



# The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association  
(POVA)

[www.usapova.com](http://www.usapova.com)

1 September 2016

Dear POVA Members and Friends,

The old expression goes "when one door closes, another one opens." This may be a different context, but in a very real sense, POVA's 2016 Fayetteville reunion closed the door on our past, and started us on a new one with even more potential challenges and rewards than we've experienced before. With a new team of officers, amended Constitution, and a new focus on building POVA chapters and raising funds to help those who help our fellow veterans, POVA is started down a path we've not previously visited.

The theme for our reunion was simple: "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." As you'll see through the newsletter, POVA continues to transition from an organization focused solely on reunions of old friends to one focused also on taking actions to help others by raising funds and supporting those organizations which help our fellow veterans. We will continue to cherish our "past," recognize and support our "present," and continue to execute toward a vital and meaningful "future."

Thanks to all who helped to make our reunion such a resounding success. The list is long, but let me highlight a few key people who made the hard planning work and ultimate execution so successful:

- **Rich Hosier, POVA's new VP Finance & Member Development**, for his tireless planning, attention to detail, energy and passion. Rich is the single major factor in the Reunion's ultimate success.
- **Beverly Lowden of Phoenix Mission**, an organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged veterans. Beverly's extensive marketing, sales, and organizing experience were so helpful in setting us up with branded POVA merchandise, helping coordinate hotels and meal planning, helping us make this a most welcome event! You are truly awesome, Beverly.
- **Mike Stoeckert, POVA's past president and President Emeritus**, who "cleared the way" for the planning crew to do the things we were able to do. Mike advised and guided us in virtually every aspect of the work done to make the reunion successful, and provided us with friendship, support, and encouragement.

We've got a great start on the 2016-2018 Biennium, but much remains to be done. With the support and contribution of our members, POVA will become even stronger in both the PSYOP and veteran communities.

In Brotherhood,

Chad Spawr  
Co-Founder & President

## **2016 Biennial Reunion is in the Books**

After a full year of intensive planning, POVA has successfully executed its Biennial Reunion in Fayetteville. There are so many highlights and excellent experiences that we'll be able to do little more than hit the most significant. Here are the highpoints of the Reunion events:

**Friday 12 August:** We visited the Airborne & Special Operations Museum (ASOM) in Fayetteville. This phenomenal museum does an excellent job displaying the history of the Army's airborne and special operations forces since the 1940's. The numerous displays with photo's, equipment, displays, etc., are very well done! With the excellent support of Executive Director Paul Gallaoway and SFC Charles Brandon, who manages the full range of displays for the Army, POVA held its business meeting in a beautiful auditorium. Key outcomes of our business meeting include:

✓ **Election of new officers for the 2016-2018 Biennium:**

President	Chad Spawr
First VP	Stu Clark
VP Fin & Member Dev.	Rich Hosier
VP Corp. Relations	Curt Boyd
VP & Chaplain	John Cheney
Trustees (7)	Mike Stoeckert, Rick Hofmann, Doug Elwell, Hammond Salley, Matt Robbins, Howard Patrick, Larry Dietz

- ✓ Passage of a package of amendments to the POVA Constitution which will improve our internal processes, authorize formation and operation of POVA chapters, and establish a fund-raising and philanthropic capability to assist disadvantaged veterans

- ✓ Approved a program of recognitions and special awards as follows:

- Inaugurated POVA's new and most prestigious award, the **"Exemplar of Military Psychological Operations,"** awarded to the "Class of 2016 Members:"

**COL-Ret. Alfred Paddock Jr;**  
**MAJ-Ret. Raymond P. Ambrozak.**

Both recipients are long-standing POVA Life Members.

- **"President Emeritus"** awarded to past President Mike Stoeckert for his excellent service as President since 2008.
  - **"Honorary Life Member"** of POVA, awarded to B. Michael Paschkes, a recognition long overdue.
  - Approved Life Member award to Honor graduates of the PSYOP Qualification Course.
  - **"Masters of the Word,"** a rostered recognition of those PSYOP veterans and POVA members who are valued contributors, leaders and supporters of POVA. POVA will maintain this roster as we go forward.
- ✓ Approved an incremental increase of supporting funds to the Joint POVA-POA Family Assistance Fund, currently administered by POVA Trustee Doug Elwell.



