

## **WHEN HEROES SPEAK**

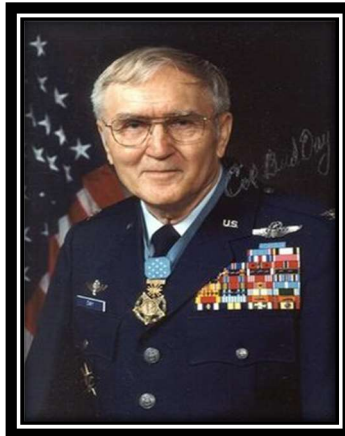
**GEORGE EVERETT "BUD" DAY-U.S. AIR FORCE COLONEL AND COMMAND PILOT (RET)**

**5 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS IN A VIETNAM PRISON CAMP**

**THIS VETERAN HAS NO USE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA, JOHN KERRY, OR JANE**

**FONDA...UNDERSTANDABLY**

**180**



A MAN WHO ENDURED MORE TORTURE THAN ANYONE COULD IMAGINE YET REMAINED TRUE TO HIS COUNTRY AND NOW SHARES HIS STORY AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PRESENT.

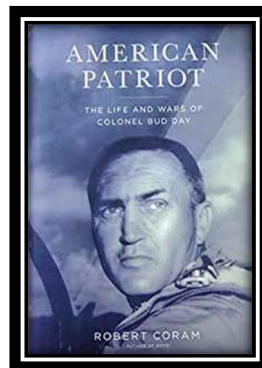
### **THE MOST DECORATED OFFICER IN MODERN U.S. HISTORY**

Colonel George "Bud" Day, US Air Force,

WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Medal of Honor (1925-2013)

**SEE VIDEO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Llq7A073N10>



Many of our readers know, that I spent 21 months "in-country" in the late 1960s 's. I have no use for John Kerry or Jane Fonda to this day. As it is in the world of emails, the following was sent to the Federal Observer some days ago. I suspect that this story has been making the proverbial rounds for some time - but its message is one, which needs to be read by every American, who gives a damn. (Ed.)

I got shot down over North Vietnam in 1967, as a Squadron Commander. After I returned in 1973...I published 2 books that dealt a lot with "real torture" in Hanoi.

### TYPES AND DURATION OF TORTURE ENDURED FOR 5 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS

As for me, I was put through a mock execution because I would not respond... pistol-whipped on the head....same event.

A couple of days later.... hung by my feet all day. I escaped and a couple of weeks later, I got shot and recaptured.

The shot was OK...what happened afterward was not.

They marched me to Vinh...put me in the rope trick, trick...almost pulled my arms out of the sockets. Beat me on the head with a little wooden rod until my eyes were swelled shut, and my un-shot, unbroken hand a pulp.

The next day hung myself by the arms... -broke my right wrist...wiped out the nerves in my arms that control the hands....rolled my fingers up into a ball. Only left the slightest movement of my L forefinger.

So I started answering with some incredible lies.

Sent me to Hanoi strapped to a barrel of gas in the back of a truck.

Hanoi ..on my knees....rope trick again. Beaten by a big fool.

Into leg irons on a bed in Heartbreak Hotel.

Much kneeling at hands- up at Zoo.

Bad beating for refusing to condemn Lyndon Johnson.

Several more kneeling events. I could see my knee bone thru kneeling holes.

There was an escape from the annex to the Zoo. I was the Senior Officer of a large building and because of the escape...they started a mass torture of all commanders.

I think it was July 7, 1969...they started beating me with a car fan belt. In the first two days, I took over 300 strokes...then stopped counting because I never thought I would live through it.

They continued day-night torture to get me to confess to a non-existent part in the escape. This went on for at least 3 days. On my knees...

Fan belting...cut open my scrotum with a fan belt stroke. Opened up both knee holes again.

My fanny looked like a hamburger...I could not lie on my back.

They tortured me into admitting that I was in on the escape...and that my 2 roommates knew about it.

The next day I denied the lie.

They commenced torturing me again with 3- 6- or 9 strokes of the fan belt every day from about July 11 or 12th..to 14 October 1969. I continued to refuse to lie about my roommates again.

### COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT OBAMA

"Our make-believe president is branding our country as a bunch of torturers when he has no idea what torture is."

"Now, the point of this is that our make-believe President has declared to the world that we (U..S..) are a bunch of torturers...Thus it will be OK to torture us next time when they catch us...because that is what the U.S. does ".

"Our make-believe president is a know-nothing fool who thinks that pouring a little water on someone's face, or hanging a pair of women's pants over an Arab's head is TORTURE. He is a meathead ".

