

Post Oflag 64 Item

1st Quarter 2011

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2011 Reunion Hosts

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Contributors to this issue

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Margaret Moore
Robert O'Neill
Arlene & George Rosenthal



ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA Site of the 2011 Oflag 64 Reunion, Oct 13-16



It's time again to mark your calendars and reserve dates for the Oflag 64 Reunion in St. Petersburg FL hosted by Arlene and George Rosenthal. Great plans are already underway and we look forward to another wonderful event! On page 2 of this ITEM you will find a letter from Arlene and George regarding reunion activities. Information can also be found on our website at www.oflag64.us

As soon as possible, please fill out and return to the Rosentals the "2011 Reunion Survey" found on page 3. This does not commit anyone to attend at this time, but will give us an idea of who is planning to attend and how to organize. For those with email, you should have already received a link for the electronic version of this survey. Please feel free to respond by email if you prefer. Thank you in advance for providing the needed information.

Much appreciation goes to Arlene and George for agreeing to host this year's reunion. If you are able to assist them in any aspect of the event, they would be pleased to have your help. Please contact them using the contact information in this ITEM.

Looking ahead, we are still in need of a volunteer to host the 2012 reunion as well as volunteers to host future reunions. If you are willing and able to host a reunion, please let us hear from you.

Best Regards,

Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor
(Daughter of the late Kriegie Reid Ellsworth)



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Dear Kriegy Families and Friends,

We are so looking forward to being with all of you at the next Oflag 64 reunion in beautiful St. Petersburg, Florida, October 13-16, 2011.

We will be staying at the Hilton Hotel, St. Petersburg Bayfront. It is no more than 10 minutes from the hotel to great shops, wonderful restaurants, and museums. A hospitality room will be available to you upon your arrival.

You may call or email the hotel directly to make your reservations. The group rate is \$106.00 per room. The reservation phone number is 727-894-5000 and the web address is: stpetersburg.hilton.com PLEASE MENTION OFLAG 64 REUNION OCT. 13-16. You will be flying into Tampa Airport. Transportation from Tampa airport to the hotel can be made through Super Shuttle.



Please send your Registration Fee of \$200 to us as soon as possible. This fee includes all tours, chartered buses, fully stocked hospitality room for the whole weekend, the Banquet on Saturday evening and Brunch on Sunday. All other meals will be "on your own".



Plans are going along very well and we are sure you will have a wonderful weekend in the Sunshine City, as the weather in October is perfect. You also will have enough time to visit with old and new friends. We have booked three museums and each is looking forward to our attendance. You'll be in awe of the



exhibits at the Holocaust Museum and the Armed Forces Military Museum. The first two are in close proximity to the Hilton, and the Armed Forces Museum is 20 minutes from the hotel.



In addition to the tours, we will have some great speakers. The first is author John Loftus, formerly of the Justice Department. The second is a Polish officer.

A few tidbits....The brand new Salvador Dali Museum is right across from our hotel and the Museum of Fine Arts is across the street from Chihuly. In this area there are at least 25 or more restaurants to choose from. The Hilton has 2 or 3 minibuses and there is a downtown trolley to take you to all the points of interest. The cost is \$1.



If you have any questions, just call or email us. We look forward to hearing from you.



Arlene and George Rosenthal
209 CYPRESS LN
OLDSMAR FL 34677-2126
rose1537@aol.com

Oflag 64

2011 Oflag 64 Reunion
Oct 13-16, St. Petersburg FL

Oflag 64

To help us plan the next reunion, please let us know if you think you will be attending and state how many people might attend with you. Help make the 2011 Oflag 64 Reunion successful by inviting family members and friends. This is not a commitment on your part; it is just to give us a ballpark figure for planning purposes. Please fill out the form below and send it to us as soon as possible.

Detach below & send to: Arlene & George Rosenthal
209 CYPRESS LN
OLDSMAR FL 34677-2126
rose1537@aol.com



Or email your response to Elodie Caldwell at: elodie@oflag64.us

2011 Reunion Survey

St. Petersburg FL Reunion
Thursday, October 13 – Sunday, October 16



Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
333 First Street South
St. Petersburg FL 33701-4342
1-727-894-5000
Room Rate: \$105.00/night plus tax

For Online Reservations
<https://secure.hilton.com/en/hi/res/index.jhtml;jsessionid=OKB03SAN2HVZ2CSGBIU M22Q?it=Tnav,Res&requestid=288974>

- Yes, I hope to attend the 2011 Reunion
- I plan to invite (how many?) _____ family members and/or guests.
- No, I am unable to attend.
- I am unsure at this time.

Oflag 64

Name _____

REUNION SURVEY NOTE: If you would prefer to respond to our online reunion survey rather than send in the survey from Page 3, you can go to our website homepage and click the survey button near the upper left. Our web address is: www.oflag64.us

* * * * *



Again, a matter needing immediate attention....

