



# The Quan



The Official Newsletter of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society

Volume 71 • Spring 2015

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands



Left to Right: Harold Bergbower, Jesse Baltazar, Veldemar DeHerrera, Henry Stanley, Bill Eldridge, Bill Overmeir, Oscar Leonard.

**T**HE 26TH ANNUAL BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH had over 5,000 participants this year. There were eight former prisoners-of-war that attended: Jesse Baltazar, Harold Bergbower, Veldemar DeHerrera, Bill Eldridge, Oscar Leonard, Bill Overmeir, Ben Skardon, Henry Stanley.

This year the Philippine Ambassador, Jose L. Cuisia Jr. and U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-NM were present for ceremonies. This event is held on the White Sands Missile Range where there are two routes for the participants: at 26.2 mile length and a 14.2 mile length. Board members Jim Erickson and Kristen Meilicke participated this year as well as other ADBC-MS members Scottie Kersta-Wilson, Joanna Seiberg, and Alan Overmeir. Other ADBC-MS members who helped sell t-shirts and books were Judy Pruitt and Nancy Kragh. ★

(For more photos, see page 10)



93- year old Private First Class William Eldridge, Bataan Death March survivor, waiting for the White Sands ceremonies to begin. As always, Bill is early. Photo by Jett Loe Las Cruces Sun News

**This issue of The Quan  
is dedicated in memory  
of Joe Vater Sr.,  
former Quan Editor.**

See Remembering Joe, page 11

## 6th Annual ADBC Memorial Society Conference

(See page 4 for details)

## Congressional Testimony submitted to Receive Legislative Presentations of Veterans Service Organizations

by Jan Thompson

EXCERPT – The American POWs of Japan and their families have paid a high price for the freedoms we cherish. What they ask in return for their sacrifices and service is for their government, even after 70 years, is to keep its moral obligation to them. They do not want their history ignored or exploited. They do not ask for further compensation. What they want most is to have their government stand by them to ensure they will be remembered, that our allies respect them, and their American history preserved.

(For full Statement for the Record, see page 6)



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The ADBC  
Memorial Society  
of the  
American  
Defenders  
of Bataan  
& Corregidor



# The Quan

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# ADBC Memorial Society

**Honoring the Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor**

Dedicated to those persons living and dead  
who fought against overwhelming odds against the enemy  
at the outbreak of World War Two

## ADBC MEMORIAL SOCIETY BOARD INFORMATION 2014-2015

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Pictured Above Officers, Andrea Krempa, At Large Member, Caroline Burkhart, Vice-President, Jan Thompson, President, Judy Pruitt, Treasurer, Jim Nelson, At-Large Member, President, Judy Pruitt, Treasurer, and Kristen Meilicke. Not pictured are Jim Erickson, At-Large Member

Contributors to this newsletter: Caroline Burkhart, Debra Bergbower-Grunwald, Jim Brockman, Davis Ferrell, Andrea Krempa, Sara Leonard, Suzanne Murphy, Scott Rubenstein, Jan Thompson, George and Mary Kay Wallace, Scottie Kersta-Wilson.



## President's Message — Jan Thompson

Dear Friends,

As you may have noticed there are some changes with the printing and layout of this issue of *The Quan*. The ADBC-MS has officially taken over the entire process of publishing the newsletter. The Board deeply appreciates all of the hard work that George and Mary Kay Wallace and Jane Kraina have provided for our organization during the last several years. Laying out this newsletter is a massive enterprise and it takes a lot of time. They did this selflessly and as volunteers helped us keep the expenses down.

This issue is dedicated to Joe Vater, Sr. who had been *The Quan* editor for over 50 years. Joe used to lay-out *The Quan* on his kitchen table by hand never using a computer. Joe served as the ADBC National Commander from 1953-55 and was one of the solid pillars of the ADBC.

We have added some new sections: *Kids Corner*, *Reflections* and *Not In the History Books*. Our first "kid" is a spry 75 year old remembering her hero-her Dad. Suzanne Murphy shared with us what it was like growing up with her step-father Sigfreid Schreiner. Another descendant, Scott Rubenstein has written a powerful poem. Scott is a well-known writer in Hollywood. Scott had written episodes for *Night Court* and *Star Trek The Next Generation*. We invite others to submit stories or poems that they would like to share with us. We hope the transition of publishing *The Quan* will be smooth but we know there could be a few bumps in the process. Please let us know if someone is not getting *The Quan* who should be.

Inside this issue you will find the Statement For The Record that was submitted to the annual hearing of the joint Veterans Senate and House committees to hear the concerns of veteran groups. With the help and guidance of Mindy Kotler we have been submitting statements for the last several years. However, this year we seemed to have gotten some attention especially from the press in the Far East. Excerpts have been used in the Japan Times, China Daily and Reuters wire service just to name a few. As a result of the Statement, the Japanese television company NHK sent a crew and the Asahi Shimbun sent a reporter to cover the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands. They both interviewed several former POWs. All eyes are on Prime Minister Abe as he has been invited to speak to Congress on April 29-incidentally Emperor Hirohito's birthday and the day that Hideki Tojo was indicted.