***ASOM Exec Director Paul Galloway awards 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pins to POVA's Viet-Nam Veterans at the Museum***

While at the ASOM, we were unexpectedly "called out" to the main lobby by ASOM Executive Director Paul Galloway who proceeded to honor all our Viet-Nam veterans with a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin commemorating the start of the "American" involvement in that war. It was very moving, and we are all most appreciative of this unanticipated recognition for our service. Having that recognition at the ASOM was even more meaningful.

Thanks to Paul Galloway and to the ASOM staff for this significant honor and respect.



On Friday evening, we met at the Special Forces Association park grounds on Doc Bennett Road for a truly awesome BBQ dinner, catered by Fat Daddy. The BBQ was excellent, the SF grounds were beautiful, and we had a great time.

At the end of the BBQ, we were serenaded by Piper Doug Elwell. Doug's piping is amazing, and on a very warm night, he went above and beyond to entertain us. He is a great asset to POVA!

Many thanks to Jack Tobin, past president of the Special Forces Association for providing the use of the SF Association grounds for our BBQ. Jack was unable to attend due to a family emergency, but we are grateful for the grounds, and for the invaluable advice he has given POVA and we've remarked on a future-focused growth strategy. Thanks Jack!

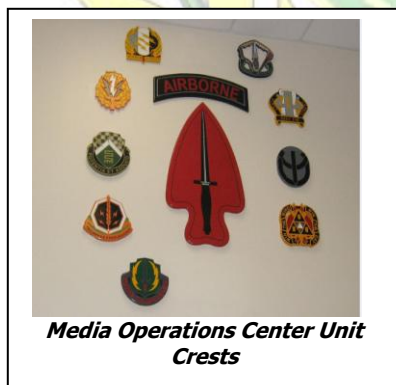


**L-R: Dave Hagen (seated), Shirley Elwell, COL-Ret. Curt Boyd, USAF-R MSGT Ryan Spawr, POVA President Chad Spawr**



As our BBQ time wound down, we were serenaded by Pipe Doug Elwell. Doug's music is always very much appreciated. Doug also piped us to dinner on Saturday evening for the Reunion Banquet, and then closed the festivities with "Amazing Grace." Truly awesome!

**Saturday 13 August:** We departed our hotel on a tour bus to visit the Michael A. Merkel Media Operations Center (MOC) at Ft. Bragg. We were greeted by COL Robert A. B. Curriss, Commanding Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Military Information Support Command (Airborne) and members of his 3d Battalion staff. COL Curriss gave us an excellent tour of the MOC. The MOC is named in honor of 1LT Michael Merkel, a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Bn who was killed in Viet-Nam in March 1968. This is a truly remarkable facility. While at the MOC, COL Curriss gave us a briefing on current activities of the 4<sup>th</sup> Group's several battalions as they are deployed in the US and around the world in support of US policy.



**Media Operations Center Unit Crests**



**At the MOC....COL Robert A. B. Curriss & POVA Members**

Departing the MOC, we visited the facilities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Military Information Support Battalion (Airborne). Known to many of those in attendance as the 6<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion, this battalion is the heritage and history of today's modern Psychological Operations in the US Army. It is a proud Battalion, commanded by LTC Michelle Cook. Unfortunately, LTC Cook is on deployment; in her place, MAJ Tony James, Executive Officer, provided a briefing on activities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. MAJ James is an experienced PSYOP officer and great friend of POVA. Many thanks to COL Curriss and MAJ James for their friendship, support, and contribution to making our visit to our PSYOP "home" a truly successful experience. You make us all proud to be part of the legacy you continue to build.



**Saturday evening**, we held our traditional Reunion Banquet at the DoubleTree Inn. A social hour preceded the "call to dinner" by Piper Doug Elwell. Of perhaps greatest significance in the pre-dinner agenda was POVA's "Rose Ceremony," in which our Association honors those PSYOP soldiers who have died while in foreign service to our nation. At our "Missing Man" table, a large vase was placed, containing 38 red roses, one for each of our honored dead. Then, as their names were read aloud by President Emeritus Mike Stoeckert, a dog tag for each man was hung on a Soldier's Cross by Chad Spawr, Rich Hosier, and Howard Patrick.

Our "Missing Man" table was marked by a folded American flag, and an original Purple Heart presentation set awarded to a combat-wounded POVA member. Each of the banquet tables was named after a PSYOP soldier who has been significant to the PSYOP profession, or who has been a significant factor in the history and growth of POVA.



