



**Due to the limited space in this issue of the ITEM and to the volume of mail and email received during the last quarter, only information from contacts will be posted here. Thank you to everyone who wrote with news, TAPS information, asking to be added to our email list, with reunion queries, etc. We appreciate each communication.**

NANCY BURGESON ANDERSON (daughter of the late Kriegy Floyd M. Burgeson) wrote regarding Joe Seringer: "I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Joe Seringer. I enjoyed reading all about him in the obituary and am so happy he had such a long life to enjoy his wife and children. Joe wrote me back in 2011 when you made a request for those who knew my Dad, Dr. Floyd Burgeson – Des Moines, IA, to please be in touch with me. I heard from two of the men who lived with and remembered Dad: Joe - and Royal Lee from Mankato, Minnesota, who passed away last year. Joe wrote to me via email and Royal called me one Sunday morning in 2011, soon after you wrote to everyone. It was such an honor to hear from both of them. Joe and Dad were both captured in Tunisia and sat at the same mess table. I appreciated his kind words about my dad – "Burgie" and his great smile. Looking at Joe's photo in the obituary shows his great smile, as well. I've attached his email from 2011. Should you be in touch personally with Joe's children, you might forward this email and the attachment to them. Thank you for your work - making our meeting online possible." And regarding Royal Lee she wrote: "I spoke at length to Royal. He was telling me about a march when my dad would come along side of them – frequently - and say, "wiggle your toes" to keep them from suffering frost bite, as they had no snow gear and the walk was through very wintry, snowy weather. I think he thought my dad was also on the long walk to Berlin when the POWs were forced to walk that terrible long distance when they left Oflag 64, which was cruel. But the story about the "wiggle your toes" had to have happened earlier, when the men were walking to their prison camps. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so clear on the fact that it was Dad that was checking up and down the lines for the safety of the men. It meant a lot to me. My dad had to stay behind with his patients; and ended up going by truck, provided by and accompanied by the Russians – on a 6-week journey east to Odessa on the Black Sea, where they were shipped home – but spent weeks on the way with thousands of starving, sick

Romanian Refugees. They all had little food; lettuce soup and bread. I have Dad's wooden Chinese made spoon which he used to eat the soup from a tin can. They also didn't have medicine and Dad has written about how he tried to get medicine from the Russians for the refugees – and his patients – during his stay at the refugee camp. Needless to say, he lost considerable weight. And that followed the hard winter in 1944, when Oflag 64 had a shortage of food – and the men lost weight."

MONICA STEWART BISHARA (daughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) wrote regarding the April Memorial Ceremonies in Szubin: "Thank you so much for the link to the video! I had not seen it. LTC Stewart was my father. Although my mother and I were not able to make the trip, my brothers, sisters and a granddaughter of Donald B. Stewart went to Poland for the commemoration. The VanVliet family was also well represented. Some of the family members are planning to return in September for the grand opening of the new Katyn museum. They were given a behind the scenes tour of the facility which is still under construction."

TJ BUGG III (son of Kriegy TJ Bugg, Jr.) wrote with information about the Doolittle Raiders and included the following link along with information about live streaming of a Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Congressional Gold Medal Presentation."

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123445064>

SUSANNA CONNAUGHTON (daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten) wrote regarding the request to contact Senators and Representatives by Krystyna Piórkowska on the subject of preserving the boys' school in Szubin along with the remaining Oflag 64 buildings. She thanked us for the informative message and forwarded it to some people in DC to see if they could help. On another matter, Susanna has volunteered to scan her dad's original copies of the ITEM for not only our website but for posting on Mariusz Winięcki's blog called "The Oflag 64 Record". Let me know if you need a link to his blog.

STEPHEN DANDO-COLLINS (military historian and widely published author from Australia) wrote asking for help with first-hand remembrances from Oflag 64 Kriegies, letters, diaries, official records, sketches and photographs. An email query was sent to our Oflag 64 Family and Stephen then wrote: "I've had

heaps of wonderful responses from the US and Poland as a result of your group email. Thank you so much for doing that. The information that has come in has been invaluable to my research.”

PAT SERINGER GROVE (daughter of the late Kriegy Joe Seringer) wrote: “I am sad to tell you my dad passed away (April 3). My family would still like to hear from you if possible.” See his obituary in the TAPS section.

VICTORIA HERRING (daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde Herring) wrote regarding the Katyn story included in this ITEM. She said: “Thanks for sending it on....Jack Van Vliet came to DC to give the eulogy at my dad’s service. I still have some letters from him around that time. My dad really thought highly of him.