The Board is putting the finishing touches on the New Orleans Reunion schedule. Since the Reunion is being held in New Orleans we have opened up the schedule to accommodate some "prowling time" for our members. The Widows & Wives luncheon will have Culinary Historian Bruce Kraig as their speaker. Kraig's specialty is the history of the American Hot Dog. New Orleans Chef John Besh will be hosting our former POWs for a luncheon. John Besh is a poster boy native son and has nine restaurants. Growing up in southern Louisiana, the chef is passionately dedicated to the

(cont. on page 4)



## Books for Sale

TWO BOOKS BY JANNIE WILBRINK

*Java Lost: A Child Imprisoned by the Japanese in WWII.*

*Java Lost: Eighteen Inches on a Mattress*

Each book is \$25.00 plus \$4.00 Shipping and Handling. Contact : Marianne Rohrbough, 13219 W. Twin Peaks Rd., Marana, AZ 85653

*Once Forgotten*, by D.Randall Haley,, PhD, and retired Army Major. It is about Philip R. Haley's combat and prisoner of war experiences in the Far East. It can be purchased at <http://amazon.com> for \$28.00

*Survivor: An American soldier's heartfelt story of intense fighting, and survival from Bataan to Nagasaki* Msgt. Frank N. Lovato as told to Francisco Lovato. This book can be purchased at [www.survivorbook.com](http://www.survivorbook.com) for \$23.00

*I Am Coming Home*, by Wendell H. McGarry. It is a first person account of Dr. McGarry's experiences as a POW in the Philippine Islands. From Corregidor (1942) to Ft. Frank, to Bilibid, to Cabanatuan and to his liberation at Bilibid in 1945. It can be purchased at [gwenajm@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenajm@hotmail.com) for \$14.00 or e-mail requests to Gwen J. McGarry, PO Box 392, Ephraim, Utah 84627

*Deadline Captain Charlie's Bataan Diary* by Charles Underwood. It is the story of a newspaper reporter to commander: survivor of Bataan, Death March, life in three POW camps, for \$16.99, published by Piscataqua Press. When ordering there mention member of *Quan* and request the 10% discount. The book may also be ordered from Amazon.com

*A Brother's Hero: F.W.Malikowski, a Japanese WWII POW's Unforeseen Journey from Kingston, PA to Mukaishima, Japan* by Edward Malikowski. Brief summary of the battle for Philippine Islands, Francis' role in it, and his attempts to adjust to civilian life. For purchase, contact Ed Malikowski, [edgenmali@verizon.net](mailto:edgenmali@verizon.net). Price \$15.00



### OBITUARIES AND OTHER ARTICLES

should be emailed to:

[JanlThompson@gmail.com](mailto:JanlThompson@gmail.com)

or mailed to:

The Quan, 3156 Myers Lane  
Makanda, IL 62958



# Conference Schedule

## Wednesday, June 3

- 10:00-11:30 ADBC-MS Board meeting
- 1:00-5:00 Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 3:00-4:00 Seminar
- 7:00-11:00 Hospitality room

## Thursday, June 4

- 9:00-Noon Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 8:00-8:30 Church service
- 9:15-10:45 Grant Presentation Theresa Loong  
*Everday is a holiday: interactive storytelling  
of POW experience*
- 11:00-Noon Seminar
- 11:15-1:30 Off-site luncheon for POWs
- 1:00-5:00 Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 1:45-3:00 Japan Friendship Trip participants panel.
- 3:30-4:30 Seminar
- 7:00-11:00 Hospitality room

## Friday, June 5

- All day Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 8:00-8:30 Church service
- 9:00-12:30 Trip to World War II Museum—  
buses provided. Sign up in registration room.  
Visit New Orleans on your own
- 1:00-5:00 Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 7:00-11:00 Quan Party, dancing

## Saturday, June 6

- 9:00-12:00 Registration room/Book sales/  
merchandise sales
- 8:00-8:30 Church service
- 10:00-11:00 Memorial service
- 11:30-1:00 Widows/Wives luncheon-Speaker  
Culinary Historian Bruce Kraig
- 2:00-3:30 ADBC-MS General Meeting
- 5:45-6:45 Head table reception
- 6:00 Picture with POWs & VIPs  
at head table reception
- 6:45-11:00 Banquet

copyright Ben Steele



## Widows & Wives

Any of the Widows & Wives  
wishing to attend the  
Widows' & Wives Luncheon  
please call  
Mona Bridges Woodring  
at 1-864-473-0152  
to let her know you will  
be attending so we can  
make arrangements.

Guest Speaker will be Culinary  
Historian Bruce Kraig who's  
specialty is hot-dog history.

## President's Message

(continue from page 3)

culinary riches of his hometown. A former U.S. Marine, Besh partnered with Baton Rouge-based emergency reconstruction specialists Arkel International to create high-quality, ready-to-eat meals for distribution to thousands of emergency response teams and sustained strategic operations in the United States and around the world. In recognition of such far-reaching contributions, the Louisiana Restaurant Association named him "Restaurateur of the Year" in 2008.

As always, we hope to see you  
New Orleans!

Jan

REGISTRATION FORM

**6th ANNUAL ADBC MEMORIAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

Wyndham Gardens, New Orleans Airport

**JUNE 3-6, 2015**

Please print complete information. **USE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING.**

Please check if this is your first ADBC Memorial Society Convention.

