San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

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By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Valedictorian Keung Vanh told a packed college graduation audience that when he came to prison 20 years ago, “I didn’t even have a high school diploma.”

On June 12, the standing-room-only Protestant Chapel served as an auditorium, as Vanh and eight other graduates also accepted their Associate of Arts degrees from the San Quentin Prison University Project.

In the audience were the graduates’ family members, community volunteers, PUP teachers, prison administrators and fellow prisoners.

Vanh began his valedictory speech by explaining how shyness, while growing up, made his educational journey challenging.

“Whenever my teacher asked me to repeat something, my shyness would keep me quiet,” Vanh said. “So, my third grade teacher questioned my ability to learn.”

Vanh said because of his quietness he was “labeled academically challenged and sent to remedial school.”

The experience had a lasting effect on his self-esteem, he said.

“After awhile I began believing this; then I started falling behind,” he said. “By the time I reached high school, I had new challenges — gang violence, which caused me to be kicked out of school three times.”

Vanh said his troubled life included committing criminal acts that led to imprisonment at age 16.

“When I first came to prison, I was locked in a cell 23 hours a day,” he said. “Then I began learning when a teacher came to prison.”

New York State Prison Refuses to Accept SQ News

A prison in New York State found San Quentin News unacceptable reading material for its inmates because the paper allegedly advocates lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the government.


“The Orleans Correctional Facility in Albion, N.Y. (near Rochester) evaluated the paper and circled two reasons why it wouldn’t be allowed into the prison population.”

“D. Any publication which advocates and presents a clear and immediate risk of lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the governmental authority is unacceptable.”

“E. The publication should not be allowed into the prison population.”

See NY on Page 5

Immigration Attorney Offers Answers to Deportation Policies

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By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

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See Immigration on Page 4

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

In the midst of NBA finals, Golden State Warriors General Manager Bob Myers and assistant GM Kirk Lacob played some basketball on their own against the San Quentin Warriors.

Myers played for the Green Team and led with 26 points and 23 rebounds in their 85-79 victory.

“I think it (coming into San Quentin) shows that we care and that people are people no matter what station you are in life,” said Myers.

It was June 6, the day before game two of the Golden State Warriors’ NBA finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers and the biggest moment for the Warriors in 40 years — the last time they reached the finals.

“When I play basketball, I forget about everything else. It’s a good release for my mind,” said Myers.

“Basketball is my calm place, my happy place,” added Lacob. “Having hard is a release from life. When I play basketball, I don’t have to worry about anything except what’s happening here on the court.”

It was a sunny day with a strong breeze that didn’t seem to hamper jump shots. The S.Q. Warriors came out in the first quarter with great energy and got off to a 4-0 run, then Myers nailed three-pointers back-to-back, taking the lead and setting the tone.

“I didn’t have to do a lot — just get the ball to Bob,” said Evan Fjelds.

Ben Illegodu defied the wind

See Warriors on Page 23

Prison University Project Celebrates 9 Graduates

See Get On The Bus on Page 12-13


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Warriors Compete Against Prisoners During NBA Finals

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94ers’ Chaplin Earl Smith And Players Tour San Quentin

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

San Francisco 49ers Chaplain Earl Smith returned recently to San Quentin with 44 members of the football organization.

“There is a thin line between players and inmates. You have a number and they have a number. What can we do to make a difference for both sides?” said Smith about why he brings the players into the prison.

Smith is a former San Quentin Protestant chaplain. He has brought 49ers into the prison for over 15 years and 49er legend Keena Turner has accompanied him about seven occasions.

The pastor started the IMPACT program inside San Quentin and is teaching those same principles to the professional football players.

IMPACT stands for Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things. It teaches that the male role belief system taught in the ghetto is wrong and IMPACT replaces the false beliefs with a positive way of thinking.

The June 3 tour started with the Niners being greeted by inmates Tommy Jenkins, John Windham, Clay Thompson, Adnan Khan, Leroy Lucas, Azrael "Big AZ" Ford, Sam Johnson, Miguel Quezada, Joey Mason, John Vaden, G. Lamumba Edwards, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll and Upa Uma.

Windley told the visitors about the realities of prison life and then everyone broke into separate groups for discussions.

Quarterback drone Dylan Thompson, a former South Carolina Gamecock, said, "It's cool that inmates still see value in people. Society sees you as outcasts. You could have chosen to say, 'Screw it, but you chose to make the best of it.'"

Turner said, "It’s impactful that you guys open up your experiences honestly with our guys. It gives us a chance to have a different perspective. Right after the tours, we have an open discussion about the visit to understand how real life is the choices that come down to a moment and their consequences."

For the rookies, coming in was a mandatory part of trying out for the Niners. However, several active players and coaches volunteered to join the tour.

Niner guard and center Joe Looney heard about how impactful the experience is from his brother James Looney, who plays football for the University of California, Berkeley.

The Cal Bear came in a few weeks before as part of the SQUIRES program, which offers a similar tour.

"A lot of guys here are real cool and they’re going to turn their lives together and making a change at the prison," Joe’s brother told him. Joe said he agrees now.

Torrey Smith, who was a Raven for four years, is now a Niner. He came in for the experience and to "put some smiles on people’s faces and be a light."

"As he toured the Prison Industry Authority section of the prison on where mattresses are made, it was "This is real close to home. I have a lot of people in the system that wanted to see what it’s like inside."

Thomas McGaughey, a former Eagle and Bengal, is now coaching for the 49ers.

He came in "just for the experience and to see the famous San Quentin. It’s not often you get to visit a historic landmark."

After leaving PLA, the Niners walked the yard, greeting fans, then toured the reception center and adseg upper yard.

"Torrey Smith! You stopped my Steelers from winning," said an inmate.

Current Niner Tony Jerod-Eddie said he came in because, "This is real close to home. I have a lot of people in the system that wanted to see what it’s like inside."

"There is a thin line between the two worlds and making a change at the prison, "Joe’s brother told him. Joe agrees now.

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"Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robison led the tour into the South dining hall where he pointed out accretes the art murals there hold, like a hidden demon, and how the pictures seem to change direction when looked at from different perspectives."

"I learned a lot of history and those drawings stuck with me," said Michael Davis, a rookie from South Dakota.

"After the tour, the Niners reported learning a lot."

"Iacles Blakeley (Deaky University) said, "People try guys with high profile status at clubs. Seeing the other side of bad consequence is a reminder to swallow my pride and keep it moving."

Former Niners head coach, Mike Tomlin, the new Niners head coach, couldn’t make it.

"He’s mad he couldn’t come. He got stuck in meetings with some big wig. He wanted to be here," said assistant coach Ryan Cordell.

Other members of the Niners who visited included:

- Dr. Harvey Edwards (49er staff), Pat Adler (Adarung), Markus Rush (Michigan State), Trent Brown (Florida), T.C. McCurt- ney (coach), Blake Bell (Okha- baia), Ian Silverman (Boston College) and NFL draft round pick, DeAndre Campbell (University of Washington), De- Andre White (University of Alabama), James Hall (director of player engagement), Buster Anderson (South Carolina), De- Andre Smelter (Georgia Tech), Jermaine Whitehead (Miami), and Eric Wolford (coach).

Pastor Earl Smith (Niners Hoodie) walking with several 49ers players including Tony Jerod-Eddie, Joe Looney, Torrey Smith (Black V-Neck T-shirt) and San Quentin Graduate School of Journalism South Block Director, Jon Spurlock.

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism.

In collaboration with students from the

San Quentin News is printed by Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael, with donations from supporters.

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting: Limit your articles to no more than 350 words. • Know that articles will be edited for content and length. • The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

• Please do not use offensive language in your submissions. • Poems and art work (caricatures and drawings) are welcomed. • Letters to the editor should be short and to the point. Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin Education Dept. / SQ News 1 Main Street San Quentin, CA 94964 To receive a copy of the San Quentin News, send $1.61 and a stamp for postage to: 1 Main Street San Quentin, CA 94964

The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

Wireless Office ............ Lt. Robert Grimes............. Jon Spurlock

CSP Public Information Officer ............ Kristina Klock/Robert

Editor ............ Jon Spurlock....................... Jon Spurlock

Managing Editor ............ Jon Spurlock....................... Jon Spurlock

Wellington Editor ............ Kevin D. Saury....................... Kevin D. Saury

Staff Writer ............ Miguel Delgado....................... Miguel Delgado

Staff Writer............. Wesley King....................... Wesley King

Sports Editor ............ Rahsaan Thomas....................... Rahsaan Thomas

Adviser ............................ Jon Spurlock....................... Jon Spurlock

Graphic Designer ............ Faezon Youn

Editor ............ Richard Alabanza

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The national movement to reform alternatives to jail programs for people with mental illness was implemented last year in Los Angeles County. The pilot program could dramatically change the landscape of the local jail system, said Karen Tamis of the Vera Institute of Justice, in a Los Angeles Times article.

"Los Angeles County has a real problem with people with mental health issues in the jail system," Tamis said. "This could have a very significant impact on the jail population as a whole."