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

We have only had two responses to this matter since the last ITEM and would like to hear from you ASAP. Your input is very valuable. Our reunions are getting increasingly more expensive to host and are placing a great financial burden on those who work so hard to put them on. By the time a reunion is over, the hosts frequently find that they owe more money than they have taken in, the difference coming out of their own pockets. For last year's reunion the Lesters ended up owing \$4953.00 over what the reunion fees covered based on the number of folks who ended up not attending. For the 2010 reunion only, we are asking for a one-time reimbursement from the Postage Fund to pay the Lesters for this overage. What is your feeling about this? Please contact me either by email or by using the contact information on the front page of this ITEM regarding this reimbursement.

We are also asking for some ideas to help overcome this imbalance. So far we have come up with the following thoughts for future reunions:

1. Reimburse the hosts from the Postage Fund (This might deplete the funds after two reunions and wouldn't allow all contributors to benefit from their donations.)
2. Charge at least \$200 per person for registration to include the cost of the banquet room and hospitality room. (This year's fee was \$160; most years the fee is \$150.) Any funds remaining could be put back into the Postage Fund or into a separate Reunion Fund.
3. All meals except the banquet would be "on your own".
4. After the hotel location is secured, individuals would pay for their own rooms at the regular hotel rate. (no group rate and no block reservation arrangement)
5. Opportunities for small group tours of different types for people with different interests could be arranged with representatives of various agencies. (i.e., city tours, museum tours, historical tours, etc.) These would be separate from whole-group walking tours and would be the responsibility of the participant. Participation in any tour would be strictly voluntary.

We invite your ideas. Please email me at elodie@oflag64.us or use the contact information on the first page of this ITEM. Thank you very much for your help.



Warm Regards,
Elodie Caldwell, daughter of Kriegy Reid Ellsworth
ITEM Editor, Oflag 64 Association



MAIL CALL



Leslie Bestulic from Treasure Island FL (daughter of the late Kriegy, Russell Ford) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She wrote: "My daughter just told me about this website and I wanted to let you know about my father Russell Ford. I have some of his writings that you may already have. *Thank you, Leslie, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have a great group, all willing to share what information they have. We look forward to receiving your father's writings and hopefully seeing you in St. Petersburg at our reunion in October.*

Scott Bryan from New York NY (researcher) is looking for Kriegies who were part of the 26th Inf. Reg., 1st Inf. Div, C Co. We were able to send him a list of about 20 or so men who fit that criterion, although some are now deceased. He also asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Scott, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thank you also for your offer of help when needed. We hope you are successful at finding the information you seek.*

Steven Burgauer from Peoria IL (author of "The Road to War" and friend of Oflag 64) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund, a percentage of the cost of his most recent book. *Thank you very much, Steven, for your thoughtful contribution to our Postage Fund. We hope your book sells well. We will continue to keep it on our ITEM Publications List.*

Deborah Calpin from Port Orange FL (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Michael J. Calpin) recently wrote asking for information. She stated: "I would like to obtain further information regarding his service to his country during WWII. Although we knew he was a POW, he never spoke about it. I would like to pass any information onto my children and grandchildren." If anyone without email has information to share, please contact me (Elodie) and I will forward your information to the family. In a subsequent email, Deb noted that she found her father-in-law in one of the camp photos and was very excited about that. *Thank you, Deborah, for contacting us. We were saddened to hear of the loss of your father-in-law and have sent out an email request for information to our Oflag 64 family members. Thank you also for identifying Michael in the camp photo. The update has been made to the website.*

Bill Cory from Naples FL (Kriegy) sent a short note complimenting the ITEM and mentioned that he has heard from several Kriegies. He also recently celebrated his 91st birthday but says that he can't hold a candle to some of "those old monkeys". *It was great hearing from you again, Bill. Thanks for writing and thank you for your kind words about the ITEM. Your comments and mailings are always appreciated.*



Donald Cohn from Bellaire TX (great nephew of the late Kriegy Thurston "Ted" Q. Garrett, Jr.) recently emailed brief information on his great uncle along with the sad news that Ted's widow, Ann Garrett, recently passed away. *Thanks, Donald for letting know of Ann's passing. It is so difficult to lose a loved one and we know Ann will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathies are extended to the family along with our thoughts and prayers and hope that they will be sustained through sad times by great memories of her. (Please see Ann's obituary in the TAPS section.)*

Michelle Craig from Omaha NE (daughter of the late Kriegy William F. Higgins) is a quilter and "would like to have some digital photos from other families or Kriegies that are important memories to them. If you would ask anyone who would not mind sharing some, I would love to make a quilt using these special memories." If you are able to share photos with Michelle, please contact me (Elodie) and I will connect you with her. *What a great project, Michelle. We have sent out an email request and hope you will hear from others soon. We would be interested in seeing your finished product.*

Jane Cramer from Kensington MD (daughter of the late Kriegy John "Slick" Cramer) sent a donation to the Postage Fund in memory of her father along with a short note. *Thank you, thank you Jane, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to our Postage Fund. We are so grateful to the many who help support mailing the ITEM. Thank you also for your kind words. Much appreciated.*

Mary Stiverson Ekroos from Corpus Christi TX (daughter of the late Kriegy William K. Stiverson) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She also hopes to be able to attend our next reunion and learn more about her dad's "camp" experiences. *Thanks for contacting us, Mary,*

and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thank you also for your kind words about our website. We are eager to meet you at our next reunion.