NICKNAME OR PREFERRED FIRST NAME (for badge)\_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)

ADDRESS:

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) E-MAIL

**I AM A FORMER POW.** MY UNIT WAS

MY LAST POW CAMP: \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM THE SPOUSE OF FORMER POW:** \_\_\_\_\_

## I AM THE WIDOW OF FORMER POW:

UNIT	CAMP
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
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99	99
100	100

**I AM A:** Son \_\_\_\_\_; Daughter \_\_\_\_\_; Son-in-law \_\_\_\_\_; Daughter-in-law \_\_\_\_\_; Niece/Nephew \_\_\_\_\_

Grandchild \_\_\_\_\_; Great-grandchild \_\_\_\_\_; Friend \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

**OF** (Former POW's Name)

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM A:** Researcher \_\_\_\_; Writer \_\_\_\_; Historian \_\_\_\_; Educator \_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES AND BANQUET TICKET** (please check appropriate box(es))

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>EARLY BIRD MEMBER</b> per person received by May 18 <i>Free to POWs, Spouses, and Widows</i> .....      | \$60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>REGULAR MEMBER</b> (after May 18) per person <i>Free to POWs, Spouses, and Widows</i> .....             | 85.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NON-MEMBER EARLY BIRD</b> per person received by May 18.....  | 85.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NON-MEMBER REGULAR</b> (after May 18) per person .....  | 110.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Early Bird Fee Children 10 - 18 each (after May 18 please add \$15.00)</b> .....                        | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET</b> June 6, 2015 per person (deadline to order May 18) .....              | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No registration charge for children 10 years and under (inquire about reduced banquet charge)</b> ..... | 00.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Please renew my ADBC Memorial Society membership</b> for 2015 (receive Quan on line) .....              | 31.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I wish to join the ADBC Memorial Society</b> beginning January 1, 2015 (receive Quan on line).....      | 31.00   |

TOTAL FEE FOR THIS REGISTRATION IS ENCLOSED \$

CHECK #

**PLEASE REGISTER ONE PERSON PER FORM.** If you are registering several people, include all fees on one check.

**Make the check payable to ADBC Memorial Society and mail with all the forms to:**

*Judy Pruitt  
ADBC Memorial Society  
23 Elwell Road  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
pruittja13@aol.com*

**FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE**

**Wyndham Gardens New Orleans Airport**  
call 504-885-5700 and mention ADBC Memorial Society.



**Statement for the Record  
to the  
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Joint Hearing  
To Receive Legislative Presentations of Veterans Service Organizations**

**By**

**Jan Thompson**

**President, American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society**

**18 March 2015**

**American Prisoners of War of Japan  
Honoring the Memory of World War II Veterans of the Pacific**

Chairmen Isakson and Miller, Ranking Members Blumenthal and Brown, Members of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees, thank you for allowing us to present the unique concerns of veterans of World War II's Pacific Theater to Congress. The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS) represents surviving POWs of Japan, their families, and descendants. Our goal is to preserve their history and communicate the enduring spirit of the American POW experience in the Pacific to future generations.

We applaud the efforts of all the veterans' service organizations to fight for adequate medical care and disability benefits. Moreover, the incidence and intensity of post-traumatic stress for American POWs of Japan is believed to be the greatest of any World War II veteran and possibly of any American war. These veterans had to survive the sordid POW camps, unimaginable and capricious torture, "hell ships" to Japan or its colonies, and years of brutal imprisonment and slave labor. Upon returning from the Pacific War, they found a government reluctant to recognize and treat the mental and physical effects that were consequences of the deprivations suffered while POWs of Japan.

At the time, PTSD was not yet a medical category and VA doctors limited the POWs' access to disability benefits by dismissing the after-effects of years of abuse, disease, and malnutrition. That should not happen to any veteran, and thus, we strongly support the legislative goals of our fellow veterans service organizations to ensure medical and mental health care, as well as to expedite disability claims, to provide rehabilitation, and to establish job-training programs for all American veterans. The American POWs of Japan and their families know intimately the difficulty of re-incorporation into civil society with little support.

Our task today, however, is to address another issue of respect and acceptance of returning service men and women. This is to ensure that they are not forgotten. For the American POWs of



Japan this means that their unique history and the lessons of their experience with Imperial Japan is preserved. This is an urgent task. In the United States this history is being forgotten, and in Japan it is being revised.

### **Remembrance, Reconciliation, and Preservation**

The ADBC-MS was dismayed in 2012 when none of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of historic battles during the beginning of World War II were officially recognized. Astonishingly, December 7, 1941, “a date that will live in infamy,” has not been recognized with a Congressional resolution for many years. This year, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the daring “Great Raid” that liberated Cabanatuan POW camp in the Philippines and of the Battle for Manila that freed thousands of American civilian internees and POWs were not acknowledged.

We hope that future Congresses will remember the events that started American involvement in World War II with resolutions memorializing the simultaneous attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines Islands. And we hope that future Congresses will honor those POWs who were massacred by Imperial Japanese forces as American forces advanced to liberate territories once lost. These include the 98 Americans on Wake Island who were bound and machine-gunned to death on October 7, 1943 and the 139 on Palawan Island who were drenched in gasoline and set afire.

The former POWs of Japan leave many legacies and lessons. Among the most important is how they coped with the postwar traumas of inhumane imprisonment. They fought two battles. One was for recognition of their “battle fatigue” and the other for justice and remembrance. The former is now championed by all veterans’ service organizations. We ask Congress for support and to help our veterans in their unique quest for justice and remembrance.