"I just talked to MOH (Medal of Honor) holder Leo Thorsness, who was also in my squadron, in jail...as was John McCain....and we agree that McCain does not speak for the POW group when he claims that Al Ghraib was torture...or that "waterboarding" is torture".

"Our president and those fools around him who keep bad-mouthing our great country are a disgrace to the United States. Please pass this info on to Sean Hannity. He is free to use it to point out the stupidity of the claims that waterboarding....which has no after effect...is torture."

"If it got the Arab to cough up the story about how he planned the attack on the twin towers in NYC ... hurrah for the guy who poured the water."

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Everett "Bud" Day (born February 24, 1925) is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and Command Pilot who served during the Vietnam War. He is often cited as being the most decorated U.S. Service member since General Douglas MacArthur, having received some seventy decorations, a majority for actions in combat. Day is a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

### SYNOPSIS OF HIS CAREER

George "Bud" Day was seventeen in late 1942 when he badgered his parents into allowing him to volunteer for the Marine Corps. He spent nearly three years in the South Pacific during World War II, then returned home, went to college, and got a law degree. In 1950, he joined the Air National Guard. When he was called up for active duty a year later, he applied for pilot training and flew fighter jets during the Korean War. After being promoted to captain in 1955, he decided to become a "lifer" in the Air Force.

In 1967, Day, now a major, was put in command of a squadron of F-100s in Vietnam involved in a top-secret program. Nicknamed the Misty Super Facs, their mission was to fly over North Vietnam and Laos as "forward air controllers," selecting military targets and calling in air strikes on them.

On August 26, ground fire hit Day's plane, destroying its hydraulic controls and forcing it into a steep dive. When he ejected, he smashed against the fuselage and broke his arm in three places. North Vietnamese militiamen below, seeing his parachute open, were waiting for him when he landed. They marched Day to a camouflaged underground shelter. When he refused to answer his captors' questions, they staged a mock execution, then hung him from a rafter by his feet for several hours. Certain that he was so badly hurt that he wouldn't try to get away, they tied him up with loosely knotted rope. On his fifth day in the camp, while a pair of distracted teenage soldiers stood guard, he untied himself and escaped.

On his second night on the run, Day was sleeping in thick undergrowth when either a bomb or a rocket landed nearby. The concussion left him bleeding from his ears and sinuses and sent shrapnel into his leg. Even so, he continued to hobble south for the next several days, eating berries and frogs and successfully evading enemy patrols.

Sometime between the twelfth and fifteenth day after his escape -- he had lost track of time -- Day heard helicopters and stumbled toward the sound. It was U.S. choppers evacuating a Marine unit, but they left just as he got to the landing zone.

The next morning, still heading south, he ran into a North Vietnamese Army patrol. As he limped toward the jungle, he was shot in the leg and hand and captured soon afterward. He was taken back to the camp from which he had escaped and subjected to more torture.



*Col Day & Col Day (his son). Two generations of fighter pilots*

A few days later his untreated wounds were infected, and he was suffering from malnutrition and unable to perform even the simplest task for himself. The fingers on both hands were curled into fists as a result of his torture; he regained some motion by peeling them back, flattening them against the wall of his cell, and leaning into them with his full weight.

For more than five years, Day resisted the North Vietnamese guards who tortured him. On one occasion in 1971, when guards burst in with rifles as some of the American prisoners gathered for a forbidden religious service, Major Day stood up, looked down the muzzles of the guns, and began to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The other men, including James Stockdale, the ranking U.S. officer in the prison, joined him.



*Reunion of Bud and Doris Day after 5 years and 7 months in the Hanoi Hilton*

**George Day was released on March 14, 1973.** Three years later, on March 6, 1976, both he and Stockdale were presented with the Medal of Honor by President Gerald Ford.



*March 4, 1976 - President Gerald Ford presents the Medal of Honor to James B. Stockdale (I) and George E. "Bud" Day.*

#### AFTER THE WAR

After the war and his release, Day retired to the Florida Panhandle in 1977 and practiced law, becoming a crusader for veterans' health care benefits. He took his fight to the U.S. Supreme Court in a 2003 lawsuit that alleged the government reneged on its promise to provide free lifetime health care to hundreds of thousands of Korean and World War II veterans.

The high court declined to hear an appeal of the case brought on behalf of two Panhandle retirees, but the legal action was credited with prompting Congress to pass legislation in 2000 expanding the military's TRICARE health insurance program to include veterans over age 65 who had served at least 20 years or were medically retired.

#### **PERSONAL NOTE**

The new law that was passed in 2000 which provided free health care insurance to Retired Military personnel who had 20 years' service and were 65 or over is today known as "TRICARE FOR LIFE" and operates in conjunction with Medicare and I was fortunate to qualify and benefit from the program.