"This is not a specialty court," Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told reporter Marisa Gerber. "It's a new time to evaluate Judge Steve Leifman, who helped start the Criminal Mental Health Project in Florida, said when the program started in 2000 the recidivism rate for low-level misdeemeanor offenders with mental illness was 72 percent. Now it is down to 20 percent.

The Miami-Dade plan, which included training thousands of police officers on how to deal with mentally ill people who have mental illnesses, cut the local jail population nearly in half and allowed the county to close one of its facilities, Gerber reported.

"It's time to stop bung- ging people who are mentally ill and grossly act out in the streets and our jails," said Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey. "This is an unconscionable waste of human life and money."

Getting prosecutors on board is one of the biggest ob- stacles, said Leifman. "With her (Lacey) buying in to it, it makes it so much more likely to succeed."

The program requires eligible defendants with serious men- tal health issues to go through a series of assessments and be paired with a care worker at San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center. The pro- gram's participants will then be placed in transitional housing, reported Gerber.

By John Lam

Congress is considering legislation to restore federal voting rights to former prisoners.

"The right to vote is the most basic constitutional act of citizen- ship," according to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, introduced March 18 and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

"An estimated 5,850,000 citi- zens of the United States, or about 1 in 40 adults in the Unit- ed States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison," the bill states.

The measure also says state disenfranchisement laws dis- proportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities.

"Given current rates of incar- ceration, approximately one in three of the next generation of African-American men will be disenfranchised at some point during their lifetime," the bill states.

"It is time to stop disenfranchising citizens based on their past release dates."

"This is not a specialty approach, but a collaborative focus will assist in reducing recidivism and promote recovery."

"An estimated 5,850,000 citi- zens of the United States, or about 1 in 40 adults in the Unit- ed States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction."

The bill titled "Democracy Restoration Act of 2015" says its purpose is "To secure the federal right to vote for citizens when they are released from incarceration."

The drafters of the bill stated that "disenfranchising citizens who have been convicted of a criminal offense and who are living and working in the com- munity serves no compelling state interest and hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Various states have their own rules regarding disenfranchise- ment. Only two states do not disenfranchise individuals with criminal convictions (Maine and Vermont).

In the 48 other states, citizens in some states may easily regain the right to vote, and in some others, the right to vote can be restored only through a pardon process, rights to vote can be restored only through a pardon process, while in some states the right to vote can be restored only through a pardon process, judges have the discretion to restore voting rights.

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The suit, according to Van Der Hout, was strategically filed in a U.S. District Court in Texas, where the ruling would be predictable, including the outcome on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit. An injunction remains in effect until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on whether a state can stop a federal immigration program.

Other issues that immigrants encounter in the United States were discussed, including protection for terrorists.

"Terrorism under immigration law could be as minimal as threatening to throw a rock at a building," said Van Der Hout. 

The "Los Angeles Eight" (Los Ocho de Los Angeles) are former members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) (El Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina), accused of ayotzinga materialistically to the terrorism to "distributing periodical" who argumented a communism idéologie.

Van Der Hout represento a este grupo in a case of "acquisitive selection." The abogado Van Der Hout dijo que los inmigrantes no pueden cl Deck a 2005 a the Supreme Court of the Estados Unidos la cual el caso fue finalmente re- suelto después de cinco años por la que el gobierno se vio obligado to deportar de los inmigrantes de Guatemala.

"They have 48 hours."

"How would you best describe the nexus between our immigration policies and mass incarceration?" asked inmate Tommy Gardner.

"It's a good question and cor- rect to ask," said Van Der Hout. "The number of people detained for immigration offenses is formidable." He said incarceration of immigrants is up dramatically, adding that the country’s largest and most legitimate political asylum claims.

"A lot of local jails have refused to incarcerate," said Van Der Hout. "California cooperates with the federal Detainers for Immigrants".

He said incarceration of immigrants has been dramatically up, adding that the country’s largest and most legitimate political asylum claims.

"How long will it be before you’re released?" asked an inmate. "Tienen 48 horas."

"¿Como describirías mejor el tiempo de la cárcel?" preguntó el reo Tommy Gardner.

"Es una buena pregunta," dijo Van Der Hout, "el número de inmigrantes detenidos para la inmigración es diez veces mayor."

El dijo que la encarcelación de inmigrantes ha aumentado dramáticamente, también in- cluyendo a los detenidos por derechos de asilo político legítimos.

"Muchas cárceles locales han negado cumplir las detenciones del ICE," dijo Van Der Hout. "Tienen 48 horas."

"¿Cuánto tiempo tiene la inmigración para recuperarse después de cumplir con la condición?" preguntó el reo.

Van Der Hout dijo, "Los inmigrantes pueden ser retenidos para la deportación de un inmi- grante, pero una condena de 364 días o menos les permite que- darse en el país.

"Un reo preguntó, "¿Cuánto tiempo tiene la inmigración para recuperarse después de cumplir con la condición?" dijo Van Der Hout, "Tienen 48 horas.

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Five criminal justice experts weighed in on suggestions Cali-
ifornia should pursue to reduce prison populations and improve public safety.
The article suggests California can learn from other states, including Texas, Illinois and Washington.

The article says Texas is one of the five states that have seen a decline in incarceration rates, and that California should consider emulating their strategies.

The article also discusses the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and its efforts to reduce recidivism rates.

The article argues that California should follow the lead of other states in focusing on rehabilitation and reducing recidivism, and that the CDCR should be held accountable for its performance.

The article concludes that California needs to prioritize investments in rehabilitation and education, and to reduce its reliance on incarceration as a punishment.
San Quentin News ‘Moves Forward’

By Arnaulfo T. Garcia  Editor-in-Chief

In 2008 Warden Robert Ayers removed San Quentin News from the shelf, dusted it off and put the responsibility of managing the newspaper in the hands of a group of inmates advised by retired professional journalists.

In our previous editorial, Steve McNamara wrote about the history of SQ News and how it was revived. What you didn’t read about were the dreams that the inmate staff has to expand the newspaper to nationwide circulation.

The inmate staff is aware of the many challenges they would face to fulfill this endeavor. Nevertheless, they have stayed true to their vision. It has been an enormous challenge to implement these commitments while working with the administration to further our goal.

SQ News wants the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to become fully acquainted with our ambitious plans.

We have evidence that our newspaper attracts attention throughout the California prison system and we think it is important to make the newspaper accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

Our purpose is to educate the inmate population about rehabilitation and changes in criminal justice policies that affect them and their families. Conscientious of that obligation, we have prepared a mission statement that reflects our goal.

Our Mission Statement: “We strive to report on forward-thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support changes in inmates’ behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.”

Our aim is to heighten social awareness that the incarcerated person has something to offer the community.

Since its renaissance, San Quentin News has gained the positive attention of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), where the newspaper is recognized as an official media outlet.

In 2012, Dr. William Drummond from UC Berkeley’s School of Journalism was asked to teach a Patten University class at the prison. When he became aware of the San Quentin News he immediately expressed an interest in working with the newspaper.

The following semester, Drummond brought in some of his UC students, who sat with our inmates and helped develop stories. The students were so impressed with the results of these efforts that many of them returned for a second semester.

Six months later, visits by Drummond’s journalism students are a regular part of the newspaper. Students eagerly register for his class, wanting to become a partner in the San Quentin News vision.

Dr. Drummond realized that in order for SQ News to meet its goal of putting a newspaper in the hands of every prisoner in CDCR, the staff would require guidance from business professionals.

Professor Drummond helped us broaden our vision by introducing our news program to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. In 2013, a group of MBA students from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business began meeting regularly with the SQ News staff to plan how to move the newspaper forward.

After weeks of interviewing, evaluating and assessing the feasibility of growing a small newspaper’s operation into a medium-size publication, the MBA students developed a business plan that outlines how SQ News could expand circulation to reach every California prisoner within 12 years.

The project was led by Jon Spurlock, MBA. Once the San Quentin News Project Report was completed, he assumed a continuing role as a business adviser to SQ News. His knowledge of business development provides direction on constructing an organization that will diversify and expand its efforts.

The newspaper’s internal operating being morphed to handle future growth. We want our supporters to think of this metamorphosis as analogous to that of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

Within a short time, the SQ News has attracted the attention of major media outlets such as the LA Times, New York Times, Washington Post and CNN. In 2014 SQ News won a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for “excellence in journalism under extraordinary circumstances.”

With assistance from Spurlock and Ward Lyons of Patten University, SQ News may be able to reach its goal in 10 years and reaching the goal in 15 years would still be considered successful. Of course, SQ News’ ability to grow depends foremost on the cooperation from the administration at San Quentin and CDCR Sacramento.

Paul Cobb, publisher and editor of Post News Group, an Oakland-based news group, was introduced to SQ News staff in 2014 and agreed to support the newspaper development. Cobb has also arranged to publish some of our articles in Post News Group papers to expand SQ News reader base.