Stephen Fried from Philadelphia PA

(great nephew of the late Kriegy Irving Yarock) recently found our website and requested the following: "I have been receiving his OFLAG correspondence since his death and am curious to hear from any members of your group with memories of him, or correspondence from him." If you have information to share, please contact me (Elodie) and I will forward it on to Stephen. *Thank you, Stephen, for writing. We have sent an email query to those on our email list. We hope you have heard from some already. As the years go by, it gets more and more difficult to find the information we seek, but hopefully there is still someone who remembers Irving during those war years.*



Katelyn Gaich (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Peter Gaich) recently found our website and asked the following: "I found an article a while back regarding him [Peter Gaich] in various texts with the Oflag64. I don't know much about my grandfather, being born after he passed, so any information you have is more than welcome and greatly appreciated. My father doesn't talk about him much so what little I know has been found online and snooping through the attic." If you have information to share with Katelyn, please send it to me (Elodie) and I will forward it on to her. *Katelyn, thank you for contacting us. We have sent an email query to our list and hope you will receive information soon about your grandfather. Each new bit of information is a great find and even if you don't hear from anyone right away, someone may find something in the future and contact you.*

Mary Hopper from Conway SC (daughter of Kriegy William Shular) emailed to let us know of the passing of Alvin R. Robin on December 23. As she put it..."Even though it is part of life's cycle, it is so painful to lose a loved one.... our Oflag 64 [Kriegies] are our heroes, our past, our present....and our hope that their sacrifices will not go unnoticed by future generations." *Thank you, Mary, for sending us notice of Alvin's passing. You said it best regarding losing a loved one. We know he will be greatly missed. (Please see Alvin's obituary in the TAPS section.)*

James W. Kent from Talladega AL recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks for contacting us, James, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. You will receive future emails from us.*

Ray Klinkenberg from Rock Rapids IA (Kriegy)

sent a donation to the Postage Fund with the hopes that half could be applied to a Reunion Fund and the other half to the Postage Fund. *Thanks so much, Ray, for your thoughtful and generous donation. As of this date, we do not have a separate Reunion Fund, but would welcome continued donations to such a fund from anyone who is interested. We will open an account for this purpose if the interest is there.*



Anne Kreutzer from Woodbridge VA

(daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot) sent Christmas Greetings along with a donation to the Postage Fund. She also wanted to make sure our Oflag 64 family heard about the tribute to George Juskalian that Congress approved in December. HR 6392 allows the naming of a post office in Centreville, VA the 'Col. George Juskalian Post Office Building'. She wrote: "The post office is about five miles from George and Lucine's home; it is to be dedicated later this spring. The bill was introduced in the House in September, passed by the House in late November, by the Senate on Dec 5, and signed into law by President Obama on January 4." The following links give more information:



The first link is a video of the bill being introduced in the House:

http://maiphoto.smugmug.com/Other/Wolf-intro-of-Col-Juskalian-US/14864056_wDxZM#1109135810_uiKNm

The second link is an introduction of the bill by his congressional rep:

<http://wolf.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=34&itemid=1668>

Thank you so much, Anne, once again for your thoughtful and generous donation to our Postage Fund. And thank you also for keeping us aware of the dedication of the George Juskalian Post Office. What a nice tribute to him! Like you said: "Just think of how many people will learn about him and think about him every time they go to this Post Office."

Herm Littman from Spokane WA

(Kriegy) sent a nice note with holiday wishes accompanied by a donation to the Postage Fund. *Herm, thank you so much, once again, for your note and for your thoughtful and generous donation to our Postage Fund. It was wonderful to see you and so many of your family at the last reunion. Like you say, they are your immortality.*



Lucy Lussenden from Livonia MI

(widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) recently emailed her thoughts on keeping reunion costs down. *Lucy, we are always happy to*



hear from you. Thank you for sharing your ideas. Once we put them all together, we will pass them along to our Oflag 64 Family.