CARY AND KARL HESSE (children of the late Kriegy J. Francis Hesse) wrote regarding the passing of their father on November 22, 2014 at age 92. See his obituary in the TAPS section.

SUSAN HINDS HARMS (daughter of the late Kriegy Howard K. Hinds) wrote regarding Adam Kennedy’s request for information and contact. She said: I know Oflag 64 housed allied officers from European countries also. After Daddy was forced marched to Stalag IIIA in the spring of 1945, he and a French officer escaped together and made their way (communicating with sign language) to allied lines. It would be of interest to us to know of other prisoners who may have been at Oflag 64 and on the same march west with our dad.”

ALLAN HUMPHREY (son of the late Kriegy Edward Humphrey) responded to Adam Kennedy’s request for an interview saying: “I would be willing to share what I know of my father’s (Lt. Edward Humphrey) experiences as a prisoner of Oflag 64. He served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, captured at Anzio. He spent eleven months at Oflag 64 and escaped the first day/night when the prisoners were being moved. I have more details which I can share.”

SHARON HUTCHISON (daughter of the late Kriegy Isaac E. Franklin) for several years has been maintaining the POW Database on our Oflag 64 website. The software she has been using since 1996 is no longer supported by Microsoft and her hosting company is shutting down all the servers that support it. Without the proper server, she can’t publish a website that draws data from a database. We need someone who can manage php files and a MySQL database to help us keep the files available on our website. If you know of anyone who knows SQL and would be willing to host the files (free of charge hopefully), please let us know.

NANCY KLINKENBORG (widow of the late Kriegy Ray Klinkenborg) wrote to let us know her new email address. Please contact me if you need her information.

LINDA KRUEGER (daughter of the late Kriegy Alfred C. Nelson) responded to the request from Stephen Dando-Collins regarding Kriegy experiences. She wrote: “My father was one of the escapees during the march out of Oflag 64. He told us his story late in his life and has since passed away. If you are looking for escape stories as told to surviving family, please let me know. Thank you for writing this important work.”

HERM LITTMAN (Kriegy) wrote: Thank you for your generous letter. Memories are what are keeping me alive. Oflag 64 had a cleansing affect on me. The people there were my brothers....Wish me Happy Birthday! I’ll be 96 on 29 May. I’m also moving to Bow WA to be with my daughter, Sue, and will let you know the nitty-gritty when it occurs.

LUCY LUSSENDEN (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) wrote: “Sorry to hear about Joe’s [Seringer] death. He was a real sweet guy and a friend of my Don. I see he was one of the early POWs—North Africa.”

ANNE COCKRELL MATZELLE (daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Cockrell) wrote regarding a photo of her dad on our website: “Our Dad, Jim Cockrell, is the soldier standing on the extreme right with the bass violin that he played in the orchestra and for plays etc. He didn’t know how to play it at all, but since he knew how to read music, well, he was drafted into playing it as best he could. When he returned home, he went to a concert and turned to Mom and said, “Oh, so that’s how you hold it.” It looks like he was holding it properly in the picture, but I guess there are subtle movements that make a difference. In the audio that is online (with the orchestra playing), he is introduced as ‘Jim Cockrell who is slapping that bass’. My guess is that that is mostly all he did! I don’t see that he is holding a bow, so probably he didn’t have one, and he just picked and slapped.”

MARY MEACHAM (daughter of the late Kriegy Merle Meacham) sent a copy of a document about Oflag 64 prepared by the War Department in July 1944. As well as general information, it gives some rather chilling details of interactions between the Germans and the American officers. It is too long to include in this ITEM but will be posted to our website. You can also access it from this link:

<http://www.509thgeronimo.org/documents/OFLAG64ntelReport.pdf>

DENNIS O’NEILL (son of Kriegy Robert “Bob”

O'Neill) wrote with Bob's new address and phone number. Please contact me if you would like to communicate with Bob. He would love to hear from the Oflag 64 Family.

JOHN A. PATTON (son of the late Kriegy John R. Patton) wrote with the following request: "Could you please send out a request to see if anyone knew Pfc John Patton of Kentucky...he was in Oflag 64 and was under Colonel Yardley. He was a parachute infantry battalion member.