The newspaper’s expansion in the seven years since its revival in 2008 has been impressive. It is now read in 21 of the 34 state’s prisons and has a goal to give every prisoner in the system access to the San Quentin News.

For the SQ News to expand its reader base, we must continue to raise the necessary funds. It is important for all financial supporters, subscribers and readers to understand that the path of success will not come easy.

SQ News’ supporters past, present and future also should know that this prison newspaper operates without financial support from the state of California.

As one of the only prisoner-run newspapers in the country, if not the world, we strive to be on the leading edge of prison innovation. We want to lead by example. We want for our fellow prisoners what we want for ourselves. That is, the ability to enhance ourselves with knowledge and embrace truth so that we, too, see our future.

Harry Legrand, Vice Chancellor for student affairs, at Berkeley presents William Drummond with the Chancellor’s award

Felicia Gaston, community organizer and Paul Cobb, Post News Group in the SQ News office

Adviser Jennifer Lyons  Adviser Jon Spurlock
In the State Assembly this project I wanted to give a voice to those with the least amount of access to communication and education system. These are stories of young lives reduced to a paragraph of information. What they have in common is poverty, violence and a diminished view of the possibilities that the world can offer, states Ross.

His book provides an intimate portrait of elementary success as a adult, a story for the their teens, all in confinement for juvenile delinquency or even murder. More than a focus on crimes that these youths have committed, Ross’s book captures the pure essence of young innocence and vulnerability that only a photograph can show. Picture an ordinary school kid from your average elementary school. Now imagine that child in a stark white cell, with a concrete slab for a bed, and a metal sink and toilet. Here they describe some of the crimes they committed that led to their confinement: “I’m from Newburgh. It’s a tough town. I think I was first charged when I was nine years old. I was a robbery look-out. I got caught in a big sayd they did in town. I’m still in elementary school,” says L.R., who is serving time in a Juvenile Treatment Center in Red Hook, New York. “When I was 11, I was taking away my whole life. My parents divorced when I was four. My mother physically abused me. I was asleep, so I took his gun and shot him. I pleaded guilty to manslaughter; I had just turned 14 when it happened. My brother and sister can’t visit. I miss them a lot. I don’t like showing my emotions. I would rather keep things neutral. If I let em emotions get into it, control can all fall away. Being locked away this is my way of strength.” – Z., 16, serving time in Juvenile Corrections Center, Nampa, Idaho.

For the past 20 years, Richard Ross has traveled 30 states to interview more than 1,000 incarcerated youths, all in confinement that the world can offer, states Ross. “I learned to speak to children in detention and confinement. I learned to neutralize the authority of my age, height and race by sitting on the floor and engaging in conversation and the conversation and the ways they have the option to talk about that…” Sitting on the floor of a cell and listening to a kid try to explain why his mother hasn’t visited him in the four years he has been in prison is an odd gift to be given.

According to the American Correctional Association, the study was $88,000 per year to incarcerate a single youth in a juvenile correctional facility. A four-year public university can cost less than $8,000 a year.

**Senate Pushes Bill 124 to Reduce Juvenile Solitary Confinement**

By Emily Harris Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Legislation that limits the use of solitary confinement at state and county juvenile correctional facilities is being pushed by the California Senate. It is now before the state assembly.

Senate Bill 124, authored by Sen. Mark Leno, creates state-wide standards that encouraging the use of less damaging and more effective disciplinary actions. The bill is similar to a settlement recently reached between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and disability rights advocates following allegations of solitary confinement of people with special needs youth in that county’s juvenile hall.

“Solitary confinement is an extraordinarily harmful discipline measure that has no rehabilitative purpose whatsoever,” said Sen. Leno, D-San Francisco. “It is inhumane to lock up young people in this way and deprive them of human contact, education, exercise and fresh air. This type of isolation is widely condemned and only exacerbates the problems that have led to their incarceration. We must provide these youth with treatment that addresses the root cause of their behavior and prevent them from becoming future productive members of our communities.”

SB 124 defines solitary confinement and permits its use in juvenile correctional centers only when young people in the juvenile justice system who committed suicide were isolated and alone when they died. In addition, more than 10 percent of young people in juvenile facilities who committed suicide had been in solitary confinement in the past.

“Experts agree that the practice of placing youth in solitary confinement can have lifelong negative psychological consequences because of their unique developmental needs,” said Martin Schwartz, a California Public Defenders Association board member. “With this bill, California joins a growing number of states who have banned solitary confinement or abolished solitary confinement for children.”

“We applaud members of the Senate for their leadership in passing SB 124,” Ross explains. “We are all in confinement for punitive reasons. Most recently, New York City banned the use of solitary confinement of youth 21 and younger.

“California uses harsh, and often long-term solitary confinement in both its youth and adult institutions,” said Kim McGill, an organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition who has also experienced solitary confinement. “These practices are outdated and debilitating to a person’s physical, emotional and mental well-being. The study was authored by James S. Catterall, University of California Los Angeles; Susan A. Dumas, Louisiana State University; and Gillian Hampden-Thompson, University of York, and the NEA. The study was authored by James S. Catterall, University of California Los Angeles; Susan A. Dumas, Louisiana State University; and Gillian Hampden-Thompson, University of York, and the NEA. According to the Los Angeles Times, 13 states authorize solitary confinement for punitive reasons. Most recently, New York City banned the use of solitary confinement of youth 21 and younger.

Senator Mark Leno

**Focus on Arts Boosts Grades and Later Success**

By John Lam Journalism Guild Writer

Students who are trained in the arts perform better in school and enjoy a greater chance of becoming productive members of our communities.”

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‘Get On The Bus’ Offers San Quentin Inmates the Chance to Visit Loved Ones

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

For Brian Asey, doing time at San Quentin State Prison means being far away from his son and daughter who are living in Southern California. “It’s hard to be a parent behind bars because I’m not there when they need me,” he said. “It’s frustrating. All I can do is call or write letters.”

Asey’s son, nephew and mother took advantage of Get on the Bus (GOTB), a nonprofit organization that coordinates with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to bring children to incarcerated parents on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

This was the fourth year in a row Asey has benefited from the GOTB program. “I missed seeing my daughter this time,” Asey said. “They keep me strong in here. It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids.”

Guy Miles hangs out with his love ones

“Get On The Bus volunteers to the children and their guards during the bus ride. “I think it’s really wonderful to see families connecting,” said Tapia, a school counselor who works with children of incarcerated parents. “I see how challenging it is for the kids,” she said. “It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids.”

Darnell “Moe” Washington’s daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart.

Travis Banks with his daughter

“We miss his presence in the family,” his sister Melinda said. “He’s the glue that keeps us together.”

Washington’s daughter, Destiny, attends college in New Orleans and majors in psychology. “We have a good bond,” she said. “I learn a lot about what he does in Restorative Justice.”

Washington, who has been incarcerated for 18 years, said, “The biggest difference in me from the person I was, is that today is that I am able to forgive through the practices of Restorative Justice.”

Visits from family and friends offer a means of establishing, maintaining, or enhancing social support networks, according to a study by Minnesota Department of Corrections Research Director, Grant Duwe.

The study finds that visitation can reduce recidivism by maintaining prisoners’ social ties with family members, and by helping prisoners develop new bonds with clergy or mentors. In doing so, offenders can sustain or broaden their networks of social support.

Stacey Bullocks and daughter Criya

Darnell “Moe” Washington’s daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart.

Maintaining good communications with children and incarcerated parents has even gotten the attention of the children’s television show, Sesame Street.

“Children are paying for a crime that they didn’t commit,” said Amalia Molina, executive director of Get on the Bus. “When the father goes to prison, it has a ripple effect on the child.”

The tips help prisoners deal with questions like: Where are you? When will you be home? Will I get to see you?

There are tips on helping the child feel comfortable during visits, on how to make the most of their visiting time, and how to make good-byes easier.

“The biggest difference in me is that I am able to for¬
give,” Asey said. “I get to spend time with my daughter who’s on college break.” Washington said, “I only get to see them once a year and that’s because of Get on the Bus program. It’s a blessing and good program.”

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Get On The Bus volunteers

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By Kristina Khokhobashvili
CDCR Public Information Officer

Mother’s Day was always especially difficult for Iyasmine Harris. While incarcerated in county jail, she gave birth to her son, Eddie. He went to live with family the day he was born, and financial and geographical difficulties made visiting nearly impossible when she was sentenced to state prison. But thanks to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Get On The Bus program, Harris was able to hold her son for the first time.

“I’m very grateful for the volunteers who raised money just to get us here today,” Harris said, an enthusiastic Eddie bouncing in her arms in the visiting area of Central California Women’s Facility. “Because there are other mothers like me who haven’t had a chance to have a physical visit with their son.”

Get On The Bus is a project of the Center for Restorative Justice Works. Each year, CRJW provides free transportation to state and federal prisons for children to visit their incarcerated parents. Each child is accompanied by a caregiver, and counseling is available as well. Throughout the day, families participate in fun activities like crafts and board games, with plenty of time set aside for catching up and having heart-to-heart talks.