Lawrence J. McDermott, Jr. Esq. from Morristown NJ (friend of the late Kriegy Victor Danylik) is new to our Oflag 64 Family and is looking for information on Victor. He wrote: "If you have any info about his years as a POW, I would love to see it and show his family with whom I remain close." In a subsequent email Lawrence wrote: "Vic never spoke about his experience but on more than one occasion when we watched Hogan's Heroes (one of his favorite shows) he would lean over and say, "It wasn't like that". He would also say that the Germans would drive heavy trucks around the camp perimeter to shake any tunnels down. On an army site he is listed as having been imprisoned at Stalag Luft III that is the camp from which "The Great Escape" took place. He, however, was not a flyboy. Any info you can give will be appreciated." If you have information to share, please contact me (Elodie) and I will pass your information on to Lawrence. *Thank you, Lawrence, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We have sent an email query to those on our email list. We hope you have heard from some already. We would also be interested in seeing his diary if that is something the family feels they can share with us.*

Margaret Moore from Sanford NC (daughter of Kriegy Ed Batte) sent Christmas wishes from her dad along with brief information about Ed. *Thank you, Margaret, for the email and Christmas wishes from your dad. He looks at home in his tomato garden. What beautiful surroundings! We will continue to send him the ITEM as long as he wishes. Our best to you all. (See the Information Station section for a picture of Ed in his tomato garden.)*

Susan Nalley from Potomac MD (daughter of the late Kriegy Michael J. Calpin) wrote recently to let us know of the passing of her dear father at age 94, just one month shy of 95. *Thank you so much, Susan, for letting us know about your dear father's death. It is so difficult to lose these great men, all such great patriots and heroes. We send our best wishes to you and your family along with thoughts and prayers as you grieve. We know he will be greatly missed. (Please see Michael's obituary in the TAPS section)*

Annette Secor Nelson from Hudson FL (widow of the late Kriegy Richard Secor) sent a nice letter along with a donation to the Postage Fund. She is active in several organizations and has volunteered her help with the St. Petersburg Reunion. Since Richard's passing, she remarried Lewis Nelson who has been to several reunions with Annette. *Thank you very much, Annette, for your thoughtful donation to our Postage Fund. And thank you also for volunteering*

your services for our next reunion in Ft. Lauderdale. Many hands make light work. It will be great to have yours be a part. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Robert O'Neill from Prescott AZ (Kriegy) recently forwarded information on how to find one of our missing Kriegies and also sent an updated phone number for one of our other Kriegies. Included with his note was a short history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag. See the information Station section for the history. *Thanks, Bob, for all the helpful information you sent. Your information and updates are always greatly appreciated.*



Sarah Wood Page (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Hollis Wood) wrote to let us know that we had Hollis' middle initial recorded incorrectly in our records. It has since been corrected. She also complimented our website. *Thanks so much, Sarah, for your updated information and thank you for your kind words about the website. We appreciate the contributions and corrections we receive.*

Jeff Parker from Boston MA (son of the late Kriegy Richard B. Parker) wrote to let us know of the passing of his father. He also sent a digital copy of some of his father's wartime adventures. *Thank you, Jeff, for sending notice of your father's passing. He was a true patriot and hero who loved his country deeply. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. May you be sustained through the support of others. Thank you also for sending some of your dad's wartime memories. We will soon be adding them to our website.*

Chris Person (family member of the late Kriegy Alvin R. Robin) also wrote to let us know of Alvin's passing. *Thank you, Chris for writing. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family along with heartfelt condolences. We hope they will be strengthened by the support of others as well as by wonderful memories of Alvin. Another great Kriegy hero and patriot will be missed by those who knew him.*

Tracy J. Robin from Tampa FL (son of the late Alvin R. Robin) sent thanks for condolences for his father and asked to be added to our email list. He is one of two sons of Alvin. *Thank you, Tracy, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We are grateful to your dear father for his service and sacrifice for our country. We will miss another great Kriegy patriot and hero.*

Karen Rossi from Panama Beach FL (great niece of the late Kriegy Thomas D. Drake) emailed to let us know of the upcoming dedication of the George



Juskalian Post Office. She wrote: "As of today the USPO is looking at targeting March 26th, a Saturday afternoon, for the dedication of the Colonel George Juskalian United States Post Office 20120. Now that it has been signed into law by the President.

They have asked for a list of names and addresses to send out invitations to. We no there will be a great turn out for this event. The guest speakers have yet to be confirmed.

Kindly send me a list of any names followed by addresses that I can forward on to the US Postal Service. Obviously an invitation it not required to attend, but they would like to get a head count on the group and also send out invites.

We're hoping that members of the Armenian Church and community will come, as well as members of American Legion Post 1995 and VFW Post 8469 and all that knew George.