**Missing Man Table named in Honor of 6<sup>th</sup> Bn KIA Pedro Aflague Cruz**



**Missing Man Table and Soldier's Cross Memorial Honoring our Lost Psywarriors**



**From left: MG Daniel R. Ammerman, POVA President Chad Spawr, BG-Ret. Ferd Irizarry**

Prior to dinner, some very special guests were introduced who represented a key element of the theme of POVA's 2016 reunion: yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The symbology may be rough, but all three parts of the theme were represented in the banquet hall....."yesterday" in the form of the assembled veteran members of POVA; "today" in the form of our guest speaker, MG Daniel R. Ammerman and MAJ Joseph Lane, current S-3 of the Army's PSYOP Training conducted by the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Group; "tomorrow" in form of the two PSYOP students invited as honor graduates of the current PSYOP Qualification Course.

These were CPT Kelley Jhong, POQC Distinguished Honor Graduate; and SSG Paul Lawrence who achieved the Commandant's List at POQC. These two excellent students were awarded POVA Life Member certificates and Life Membership pins in recognition of their superior performance.



**L-R: MAJ Joe Lane, S3; CPT Kelley Jhong, SSG Paul Lawrence**



**MG Daniel R. Ammerman, CG/USACAPOC**

Following dinner, our guests were addressed by Major General Daniel R. Ammerman, Commanding General of the US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC). MG Ammerman spoke about the substantial

role played by the Army Reserve's PSYOP Groups and units which are heavily involved in providing tactical PSYOP support to US military units deployed overseas in the current environments. He also alluded to POVA's theme of "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," addressing the history, the present day, and the future of both POVA and military psychological operations. MG Ammerman is a very inspirational speaker, and we appreciate his friendship and support very deeply.

### **POVA Grants First-Ever "Exemplar of Military Psychological Operations" Awards**

One of the final events of our Reunion Banquet was an award ceremony. POVA has created the "Exemplar of Military Psychological Operations" award to honor those persons whose PSYOP duties, performance, leadership, and training of others has made them clear leaders and contributors to the arts and practices of military PSYOP. The inaugural awards honored COL-Ret. Alfred H. Paddock Jr. and MAJ-Ret. Raymond Ambrozak. Both are long-time POVA Life Members who have been tremendous contributors to both the PSYOP profession and to POVA and our members.



*Theresa and Al Paddock*



*L-R: Ann Ambrozak, David Ambrozak, Ray Ambrozak*

### **Drawings, Raffles, and Unique Prizes**

At the end of our award presentations, POVA conducted a 50/50 raffle which grossed approximately \$240; held drawings for several additional prizes, and held a special "shirt" drawing, whereby each attendee wearing a POVA-branded shirt was given a ticket for a special prize. New Life Member Ramon Pangelinan won the 50/50 drawing; the remainder of the prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders drawn from the 50/50 ticket holders.



*"Shirt drawing" winner Julie Tipton*



*Snake Wine (Whiskey?) donor Tony Newcomb with Winner Bob Curris...careful when you open that bottle!*

The "shirt" drawing prize was an excellent collection of Michigan cherry products, won by new Life Member Ben Tipton and wife Julie. However, perhaps the most "unique" drawing prize was for a one-of-a-kind bottle of Vietnamese Snake Whiskey. Yes, it is exactly what you imagine. It is made of fermented rice wine in which a number of formerly dangerous serpents have been "enshrined." In this particular bottle we could see a cobra, and Bamboo viper, and several less "dangerous" jungle denizens. This bottle, donated by Life Member Tony Newcomb,



was won by another new Life Member, Bob Curriss, CO of the 4<sup>th</sup> MISOC (A) who was our host at the MOC tour. Having experienced this "drink" last year with my son in Viet-Nam, I can tell you it is unique, and more pleasant than one's imagination might expect. Congratulations to all!

### **Reunions.....and then Reunions**

This group was with 4th PSYOP Group, 7th Bn, Det. 2 at Dong Ha Combat Base in direct support of the 3rd Marine Division. We were in country in 1969-1970.

From left to right we have Ed Dulka (The Hulk) from Conn., Robert Bouchard (Whoman) from Maine, Pete Hollis (Pistol Pete) from Boston, Al Risberg (Big Al) Bald Nob, Ark. and Stanley Michelsen (Stan the man) from NC. We get together every other year at Lake Lure, NC and this year coincided with the PSYOP Reunion at Fort Bragg.