“These children need to see their mom,” said Amalia Molina, Executive Director for Get On The Bus. “It’s the right thing to do. They are paying a price for a crime they did not commit.”

CDCR strongly supports visitation, as keeping family bonds strong is an important way to break the cycle of incarceration. CCWF Warden Deborah K. Johnson stated, “Each incarcerated mother seeing their children gives them a reason to stay positive and make healthy choices.

“They want to be a role model for their families, especially their children. I think it’s a wonderful opportunity. It’s great to see the parents spending time with their families.”

The week before CCWF’s special visiting day, the California Institution for Women hosted 141 children visiting 35 incarcerated mothers. CDCR’s third and final female institution, Folsom Women’s Facility, will hold a Get on the Bus event July 18. Father’s Day events are held in June at several male institutions.

Get On The Bus is 99 percent made possible by volunteers, Molina said. Their efforts go year-round, from fundraising for transportation and food to interviewing families and riding the bus to and from the institutions. Sheila Byrd, Harris’ mother, said she was unable to make it to the Get On The Bus pickup location the morning of the event and volunteers quickly made sure she found transportation in time to catch the bus.

“We appreciate it so much,” she said. “They are such a big help to us. If you don’t have a way, they’ll make sure you get a way.”

“I’m ecstatic!” beamed Erica Devine as she played games with her sons. “It has been 13 months since I’ve seen them. I’m overwhelmed.”

Devine’s mother and sons traveled from Yucca Valley, some 350 miles from CCWF. They were able to catch one of the buses in San Bernardino, at no cost to her or her family. “I think it’s great,” said Devine, who will go home soon. “It gives me a chance to reconnect with them and re-bond with them before I go home, it gives me an opportunity to connect with them in a place that I know is safe.”

Father’s Day visiting events took place in June at California Men’s Colony, San Quentin State Prison, Correctional Training Facility and Salinas Valley State Prison. Additional Get On The Bus events will take place in July at Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento and Folsom Women’s Facility. For more information, visit www.getonthebus.us.
A Familiar Face and a Complex Relationship

By Larry Stiner Jr.

The face on that man looks very familiar. And so does his uniform. The matching navy-blue shirt and pants accesorized with a black duty belt and a black, 9-mm handgun is holster. The shiny oval-shaped badge on his chest identifies him as an officer working for the Los Angeles Police Department. I’ve seen that face before but can’t quite recall when or where. Had he once confronted a group of friends I happened to be with? Did I see him questioning or arresting someone in my neighborhood? Did I see him questioning or arresting someone in my neighborhood? I don’t think so. My gut feeling is different. Had he stopped me but can’t quite recall when. My gut feeling is different. And so does his familiar face. It’s a familiar sight among the men in blue.

“Katie Hoshino, senior assistant district attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, has been pre-screened for the ‘Bedtime Stories’ program. A collection of books that is created when you read, in, Hoshino said, ‘That bond that is created when you read, in, lends. A collection of books that is created when you read, in, lends. A collection of books that is created when you read, in, lends.”

I don’t think so. My gut feeling is different. And so does his familiar face. It’s a familiar sight among the men in blue.

In the end, I walk away with more questions than answers. Part of me believes his roots froze by the surprise of discovering he had grown up for the Police Department, I simply stare in silence. It is extremely rare for anyone from my way to walk down that law enforcement path. With a deep-seeded mistrust of the police often hand-ed down from parent to child, negative experiences between the L.A.P.D and minorities in South Los Angeles only wid-ened the distance.

Now that I know who he is, my star of interesi is on me. I try to see down to his head. He looks away, but I can’t. With so many black bodies dropping from the im-pact of police bullets around the country, I have a burning desire to believe that side of the line he falls on. Do Black lives matter to him? Does he really believe that two hands up means don’t shoot? Having been raised on the same street as he, I’m uniquely positioned to see things from both sides. Surely, he hasn’t forgotten the constant police harassment we experienced as innocent teenagers. He could not have for-gotten how many of our peers had been targeted, framed and killed. Many from our community feeling the po-
dice needed to do more to stop the violence.

He and I both know why.

The steep decline in formula grants, called Title II, dimin-
ished crime. A Familiar Face and a Complex Relationship. The Timpanogos Women’s Correctional Facility has host-
ted the program; $10 million targeting Delinquency Prevention Pro-

By Thomas Gardner

Women prisoners in Utah are given the opportunity to participate in a “bedtime sto-ries” program as a way to bond with their families, reports Kerri Lunt Stevens for the Associated Press.

Sponsored by United Way and the Ashton Family Foun-
dation, the program is primar-ily geared toward incarcerated women who have young chil-dren, writes Stevens in the Jan-
uary issue to reauthorize JJDPA.

Many budget observers con-siders the way the JJDPA was conceptualized, the sharp decrease in funding is particu-
larly troubling,” Williams con-
tinued. “The JJDPA design is such that it not only prescribes core protections, but provides funding to incentivize states’ participation in the act, and gives them the resources to do so.

“The significant reduction of those resources over time has had the predictable effect of also diminishing the incen-tive for some states to partici-pate.”

“More funding in itself for a juvenile justice system that has typically spoken in pounds in the wrong way, on facilities rather than families, on being punitive rather than being de-
velopmental in its approach, is not what the juvenile justice system needs,” Balis said.
By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In a week’s span, Shake- speare’s Julius Caesar and Macbeth were performed at San Quentin State Prison for audi- ences that totaled more than 600 guests including commu- nity members, prison staff and fellow inmates.

Lesley Currier and Suraya Keating of the Marin Shakes- peare Company have been di- recting plays inside San Quen- tin for 12 years. They work with the inmates for months helping them learn to speak and understand the language of Shakespeare, and to examine and portray the motivations of his characters. In doing so, the inmate actors say they learn a great deal about themselves.

“Shakespeare helps me open up to people because I’m a closed person,” said inmate Eric Lowery. “It helps relieve racial tensions. It takes my mind off my character. It makes me reevaluate how I look at friendships. It made me reevaluate how I look at myself, which is something I’ve not done in a long time.”

Julius Caesar began with a dramatic entrance of Roman soldiers proceeding up the cen- ter aisle from the rear of the Protestant Chapel, which dou- bles as a theater. Upon Caesar’s entrance, some inmates seemed amused at see- ing inmates they know well in costume as actors. There were murmurs and laughter at some of the Shakespearean lines, but it was clear that the audience was involved in the story. Many entrances and exits moved the flow of the story along. Whenever Caesar exited, the inmates, mimicking Roman soldiers, raised their arms and hailed him.

Lemar “Maverick” Harrison played Mark Anthony. This was Harrison’s third play. He played Gratiano in The Merchant of Venice and Fenton in The Merry Wives of Windsor. Harrison said, “I feel very privileged to have the opportu- nity to live out a dream in pris- on. I was 19 at the time of the crime that sent me to prison. I go to the board in two years. Since being incarcerated, I’ve learned how to be myself.”

“The plays are full of reliable issues that prisoners in gen- eral go through, like racism or love or the lack of it, jealousy, envy and self-doubt,” Harrison added.

Harrison said the role of Mark Antony impacted how he matured while incarcerated. “I was Caesar’s right hand man. It is a role that made me look into myself and ask myself, ‘Am I strong enough to accept another person’s burden or troubles?’ It made me reevaluate how I look at friendships. It made me re- alize the importance of a true friend.”

Referring to his youth when he began his incarceration, Har- rison said, “I was prone to peer pressure. I used to do anything to acquire friends or look good or whatever my peers wanted to do. Now 20 years later, I realize that I can’t allow other’s idolo- gies or expectations to dictate who I am.”

I feel obligated to today’s youth to not only be an ex- ample but be a promoter of their dreams and aspirations,” Harrison said. “That’s all I ever wanted as a kid, someone to be- lieve in me, someone to moti- vate me.”

In Macbeth, the clear and polished voices of Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett evoked the im- ner turmoil of the lead charac- ter and his wife, Lady Macbeth, who was portrayed by Jarvis “Lady Iet” Clark.

The audience intently watched their performance as the cou- ple’s ambitions led to murder, guilt, regret and catastrophic loss. In eerie scenes, actors play- ing the crowned ghosts emerged from the audience to torment Macbeth.

Overall, Macbeth was a pow- erful performance with very physical scenes of murder and violence, including a woman being chased down the aisle by an inmate actor. The final battle between Macduff and Macbeth brought a round of applause from the audience as they fought to the death on the stage.

Later, “Lady Iet” explained why she was drawn to acting, “It’s to get over my fear of talk- ing in front of people and re- lease pent-up frustration. When you’re on stage, you’re the focal point. As a transgender, we have to be comfortable in our skin, because people stare at us 24/7. Being on the stage pushes me out of my comfort zone. When it comes to being the center of attention, it forces me to be comfortable with myself.”

Currier and Keating “had faith in me,” she added. “They told me that I could do it. Their encouragement gave me faith. They are my Shakespearean goddesses.”