GARY W. POWERS (nephew of the late Kriegy WC "Bill" Stotts) recently found our website. He wrote: "WC is my uncle. When I was younger, he would entertain me with stories from those years in Poland. He passed in 1993 and is buried in the National Cemetery in his home town of Fayetteville AR." He added: "One quick memory, was of WC describing the contents of his Red Cross care package. When he said the word "Nescafe" it was like he was saying the name of his best friend. Being brought up on the Postum side of the southern politics of the caffeine or no caffeine divide, I have no doubt the curiosity about WC' s love of Nescafe lead me to a switch to the coffee side! I love coffee and even the instant Nescafe. What a treat during those dark years Nescafe coffee must have been!"

JOHN R. RODGERS, SR. (Kriegy) wrote regarding Oflag 64: "There is one item I don't recall having ever been mentioned. When I first arrived, there was a barracks type of building near the white house with a high fence around it. In it were housed some Russian prisoners I think the Germans had for some labor work. One story I heard (unconfirmed) was that one night the guards turned a police dog loose in that building and never saw it again. It wasn't long after that these prisoners were moved out."

TED ROGGEN (Kriegy) has been very proactive in helping out with Oflag 64 projects. He has contacted his congressmen or women regarding MOAS and keeping the site of Oflag 64 in tact and has contributed the following to Mariusz Winiecki for his blog: "We did have a secret radio where we received the British news. I was a nightly reader to my barracks. Very few Kriegies knew how we secured the radio. I will be happy to give him more details."

TOM SERINGER (son of the late Kriegy Joe Seringer) wrote about his dad: "Thank you for your condolences. He lived a remarkable life, and we will all miss him. We were fortunate to be a part of his 95 years."

KATHY ZELAZNY THOMAS (daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph J. Zelazny, Jr.) wrote regarding the death of her father. "Please find attached the picture

and obituary that was sent to the newspaper for my father, Lt. Col. Ret. Joseph J Zelazny Jr. I would appreciate if you could include this in your newsletter. I forwarded what was sent to the newspaper so you could crop and resize. My father was a POW at Oflag 64 and also at Stalags 12A & 3A. He advocated for POWs and Veterans his entire life. I would appreciate receiving future issues of the newsletters and hopefully in the near future write an article on my dad. Thank you very much." See his obituary in the TAPS section. In a subsequent email she wrote: "He did do so much to honor veterans and make sure that they were never forgotten! I joined the EX-POWs as NOK on my father's request. He has so much information that we have found from the war years and once we get organized, hopefully, will share with others."

ROBERT A. THOMAS (son of the late Kriegy Murrell E. Thomas) just found our website and wrote: "I filled out a form 180 and the VA said his records were burnt up. Brother and I are still alive, both of us are Vietnam vets. We never got medals and he never did know what POW/MIA looks like. Does this site? Thank You."

ED WARD (son of the late Kriegy Edwin O. Ward) wrote to Stephen Dando-Collins with the following information about his dad: "he was in one of the first groups at the camp. He was transferred there from Eichstatt in Munich. Once at OFLAG 64, he was assigned to Zimmer Elf Dorm. I am working on compiling the information for you. I have my father's diary he kept from day one of the march out of OFLAG 64. It was a little red YMCA calendar book that apparently was given to the prisoners. It is a 1944 calendar, but apparently was all he had. The calendar pages with the days of the week are in German. His writing begins on 1/21. Since the escape was in 1945, on some of the dates, he has written the day, since the day of the week was different in 1945 than in 1944 as shown in the book."

MARIUSZ WINIECKI (Oflag 64 Family Member from Szubin Poland) is involved in a new project. He has created a blog entitled "The Oflag 64 Record" which is being published in Polish and English. It's designed to give a complete record of Oflag 64 from when American officers arrived to the time they vacated. Several of our Kriegies and/or family members have shared information with Mariusz. We thank them for their contributions.

[Thank You to members of the Seringer family for the lovely thank you note following Joe's funeral.](#)

[We appreciate all who sent thanks to Krystyna Piórkowska for her tireless efforts in exposing the truth about the Katyn Forest Massacre.](#)

## COMMENTS

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

THANK YOU!

