

# Event honors POWs

BY KELLI LACEY  
Staff writer

After jumping out of the burning airplane, leaving five members of his crew behind, Dale Channey looked back and saw nothing. He was the last one to escape.

He spent the next 15 months hungry, dirty and scared in Europe, sometimes without food or water.

Channey told his story at the second annual prisoners-of-war/missing-in-action commemorative ceremony held Thursday night at the Memorial Gardens in Antelope Park.

The event was sponsored by the Arnold Air Society, an Air Force ROTC honorary society at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Along with Channey's story, the ceremony included a Pershing Rifle Ceremony and four other speakers, each representing a military branch.

Charlie Potts, the society's public affairs representative, said the ceremony honored POWs and soldiers missing in action. Today is National POW/MIA Day, as declared by President Clinton.

"This is very important to remind people that there are still people out there who are missing in action," Potts said. "To show what these people have done for our country so we could be here and have freedom."

Channey, a World War II survivor, had recently celebrated his 21st birth-

"*I've never seen a more beautiful thing ... than the Stars and Stripes.*"

DALE CHANNEY  
World War II survivor

day when his B-17 plane, in which he served as wastegunner, was shot down in Italy on Jan. 30, 1944.

"We were attacked, and our plane was hit and knocked out of formation," he said. "We lost a lot of altitude."

The plane descended when there was an explosion in the front of the plane. The intercom system went out, and all Channey said he could think of was how they were going to escape.

There were only five parachutes on board and 10 crew members.

"I was the last one out," he said. "I kept looking for more parachutes but none appeared."

They landed, were captured and were taken into custody. The next two weeks were spent in solitary confinement in a prison camp in Lithuania near the Baltic Sea, he said.

Over the next year and a half, Channey spent time in several different prisoner camps.

Some, he said, were better than others. At one camp he was not able to take a shower, change his clothes or brush his teeth, he said.

"We were loaded up with lice by the time we were done," he said.

When the war ended in 1945, he crossed a bridge and saw the U.S. flag.

"I looked at (the Nazi swastika) flying over a pole for 15 months. I've never seen a more beautiful thing in my life than the Stars and Stripes when I walked across the river," Channey said.

After pausing a moment to wipe his teared-filled eyes, he said, "It was the most beautiful sight I've ever seen."

Angela Weber, an organizer of the ceremony, said it was a tradition the group hoped to continue.

"Everyone does a ceremony for Veteran's Day and for Memorial Day," Weber said. "This is a day that we dedicate to POWs only. It's very important that we remember them distinctly."

After many years of blocking memories, Channey got involved with the Lincoln Chapter of Ex-Prisoners of War, a national organization.

"It just made life easier (to talk about it)," he said. "If we don't get out and get a story told, it's going to be lost."

# Speaker critiques Europe, U.S. relations

BY SHANE PEKNY  
Staff writer

In the coming years, the United States and Europe may have a complicated relationship, Walter McDougall said Thursday.

McDougall, a University of Pennsylvania history professor, gave a speech, "Atlanticism, the New Atlantis: Euro-American Reveries and Realities," Thursday afternoon at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

It was the first lecture of this year's E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

McDougall spoke mostly of the developing European Union and what strategies the United States will use in relating to it.

The United States wants the European Union to be a strong military ally and trading partner but fears the European Union may become too powerful, replacing the United States as the world's top player in international politics, McDougall said.

The changing role of NATO is contributing to those fears, he said.

The military alliance was originally formed to oppose a Soviet threat, but with the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO finds itself in an awkward situation, he said.

The United States wants NATO to

continue operating in its present form because that gives the United States a heavy hand in international relations, he said.

But the European Union no longer wants to depend on the U.S. military to manage European problems. These two objectives will likely put the United States and the European Union at odds, he said.

After his speech, McDougall answered questions from the audience for half an hour. During the question-and-answer session, McDougall criticized the United Nations for its recent mission in East Timor. He said it was dangerous to sponsor a vote and then fail to provide security to voters.

"It was immoral," McDougall added.

He also criticized NATO for interfering in Kosovo. It is always wrong to interfere in the domestic issues of a sovereign state, even if the motives are purely humanitarian, McDougall said.

"What business does the U.S. have in the Baltics?" he asked.

McDougall said he is interested in watching the future of the world unfold.

"International politics is a great spectator sport. It's better than football. It's more fun and certainly more important."

The next speaker in the E.N. Thompson series will be Desmond Tutu, Archbishop and Nobel Prize Laureate, of Emory University. He will speak on Nov. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lied Center.

## Bradley: Allow gays in military

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gays should be protected by the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act and allowed to serve openly in the military, Bill Bradley said in a magazine interview released Thursday.

On the question of a California anti-gay-marriage ballot initiative, Bradley also aligned himself more closely - and more readily - with the gay community's legislative agenda than Vice President Al Gore.

Both Democratic presidential candidates are dueling for the influential gay and lesbian vote.

"If I was a voter in California, I would not support the Knight initiative," Bradley told *The Advocate*, a gay and lesbian newsmagazine, in a published interview due on newsstands Sept. 28.

"I think it's divisive and ... I don't think a referendum is the place for this kind of an initiative."

The former New Jersey senator said he still opposes same-sex marriage because of "the religious nature of marriage and respect for the diversity of views on that subject."

In a separate interview published last month, Gore told *The Advocate* he needed to educate himself on the so-called Knight measure on California's March 2000 ballot, which would define marriage as between a man and woman only.

His campaign press secretary, Kikki Moore, said late Thursday Gore has decided to oppose Knight. "Consider him educated," she said.

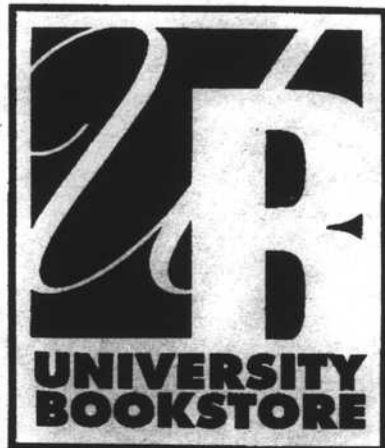
Bradley and Gore support legal protections for "domestic partners."

Going further than Gore's push for a pending anti-job-discrimination bill, Bradley said he would add sexual orientation to the 1964 act broadly outlawing racial, religious and sex discrimination in employment, housing, lending and public accommodations.

"That would clearly indicate that discrimination against gays is in the same category as discrimination against other protected groups," Bradley said.

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