

THE ALCATRAZ GANG

Vietnam's Epic Story of Faith, Honor, and Survival

By Alvin Townley ▪ Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, New York ▪ 2013

Overview

Hundreds of brave Americans were held captive during the Vietnam War. From those, the North Vietnamese singled out *eleven* of the worst – the ringleaders, diehard resisters, and escape artists. They exiled them to an isolated prison the POWs named Alcatraz for the loneliness, suffering, and torture they endured there. As these POWs valiantly waged war from their tomblike cells, the defiance, resilience, and unity of **The Alcatraz Gang** became legend.

While North Vietnam imprisoned these men for more than seven years, their remarkable wives soldiered on at home; some didn't learn their husbands' fate for more than four years. These women also led a struggle with the U.S. and North Vietnamese governments alike to secure the safe return of their loved ones. Their legacy lives on in the **National League of POW/MIA Families**, which they founded.

THE ALCATRAZ GANG reveals an unequalled story of survival in America and in the prisons of North Vietnam.

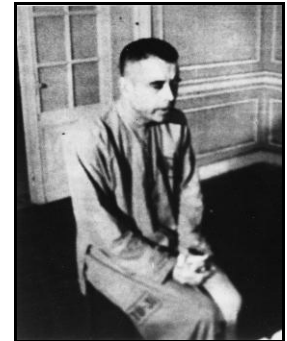
The Alcatraz Gang during Vietnam



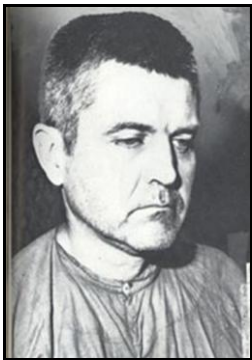
Bob Shumaker becomes the second POW in North Vietnam.



American POWs endure a public march through violent mobs in Hanoi.



Jerry Denton blinks "Torture" in Morse Code in a live broadcast.



Medal of Honor recipient Jim Stockdale, an Alcatraz leader.



Sybil Stockdale, POW activist and a founder of the National League.



The National League of POW/MIA Families, led by Alcatraz Gang wives.



Operation Homecoming (1973): POWs return home after up to eight years as prisoners in North Vietnam.

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Images



Left: The men and women of the Alcatraz Gang (2002): George & Suzanne McKnight, Sam & Shirley Johnson, Nels & Sara Ann Tanner, Jim & Louise Mulligan, Bob & Lorraine Shumaker, Jeremiah & Jane Denton, George & Pam Coker, Jim & Sybil Stockdale.

Below: The eleven heroes of Hanoi's infamous "Alcatraz" prison. The North Vietnamese identified these men as among their most uncooperative and dangerous American captives.



George Coker



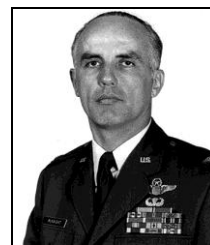
Jeremiah Denton



Harry Jenkins



Sam Johnson



George McKnight



Jim Mulligan



Ron Storz



Howie Rutledge



Bob Shumaker



Jim Stockdale



Nels Tanner

Alvin Townley



Best-selling author Alvin Townley has traveled the world to discover inspiring stories of leadership, adventure, and purpose. His journeys have led to his nationally-acclaimed books, *Legacy of Honor*, *Spirit of Adventure*, and *Fly Navy*.

President Jimmy Carter said, "*Legacy of Honor*...will inspire readers to become leaders in serving others;" Quarterback Peyton Manning noted, "*Spirit of Adventure* tells a compelling story about America's future;" and Commander of Naval Air Forces Tom Kilcline said, "*Fly Navy* crystallizes the imagination of flight into true inspiration."