In an interview published 23 January 2014 in *The Asahi Shimbun*, Japan’s second largest newspaper, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy said:

*I want to take a moment to talk about history and reconciliation. This fall, there was an event that previously might have been thought unimaginable. A group of Americans who suffered as Japanese prisoners of war during the Second World War returned here at the invitation of the Japanese government. Participating took enormous amounts of courage for all those involved....It is not easy, but citizens in all countries should encourage and support leaders who reach across history to build a peaceful future. It took courage on the part of the participants to come back to Japan and learn how Japan has changed.*

As background to the Ambassador’s words, in 2009 the Government of Japan, through its then-Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro FUJISAKI, and again in 2010 through its then-Foreign Minister Katsuya OKADA, officially apologized to the American POWs of Japan. These Cabinet-approved apologies first established as a Cabinet Decision on February 6, 2009 were unprecedented. Never before had a Japanese Government apologized for a specific war crime nor had it done so directly to the victims. The Japanese Government further initiated the “Japan/POW Friendship Program” of trips for American former POWs to visit Japan and return



to the places of their imprisonment and slave labor. Thus far, there have been five trips, one each in the fall of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The benefits of this long-awaited act of contrition have been immeasurable for former POWs and their families. The Program, as Ambassador Kennedy has pointed out, is a great success, but we are concerned about its future. We are concerned that Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo ABE, may revise Japan's war apologies and end the POW/Japan Friendship Program. We are concerned that Japan has limited each trip to only seven former POWs. We currently have 26 men, all over 90-years old, eager to participate and waiting to hear when or if there will be another journey to Japan. Because of their advanced ages, many of these veterans may miss the opportunity.

We recall that in 1995 the Japanese government established the Peace, Friendship, and Exchange Initiative that included a multi-million dollar program of reconciliation and exchange with former POWs from all allied nations except the United States. From 1995 to 2009, the Japanese Government invited 904 ex-POWs from the United Kingdom, 507 from the Netherlands and 59 from Australia. The budgets allocated for those trips totaled over \$16 million. To date, only 31 American former POWs have been invited and the yearly budgets have ranged only from \$130,000 to \$230,000. One cannot help but get the impression that some in Japan count on time and advancing years to limit the costs and impact of the program. We view this as shortsighted.

### **Success should encourage more action**

The success of this visitation program should encourage Japan to do more. The Program should not end with the ability of the nonagenarian POWs to visit Japan or with their deaths. A POW's captivity has multigenerational effects on families. The wives, children, and siblings of those who died suffered irreparable loss. The families of those who survived suffered from the long-term physical and mental health problems caused by the ex-POW's years of cruel captivity. Widows, brothers, sisters, children, and other descendants have all been profoundly affected by the POW experience of their relative and they too should be eligible for future programs.

We ask Congress to encourage the Government of Japan to preserve, expand, and enhance its reconciliation program toward its American former prisoners. We want to see the trips to Japan continued and extended to include descendants and researchers. We want the visitation program drawn into a permanent program of research, documentation, reconciliation, and a people-to-people exchange that is not subject to the Japanese government's yearly budget review. We want Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to publicize the program and its achievements.

We want this program to include funds to create visual reminders of history through museums and monuments. We want national memorials to the POWs who slaved and died on Japanese soil and territories as well as aboard the "hell ships." We want to see a Japanese government-funded memorial at the Port of Moji where most of the hell ships docked and unloaded their sick and dying "cargo."

We also want the many companies that brutally used POWs as slave labor and who now profit in the American market, to join with their government by acknowledging their use of forced labor and by offering their own acts of reconciliation. Over 60 Japanese companies, such as Mitsui,



Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Hitachi, Toshiba, Kawasaki, Nippon Steel, Nippon Express, Nippon Sharyo, Ube Industries, Showa Denko, Aso Group, and Yawata Steel maintained war production by cruel exploitation of American and Allied POWs.

### **Prime Minister Shinzo ABE and his address to Congress**

Prime Minister Shinzo ABE, who we understand may soon address a joint meeting of Congress, has a unique opportunity to acknowledge Japan's historical responsibilities. His past statements rejecting the verdicts of Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal that serves as the foundation of the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan trouble us. We want Congress to only extend the invitation to Prime Minister Abe to speak at the podium of Roosevelt and Churchill if they are assured that he will acknowledge that Japan's defeat released the country from the venom of fascism and the inhuman goals of a criminal regime.

By doing so, the Japanese prime minister's speech to Congress can be a historic one of reconciliation of which the first step is acknowledgement. Tied to this, we feel, should be that he extends and enhances the POW visitation program as we have outlined. He can engender trust with his American allies by honoring their country's veterans. Here he can signal to Japan's other wartime victims that meaningful reconciliation, as Ambassador Kennedy pointed out, is possible. The POW/Japan Friendship Program is one that confronts the past while preserving the dignities of both Americans and Japanese.

**It is our hope in addressing this hearing that we can encourage Congress to work with the Obama Administration and the State Department to persuade Japan to hold to its promises and responsibilities. Japan needs to be encouraged to do more.** And it is our hope that members of Congress will encourage the many Japanese corporations that operate in their districts to acknowledge the history of the American POWs who slaved for them.

The American POWs of Japan and their families have paid a high price for the freedoms we cherish. What they ask in return for their sacrifices and service is for their government, even after 70 years, is to keep its moral obligation to them. They do not want their history ignored or exploited. They do not ask for further compensation. What they want most is to have their government stand by them to ensure they will be remembered, that our allies respect them, and their American history preserved.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your committees.

**Ms. Jan Thompson**

President

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society

<http://dg-adbc.org/>



# Memorial Bataan Death March in White Sands Missile Range

(continued from page 1)



Below: Signing autographs at Registration. Photo by Judy Pruitt

Above: Luke Air Force Base sent a team of 8 men to participate in the Bataan Memorial March to honor CMSgt. Ret. Harold Bergbower. Photo by Descendant Debra Bergbower Grunwald



Left: At White Sands L-R: Tony Taguba, (Retired MG-2Star General) and Chairman of Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors. Judy Pruitt, ADBC-MS Treasurer, former ADBC-MS Board member Nancy Kragh.