Please pass on the word to as many POWs and other friends and Veterans of W.W.II, in that this is as much for them as well, in that through George, we honor their devotion to duty and the sacrifices they made. Sincerely, Greg E. Mathieson, Sr." *Thank you very much, Karen, for sharing this information with our group. What a wonderful and well-deserved tribute to our dear George. We're hopeful that some of our Oflag 64 family will be able to attend.*

Tiffany Skidmore (granddaughter of Kriegy Herman Littman) wrote with this request: "I recently received a grant to write a 15-minute musical composition about my grandfather, Herman Littman, his faith, and experiences living in OFLAG 64. I would like pay tribute to him and to the other heroic men of the camp. If possible, I would like to use some text from The Item to form the lyrics for the piece and portions of some of the audio recordings from the OFLAG 64 website. I would like to get in touch with the men and their families from whom I need to ask permission to use these materials?" Tiffany has contact information for many of our Kriegies. If you or a family member were involved with the Swing Band/Orchestra or the Glee Club, please contact me (Elodie) and I will put you in touch with Tiffany. *Thank you, Tiffany, for writing. What a wonderful tribute that will be to Herm when you're finished with your project! We hope you receive the permissions you need to move forward with your work. Best wishes to you.*

Ann Sudduth from Watertown NY

(daughter of the late Kriegy Tony Lumpkin, Sr.) sent Holiday wishes along with a donation to the Postage Fund. Ann also commented on the last reunion stating: "The wonderful reunion in Dallas created memories for me to last the rest of my days. So well planned. John and I hope to be in St. Petersburg next October." *Thank you Ann for the holiday wishes and for your thoughtful contribution to our Postage Fund. We too enjoyed the reunion and*



happy that you have joined our Oflag 64 family. Looking forward to seeing you in October.

* * * * *

Still looking for the following Kriegies and/or their widows. The addresses we have are no longer valid and their ITEMS have been returned. They will soon be dropped from the mailing list if no addresses are found.

Mrs. Lyle (Geneva) Amy from
Beaumont TX

Edor Nelson from Minneapolis
MN

James Sims from Easley SC



If you or anyone of our Oflag 64 family has changed phone numbers, email or street address information, please let us know so we can update our lists and keep current.

* * * * *

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.

- Steven Burgauer**
- Jane Cramer**
(in memory of her dad, John "Slick" Cramer)
- Ray Klinkenborg**
- Anne Kreutzer**
- Herm Littman**
- Annette Secor Nelson**
- Ann & John Sudduth**

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

INFORMATION STATION



Kriegy Ed Batte lives in an independent living facility in Southern Pines NC and still grows tomatoes in his own little garden.

Submitted by Margaret Moore, daughter of Ed Batte

History of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Flag

Submitted by Kriegy Robert O'Neill

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, a MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville FL Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIS issue, and he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our mission men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

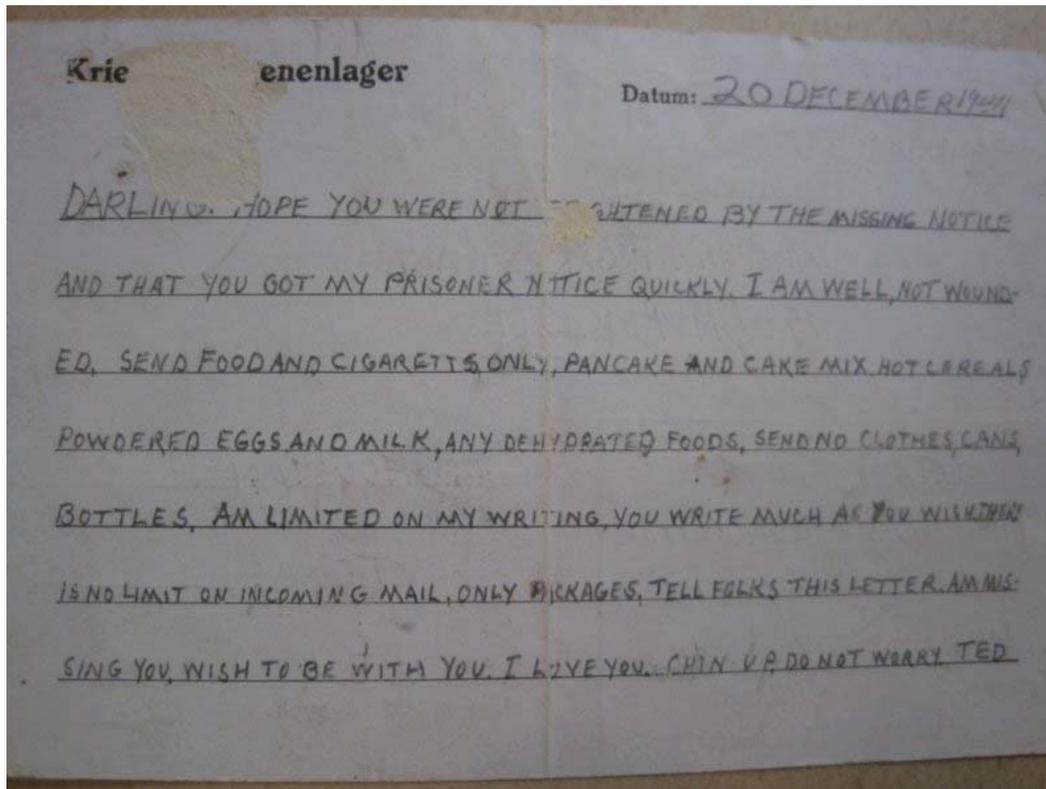


On March 9, 1989, an official League Flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda where it will stand as a powerful symbol of national commitment of America's POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for US personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "*as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation*".