Padgett, who has played the lead in three Shakespeare plays in San Quentin, declared, “Shakespeare was the James Brown, the Marvin Gaye, and Janis Joplin of his time. He speaks to everyone who’s going through this human process. He questions politics, religion, cross-dressing, interracial rela- tionships, homosexuality, and the empowerment of women. I think he even questions the meaning of life itself.”

Referring to his role as Mac- beth, Padgett said, “This role was very challenging to me. Macbeth forced me to go back to places and think about murdering an- other human being, a man who was deeply loved and respected in his community, dearly loved by his family and friends. So, I was being truthful with myself and I opened up universes where I had locked away the thoughts and the emotions and feelings of murdering someone — of look- ing at my inhumanity.”

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And so inspiring,” said Londoner Ruth Moran, wiping tears from her eyes. “It was so moving. It’s the first time I have been in San Quentin.”

It was wonderful. I am al- ways impressed with how much the men give of themselves,” said Victims Offender Educa- tion Group facilitator Karen Moncrief.

Kate Beckley from Pennsyl- vania, said, “It completely al- lowed me to lean forward and connect with the story and made me feel feeling like a braver person.”

Julius Caesar wishes the cast good luck before their performance

Julius Caesar played by AzraaI Ford was betrayed and killed. Mark Anthony played by Lemar Harrison is lamenting over his death.

Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett and Jarvis “Lady Jae” Clark captivate the audience portraying Macbeth and his wife
Prison University Project Honors 9 Graduates for Their Accomplishments

Keung Vanh hugs his mom after giving the valedictorian speech.

The program at the San Quentin campus is a new model for education, with small class sizes, supportive learning environments, and a focus on success for all students.

S. Tran: "We are unique because our education is a personal one.

Prison University Project Director Mark Podell said, "The program is an opportunity for individuals to achieve their goals and move forward in their lives."

Jody Lewen and Keung Vanh

Keynote speaker Sam Vaughn

Tony Manning proudly shows his diploma.

Keynote speaker Joan Lisetor contributed to this article.

Prison University Project's Mission

To provide excellent higher education programs to people incarcerated in California State Prisons and throughout the United States. The program is designed to create a replicable model for many proposed and actual programs, and to encourage and support all educational and institutional dialogue about higher education and crime.

Prison University Project's Mission

Prison University Project: A replication of prison education.

Aurie Yeomans, Jerome Boone, son Nathaniel and son Beth

Damien Davies (grand-daughter), Carl Sampson and Dedale Davies (daughter)

Carlos Flores talks with Terri (front right) and Julia about how he earned a degree.

Prison University Project staff and graduates smile for the camera.

Van Wilson

Phoem You

Former San Quentin prisoner and now manager of the Prison University Project, You became the first inmate to graduate from the program in 2013 under Proposition 36.

Don't let what society tells you to be your reward is to go to college.

You got to have a plan of action. There's a community. You can get a job in the community. You can be a community leader and do community service.

Jody Lewen: "To be able to achieve this accomplishment, it was not just a dream come true, it was worth every day of the 6 years that it took me."

We can't wait to see how these graduates will benefit from their education and contribute to their communities upon release.

To see the complete list of graduates and their accomplishments, visit www.sanquentinnews.com.
**Snippets**

 Luck led Michael Spark to find a copy of the Declaration of Independence at a thrift store for $2.48 plus tax. It was valued and sold at an auction for $477,650.

 In Paris Hotel Las Vegas there is a duplicate of an Arc of Triumph to memorializing the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in WWI.

 Both Japan and Russia strapped bombs to dogs to attack enemy vehicles. Once a dog arrives at its designation a switch is triggered and detonated to destroy the bottom of vehicles.

 Emerged as the only person who united the Gordian Knot was Alexander the Great. In 333 B.C.E King Midas had tied the knot claiming that whoever unties the knot will rule all of Asia.

 Randolph B. Marcy wrote a handbook for Overland Expeditions, a survivor guide to travel the western frontier. He published the book in 1859, and had basic survival techniques like how to treat snake bites and how to communicate with Native Americans.

 Anglo-Saxon England people were defended by King Alfred the Great from the attacks from the Vikings. Alfred the Great was known for the rebirth of religion.

 Two hundred treaties were written by Aristotle in the course of his life. However, only 31 exist today.

 English, and Afrikkan are languages that Dutch settlers brought to Africa. There are 11 official native languages in Africa.

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**Sudoku Corner**

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**Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!**

**How is this possible?** 16? 2? 3? 1=6

**Rules:**

- The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.
- All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.
- The answer and winner’s name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

**Last Month’s Trivia Answer:** 305 Dollars. 3 of each denomination and one more 50 dollar bill.

The winner of last month’s puzzle is: Brian Johnsen. Congratulations to the following contestants who also got the puzzle right: E. Vick & Anthony Boladeres. Thank you for playing!

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

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**Featured Photo by P. Jo**

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**Arts & Entertainment**

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Kid CAT Hosts Amala’s All-Day Walk for Fund Raising

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nearly two dozen volunteers from the Amala Foundation ventured inside San Quentin on May 31 for an all-day walk, sponsored by Kid CAT, that raised nearly $10,000 from inmate donations.

Amala Foundation is a youth empowerment organization founded by Vanessa Stone. Amala Foundation holds youth summits around the world designed to help young people develop communication and community-building skills.

A summit was held in Foresthill June 15 to 20. One is scheduled in Austin, Tex., Aug. 10 to 16 and one in Africa, Meru, Kenya, Dec. 29 to Jan. 5 of next year.

"Many of the inmates make as little as 24 cents an hour," said inmate Stephen Pancasico, one of the originators of the fundraiser. "So, a thousand dollars is a lot to us."

"This is a day to restore our humanity," Stone told inmates. "Everyone needs a day like this. Do not underestimate that every step you take gives the youth the opportunity to heal.

Various religious organizations gave prayers prior to the walk, including the Jewish and Islamic communities, Native Americans and, for the first time at this event, the Protestant and Catholic prayer was performed together.

After the prayers, several children took to the stage to tell stories of their struggle to overcome adversities while growing up.

"I feel like I'm at a family reunion," the volunteer said.

"I do a lot of work with Amala, but this is my favorite because it's shaping my place in this world, helping me find my voice and meaning in our lives," Stone said. "Life is what you make it. If I'm living doing God's work, it doesn't matter where I am. My life is about service, about giving smiles and getting them back."

"I've been knocked down but not defeated," went the lyrics of 'Heart of a Champion.' "You can never count out the heart of a champion."

"Life is what you make it. You allow me to touch many lives. Because of you, I'm so grateful for you guys. Let's keep going," the volunteer said.

"I'm so honored that you guys gave me the motivation to believe in myself," Apoko told the crowd. "I witnessed the worst in humanity. Amala Foundation helped me find my voice and see peace and forgiveness. All of you, my brothers, you are helping children in the world who are suffering. Because of you, you allow me to touch many children who are suffering.

"While the walk went on, Amala Foundation volunteers, along with inmates, took to the stage for inspirational speeches and music.

As Texan Cranston "Breez" Smith and inmate Antwan "Banks" Williams performed Heart of a Champion, a crowd gathered around the stage.

"This is the happiest day of my life," Breez told the walkers. "I look forward to this day 364 days out of the year."

"I'm so happy because I feel like I've seen my humanity reflected in so many other people," said Amala Foundation volunteer Savannah. "I'm reminded that there aren't any barriers between my heart and others."

"Today you guys have provided us a way to find power and meaning in our lives," Stone said. "You guys have provided something for us and for people you'll never see. Without a doubt, this circle is tenfold out there."

"Banks" Williams performed demo in doing. One village. No separation. There are no walls." Before breaking the circle, Stone asked all the participants to chant: "Love, Respect, Honesty, Community, One Village."

"I'm so happy because I feel like I've seen my humanity reflected in so many other people," said Amala Foundation volunteer Savannah. "I'm reminded that there aren't any barriers between my heart and others."

"Today you guys have provided us a way to find power and meaning in our lives," Stone said. "You guys have provided something for us and for people you'll never see. Without a doubt, this circle is tenfold out there."

God Bless the Day You Were Born was sung as Villafranco danced on his birthday. Next year he goes before the parole board.

"Everything I looked for in life, I've found here," Villafranco said. "Life is what you make it. If I'm living doing God's work, it doesn't matter where I am. My life is about service, about giving smiles and getting them back."

Amala's 'One Village' members came to speak on their experience as survivors
Prisoners Reminiscence About Fourth of July

By Angelo Falcone, Journalism Guild Writer

One of the most widely celebrated days during summer is Independence Day. When was the best Fourth of July for the men on the mainline? Asked on The Line wanted men in blue to take a walk down memory lane and describe what they liked most about this national holiday.

Michael Thompson’s best Fourth of July was in 1984. “The Summer Olympics was in LA. So it was an exciting year full of international people. I was 15 years old, without a care in the world, and I was loving life!”