Before the program was implemented my private insurance (which was my Medicare Supplement) with Blue Cross /Blue Shield was around 85.00 per month. After the implementation and to this date I have paid nothing for my Medicare supplemental.

So you can understand just how very much Col Day's efforts have helped many Veterans retiring from the military. And for those who say just another freebie given to the Veteran..... not so !! I joined the USAF in 1954 and was promised from that date on that if I stayed for 20 years or over and retired (*regardless of our age*), both myself and my entire family would receive **FREE MEDICAL CARE**

the rest of our lives. I retired in 1975 and until 2000, when the law was passed; I was responsible for my own Private Sector Medical Insurance.

Today's retired veterans do not have this "Tricare for Life" benefit until they reach the age of 65. There is a Tricare program in place for these veterans but these families have to pay a premium for this service (I do not know the amount) and in most situations have to get referrals from the military to see civilian Doctors.

**SO, IN REALITY, OUR VETERANS ARE STILL NOT RECEIVING THEIR MEDICAL CARE FREE UNTIL THEY REACH 65 YEARS OF AGE**

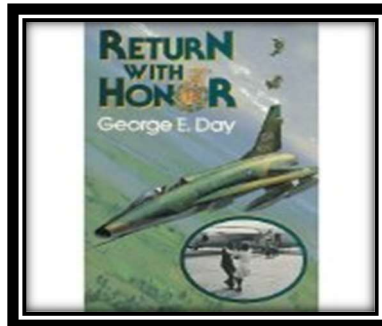
**SO AGAIN, IN REALITY, ANOTHER FLAT-OUT LIE BY OUR GOVERNMENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED, ARE SERVING AND WILL SERVE.**



*Always finding time for AF buddies*

In his later years, Day also took on Iraq war cases. For example, he represented Army Maj. John Nelson, a medical officer who was wounded when a bomb exploded at a mess hall in Mosul in 2004. Nelson suffered short-term memory loss and spoke with a permanent stutter. The Army initially said his injuries merited a 40 percent disability rating. **Day, however, persuaded an evaluation board to award full benefits.**

He also found time to write a book.



"People would stop us in the airports and all over, and we had no idea who they were, and they would say, 'Thank you, you saved my husband's life,' or, 'You saved my wife's life,'" Doris Day said. The couple celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in May



#### LEGAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Day was active in McCain's failed 2000 and 2008 Republican presidential bids and in 2004 campaigned against fellow Vietnam veteran John Kerry. **Day called Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee, a turncoat who lied to Congress in 1971 about war atrocities.**

"I draw a direct comparison to General Benedict Arnold of the Revolutionary War to Lt. John Kerry," Day said in 2004. "Both went off to war, fought, and then turned against their country."

Day's political activism again caused controversy in 2010 when he supported Gov. Charlie Crist in his failed Senate bid. Day called Crist's primary opponent Marco Rubio "a Hispanic who can run his mouth." **He referred to President Barack Obama as "the black one."**

Day retired from the Air Force at the rank of colonel, never attaining his general's star. **He said he believed he wasn't promoted further because he "told it like it was."**

"When I returned from prison, there was a huge amount of the Air Force leadership that was not combat-oriented. They were quasi-political managers," he said.

It said it was his tendency for tough talk that kept him out of politics.

"I probably could have been more tempered in some of my remarks but when they asked, I told them," he said.

He and McCain remained close since they first shared that 9-foot by 15-foot cell, and years later he advised the younger Navy man against running for the U.S. Senate.

"When he first said he was going into politics, I said politics is compromise and John had almost zero ability to compromise," Day said.

**He said he told McCain politics was like prostitution.**

"You have to do a whole bunch of things and then there is a paycheck," he said.

But Day said his friend later changed his mind by becoming a reformer in Congress.

Campaigning for McCain in his 2008 presidential bid, Day drew comparisons between the lessons of Vietnam and the dangers of an early pullout from Iraq.

"They cut off funding to the South Vietnamese Army and we ended up being defeated, and that's very relevant to what's happening right now," Day said.

Day worked throughout his life, accepting an appointment to head the 35-employee Okaloosa County Public Defender's Office in 2009 at the age of 83 after the Panhandle circuit's newly elected public defender asked him to take the job as a personal favor.

#### HONORED AT HIS DEATH (JULY 28, 2013)



Every once in a while a man touches more lives than most could hope to in a lifetime. On Thursday, it was clear that retired Air Force Col. George "Bud" Day was one of those men. Col. Bud Day, one of the military's most decorated war heroes and a longtime veteran's activist, has died at the age of 88.