Thanks for all you have done to keep the Oflag 64 story alive. ~ **Anne Meltesen Trujillo**

You guys did it again. The ITEM is the news I always look forward to. It makes my day. ~ **Herm Littman**

I know I've said it before, but I can never say it too many times. You and your husband do an outstanding job of keeping the Oflag group informed and thus together. ~ **Lucy Lussenden**

A Big Thank You for all you've done for the families of all the Kriegies over the years. ~ **Bill Wenzel**

You do such a great job! Thank you. The last newsletter - one I just received, was so full of news. ~ **Annette Secor Nelson**

## WEB CONNECTION

Thank you for all of the hard work and determination you have put into this important memorial. ~ **Shannon Long**

Thank you for having this website ~ **Brenda Bucci Boon**

### **New visitors to our website – We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Family**

Monica Stewart Bishara - daughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart

Brenda Bucci Boon – granddaughter of the late Kriegy Anthony F. Bucci

Ray Dunkelberg – son of the late Kriegy George H. Dunkelberg

John Elliott – Wayland Baptist University Staff Member

Daniel Espinoza – Congressional Veterans Liaison to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Texas

Pat Grove – daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph E. Seringer, Jr.

John J. Kent III – son of the late Kriegy John J. Kent, Jr.

Susan Kitchen – researcher putting together a guide for veterans in her community

Jil Launay – daughter of the late Kriegy Gordon K. Smith

Dennis Lennon – son of the late Kriegy Woodrow W. Lennon

Shannon Long – granddaughter of the late Kriegy Milton Melville Moore, Sr.

Rochelle Mattleman-Rubin – daughter of the late Kriegy Murray M. Mattleman

Robert MacArevey – son of the late Kriegy Jim MacArevey

Rita Dilburn Paulk – daughter of the late Kriegy Ernest L. Paulk

Gary W. Powers – nephew of the late Kriegy WC (Wilcher “Bill” C.) Stotts

Joe Seringer – son of the late Kriegy Joseph E. Seringer, Jr.

Tom Seringer – son of the late Kriegy Joseph E. Seringer, Jr.

Kathy Stokes – daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph E. Seringer, Jr.

Kathy Thomas – daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph J. Zelazny, Jr.

Robert Thomas – son of the late Kriegy Murrell E. Thomas

Ann Wynn – relative of the late Kriegy Thomas R. Johnson



## KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

The following information was sent in early May to our Oflag 64 families who have email.

Dear Oflag 64 Families,

Over the years, especially as you have been associated with the Oflag 64 Association family, you have probably become aware of the Katyn Forest Massacre perpetrated by the Russians in April-May of 1940, shortly after their invasion of Poland. Originally the Western Allies, because of Russian propaganda as well as their desire to retain the USSR as an ally, maintained that the massacre was carried out by the Nazis, but just as the Nazis exterminated so many of our Jewish brothers and sisters during WWII, it was discovered that the Russians, under Stalin, were also guilty of such atrocities and were the ones who murdered 22,000 Polish citizens of all ethnic and religious groups (military officers, police officers, and anyone the Russians deemed to be educated and opponents of the Soviet regime), burying them in mass graves in the Katyn Forest and other locations in 1940. This was the largest execution of this type.

A few years later, specifically in May of 1943, two newly captured but not-yet "Oflag 64" Kriegies, John H. Van Vliet, Jr. and Donald B. Stewart were taken by the Nazis, together with other English-speaking POWs to view the open mass graves at Katyn. The two officers weren't originally meant to go to Katyn as they were not the senior officers, but were given no choice and were taken under duress. After viewing the graves and some of the remains, they were able to confirm through various means that it couldn't have been the Nazis who carried out the terrible crime, but it was actually the Russians. What is significant, is that they did not refer to the German supplied proofs, but rather noted other things, including the state of the boots worn by the victims. Shortly after being transferred to Oflag 64 in June of 1943, John Van Vliet and Donald Stewart sent coded letters on various occasions to their families, and intercepted by the secret MIS-X "Factory" containing the information they had discovered at Katyn, the letters were sent both in the summer of 1943 as well as the spring of 1944. Those letters were then decoded and reviewed by Military Intelligence. Unfortunately, due to the decision by the Department of the Army that information about coded messages was Secret, this information was never made available to the Madden Committee in the early 1950s. The Madden Committee did ultimately decide, based on thousands of pages of testimony, including John H. Van Vliet, Jr. and Donald B. Stewart that the Soviets were guilty. In 2012, one of our Oflag 64 family members, Krystyna Piórkowska, a US citizen of Polish descent, who had been researching the history of the English-speaking POWs since 2009, located references to the coded letters as well as one of the coded letters in the US National Archives. She was the one who, in November 2013, was responsible for finding John Van Vliet, Jr.'s original "forgotten" sworn deposition dated May 10, 1945, also in the National Archives, which listed details and names of individuals and even Soviet camps that had not been mentioned by any of the Western Allies prior to the fall of Communism. The distressing fact is that the deposition was taken in Paris by an officer of the War Crimes Units and should have been submitted to the Nuremberg Tribunal, instead it disappeared. Krystyna eventually wrote a bilingual book entitled ENGLISH-SPEAKING WITNESSES TO THE KATYN MASSACRE which gave more details and brought the incident back to the forefront. Click on this link for more information about her book that was published not long ago. [Polish Art Center - English-Speaking Witnesses To Katyn - Anglojezyczni swiadkowie Katynia](#)