Carlos Flores said, “I was 3 years old. My older brother was at the Boy Scouts Fireworks Booth and he was scaring me with a ‘Simon Says’ dummy.”

On that same day, we also found our lost dog, Brigitte.”

Hlau Nguyen said, “I came from a third-world country. July 4 is not really something that I cherish much. When I think about the month of July, it brings me sadness because a life was lost because of it.”

Kamran Soun said, “I was 8 years old and had never seen anything so spectacular. Fireworks had me feel excited to live in my free world.”

Duke Harris was 10 years old. “It was my first experience at the Fairgrounds. I remember eating barbecue ribs, links, and chicken along with cotton candy. I got all of it on the rides. It was my best Fourth of July.”

Al-Amin McAdoo said that his best Fourth of July moment was when he was 19 years old. “I was watching my 11-month-old daughter get extremely excited from seeing her first fireworks.”

Phil Song. “1989 was the best, because it was the last time I was with my family. I was 21 years old and I was around my whole family and I was free.”

Alex Ruiz said, “Every Fourth of July is great for me because it is my mom’s birthday! I also have a couple of cousins who were born on July 4, so I will forever enjoy this day.”

Aaron Dufoir remembers a special Fourth of July. “On July 4, 2011, it was the night before my second daughter was born.”

Jesus Flores “My children and my nieces and nephews were all born here and so I like the Fourth of July because they have fun watching the fireworks and the parades.”

Forrest Jones “I remember at the age of 16, me and my family went to Hume Lake on the Fourth of July. We sat around the fire and watched the firework shows — seeing the fireworks reflect off the water.”

Feelings of ‘Hate, Repentence, and Bitterness’ in “B” Section

By B. Section, San Quentin Prison

The following is reprinted from the San Quentin News, July 23, 1971. “Bastille by the Crab (June 22 to July 22)torcycle Month. According to the World Almanac, July is Cell Phone Dependence Month, National Hot Dog Month and Women’s Motorcycle Month.

There are two astrological signs that will have man’s inhumanity on the rise; if you really want to see why you have to take the prize of being a part of society again. How can you take a man who has spent a lifetime being a rebel, an outlaw, and teach him to adjust to society’s way of thinking? Do you do it by locking him away from the main population of one of the reputed heaviest prisons in the system? I think there has to be an answer somewhere, and the answer will come from the men themselves. I didn’t like it one bit when they put that in that place over there, and there are those of you reading this who’ve been there that will agree with me. It’s beyond me how you think of an answer, but there has to be some solution.

The experience was very much like that of being in the county jail. Most guys when they go to jail aren’t prepared for it. No lawyer. No bail money. No way of knowing what’s going to happen next. “B” Section is like that too. Or at least it was like it was to me. I sat there under investigation for a charge that could have been very small. That was a justification on the part of the staff because I am a writer, and I know a little bit about the workings of a newspaper, and I know a little bit about editing and layout work.

I asserted my innocence, and after a complete investigation I was freed. But the fact remains that it happened. It could happen to any of us at any time. I think we have to be prepared to meet these “crises” now, because from experience they are bound to happen from time to time in the free world.

One thing I’ve learned from it all: if you’re telling the truth, and you’re right, no matter what happens to you, you’re bound to come out of it all right. I honestly believe that, even though my faith was a bit shaken up for a while.

I hope never to have to go back to “B” Section again for any reason, and I hope some day there will be no more “B” Section. But I think it’s up to us, the men in blue, to find an alternative to these places. Until we do, they will exist, and men will continue to vent their frustrations, their anger, their futility, and their hopelessness against the walls, the bars, windows, light bulbs, and their own bodies.

Peace!”

Research By A. Kevin Valvardi, Journalism Guild Writer

A prisoner reflects on his life ‘a rebel and an outlaw’ inside a cell

I had the acute displeasure of spending five days there among the delinquent segment of our population, or at least that’s what they’re supposed to be. I’ve been in a few county jails, and a few “joints” in my day, but this one has to take the prize of being “the end of the road.”

If you like your mail late, your numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.
1. Roseburg, Ore. — Jesse Stuart Fanus has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for a 1998 murder that once had him on death row. The death sentence was overturned on appeal in 2012 and a retrial led to life in prison. The Oregon News Review reported.

2. Jerome, Idaho — Jami Charbonneau has been tossed out a postcard-only rule for San Diego County jail inmates after a $2,000 bond pending a ruling by the Idaho Supreme Court on an appeal of his conviction for killing his ex-wife more than 30 years ago. KTVB-TV reported.

3. Folson — Folson State Prison on Wednesday recently presented a check to Windy Services for more than $10,000. Inmates from the prison’s Men’s Advisory Council held an annual food sale fundraiser. This year they raised $10,183.88 and 100 percent of the money raised was donated to the new Women’s Services program in Sакramento.

4. San Diego — A federal judge has tossed out a postcard-only rule for San Diego County jail inmates. U.S. T. San Diego reported. The judge ruled that a jail policy banning inmates from having envelopes is unconstitutional. He issued a preliminary injunction ordering the policy suspended by May 21. The Sheriff’s Department adopted the policy three years ago to reduce the amount of contraband being smuggled into the jail.

5. Calipatria — Inmates at Calipatria State Prison have donated close to $24,000 to local community groups, thanks to profits from food sales. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous sponsored the food sales. The money will go to assist cancer victims, crime victims and educational programs.

6. Dilley, Texas — An estimated 500 prisoners demonstrated May 1 at a family detention center urging the federal government to “shut it down.” The Texas Tribune reported. The center was opened in 2014 in a warehouse to house up to 2,500 undocumented women and children who are seeking asylum.

7. Michigan — The Michigan House voted 57-53 to approve a bill to allow private prison operator GEO Group to reopen a former youth prison as a maximum-security prison. Six Republicans joined all 47 Democrats in voting against the plan.

8. Salem, Mass. — Angel Echavarria has been released after spending 21 years behind bars for the 1994 shooting death of Daniel Rodriguez, the Associated Press reported. Echavarria was sentenced to death but was later resentenced to life in prison. He said the shooting was in self-defense.

9. Boston — Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that defendants can seek new trials if their convictions were based on mishandled drug samples, the New York Times reported. State chemist Annie Dookhan was responsible for tainted evidence in tens of thousands of criminal cases, officials said.

10. Chicago — Jarrett Adams has graduated from law school more than seven years after he was exonerated for a rape conviction that led to a 28-year prison sentence. He graduated from Loyola University with his law degree. He said he hopes to help others who are in similar situations.

11. Detroit — Gov. Rick Snyder said he wants to overhaul Michigan’s criminal justice system to provide prison inmates with skills assessments and job training, the Associated Press reported. He made the comments in a speech to Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, a nonprofit career and job training organization. “This is the cause of real smart justice,” Snyder said. “If someone has committed a crime, they should be punished. Helping them be successful coming out in a win for all of us.”
**Botched Lethal Injections Executions Spark National Debate on Death Penalty**

By Charles David Henry

Journalling that it is a "heart wrenching story," Death penalty states have had great difficulty obtaining the combination of drugs needed to execute convicts in 2014. "This past year, the number of inmates executed in America was the lowest in two decades," according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Part of the reason is that many pharmaceutical companies refuse to associate their drugs with killing people.

In a 2014 NPR story, veteran reporter Michael Kiefer of the Arizona Republic observed an execution that did not go well. There was evidence of double murder—Joseph Wood by the Arizona Department of Corrections was another botched attempt of "solving a different drug formula for the first time."

What Kiefer and other witnesses saw was an execution that appeared to go smoothly, as they watched "the catheaters being inserted," Kiefer said. Wood closed his eyes, his head went back and for what would normally take five to 10 minutes for a condemned man to die. However, this was not a typical execution. According to Kiefer, "It looked like executions I'd seen before using thiopental and pentobarbital."

But at the six-minute mark something unusual happened. Suddenly, Wood opened his mouth. "His mouth sort of made this funny round shape, and you could see this escape this vision of air, and we all jumped. This was something different," Kiefer said.

Wood began fighting for his life, taking large intermittent breathes. Then there was another and then another, and then just kept going. Kiefer said, "I started putting little hash marks on my pad, my notepad, to see how many times he did this — 640 times."

The eyewitnesses looked at each other. Kiefer could see the panic on the faces of the prison personnel. No one spoke a word. Kiefer turned to the reporter sitting next to him and said, "I don't think he's going to die."

According to the story, Wood wondered if Wood was going to "open his eyes again."

The executioner eventually came out, turned on the death chamber microphone and tried to reassure everyone that Wood was asleep, and it was OK. However, Kiefer tells a different story. The sounds emanating from Wood were suddenly audible from his executioners' voices. These noises added another layer of distress on everyone who was there. Nearly two hours later, after administering 15 doses of "50 milligrams of midazolam, a sedative, and 50 milligrams of hydromorphone, a narcotic," Wood died. Kiefer said, "He just didn't really die."

**Conclusions of Death** is a story about a prisoner who is sent to death row for a condemned man to die. However, this was not a typical execution. According to Kiefer, "It looked like executions I'd seen before using thiopental and pentobarbital."