We hope you all had a wonderful reunion - we sure did. It's always great getting together with your brothers. I'm glad to see that Chad has put POVA back together. You've done a great job my friend. All the best to the entire PSYOP family.

### **POVA Inducts New Life Members**

POVA is pleased to welcome announce the addition in July and August of new Life members to our Association. These include

Daniel R. Ammerman  
Benjamin Tipton  
Timothy Fitzpatrick  
Mike Paschkas

Kelley Jhong  
Paul Lawrence  
Donald Miller  
Ramon Pangelinan

Thomas Sweeney  
Robert A. B. Curriss  
Alan Byrne  
John-Matthew Urby

### **POVA's Life Members**

Many thanks to each and every Life Member for your invaluable support, guidance, and brotherhood over the years.

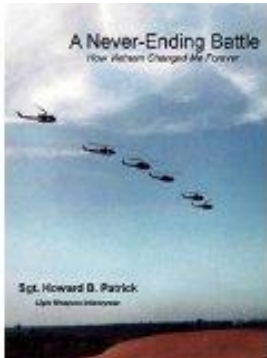
David Schultz  
David Albanese  
David Affleck \*  
John Henry "Jack" O'Neil \*  
Alfred Paddock  
John Cheney  
Arlo Despain  
William Forgey  
Eric Hersh  
Rick Hofmann  
Stanley Michelsen  
Hammond Salley  
James Osborne  
Chad Spawr  
Jim Danger Fisher  
Dennis Smiser

Rich Hosier  
Curtis Boyd  
Carrie Spivey-Vernon  
Lawrence Dietz  
Mike Stoeckert  
Ray Ambrozak  
Roxanne M. Merritt  
Norton "Tony" Newcomb  
Miguel Hobbs  
Ferdinand Irizarry II  
Joseph Meissner  
Floyd Turnquist  
Steven N. Collins  
Richard Caplin  
J. David Missavage  
Matthew F. Robbins

Benjamin Tipton  
Timothy F. Fitzpatrick  
B. Michael Paschkas  
Benjamin Tipton  
Kelley Jhong  
Paul Lawrence  
Robert A. B. Curriss  
Thomas Sweeney  
Ramon Pangelinan  
Donald Miller  
Alan Byrne  
Daniel R. Ammerman  
John-Matthew Urby

\*Deceased Life Member

**POVA Member offers FREE Download of his EXCELLENT book to help raise funds for fellow Veterans**



In our November "The Leaflet Drop," POVA presented an excellent book written by new POVA member Howard Patrick. It details his Viet-Nam combat experience with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, and then takes the reader "down the rabbit hole" which he experienced with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It is an honest, often painful, but well written story of the difficult Howard travelled to take his life back from this miserable and debilitating condition.

In an effort to assist POVA in its new fund-raising efforts to allow us to help other groups working with disadvantaged veterans, Howard has offered a FREE download of his book during the period 7-11 November 2016, the period immediately preceding and including Veterans Day. Here is Howard's offer in his own words:

**FREE KINDLE DOWNLOAD - Nov 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> in Honor of Veterans Day 2016!** Last Veterans Day I gave away almost 500 free kindle downloads of my book in the hopes it would give more veterans, and their families, a better understanding of combat PTSD, and specific information that might enable them to minimize its effects on their lives.

While my overall goal is the same for this Veterans Day, I am hoping to do even more for our combat veterans and their families. I recently became a member of the Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA – [www.usapova.com](http://www.usapova.com)), not only because it's a means to stay connected with other *Psywarriors*, but also because they have expanded their mission to provide financial assistance to wounded veterans and Gold Star families.

So here's what I am going to do to help that cause: I will donate a portion of all profits from the sale of my book for the 2017 calendar year. And to those of you who wish to also help that worthy cause, you can make a completely **voluntary** donation by going to the POVA Donate Page at

[www.povareunion2016.org/~shop/list/?prdPerPage=5&catId=62018](http://www.povareunion2016.org/~shop/list/?prdPerPage=5&catId=62018).

**A donation is NOT required to get the free download!** (POVA has applied for 501C Non-Profit Charity Status and is awaiting IRS approval). To get the free download, click on the Amazon link [www.amazon.com/dp/1507762909](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1507762909), then click on the **\$2.99 to buy**. At **Checkout**, the price will change to **\$0.00**. (If you don't have a Kindle, you can get the free Kindle app from the *App Store*, or the *Play Store* to read the book on any computer, tablet, or smartphone).