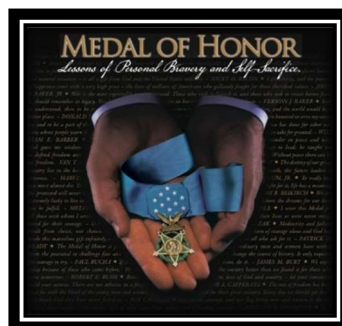
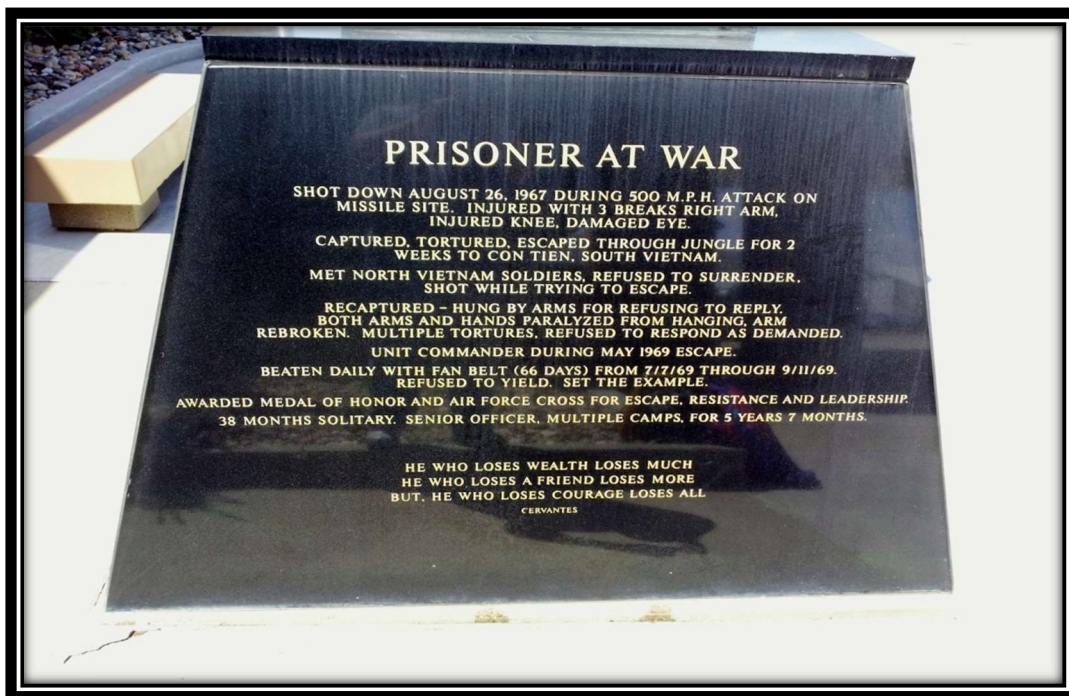
He passed away Saturday at his home in Shalimar surrounded by family and in the arms of his wife and childhood sweetheart, Doris, after a long battle with cancer.



*Roses from his daughters*

"He would have died in my arms if I could have picked him up," Doris Day said Sunday.





[MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION](#)  
[USAF COL GEORGE E. "BUD" DAY SR](#)



"On 26 August 1967, Col. Day was forced to eject from his aircraft over North Vietnam when it was hit by ground fire. His right arm was broken in 3 places, and his left knee was badly sprained. He was immediately captured by hostile forces and taken to a prison camp where he was interrogated and severely tortured. After causing the guards to relax their vigilance, Col. Day escaped into the jungle and began the trek toward South Vietnam. Despite injuries inflicted by fragments of a bomb or rocket, he continued southward surviving only on a few berries and uncooked frogs. He successfully evaded enemy patrols and reached the Ben Hai River, where he encountered U.S. artillery barrages. With the aid of a bamboo log float, Col. Day swam across the river and entered the demilitarized zone. Due to delirium, he lost his sense of direction and wandered for several days. After several unsuccessful attempts to signal U.S. aircraft, he was ambushed and recaptured by the Viet Cong, sustaining gunshot wounds to his left hand and thigh. He was returned to the prison from which he had escaped and later was moved to Hanoi after giving his captors false information to questions put before him. Physically, Col. Day was debilitated and unable to perform even the simplest task for himself. Despite his many injuries, he continued to offer maximum resistance. His bravery in the face of deadly enemy pressure was significant in saving the lives of fellow aviators who were still flying against the enemy. Col. Day's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Armed Forces."

Day's sacrifices and soldiering on through the most intolerable conditions afforded him a reputation as one of the most decorated United States Military men since General Douglas MacArthur. He endured so much pain and suffering to protect his fellow pilots and Colonel Day should be forever saluted as a hero for his selfless service.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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FROM WEBSITES/SOURCES THAT APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC, I CAN NOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE  
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