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

By S.Q. Reviews

"I want a real love, a real house, a real thing to do every day," Mark Wahlberg says, playing the lead in director Rupert Wyatt's "The Gambler."

He's explaining to his love interest, Amy Phillips (Brie Larson), the meaning of experience as a prisoner in a fat cell. "I've been a prisoner in a fat cell," their father says. "In some way, his life filled with loss, and he fills it with more excess in the hopes that one day he'll achieve that victory that'll make everything worth it. He wants his real life so bad that he's killing himself to get it, until he finds someone to live for."

"That's another problem with the movie," Thomas says. "All the stupid stuff he did, he's doing it. Staff doesn't just work out because you meet a messenger, it sends the wrong message that vacancy is filled by finding someone."

Reviewers shake their heads in agreement, and what began as general acclaim transforms into growing censorship of the cultural values expressed through the movie. The conversation turns to how The Gambler uses stereotyping and reinforcement of a narrative of inequality. "I have to ask this because I just stuck my head when I saw it," Chiu says. "How do you guys feel about the fact that Bennett owns $200,000 to an Asian gang that basically let him slide, but he's got $2000 to go to. Goodman loans him a bunch more money, but the Black guy is the best drug that wants to kill him over 10 grand?"

"A mess is good way to put it," Levin says. "A mess is good way to put it," Levin says. "A mess is good way to put it." Levin says. "A mess is good way to put it."

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"A mess is good way to put it," Levin says. "A mess is good way to put it."
Construction Tech Program Going Green

By Kevin D. Sawyer

Journalism Guild Chairman

The Construction Technology trade at San Quentin State Prison is reaching new heights in providing training for inmates.

"We're into the green technology now," said Dante Callegari, instructor for the course. "We're just starting the training now, but the equipment has been here for six months. This new training will add another year to our program.

Callegari's students are using new Lab-Volt Systems, Inc. smart training modules to learn how to install solar and wind energy systems, solar thermal energy systems, refrigeration, fire alarms, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems using smart technology.

According to Lab-Volt reading materials, the present-day global 'green' initiative is the impetus for many countries to develop reusable energy. "By 2025 solar energy could generate 2.3 percent of the world's electricity."

Through the use of WiFi, Callegari explained how homeowners can control their home systems from anywhere in the world.

"This is an added bonus to our program," said Callegari. "We're going to have them show what they've learned."

One of the lessons is on weatherization technology and how "much of the energy used to heat and cool homes in the United States is wasted," according to a student training guide.

Callegari said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) sent him to Sacramento for four days of training on Lab-Volt equipment. "I went to their training facility to learn what to train students on," said Callegari. The class is generally referred to as building maintenance, which some say is misleading. Inmates tend to think of it as a janitorial course when it's actually construction technology training.

"The Lab-Volt Solar/Wind Energy Training System is a modular program that covers the history, fundamentals, installation, operation, maintenance, and servicing of alternative energy systems," according to its literature.

Duane Holt, one of 27 students in the class, demonstrated his working knowledge of home solar and wind electrical systems using a Lab-Volt smart module. He also has to do troubleshooting on a panel to learn how to isolate problems.

"You have to understand theory and schematics," said Holt. "The key is to get to where you're not using energy" from the public power grid.

Tedrick Sims has been in the program for more than a year. Since starting the course, he says he has learned building framing from the basement up to the rafters, electrical wiring, gas lines, plumbing, sinks, water-tight roofing, geo thermal for heat, electrical windmills, and solar power.

"It's an excellent program," and he (Dante) is an excellent teacher," said Sims. "For younger people who will be working for the next 30 years, they should take the class. Even if they don't want to work in the trade they should take the class if they plan to own a home."

Sims said parolees are getting hired immediately and employers have called the prison to ask if there are other parolees who have graduated from the trade. So far 13 students have graduated and six of the graduates have agreed to return as teaching assistants.

I think it's important that I have six guys coming back and wanting to help train," said Callegari. He said it makes it easier for him to train students who have not yet advanced.

According to Sean Luigs from Elite Supply Source, every CDCR instructor has a trade adviser; he is the adviser assigned to Callegari's class. "I've been in all the trades. They all operate different. The craziest (busiest) prison that I've been to is Corcoran." He said it is because everyone is running around doing something productive in the shops. "San Quentin is my favorite."

In addition to the hands-on training modules, students study material furnished by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The books divide various aspects of construction technology into modules, focusing on everything from the introduction to craft skills, safety, manufacturing, and pipe fitting.

The NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) education foundation established in 1995 by the world's largest and most progressive construction companies and national construction associations, according to the Contren Learning Series (CLS) books. The curriculum was adopted by the CDCR about a decade ago.

The NCCER provides transcript records through a National Registry that it maintains. It also provides certificates and wallet cards to those who have completed modules in the CLS.

"This class is lucky to have Dante," said Luigs. "It's more than his knowledge; it's his wisdom."

Luigs also takes part in training the students. He used a PowerPoint presentation to instruct them on how to use the new technology: "I think it gives them (inmates) inspiration.

Before prison, inmate Marco Villa, who has been in the class for more than a year, worked framing construction, but at San Quentin he said he has acquired knowledge of the entire construction process.

"We build everything from the ground up," said Villa. He said he has learned about foundations, concrete, rebar, trenches, plumbing, setting blocks, floors, walls and roofs. "He's been a great help," referring to Luigs.

"In this new era, the green environment is an important consideration," an NCCER training guide says. "As a construction craft worker, you must understand how your daily activities at work and at home affect the green environment."

Callegari has been employed with the CDCR for 28 years, working at various jobs. Previously he has taught at California State Prison-Solano and the California Correctional Center. He has two credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing as well as OSHA training.
A talent show on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison on May 31 was the first of what is planned as an annual event on the Lower Yard. Acts included spoken word, poetry, music and comedy.

The crowd erupted in applause when Billy Brazwell took to the stage and performed classic Rhythm and Blues.

“Maverick” Harrison, Antwan “Banks” Williams, Performers Lemar “Maverick” Harrison and Antwan “Banks” Williams please the crowd with hip hop culture. I had to tell myself, “I am that person.” Thats where God is with everybody. When you’re reading music, it’s like an out-of-body experience,” Brazwell said. He was also at San Quentin just over a month. He was10 years old.

“Rap was my daddy. When I ran the streets, I considered myself a male role model at the critical time when adolescents are trying to find their identity. Several prisoners got together on San Quentin’s Lower Yard to discuss whether the influence of rap music is as powerful as the presence of a godfather,” Harrison commented.

“Rap was my dad,” said Attwég, an inmate who got six years and has been at San Quentin just over a month. “He’s a powerful influence in their lives. For most, rap music was like a father – it taught them how to be men.” For others rap music was a friend, relating to them in a way only friends can. Either way, rap meant more than entertainment.

Next in this six-part series, the panel will explore what specific influences the genre had on them.

Triste Ferreira contributed to this story.
Veterans’ Dramas Reveal Life After Military

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

“Veterans need help” was the message that resonated in a play performed just days before Memorial Day by a group of incarcerated inmates representing San Quentin’s Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out.

The performance was a back story about 12 veterans who shared personal reasons for joining the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

“I joined the Navy because I have a great love for my country,” the sailor said. “I joined the Air Force because I wanted to protect my country,” said the airman.

Each veteran’s story was a personal insight into his enthusiasm for joining the military and supporting his country, but the eventual outcome of protecting the United States and its special interest throughout the world, leaves them in a deep, dark, desperate and depressive psychotic condition. There are thing in those experiences they will not forget.

Their stories revealed how the proud and few who served their country eventually became victims of the United States War Machine, a metaphorical description of the government’s passion for putting its resources on the front line throughout the world.

For years, veterans have been ordered to kill the enemy of the War Machine. This indoctrination starts in Basic Training and is drilled into their psyche during advance training or on battlefields.

Vietnam-era veterans were portrayed as despicable war mongers. After 9/11, the image of a veteran fighting in the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars was portrayed as a hero. Despite what war veterans serve in, they are trained to become a killing apparatus.

The play showed that once the veteran was removed from that environment, in many instances he became a liability. Returning to civilian life was a virtual nightmare. Family and relationships were strained and in most situations, destroyed.

“No one really cares nor understands what goes on in the mind of the veteran who lives daily with the stress of killing another human”

Their performances elucidated the problems of homelessness. In many cities throughout the country, veterans who make up a very large percentage of that population are alcoholics and dopes addicts. Several al actors played out their roles as alcoholics and drug abusers.

In another reenactment, veterans were seen mimicking their military duties.

The performance ended, “12 veterans have performed in Your Home Out, to tell the audience, ‘No one really cares nor understands what goes on in the mind of the veteran who lives daily with the stress of killing another human.’

The audience was given insight into how medical experts aren’t quite prepared to take on the many challenges the veteran confronts after spending time in these war zone battlefields, such as how evidence-based studies used to diagnose Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have not cured this illness; and that the Veteran Administration is a dysfunctional operation of applications, forms, contradictions and apathy.