And to help me get the book into the hands of more people that could benefit from reading it, a **review** posted on the Amazon web page would be very much appreciated.

**Sound Off!**

A big "oops!" When putting the 1 August newsletter together, your editor erred by leaving the name of a long-time POVA Life Member off the list. Big mistake, and I'm very sorry that I overlooked my good friend J. David Missavage. Won't happen again, Dave! Please accept my apology.

Received a very nice note of thanks from Al and Theresa Paddock following the reunion:

*Chad,*

*Theresa and I returned today from Fayetteville, after having participated in the PSYOP Regimental Induction Ceremony on Tuesday night. I gave the keynote address, and afterward we circulated among the 76 graduates and other attendees. We were suitably impressed with this fresh group of PSYOPERS.*

*In any event, I want to express to you how much we enjoyed the POVA reunion. It was clear that you and your group worked hard to provide an excellent event, and you succeeded*



magnificently. I also was quite pleasantly surprised with the POVA Exemplar in Military Psychological Operations Award that you presented to me. This recognition means a great deal to me at this point in my life, and I humbly thank you for bestowing the honor.

Let's stay in touch.

Al Paddock

Have questions, comments, complaints, or suggestions for your Association and/or its members? Please feel free to send any such commo to Chad Spawr, and the newsletter following receipt will include your note/comment. If you ask specific questions, we'll reply directly to you as appropriate, but will also include the answer with your question. If there is a question we cannot answer, we'll tell you that. Let's try it and see how it goes, OK?

### **A Closing thought about Reunions.....why do we do this?**

New POVA member, and friend since our time with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Howard "Pat" Patrick, sent me the following while we were in Fayetteville. He hit it right on the head. Feel free to share!

## **WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE**

I NOW KNOW WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE. NOT TO TELL STORIES OR LOOK AT OLD PICTURES.  
NOT TO WEEP OR LAUGH.

COMRADES GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH  
THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE ACTED THEIR BEST; WHO ONCE  
SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED, WHO WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR  
HUMANITY.

I DID NOT PICK THESE MEN, THEY WERE DELIVERED BY FATE  
AND THE MILITARY. BUT I KNOW THEM IN A WAY I KNOW NO  
OTHER MEN. I HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANYONE SUCH TRUST.

THEY WERE WILLING TO GUARD SOMETHING MORE  
PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE. THEY WOULD HAVE CARRIED MY  
REPUTATION... THE MEMORY OF ME.

IT WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN WE ALL MADE, THE REASON WE  
WERE ALL WILLING TO DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AS LONG AS I  
HAVE MEMORY, I WILL THINK OF THEM ALL, EVERY DAY.

I AM SURE THAT WHEN I LEAVE THIS WORLD, MY LAST  
THOUGHTS WILL BE OF MY FAMILY, AND MY COMRADES.

**SUCH GOOD MEN!"**

Not sure how this could be said any better! Thanks, Pat! Welcome Home, Brother.



## **A Matter of Great Honor**

As the newsletter was "going final" this evening, your Editor received a call from POVA Life Member Ray Ambrozak, recipient of POVA's "Exemplar of Military Psychological Operations" designation and award. Ray advised that he has been selected by the Commanding General of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Ft. Bragg for appointment as a **Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR)** in the Army's Psychological Operations Regiment. The DMOR award is the Regiment's highest recognition of Ray's long-standing contributions and expertise, and parallels POVA's "**Exemplar of Military Psychological Operations**" designation. Ray has been a deeply valued member of POVA for over twenty years, and this recognition by the Regiment is yet another demonstration of the long-standing value he has brought to our profession.

Congratulations, Ray. Once again, you have earned this!

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<b>PSYOP Regimental Association Website</b>	<a href="http://www.psyopra.com">http://www.psyopra.com</a>	
<b>COL-Ret. Larry Dietz PSYOP Blog</b>	<a href="http://www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com">www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com</a>	

**In Closing** If you have a correction to previous information, or something you'd like to add to a future newsletter, send it to Chad at the email address listed above.

*In Brotherhood,*

*C. V. (Chad) Spawr*

**Chad Spawr**  
**President & Interim Editor**