Oscar Leonard & Bill Eldridge with a fan. Photo by Sara Leonard



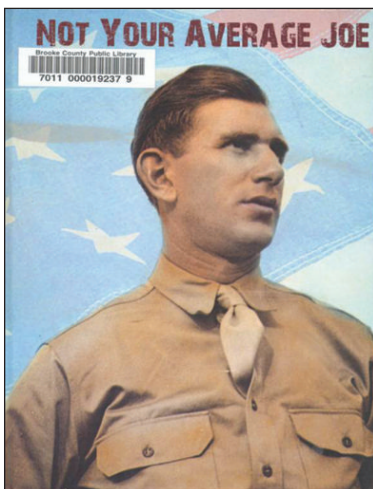
From a participant's point of view—Descendant Scottie Kersta-Wilson.



# Remembering Joe

After several years with the ADBC Museum, I was in awe of the great work of Joe Vater, Sr., and what he had accomplished with the QUAN. For over 50 years, he produced it without modern technology. Since my work was creating publications and a newspaper, I told Joe, around 2006, if he ever needed help, I would be glad to assist him. A few years later, Joe approached me and said, "Did you mean it?" I said, "Sure, I would be happy to help you with the QUAN." He responded, "Take it over!" Although I felt unprepared for the entire task, it was an honor and a privilege to serve the membership of the ADBC as Editor.

*by George Wallace, Board Member of ADBC Museum,  
and former QUAN editor*



The cover of his book.

Joseph Vater, Sr., was one of the founders of the expanding ADBC collection in Wellsburg, West Virginia. Through the years, I was amazed by the calm demeanor and commitment to whatever task he approached. Mr. Vater never missed a meeting or important function of the Museum. He was a great asset, as well as, articulate speaker who was admired by all those who attended the



Joe at Boot Camp. Joe was drafted June 21, 1941 and trained at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

ADBC events. Mr. Vater and his beautiful wife, Helen, were devoted supporters. He was my adviser for several programs, and I always welcomed his knowledge and feedback.

*by Mary Kay Wallace, former Director, ADBC Museum*



Joe at home at his favorite pastime. Several of his paintings have been deposited in the ADBC Museum.



## Happenings at ADBC Museum in Wellsburg, WV



"The Crew – B-29."

# ADBC Museum Receives Large Collection of Photos of POW Camps in Japan

*By Jim Brockman, Curator*

The ADBC Museum recently acquired a large collection of artifacts including photos, maps, mission sortie plans, and two rubber maps of islands in the Pacific. Along with these items the collection includes the personal medals, uniforms and awards of Col. Benjamin F. Guiles USAF.

Col. Guiles was a young B-29 pilot station on Saipan with the 20th Air Force during the end of World War II. Col. Guiles served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, retiring in 1972.

What is significant about this collection is the fact it documents the raids on Tokyo and other targets in Japan with detailed information about who, what, when and where when the 20th Air Force's bombing campaign starting on March 10, 1945. It also gives the museum documents on the POW camps in Japan with photos of supplies being dropped to the POWS at the end of the war. In addition there are detailed photos of the camps, such as Nagoya #B Toyama showing the camps from low level recon missions. Others include photos of Akashi, Yokohama Urban Area, Toyama, Kawasaki AG Plant Akashi, Osaka Army ARS, Yawata, Kure Naval Arsenal, Hitachi Eng Wk's Kaigan Plt, and Ichinomiya.

There are photos of the first B-29 crews to drop bombs on Japan with crew names and ranks. There are 23 photos of aircraft nose art. And there is a photo of Woody Wood Pecker a plane that General Curtis LeMay told the crew to take the nose art off the plane.

There are BDA photos of Tokyo and night photos of Tokyo on fire. And in one photo the Hell Ship AWA MARU can be seen tied to the dock in Tokyo bay.

This very large collection of several hundred documents, photos and uniforms provides information as to what the 20th Air Force was doing towards the end of WWII. But what is of most importance is the fact it documents and confirms what the POWS have documented about their experience towards their end of their captivity in our collection.



Aircraft nose art.



# The Chaplain's Corner – Davis Ferrell



This morning, I completed my latest report to the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa. I send them basic information on former POWs who have died. I have not been there but I am told they keep a large book with that information. It is displayed on a stand with a light perpetually shining on it.

Six months from now, we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Japan surrender to end World War II. As I think back to those days, one of the first things I remember was the excitement everyone had that we were finally at peace. We were all exhausted from all the violence and killing. Seventy years and we continue to be exhausted by all the violence and killing of war and we long for peace.

True peace however is not the external seeking for absence of violence but an internal thing. I believe that



the peace we all need to learn to value most is the peace that can dwell within ourselves. The bible calls us to such a peace. A call that is rather than an absence of struggle a presence of love. Moving away from a void within to always strive for something else. Learning to love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and even our enemies. Yes, I know that last one raises a number of red flags for everyone. I submit to you however that loving does not have to mean liking, or agreeing, and it does not affect the need to hold the other responsible for their actions. I will be honest, it is hard each morning as I say my daily prayers to include the terrorist but I do. Each day when I do I also have to control my urge to tell God what I think He ought to do.

True peace is found in the assurance that, even when our best efforts fail, God has redeemed us and renews us in His Spirit. It is with this peace we are able to sing, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me." *Shalom.*

D+

This collection was given to the museum by Ms. Patty Anatole daughter of Col. Guiles. Ms. Anatole is planning on visiting the museum on April 11, 2015 when we reenact the

... it documents and confirms what the POWs have documented about their experience ...