Donald B. Stewart and John H. Van Vliet, Jr. (left photo)

Examination of the remains of an exhumed Polish officer. (right photo)



One of the many mass graves at Katyn viewed by American Army Officers, among others.

\* \* \* \*

NOW, fast forward to April of this year....A series of extraordinary events have recently taken place. In observance of the 75th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre, families of John H. Van Vliet, Jr. and Donald B. Stewart were invited to Poland to receive posthumous awards on behalf of their fathers for their reports and attempts to make known the awful massacre at Katyn. They were posthumously awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and were presented by Polish President Komorowski at a ceremony in the Belweder on April 8 to Kriegy sons John H. Van Vliet III and Robert Stewart. On the same day, President Komorowski also presented Krystyna Piórkowska with the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland. What great honors for all of them!! A short video of the presentation can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/AwH8SCSeZE8> You can see our friend Mariusz Winiecki discreetly taking photos on the sidelines.

On April 11, three days later, the Van Vliet and Stewart families were also invited to an unveiling ceremony of a memorial plaque at the site of Oflag 64. The plaque commemorating their fathers was unveiled by (the then) Chairman of the Sejm (the lower house of the Polish parliament) - Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski, the Secretary General of the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites (Rada) - Dr. Andrzej Kunert, Gen. Edward Gruszka (Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland), Mayor of Szubin - Mr. Artur Michalak and members of the Van Vliet and Stewart families. Representatives of US Embassy in Poland and US Army forces were present as well as many officials of various levels from local governments and councils to Members of Parliament elected from that region. Krystyna Piórkowska was also present at the ceremony. Regrettably, neither her ongoing efforts since 2012, to convince the Rada, nor the support of Mariusz Winiecki as well as the Director of MOAS, Wieslaw Buzinski, were acknowledged. Mariusz tells us that the idea of commemorating with a plaque of the two US army officers in Szubin, came from and was a result of the personal efforts of Krystyna. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for persevering and for not letting the information be lost once more.

The following links to the memorial plaque ceremony will give you a greater picture of the events that transpired recently. Some are in video format and some are still photos, many with Polish descriptions, but you will get the idea. On some pages, you'll need to scroll down past the ads. (Mariusz can also be seen in several of these links)

[W Szubinie odsłonięto pomnik upamiętniający ppłk Johna H. Van Vlieta Jr. i kpt. Donalda B. Stewarta @ ITVSzubin.pl](http://www.ITVSzubin.pl)

[Pomnik świadków Katynia odsłonięty](#)

<http://www.zpszubin.pl/index.php/aktualnosci> (the 2nd group of photos are of the ceremony, the 3rd and 4th groups relate to Oflag 64)

<http://kcynia.info/w-szubinie-odslonieto-pomnik-upamietniajacy-pplk-johna-h-van-vlieta-jr-i-kpt-donalda-b-stewart/>

<http://www.kurier-nakielski.pl/?a=24069&id=6>

<http://www.portalkujawski.pl/index.php/nakielski/item/6388-szubin-upamie>

[http://www.powiat24.pl/Pomnik\\_swiadkow\\_Katynia\\_odsloniety,27030.html](http://www.powiat24.pl/Pomnik_swiadkow_Katynia_odsloniety,27030.html)

<http://bydgoszcz.tvp.pl/19622503/zlozyli-hold-amerykanskim-jencom-nie-ba> (local news coverage)

[http://palukitv.pl/wideo/1830/Pomnik\\_pamieci\\_amerykanskich\\_jencow\\_Szubin.html](http://palukitv.pl/wideo/1830/Pomnik_pamieci_amerykanskich_jencow_Szubin.html) (video coverage)

<http://www.muzeum.szubin.net/index.php?d=wiecej&d1=galeria&d2=835>

[https://youtu.be/CrVEB5P\\_v1E](https://youtu.be/CrVEB5P_v1E) (25-minute video coverage made by a young man from Szubin)

Following the ceremony, the Van Vliet and Stewart families along with several others, including Krystyna Piórkowska, visited several buildings at the site of Oflag 64 and were able to see the scale model of the camp in the main hall of the boys school. Mariusz was able to guide the families and visitors around the site and for the first time, with permission from the principal of the boys school and the local parish priest, were able to enter both the White House and the Chapel which were inside the original camp. Enjoy these photos of events at the Belweder and at the former site of Oflag 64 in Szubin Poland.