Another similar but slightly different history can be found on Wikipedia at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/POW/MIA_flag



Referring to Thurston “Ted” Q. Garrett, Jr. and his wife, Ann T. Garrett.... “Can you believe it? The end of the letter just amazes me” – ‘I love you. Chin up. Do not worry.’ “He’s offering encouragement to her when as he told me, they had very little warm clothing and often times slept 2 to a bunk to keep warm because the beddings were minimal, and then they really froze when the Nazis marched them out of Poland as the Russians were moving in. Truly an incredible individual – really the two of them. I can only hope to be half as good and strong in times of crisis as they were.”

Submitted by Donald Cohn, nephew of the late Thurston “Ted” Garrett.

Michael J. Calpin is now identified on our website: Third Row, 1st one on the left. Submitted by Michael’s daughter-in-law, Deborah Calpin.



What is P. O. Box 1142? From Wikipedia.com

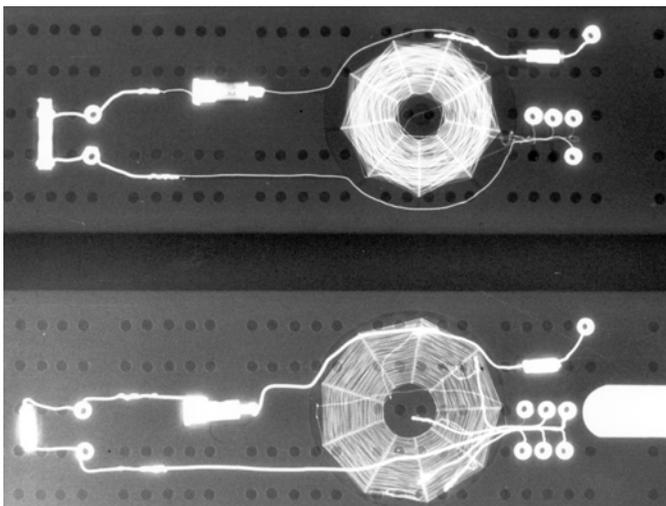
P.O. Box 1142 was a secret American military intelligence facility that operated during World War II. The American Military Intelligence Service had two special wings whose core duty was to interview the Prisoners of War (POWs), known as MIS -X and MIS -Y. They were known by their codename, the mailing address "P.O. Box 1142." Notable prisoners housed at the facility included rocket scientist Werner von Braun, spymaster Reinhard Gehlen, and Heinz Schlicke, inventor of infrared detection. German U-Boat commander Werner Henke was also a prisoner.

P.O. Box 1142 was based out of Fort Hunt, Virginia, formerly part of George Washington's farmlands. German scientists, submariners and soldiers were questioned. P.O. Box 1142 obtained valuable intelligence from German POWs and also communicated with Allied POWs overseas. The camp was in violation of the Geneva Conventions because the Red Cross was not notified of the transfer or location of the prisoners, but according to the surviving wardens torture was not used. The work done at Fort Hunt contributed to the Allied victory of World War II. It also led to advances in scientific technology and military intelligence that directly influenced the Cold War. In October 2007, a group of the former intelligence workers gathered for the first time since the war's conclusion, and a flagpole and plaque recognizing their contributions were dedicated on the original grounds.



The camp was started in 1942; the majority of the camp facilities were bulldozed in 1946. The post commanders were: Col Daniel W. Kent (1 July 1942 to 21 October 1942); Col Russell H. Sweet (21 October 1942 to 1 February 1943); Col. John L. Walker (1 February 1943 to 18 July 1945); and Col. Zennas R. Bliss (18 July 1945 to post closure).

What is MIS-X? US Air Force Fact Sheet



X-ray photograph of radio concealed in a cribbage board. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Modeled on the British escape branch M.I.9, the top secret MIS-X (Military Intelligence Service-X) organization gave U.S. service personnel formal training and special tools for escape and evasion. Their efforts helped those airmen who were evading and those who had become POWs.

MIS-X craftsmen modified common items found in POW aid packages to conceal hidden maps, radios, saws, compasses, and money, among other things. MIS-X also employed the help of several companies, which inserted material as part of the manufacturing process. To avoid compromising genuine aid societies, MIS-X sent these items to POWs in parcels shipped under the cover of fictitious aid organizations.

MIS-X aided several of the 737 U.S. military members who successfully escaped from German POW camps during WWII. Perhaps more importantly, MIS-X maintained contact with U.S. POWs at 64 German camps, both giving and receiving useful and timely information from the so-called "barbed wire front."

At the end of the war, the War Department disbanded MIS-X and most of the material related to this highly secret organization was destroyed.