Bataan Death March. Various items will be on display from this collection.

## Bataan Death March Reenactment

April 11, 2015 is the date set for the Bataan Death March Reenactment here at the museum. This year a number of events are planned. Reenactors from the 1st Frontier Mechanized Calvary and K Company 110th Regiment, 28 Division will set up a display of military hardware in the back of the museum. In addition the Filipino Dance Troupe will perform and there will be a memorial service for remembrance. A room will be set aside for remembrance and reflection. In this room a special audio/visual presentation will be shown. The film "The Tragedy of Bataan" by Jan Thompson will be shown continuously throughout the day in the museum. The program starts at 10 am with the march starting at 11 am. If you are planning on attending, you can RSVP by calling 1-304-737-1551 by March 31, 2015. All POWs and descendants are invited to attend.

## ADBC Museum Receives Copy of the script of *Unbroken*

Mr. Ronald Meyer, President of Universal Studios has graciously provided the ADBC Museum with a copy of the

script from the recently released movie *Unbroken* for the museum's permanent collection.

*Unbroken* is a 2014 American biographical war drama film produced and directed by Angelina Jolie. Based on the 2010 non-fiction book by Laura Hillenbrand, *Unbroken a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*; the film focuses on the life of Louis Zamperini who survived in a raft for 47 days after his bomber was downed in World War II and was sent to a series of POW camps.

The script along with the museum was featured in several regional newspapers (Sunday front page) and was as a feature "Top Story" on WTOV Channel 9 News. The response has been very favorable for the museum and the script. The WTOV Channel 9 New piece was posted on YouTube by a friend of the museum who lives out of state and saw it and was pleased with our efforts in support the movie.

## Artifacts Continue to Come in to the Museum

The museum as received a number of artifacts relating to the collection. Recently we received a Hari Kari knife with wooden sheath from Mr. and Mr. Charles Schury of Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Judith Heisinger has also provided the museum with a number of artifacts including playing cards and ID tags. The Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center has provided three bazookas for display during the April 11th event.

Many thanks to the decedents and POWs for their contributions to the museum. Your support is greatly appreciated. ★





## The Kid's Corner

### My friend, my Dad.



**M**ukden, Manchuria: Japanese Prisoner of War number 124 was interned in that infamous place of torturous slave-labor for a total of forty-four death-defying months. This teen-aged American U. S. Army soldier's name was Sigfried "Siggy" Schreiner, a first generation Austrian-American who hailed from modest New Britain, Connecticut. He innocently left home imagining adventure at a rousing boy's camp.

Siggy was my hero, my ever loving wonderful Dad; every night of my post-WWII growing up years we cleaned up the dishes side by side. He'd call out to me with a play-act laughing order accompanied by a fake bugle call, "Suzanne, report for kitchen detail." Siggy did not approve of war but he sure loved military life. He enjoyed the early morning hours best,

my sister and I did not. Dad solved that resistance by installing an electric buzzer in our bedroom. He would rise at Five AM, make coffee, read three newspapers, feed the dogs, repair something, shine his shoes, weed in his garden, talk to his roses, shave, make lots of noise and then cheerfully lean on that hateful buzzer until we had to get up. "Good Morning girls, your Breakfast is on the table. I'm off to work now." Kisses and hugs and off he'd smilingly go into Siggy's big world. At his wake many people came to say thanks to their friend Siggy, who helped them so much. We had no idea who they were. Siggy, he really had that charisma thing going on.

He washed and I dried while he revealed the (horrifying to me) specific stories deeply scarred into his soul of just what daily death-defying survival in Japanese POW captivity both provided and withheld. Often he'd stare out the kitchen window. I realized he'd gone back there for a time. The emotional words simply

early morning hours. I'd hit the beach for a swim. Actually, I did not know how to swim. I just loved the water and would paddle about. One morning while paddling I heard someone near me. Why, it was a very handsome young man who smiled and introduced himself so politely. "HI, I'm Siggy" What's your name? Suzanne, honey please turn

After whatever we humans call "peace has returned," my Mother found herself alone with two small children to raise.

and see how far from shore you are. "I was shocked. Siggy told me we were out 300 feet and my tube was useless. He pushed me in my tube and swam beside me until we gained the shore. He invited me for a Coke at the Life Guard Shack. Siggy was the chief Life Guard for our beach. We enjoyed our Cokes and visited together. I fell in love instantly. I cheerfully reported to the Life Guard Shack early every morning. I helped rake up seaweed, fetch stuff and enjoyed my first boyfriend Siggy. He taught me to swim well. I was welcomed as one of the "guys" enjoying games of cards, checkers, dice, and charades. I got rather good at dice.

As part of Siggy's self-designed war rehabilitation he trained as a gymnast. In time he became Connecticut State Champion on both the un-even bars and the rings. He practiced every day on the beach using apparatus he set up. Crowds gathered to watch him. His performances were flawless. Siggy was grace in motion, and he had really big muscles. Practice done, he turned and cheerfully shouted "OK, let's have a swim race." We all loved to play with Siggy, he was so fun.

So enthusiastic and smitten was I that I totally forgot to go home for my lunch. On the third day my Mom came looking for me. (Right, it took her three days but that's not today's story) Mom was a knock-out in the fashion of a Rita Hayworth/ Liz Taylor sort-of-a-way in a skin tone satin one piece bathing suit. Now, Mom was not a flirt, she really was very modest,

Often he'd stare out the kitchen window. I realized he'd gone back there for a time. The emotional words simply spilled out of him as hot lava flows from the volcano.

spilled out of him as hot lava flows from the volcano. This writing does not have to repeat what you well know of the history. So, I've decided to tell you how Siggy blessedly came into our lives.