At the Belweder following the awards ceremony (John H. Van Vliet III-son of John Jr. with award; Mariusz Winięcki; Robert Stewart-son of Donald with award, and families on both sides). Thanks to Mariusz for most of these photos.



Krystyna Piórkowska about to speak after receiving her award at the Belweder. John H. Van Vliet III and Robert Stewart are at her right.



Memorial Plaque following the ceremony at the site of Oflag 64 (Thanks to Monica Stewart Bishara, daughter of Donald Stewart, for this photo.)

Site of Oflag 64 near one of the newer buildings. Mariusz Winięcki serving as guide.



Group in front of the Oflag 64 Hospital (in the process of being renovated).

Oflag 64 White House (Mariusz pointing, Krystyna Piórkowska in the foreground).



Inside the Oflag 64 Chapel (in the process of being renovated).

Inside the Oflag 64 Chapel.





Leaving the Oflag 64 Chapel.

Donald B Stewart's dog tags and cross taken to Szubin by his family and blessed by the Parish Priest inside the Chapel while there.



Visiting the Scale Model of Oflag 64 in the main hall of the Reform School.

## 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. If you become aware that any of these publications are no longer available, please let us know.

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.vandamere.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/B0007E4UAU>
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. **Dr. Graff Remembers: World War II Reflections**, a collection of editorials by Peter Carl Graffagnino, M.D., Publisher: Grateful Steps (Micki Cabaniss Eutsler), 828-277-0998. [http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections](http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections)
5. **Home Was Never Like This**. Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this](http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this)
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride](http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride)
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)
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. **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)

12. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles F. 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)
13. **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 [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)
14. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. [http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer](http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer)
15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-9/18/14) [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/Welcoming-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Welcoming-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

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

**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 approximately \$6 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.) Also available on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

**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.)

## Warren E. "Bing" Evans

1918 ~ 2015



We have recently received word that Warren E. "Bing" Evans passed away in his sleep on July 6 at the age of 96. An obituary is not yet available. You can visit the funeral home website and add your



condolences at: [Nass & Son, Inc Fun#1255B95](#)  
We will post the complete obituary in the next ITEM.

Please read a tribute to him in the Dubois County Herald at: <https://duboiscountyherald.com/b/evans-noted-for-bravery-service>

a.m., Saturday, November 29, both at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery, all in Wichita. In memory of Francis' and Jean's love of children and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Katharine Drexel Fund, c/o Catholic Diocese of Wichita, or CASA of Sedgwick County (court representation protecting abused and neglected children).

"Well done, my good and faithful servant...Come, share your master's joy." Matthew 25:23. Downing and Lahey Mortuary East. Online tributes may be sent to the family via [www.dlwichita.com](http://www.dlwichita.com)

Published in The Wichita Eagle from 11/23-28/14

Obituary and Guestbook:  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansas/obituary.aspx?pid=173254074#sthash.RtM3l6Le.dpuf>

## J. Francis Hesse

2014



Hesse, J. Francis, 92, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, lawyer, Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great, a second lieutenant during World War II, Colorado mountain man, newspaper delivery boy, and countless other

roles and titles, died peacefully on Nov. 22, 2014, with several of his children surrounding him.

Francis served in a heavy artillery unit in World War II, was a POW/MIA, and escaped his captors to return to the states and marry "winsome" Jean Kimel.



Together, Jean and Francis made Wichita their home and raised 13 children. Jean preceded Francis in death several years ago and now they are again dancing "Begin the Beguine" on Cloud 9. Forever grateful for their parents are four daughters: Paula (Larry) Hlobik, of Bucyrus, KS, Suzanne (Marshall) McHenry of Derby, Anne (Bill) Warner of Pebble Beach, CA, and Cary Hesse-Clark (Tom) of Wichita; 9 sons in Wichita: Steve (Martha), Tom, Tim, Jeff, Joel, Matt (Patty), Chris (Cathy) and Karl (Pam), and Mike of Boulder, Colorado; dozens of grandchildren and dozens of great-grandchildren.