For several of the actors, their performances gave them a real sense of purpose.

There is growing evidence that PTSD is a contributing factor to the high rate of violence among military personal.

According to Frontline, between 2002 and 2009, there were 14 murders committed by post-combat Army personnel stationed at Fort Carson.

One reminder for the American public that relates to the side effects of war is the number of veterans who commit suicide.

In the years since the start of the Middle East wars, more than 73,000 American veterans have committed suicide. In September 2009, 18 veterans were committing suicide a day. Today, that number is up to 22 a day or more than 8,000 a year, according to the Suicide Katz Study.

Ron Self, founder of Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out, told the audience, today, by the time this performance ends, “12 veterans have already committed suicide. We need to save our veterans from these tragic consequences.”

This scene portrays captured American soldiers by religious militants
Sonoma Stompers Blank San Quentin All Stars, 12-3

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

The semi-pro Sonoma Stompers put on a baseball clinic for the San Quentin All-Stars, pounding them 11-0.

“Their pitchers came out throwing heat. They were un- hittable. The All-Stars didn’t have any good players. But some of these guys broke through their own teams now,” Sharkan said. “I guess you can say we are a victim of our own success. But no matter how far we travel, we love to donate our time or whatever is needed for this program.”

Rashed Lockhart of the Giants added, “It’s a pleasure to play these outside teams. They care, and it’s not too many people who care. Even though we lost, everybody played hard. This was my favorite game of the year. These guys (the Suns) are like old friends you haven’t seen in a while. They make you feel humbled.”

Both teams had to battle the winds on the dry baseball field. The Suns got 10 hits as the Giants failed to field the ball. The Suns scored four runs in the third. Vinnie Disanti hit a line drive to shortstop Nico Vegas, who lost the ball as it popped out of his glove. This allowed Nick Onorato to score after he drove in two runs off a double to center field.

The Giants racked up seven errors, which kept them from scoring. The game was played.

John Appley walked Alex Martinez. Sun Sanjay Nagarkar bunted a deep ball to right field for a triple. The Suns closed the gap 4-3.

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Four Giants Errors Hand 7-3 Victory to Santa Monica Suns

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

It wasn’t because of a lack of effort, but rather the inability to get the job done. The Giants put up seven more runs. With bases loaded again, Diego Brother Roy Fish brothers belt the ball to deep right field for a triple and the 29-3 lead.

“We signed Greg ory Paulino; he is a good cause and I’m glad he came out with us,” said Coleman.

“The only one to hit a home run for the All-Stars was Stomper Andrew Parker.”

“The Giants didn’t have an easy time playing these guys. Any of us could have been in this position. So if I was here, I would want people to come here and do this for me,” said Fisher.

“The Hardtimers did have one bright moment in the sixth. John ‘Dunnie’ Windham rocketed a home run over the Arc Building, driving in three RBIs.”

“The visiting Diego Brothers softball team cruised the San Quentin Hardtimers, 32-15. The Hardtimers failed to turn a double play to close the second inning, opening the door to 13 Diego Brothers runs.”

With the bases loaded and one out, Diego Brother Todd Morris hit a fly ball between second and first base. Hardtimer second baseman Paul Oliver dropped the ball, allowing two runs to score. Oliver then threw a reverse pickoff throw to first base. Stomper Fisher was safe.

“I don’t know what happened. Nothing was working. Our defense wasn’t helping. It wasn’t because of a lack of effort. The guys didn’t give up. We just couldn’t put together a string of hits,” said Coleman.

“Hardtimers head coach Dan White. Oliver added, “It was really windy. It made the ball really tricky to get to. Overall, I’m just happy to play in the general prison. You don’t get that anywhere else,” said Marshall.

In the sixth, the Diego Brothers put up seven more runs. With bases loaded again, Diego Brother Roy Fish brothers belt the ball to deep right field for a triple and the 29-3 lead.

“No matter what the score is, I enjoy playing these guys. Any of us could have been in this position. So if I was here, I would want people to come here and do this for me,” said Fisher.

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Eddie Herena added a new record to his achievements when he broke the one-hour run record of 9.25 miles in 2009.

Eddie Herena, 32, also holds the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club record for the one-mile, three-mile, 5,000 meters and six-mile races, as well as being a member of the record-setting distance medley and 4x1-mile relay teams, said coach Frank Ruona.

"I'm happy. Training with the club, playing soccer and basketball helped my conditioning to finish strong," said Sergio Carrillo, 41, took third with 8-13/16 miles completed. Carlos Raminez, 37, was fourth with 8-5/8.

The May 22 run had a diverse group of runners. Seventy-year-old Steve Wilson battled the runners and the crowd. Although a few runners dropped out, Wilson finished. "I've been running 30 or 40 miles a month. I never ran an hour before; I ran at my pace, and running with my brother and a future Golden State employee," said Myers, who is now about 6-foot-7.

"I was 5-foot-7 in high school. My legs are strong. It's an award that singles me out in the world," he said.

"I usually run for 20 minutes. I got into a zone and told myself I just need to double my time," said Plunkett.

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Suzanna "Zany" Rumon were two of six official lap counters. "Running helps you to go somewhere else for an hour," said Ruona.

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as well, nailing jump shots and helping the Green Team take a 17-point first quarter lead. He was the Green Team's second leading scorer with 23 points. By halftime, Myers had 19 points and 11 rebounds and the Green Team was ahead, 49-26.

At halftime, S.Q. Warrior GM Robert "Bishop" Butler addressed all participants at midcourt, along with Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team player Brandon Curtis.

"Whatever you do, act like the world is watching," said Butler in his inspirational message. Curtis advised, "Use your time wisely, because you never know how the Lord will use it to make you prosper.

The S.Q. Warriors had a chance to win in the fourth quarter. After being down 20 points in the first half, Harry "ATL" Smith led them back to within four.

Smith stole the ball and dribbled down court for a layup to make the score 81-77 with 50 seconds left in the game. However, former overseas pro Griffin Reilly sealed the deal for the Green Team by driving baseline, coming up under the far side of the basket for a reverse. He was fouled and completed the "and-one," making the score 84-77.

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Vets Pay Tribute to the Fallen on Memorial Day

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

On the chilly Monday morning observed at Memorial Day, seven flags flew over San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard, one flag for each branch of the U.S. armed services and two for Vietnam veterans.

As aging veterans doing time paid tribute to the fallen soldiers of wars fought throughout American history, other inmates attended to the American Indians' sacred grounds, played sports or just lingered around the track.

On a makeshift stage decorated with the American flag and POW-MIA flags, the names, ages, military branches and hometowns of soldiers who were killed in action were read aloud. After each acknowledgment, inmate-veteran Al Garner tolled a bell.

"It is a great honor to work with these veterans inside here," said Mary Donovan, chief sponsor of one of San Quentin's veterans groups, before she went onstage to read off names.

On this Memorial Day, 1,145 names were honored. In the past three years, 3,285 names have been read during Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances. All the fallen service members of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from 2003 to 2012 have been read. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is an ongoing war that continues to yield casualties.

Seven thousand Americans have served in the Afghan War, less than 1 percent of Americans have served in intensive combat operations. Of that number, approximately 500,000 were engaged in intensive combat operations. Seven thousand Americans have been killed in action during that time. The tragedy is that 73,000 plus men and women returning from the combat zone have committed suicide, as a result of not being able to manage their PTSDs, according to Thompson-Bonilla. She has been at San Quentin for six years.

Inmates performed "Now I Have Arrived," an original song by inmate Richie Morris, with Thompson-Bonilla playing guitar decorated with the American flag, Dwight Kitzman playing drums on a fire-gallon bucket and Isaiah Daniels playing bass.

"I think of it not so much as a melancholy day. It's in honor of those who survived, too," Morris said before their performance.

"We all came home with scars, not only on the outside, but on the inside," he said. He also expressed the need to recognize these men and women as well. "These men and women returned home from the war, but the war lived on inside their heads, and because they were unable to find or utilize the help that is available, suicide became the solution to their dilemma. Today, we remember those who committed suicide due to their experiences in war — they too have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Thompson concluded.

Members of the Hawaiian Spiritual Dance Group — Da-vante Spiers, Reggie "My Tribe" Hola, Damon Cooke, Pangthong and Donald Ray Walker Jr. — closed the tribute with a prayer summoning fallen warriors of the past to pay respect to "elders and fallen soldiers."

Walker was in the Navy from 2002-2007. He served two tours in Persian Gulf on board the USS Nimitz, CVN-68.

"Today, special tribute was paid to the recent suicide of veterans group Vice-Chairman Jesse Hernandez. A memorial service was held for Hernandez on May 29 at the prison's Protestant Chapel.

Albert Garner chimed the bell after a fallen soldier's name is announced.

Photo by Steve Emrick

The San Quentin Color Guard opens the Memorial Day tribute with a ceremonial display of the American and POW flags.

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