ITEM COMMENTS

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



The Post 64 ITEM still tickles the heart, particularly hearing (or seeing photos) about the old Tunisia group who are still on foot! ~ **Bill Cory, Naples FL**

I enjoyed reading the recent ITEM. ~ **Rosa Lee, Ft. Pierce FL**

Ed Batte enjoys reading the newsletter ~ **Margaret Moore, Sanford NC** (daughter of Ed Batte)

The 4th Quarter Item was GREAT !! All that contributed to it did a wonderful job. ~ **Bob O'Neill, Prescott AZ**

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OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

I have just found this site. Thank you! Thank you for your dedication to keeping this alive! ~ **Mary Stiverson Ekroos, Corpus Christi TX**

This is a great historical site. ~ **Sarah Wood Page**

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Leslie A. Ford Bestulic – Daughter of the late Kriegy Russell M. Ford

Scott Bryan – Researching POWs from 26th Inf. Reg., 1st Inf. Div.

Deborah Calpin – Daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Michael J. Calpin

Donald Cohn – Great Nephew of the late Kriegy Thurston “Ted” Q. Garrett, Jr.

Mary Stiverson Ekroos – Daughter of the late Kriegy William K. Stiverson

Stephen Fried – Great Nephew of the late Kriegy Irving J. Yarock

Katelyn Gaich – Granddaughter of the late Kriegy Peter N. Gaich

James W. Kent – Contacted us through our website

Lawrence J. McDermott Jr., Esq. – Friend of the late Kriegy Victor D Danylik

Irene McNeil – Interviewer (interview with Sid Thal, subsequent 2-hr. video cablecast in New Jersey)

Sarah Wood Page – Granddaughter of the late Kriegy Hollis B. Wood

Chris Person – Relative of the late Kriegy Alvin R. Robin

Tracy J. Robin – Son of the late Kriegy Alvin R. Robin

Tiffany Skidmore – Granddaughter of Kriegy Herm Littman (doing research for a grant she’s received)



PUBLICATIONS

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

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.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/B0007E4UA>
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
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0
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 or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1
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
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway, Osprey HD, 192 E Bay St, Ste 300A, Charleston SC 29401-2701, (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway, Osprey HD)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1
15. **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. (Available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1
17. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1
18. **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
19. **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

Other Publications

The publications listed immediately below are out of print but the online versions can now be accessed by logging onto our website at www.oflag64.us. Click on the Looking for Lost Men link at the lower left of the Database page or click on the Brave Young Men link on the POW Accounts page.

**Original Roster-Oflag 64
The Oflag 64 Directory
The Men of Oflag 64**

**Database
Database
Database**

**Hammelburg Roster
Tribute to TF Baum**

**Database
POW Accounts**

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

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

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

Vic Kanners Diary. Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, dkanners@comcast.net

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

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

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

TAPS

Michael J. Calpin 1916~2010



Lt. Col. Michael J. Calpin (ret.), 94, of Scranton, died Friday in Shady Grove Hospital Adventis Hospice, Rockville, Md. His wife, Nan R. Scott Calpin, died Oct. 19, 2009.

Born in Scranton, son of the late Michael and Anna Golden Calpin, he was a member of St. Clare's Church. He was an Army career veteran, having served in [World War II](#), where he was a prisoner of war and received the [Bronze Star](#), Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Theater Operations Medal, Army Occupational Medal and Reserve Medal for National Defense. He and his wife, Nan, enjoyed traveling the world.



Michael was a loving and devoted father and grandfather who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Surviving are a son, Michael J. Calpin Jr. and wife, Deborah, Port Orange, Fla.; two daughters, Susan M. Nalley and husband, Donald, Potomac, Md.; and Kathleen Heerd and husband, Phillip, Hedgesville, W.Va.; five grandchildren, Sarah Brown, Erin Justiniano, Sarah Murray, Heather Hall and Michael Heerd; six great-grandchildren, Madeline Justiniano, Kianna Robinson, Christopher and Camden Hall, Noelle Robinson and Kipton Brown; nieces, nephews and cousins. He was also preceded in death by a brother, James Calpin; and four sisters, Anne Kearney, Mary Gibbons, Alice Harvey and Catherine Healy.

The funeral will be Wednesday at 9 a.m. from the McGoff-Hughes Funeral Home Inc., 1401 Capouse Ave., with Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 in St. Clare's church, North Washington Avenue, Scranton. Interment, St. Catherine's Cemetery, Moscow. Friends may call Tuesday, 4 to 8 p.m.

Published in Scranton Times on 12/26/2010

Richard B. Parker 1923~2011

Died of heart failure in his residence in Washington,



DC on January 7. There will be a service at Arlington National Cemetery at 11 a.m. on February 3, 2011.