Rosary, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 28; Funeral Mass, 10:30

## Thomas R. Johnson

1925 ~ 2015

Thomas R. Johnson, 90, Lake Geneva, WI, died Tuesday July 7, 2015. Husband of Gina nee; McCaffery, father of Daniel (Amy)



Johnson, Betsy Johnson, the late Robert "Mike" Johnson and the late Judith Leslye Johnson, grandfather of 9 great-grandfather of 10, brother of Richard (Louise) Johnson and father-in-law to Colleen Johnson. Mass of Christian Burial Monday July 13, 2015, 10:30 a.m. St. Francis deSales Catholic Church, Lake Geneva, WI. Visitation Monday in church 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Information: Derrick Funeral Home, 262-248-2031. To sign the on-line guest registry go to: [www.derrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.derrickfuneralhome.com)

Published in a Chicago Tribune Media Group Publication on July 11, 2015 – See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chicagotribune/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=175265942#sthash.tGbrzPb3.dpuf>

## Joseph E. Seringer, Jr.

1920 ~ 2015

Joseph Edward Seringer Jr, 95, formerly of Wooster, Ohio passed away on Friday April 3.



He is survived by his five children, Joseph E. Seringer III (wife Linda) of San Antonio, TX, Patricia A. Grove (husband Don), of Cincinnati, OH, Kathleen J. Stokes (husband Timothy) of Williamstown NJ, Carolyn Seringer of Viera, FL, and

Thomas J. Seringer (wife Tammy) of Cleveland, OH, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his wife Rita Marie (Hagan) Seringer of 44 years

Joe was a graduate of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH and served as a lieutenant in World War II. He was captured in North Africa and was a Prisoner of War at Oflag 64.



He was a founding and managing partner in the CPA firm of Frank, Seringer and Chaney. He was a long time member of St. Mary Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus in Wooster, as well as Rotary and the Elks. He served on the board of directors of the Wayne County Bank, Wayne Mutual Insurance, Buckeye Boy Scout Council and Wayne County Committee for Crippled Children and Adults. He moved to Cape Canaveral, FL in 2010.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church, 527 Beall Ave., Wooster on Friday, April 10 at 10 am. McIntire, Bradham & Sleek Funeral Home, 216 E. Larwill St., Wooster is assisting the family locally,

Contributions in his memory may be made to Wayne County Fund for Crippled Children and Adults, 517 N. Market Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691. You may sign Joe's guestbook at:  
[www.beckmanwilliamsonviera.com](http://www.beckmanwilliamsonviera.com).

Memorial Contributions:  
Wayne Co. Fund for Crippled Children & Adults, 517 N. Market St., Wooster, OH 44691

Service:  
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 527 Beall Ave., Wooster, OH 44691

Online obituary:  
<http://www.mcintirebradhamssleek.com/obituaries/joseph-edward-seringer-jr>

## *Darwyn E. Walker, Sr.* *1919 ~ 2014*

Having led a full exemplary life, Lt. Col. Darwyn E.



Walker passed from this life of natural causes. Born in Sioux City, Iowa, on May 4, 1919 to Alice and Eugene Walker and passed on December 25, 2014 at the age of 95 in Springfield, Mo.

Darwyn retired from 30 years of active military duty in 1966. He served in three wars, [World War II](#), Korea, and Vietnam. His military record includes enlistment in 1937, promotion to Master Sargent in 1942, Commissioned OCS 2nd Lt. in 1943, Company Commander, Company I, 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division European Theater in 1944, captured during combat action on Jan. 23, 1945 becoming a prisoner of war in Germany, Commander, 1 Battalion, 279th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division Korean Theater in 1952, Lt. Col. Commanding Officer, Headquarters Special Troops, Ft. Leonard Wood in 1964. He is a graduate of Command & General Staff College, Strategic Intelligence School. Military decorations include French Medal of Honor, Silver Star for Valor, three [Bronze Stars](#), three [Purple Hearts](#), two French Croix de Guerre, WWII Victory Medal. Army Commendations Medal, Army Reserve Officer Medal, European Theater Medal, three Combat Infantry Badges, Republic of China Combat Infantry Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, [Korean War](#) Theater Medal, two American Expeditionary Forces Presidential Citations, and the Vietnam War Theater Medal.