Modern Americans have absolutely no notion of how war turns most lives to dust. Not just soldiers' lives, civilian life as well. After whatever we humans call "peace has returned", my Mother found herself alone with two small children to raise. That August Mom took a little cottage at the shore so we could all have a bit of a change of scene. At nine years old I, a self-supervising child, still enjoyed the



she just couldn't help it. Well, let me get to the point; Lorraine (Mom) and Siggy instantly batted eyelashes at each other and quite soon I got a new Dad. Win-Win!

For the remainder of our family life he spoke of the war every day, not with bitterness just with sad regret that he found out that humans can be awful sometimes and nothing can be done about the awful. To close my memory to you all let me tell you of an incident reflective of how war altered Siggy. Day-to-day, Siggy was a highly intelligent, problem preventing mellow fellow. The WAR, however, had marked him deeply. The single civilian episode

For the remainder of our family life he spoke of the war every day, not with bitterness just with sad regret . . .

that demonstrated his soldier/POW experiences came at age 55; no longer a young man. Siggy and Lorraine went to Puerto Rico for a wedding anniversary treat. One evening they had a fancy dinner out and were walking the short steps back to the Caribe Hilton, when suddenly three men demanded Dad's wallet and watch. Siggy was 5 feet 6 inches tall and slight in body; yet lean and strong. Mom reported, "OMG... Siggy just went Kamikaze on them, he screamed in Japanese, jumped up on two of the punks and quick as a flash grabbed them by the ears smashing their heads rendering them unconscious. He growled, hissed, showed his teeth like a wild animal without emotion. He efficiently dropped them to the ground grasped the third guy and simply broke his arm." Mother's screaming drew the police and the episode was over. Clearly, the war was ever with him.

Just what depth of inhumane horror did our American soldier's live through that could produce instant lapse into a primitive episode of cave-man behavior? What war really is and what it does to soldiers is the tale to tell today as we endure yet another war. ★

*Suzanne Schreiner Murphy*

# Not in the History Books



**FIRES ABOUT MANILA CONTINUE.** Gunfire heard throughout the day. This morning a low flying monoplane appeared over camp and the visible occupants were observed waving to the personnel in camp. The Japanese officially departed from camp at 1245. At 1900 the Yanks broke through Bilibid north south wall. The camp was more than elated-words cannot express the emotions of all the prisoners. This day will be the most unforgettable day, of all of our lives.

Robert Kentner's PhM2c  
Bilibid Hospital Journal February 4, 1945

*Robert Kentner kept an invaluable journal documenting not only the deaths that occurred in the hospital but most of the activities in the camp.*

## Reflections



Scott Rubenstein

Scott's father, Saul Rubenstein, was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, Hells Ships and Japanese Work Camps in WWII. Scott is an accomplished television writer, including writing for Star Trek: TNG. He is co-owner of LA TAX Service and proud father and grandfather to Harlow, Scarlett and Shay.

## History Lessons

Wars came and wars went  
Nothing stayed the same  
History books were written  
The winners signed their names

The losers they were patient  
They never took the blame  
As soon as the winners left  
They just added their own names

My ancestors taught me this lesson  
For me to exist they had to survive  
So this poem has to be significant  
Because it was built on so many lives

*By Scott Rubenstein  
On Veteran's Day 2014*



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The ADBC Memorial Society will now become your one stop shopping for ADBC Memorial Society Memberships and Quan Subscriptions.

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NAME OF POW RELATIVE/FRIEND \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY UNIT & PRISON CAMP (S) (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO POW \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED ON ADBC-MS MAIL LIST ? (CIRCLE Y OR N)      Y      N

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Note: After one year Quan will be put up online at <http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/>



# Deceased



## DEATHS

Joseph Vater  
William Adair  
John Moseley

### Joseph Vater



#### JOSEPH (JOE) VATER

passed away on December 20, 2014, just in time to spend Christmas with Helen, his wife of sixty years who

died seven years earlier. Joe entered the Army in June, 1941. He was assigned to the 803rd Engineers, Company A. He arrived in the Philippines in October, 1941 and was surrendered on Corregidor in May, 1942. He was interned in Cabanatuan and Mukden in Manchuria where he remained a POW until August, 1945. After liberation he traded a souvenir sword for a box camera. He took numerous pictures which memorialized the camp. All of these photos have been deposited in the ADBC Museum. As with many of the soldiers captured on the Philippines, Joe returned to civilian life. He resumed his career with painting contractor A.J. Vater & Company where he worked into his 80s. Joe became active with the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, attending his first convention in 1949. Demonstrating the accuracy of the phrase, "If you need a job done, ask a busy person.", Joe worked on the Convention Committee, was editor of the Quan and was

elected as National Commander of the ADBC. He was also involved with the Veterans Administration in Pittsburgh, assisting on procedures for treating POW's and was appointed in 1982 to serve on a committee to advise the President on the health of former POW's. He did all this while building a house and being involved in leadership positions with local and national construction groups. Joe was also an encouraging voice for the creation of the Descendants Group, now known as the ADBC Memorial Society. Joe enjoyed painting in his retirement. A number of his paintings have been used as auction items at the conventions. Joe is survived by his three children, Mary Helen (Mike) Zivic, Charles (Diane) Vater and Joseph (Nancy) Vater, Jr. He is also survived by six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Joe will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

### Adair, William "Bill" G.



**WILLIAM "BILL" ADAIR**, 97, born April 20, 1917, and passed away January 7, 2015. William is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Helen

Hopkins Adair; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was a major in the US Army during World War II and was captured during the Bataan Death March and spent three and half years in Japanese Prison Camps. Prior to joining the Army he trained Philippine troops for battle. Bill was an active member of the Happy Warriors that met at the Froniters Flight Museum. A graduate of the University of Alabama, he was a big fan of Alabama and the Dallas Cowboys. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Fisher House

Foundation (Dallas), 4500 S. Lancaster Rd. Bldg. 79, Dallas TX 75216 or the VNA. Roll Tide!

