

*American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor—Memorial Society*

*Program—2021 Convention*

**All presentations are virtual. Zoom links on ADBC-MS website**

**Saturday, October 23**

All times are Central Daylight Time

**11:00am – noon**

***“The Jersey Brothers” review***

**Sally Mott Freeman, author**

*“The Jersey Brothers” is the true story of three brothers, all in the Navy, who end up in the center of World War II’s most pivotal moments in the Pacific Theater. Bill is an intelligence officer serving in the White House and director of FDR’s secret map room in the White House basement. Benny serves aboard the USS Enterprise, one of the few ships to escape Pearl Harbor, which becomes the only aircraft carrier left to defend against the Japanese in 1942. Barton, the youngest brother, is stationed with the Navy Supply Corps near Manila and is listed as missing after the Japanese invade the Philippines. He is soon captured by the Japanese. His brothers’ attempt to find and save Barton is described in this book. Ms. Freeman is Bill’s daughter.*

**1:00-2:00 p.m.**

***Yasukuni Shrine and Total War Memories and Counter-Memories of the Asia-Pacific War***

**Akiko Takenaka, Associate Professor, University of Kentucky**

*The Yasukuni Shrine is well known for the political controversies its presence has generated both within Japan and between Japan and its neighbors. Critics contend that the shrine encouraged reckless militarism during the Asia-Pacific War. But what exactly was Yasukuni Shrine’s role during that war? How could one shrine impart such significant and lasting influence throughout Japan and beyond? This presentation will historicize the Yasukuni controversy by critically examining its role during the Asia-Pacific War, and further, reassessing wartime narratives by taking into consideration factors such as the role of media, censorship, and memory. This reevaluation of Yasukuni Shrine attempts to shed new light onto the debate over the history and memory of the Asia-Pacific War that continues to haunt East Asia today.*

**3:30-4:30 pm**

***General Meeting***

## **Sunday, October 24**

All Times are Central Daylight Time

### **12-1 p.m.**

#### ***Memorial Service***

Rev. Michael Bergbower and Caroline Burkhart

Break

### **1:30-2:30 p.m.**

#### ***Living in the Shadow of a Hell Ship—George Burlage’s POW survival story***

Georgianne Burlage, author

*U.S. Marine George Burlage was part of the largest surrender in American History at Bataan and Corregidor in the spring of 1942 where the Japanese captured more than 85,000 troops. More than forty percent of the captives would not survive World War II. His POW ordeal began at Cabanatuan where the daily death rate was more than fifty a day. He managed to be transferred to Palawan but was sent to Manila a year later for treatment of malaria. In 1943, after surviving a 38-day voyage in the hull of a Japanese hell ship, he worked as a slave laborer for Mitsubishi near Sendai, Japan. Burlage was liberated in September 1945 after forty months of imprisonment.*

*After the war, Burlage became a journalist and later wrote about his experiences as POW. His daughter Georgianne discovered his writings after his death in 2008, edited them, and added historical material.*

Break

### **3:00-4:00**

#### ***The Medic—the story of POW Henry Chamberlain***

Rebecca Chamberlain and Claire Swedberg (author)

*Henry Chamberlain was captured at Bataan in April 1942 and served forty months as a Japanese prisoner-of-war. During his imprisonment, he was his camp’s medic and witnessed the horrors and terrors inflicted upon prisoners during the Bataan Death March and at the Cabanatuan camp. He often treated prisoners with little and inadequate medicine. In October 1944, Chamberlain was placed on a hell ship and was sent to Formosa (Taiwan) to work in sugar cane fields and was later transferred in January 1945 to a Mitsubishi zinc and lead mine in Japan. He was liberated in September 1945.*

*Chamberlain’s story is one of survival, determination, and triumph.*