After retirement he became a realtor in Springfield, and was director of the Springfield Board of Realtors and the Missouri State Board of Realtors. He was awarded the Realtor Salesman of the Year in 1971. He was designated a Senior Residential Appraiser by the Society of Real Estate Appraisers in 1971. He was also a certified VA and FHA appraiser and retired from Walker and Walker Realtors in 1982. He was an appointed member of the area Tax Board of Equalization and served for 29 years. Darwyn was active as a 32 Degree Mason and a member of Abou Ben Adhem Shrine, the Elks Club, American EX-POWS, Member of American Disabled Veterans, Purple Heart Association and the Retired Officers Association.

He was preceded in death by sons Marius Andrew "Chip" (1994); wives Mockaletus "Mickey" J. Donahoo (2008), Lois Jesse (2003), and Carolyn M. (2013); sister Phyllis Nevins (Phillip) (2007).

He is survived by daughters Sue Ann Struckhoff of Springfield, and JoAnne Schahuber (Steven) of Willard, Mo.; son Darwyn E. Walker II (Mary Louise) of St. Louis, Mo.; grandchildren Sue Beth Volner, Carla Denise Givens, Charles T. Givens (Jennifer), Darwyn B. Walker, Nicholas P. Walker (Nancy),

Megan Mathis (Brock), and Greta Melton (Landon); and thirteen great-grandchildren; Jimmy, Neil, Morgan, Chris, Ben, Alex, Andrew, Gabe, Nick, Jeremiah, Caine, Maci, and Corban.

Memorial Services will be at 3 p.m. January 3, 2015 in Greenlawn Funeral Home South. Inurnment will be at a later date.

See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/news-leader/obituary.aspx?n=Darwyn-E-Walker&pid=173622974#sthash.FDFW9hbX.dpuf>

## Joseph J. Zelazny, Jr.

1921 ~ 2015



Joseph John Zelazny Jr was born on September 10, 1921 in Wilmington DE and passed away on March 20, 2015 in Tacoma, WA with his wife of 71 years and his three children by his side. He is survived by his wife Lorryne

Mellum Zelazny; three children, Joseph John Zelazny III (Donna), Col. Robert Zelazny (Ret) (Brenda), and Kathy Zelazny Thomas (Ron); four grandchildren, LTC Joseph J. Zelazny IV, Jodie Zelazny, Tamra Brannon and Jessica Beardsley and five great grandchildren, Charlie and Noelle Zelazny, Amaya and Michael Brannon and Benjamin and soon-to-be baby Joseph Beardsley. The love and wisdom he shared with his family had a profound impact on each of their lives.

He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and served 21 years, retiring in 1963 as a Lt. Colonel. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and served as a POW in Germany and Poland. This experience helped to define him throughout his life, especially during the last thirty years as he worked tirelessly for Veterans rights and for recognition for their service and sacrifice to the country.



After retiring from the service, Joe worked at Tacoma Boat for a number of years and then went into the construction business, building custom homes throughout Pierce County. When he finally retired, he devoted himself entirely to issues surrounding Veterans. The establishment of a Veterans Memorial at the Coachella Valley Cemetery (California) and one in Tacoma Washington at the New Tacoma War Memorial Park were two of his proudest achievements. In 2009, he received the Meritorious

Service Award from the National Association of Prisoners of War.

In his spare time, Joe and Lorryne enjoyed traveling, playing cards and other games with family and friends both here and in Indio California where he and Lorryne were snowbirds for almost forty years. He loved fishing and completing woodworking projects in his spare time. Nothing gave him greater pleasure however, than helping a Veteran get his rightful recognition and benefits.

Joe was a long time member of Elks Lodge 174 serving as a Trustee for four years, then Chairman of the Board of Directors. Additionally, he was a lifetime member of the VFW and the American Legion. Joe and Lorryne were long time members at Emmanuel Lutheran (Tacoma), Immanuel Lutheran (Yelm), and St Marks Lutheran (Tacoma) Churches.

A memorial service will be held at Point Defiance Village at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. The interment will take place at 3:00 p.m. at the Tahoma National Veterans Cemetery in Kent on the same day.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, remembrances be sent to St Marks Lutheran Church or the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

Online obit:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?n=JOSEPH-ZELAZNY&pid=174479401>

<http://obituaries.desertsun.com/obituaries/thedesertsun/obituary.aspx?n=Joseph-John-Zelazny&pid=174499324>

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## Jean H. Gever

2014

We have recently learned of the passing of Jean, widow of the late Kriegy Gabriel Gever. She passed away on August 24, 2014 at the age of 95. We have no other information at this time.