### John Judy Moseley



#### JOHN JUDY MOSELEY

1917 ~ 2015 John Judy Moseley, 97, of Santa Fe, a Bataan Death March survivor, former prisoner of war and National Park Service landscape architect,

died at his home on February 19, 2015. He was born on December 18, 1917 in Quanah, Texas, graduated from Texas A & M University in 1939, and moved to Santa Fe in 1948. He served during World War II in the Philippines in the New Mexico National Guard as a member of the 200th Coast Artillery and the 515th Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Captured on April 9, 1942, he endured the Bataan Death March. He was held at Camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan before being transported to the Hoten Prisoner of War Camp in Mukden, Manchuria. He remained captive there from November 11, 1942 until liberated on August 20, 1945. During his 30 year career with the National Park Service, he worked not only on U.S. National Parks, but also on national parks and historical sites in Costa Rica, Japan, Jordan, and Turkey. Moseley is survived by his daughter, Kay Moseley Hilliard and husband Mike; three grandchildren; and four great grandchildren. The family wishes to thank his EGIS caregivers, Kata, Patrick, and Gary for their dedication and kindness. A memorial service will be held on a later date at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe. Mr. Moseley's ashes will be committed at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions



## Deceased

(continued from previous page)

may be sent to the Mukden Prisoner of War Remembrance Society, c/o Pat Wang, Secretary, 4610 Old Mill Road, Gastonia, NC 28056 or to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society, 100 Caja Del Rio Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Rivera Family Funerals and Cremations, 417 East Rodeo Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87505 Phone: (505) 989-7032 Fax: (505) 820-0435 santafefuneraloption.com

—See more at: John Judy Moseley's Obituary on *Santa Fe New Mexican*

## Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that your dues for the ADBC Memorial Society are due every year on January 1. We realize that it's one of those things that get lost in the holiday shuffle. The organization relies on dues as our main source of income so get out those check books and write the check before you forget.

It is really important that we have your correct address and email in order to send your Quan and ballots for the annual elections and to add you to our Google Group so you can get the latest news. Please make sure it is on your correspondence.

Send your check, made out to **ADBC Memorial Society** to:

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Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Here is the cost structure:

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**2015 Membership with emailed Quan**—make sure Judy has your email, **\$31.00**

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Thank you. We appreciate your membership.

—Caroline Burkhart, Vice President

# Letter to House Committee

March 20, 2015

Dear Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs:

I am a college professor, World War II scholar and author. I am writing to request that you act to prohibit Japanese Prime Minister Abe from speaking in front of Congress unless he agrees to recognize and unequivocally apologize for Japan's crimes against humanity during World War II, as well renounce his administration's growing racial nationalism and historical revisionism. Anything less is a betrayal of the men and women in the U.S. and throughout the world who suffered so horribly at the hands of Japan and who now bear witness to Japan's national amnesia.

President Abe and his administration represent a consistent, aggressive and deliberate program to rewrite Japan's history in WWII, to endorse the notion of the racial superiority of the Japanese people, and to intimidate all parties who attempt to teach Japan's true history.

Mr. Abe has honored Japanese war criminals by visiting the Yasukuni Shrine; allowed his administration to deny Japan's involvement with the Rape of Nanking, the Bataan Death March, Unit 731, and a wide array of war crimes in WWII; permitted his consulate to seek to intimidate an American textbook publisher (McGraw-Hill) into removing all references to Japan's forced sexual slavery of thousands of Korean, Chinese, and Filipino women; endorsed the Yushukan museum in Tokyo which claims that U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt forced Japan into war by an oil embargo (there is no mention of the fact that the oil embargo was placed on Japan in order to stop its murderous aggression in China); and instituted an educational program whereby all Japanese public texts must include messages of nationalism and the racial superiority of the Japanese people.

Unless Prime Minister Abe renounces the above actions, his appearance in front of Congress would represent a profound disrespect for our WWII veterans and all those who continue to carry the memories and scars of war crimes the Japanese government, and Mr. Abe specifically, refuse to acknowledge.

Sincerely,

Penelope A. Blake, Ph.D.  
Rockford, IL





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The cards with envelopes are \$2.00 a piece plus shipping. You receive 1 free for every 5 ordered. The cards are individually made, and many may be viewed on the ADBC Memorial Society website.

I am also willing to take special orders for theme based cards — patriotism, flowers, seasons, holidays, animals, sunsets, etc. Contact: Sharon Cooper, phone no.:(509) 582-8601 or (509)554-4551, 2610 W. 8th Pl. Kennewick, WA 99336

E-mail address: fromtheheart2007@aol.com

Note from editor: More pictures can be found at [http://phillippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/sharon\\_cooper\\_card.html](http://phillippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/sharon_cooper_card.html)



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3156 Myers Lane, Makanda, IL 62958



# The Quan

c/o Jan Thompson  
3156 Myers Lane  
Makanda, IL 62958



# The Quan



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