Loving husband of Jeanne J. Parker, father of Alison P. Kenway, of Portland, Maine, Jeff D. Parker, Boston, Jill P. McGill, Arlington, Virginia, and Richard J. Parker, also living in Boston. He had nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His contributions to his country and his colleagues are too numerous to list. A career Foreign Service office who served as Ambassador to Algeria, Lebanon, and Morocco, he continued his service in retirement as editor of the Middle East Journal, college professor, and author of over a half-dozen well-received books, including "Uncle Sam in Barbary", which won the C. Douglas Dillon prize for a work on American diplomatic practice. His "Practical Guide to the Islamic Monuments of Cairo" introduced many to the glories of medieval Cairo, much less known than the Pharaonic sites.



He organized groundbreaking conferences on the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars, gathering retired officials from all sides to discuss their versions of what led to those crises and how their governments reacted to them. The results were published by the University Press of Florida in two books: "The Six-Day War, a Retrospective" and "The October War, a Retrospective." In June 2004, he received the American Foreign Service Association's lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy award.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, which he helped to create in 1986 (4000 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22204).

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jeanne J. Parker, originally from Manhattan, Kansas, who accompanied him on his many adventures.

Published in The Washington Post on January 19, 2011

His online obituary was also found at:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/Obituary.aspx?pid=147923032>

His online guestbook was found at:
<http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/washingtonpost/guestbook.aspx?n=richard-parker&pid=147923032&cid=full>

Alvin Robert Robin

1922~2010



ROBIN, Alvin Robert, 88, passed away December 23, 2010, in Tampa. A native and lifelong resident, he graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1940 and the University of Florida in 1946. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army, E

Company, 60th Infantry, 9th Div., and survived the German prison camp Oflag 64. His professional career spanned nearly 40 years in the title insurance industry. He was president of Guaranty Title Company, and president of Florida Southern Abstract & Title Co. He also served as President of the Florida Land Title Association; President of the American Land Title Association; was a member of St. Johns Episcopal Church, Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club, and Tampa Rotary Club; and an amateur radio operator (KD4AD). Alvin loved the Lord and his family, and will be dearly missed. He is survived by his loving wife, Martha; his sons, Tracy J. Robin (JoRie), and Brion T. Robin; and three grandsons, Jonathon, Stephen, and James. He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip R. Robin and Pearl King Robin; his first wife, Mae B. Robin; and an infant son, Phillip W. Robin. A private interment will take place at Myrtle Hill Cemetery. Please sign the online guestbook at:



www.blountcurrymacdill.com

Published in the St. Petersburg Times and in the TBO.com on December 26, 2010

from Sicily, Italy, Giuseppe and Anna Tortorici Tamborello, and Giuseppe and Antoinette (Lena) Roppolo Salvato. Ann was an avid card and domino player as well as golfer and member of Houston's Golfcrest CC then later La Marque's former Lakeview CC. She also enjoyed traveling overseas, needlework, visitors to her home, and cooking, always insisting you eat when you were at her home. She was a loving and devoted daughter, sister, mother, aunt, great aunt, and friend to all who knew her. She is survived by an extended family with members of the Houston/Galveston area including nieces: Virginia Lee Ennis, Sharon Ann Axton, Janet Lee Bean (of North Carolina); nephews: Donald Kirk Leufven, Van Michael Cawfield, and Gary Lynn Johnson and his wife Yvonne (of Nacogdoches, TX); great niece Jacquelyn Ann Cohn (named in honor of Ted and Ann's late daughter) and her husband Donald and their four children: Jack Garrett (named in honor of Ted), Maryella Fife, Anna Clare (named in honor of Ann) and Joseph Condon. Ann is also survived by her devoted card and domino friends, Elvira Haymon, neighbors and city staff from the Bayou Vista area (especially following Hurricane Ike), and the staff of Clary's Seafood Restaurant. The family wishes to thank the staff of Home Instead Care as well as Hospice during these past few difficult weeks as we could not have made Ann's last few weeks as safe and peaceful without your assistance. At Ann's request, there will be no visitation services at Forest Park Lawndale Sunnyside Mausoleum for her final interment. In lieu of flowers or customary remembrances, Aunt Ann requests that donations be made to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American POWs, Salvation Army, Cancer Research, or the charity of your choice. Honorary Pallbearers will be: Van Cawfield, Donald Leufven, Gary Johnson, Donald Cohn, Jack Garrett Cohn, and Jack Corey.

Ann Tamborello Garrett

1912~2010

MRS. ANN TERESA TAMBORELLO GARRETT



passed away at home from this life the 1st day of November, 2010 in Bayou Vista, Texas at the age of 98. Born July 4th, 1912 in Dickinson, TX, Ann was the first of

four daughters born to her late parents Michael and Iathicchias (Ida) Salvato Tamborello. Ann was married on January 18th, 1936 to her late husband of 60 years, Thurston (Ted) Quincy Garrett, Jr.; and was also preceded in death by their only child, Jacquelyn Ann; Ann's dear sisters, Lena Antoinette (Lee), Josephine, and Mary Alice; and Ann's grandparents

