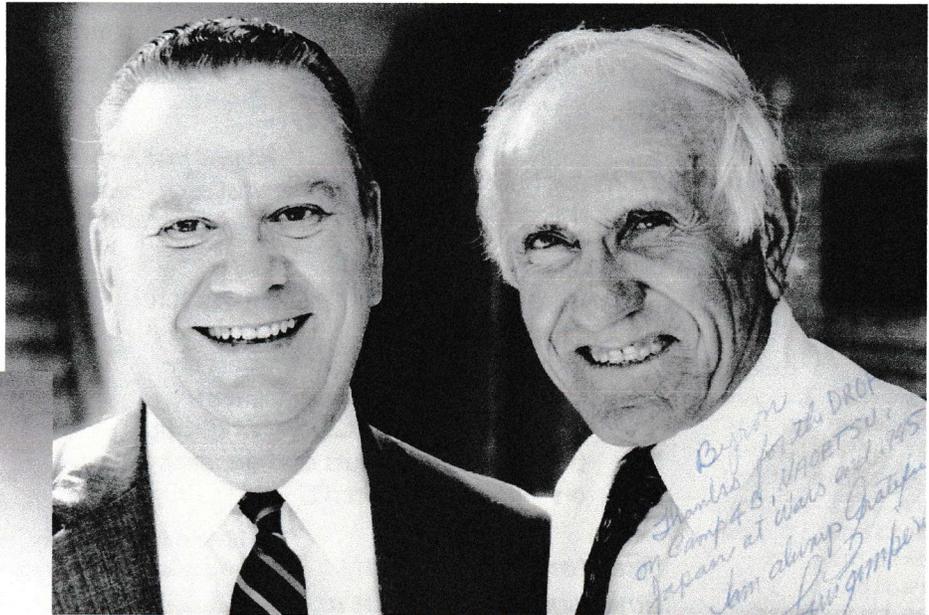


An unbreakable bond:

## The riveting story behind “Unbroken”

Connected by fate at WWII's end in 1945, Byron Kinney (left) and Louis Zamperini formed a lasting friendship after meeting in 1985.

Second Lt. Byron Kinney as a New Pilot Graduate in the United States Army Air Corps.



The story detailed in the best-selling book “Unbroken,” about the life of 1936 Olympian Louis Zamperini, WWII MIA/POW survivor, as told by author Laura Hillenbrand, is a tale of survival, suffering, salvation and forgiveness. Byron Kinney, a B-29 pilot who with his crew flew a POW rescue mission at the end of the war to reach Zamperini’s camp in Japan, successfully parachuting life-saving food supplies, will share his personal connection to this fascinating story.

It is a heart-warming story told in narrative and CBS Emmy Award-winning video by two men who share an unbreakable bond of rescued and rescuer. Also included is the daring rescue operation by Twentieth Air Force B-29s to reach starving, medically deprived WWII prisoners of war in camps widely scattered from North Vietnam to Mukden, Manchuria, the Korean peninsula and all of Japan with airdrops of food, medicine, clothing and supplies before ground rescue forces could reach them.

This hour-long program will be presented by Kinney, who began relating Zamperini’s saga after meeting him in person; Kinney felt this survivor’s epic story was largely unknown, untold or forgotten. Separately, author Hillenbrand learned of Zamperini, became captivated by his life journey and began her seven-year effort to write “Unbroken,” contacting Kinney in the process. Her book, published in November 2010, was an instant best-seller, and a movie based on “Unbroken” is in production now.

Kinney has been sharing Zamperini’s story for many years with groups in the Chicago area and throughout the Midwest, including with a military reunion group at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. He has presented this story to DAR groups, historical and genealogical societies, country club groups, retirement communities, church adult education groups, couples clubs, sororities and women’s clubs. Responses from those who have heard his presentation appear on the reverse side of this flyer. To arrange a program on this subject, please contact:

**Byron Kinney: [meekinstwo@yahoo.com](mailto:meekinstwo@yahoo.com) (847) 492-2918**

## Testimonials for Byron Kinney's presentation of a survivor's epic story:

Terrific speaker, about a grand incident and a fine book.

*Byron is a nice speaker and has some great stories.*

Everyone gave enthusiastic comments about you....

I want to thank you from my heart for the extraordinary experience last night offered to me. I found a unique emotional moment in listening to the WWII veteran speak and after that meet him in person and thank him.

We are so deeply grateful to you for speaking at our annual meeting. The story you tell and the emotions it provokes are incredible! I am positive that everyone present was moved by your eloquence and passion.

Thanks again for your outstanding presentation. The accolades from Sunday evening keep rolling in.

*...shared that he marveled at your speech "because every word had meaning."*

**Fantastic!**

**I know our 484th BG members enjoyed your presentation tremendously and felt that...you're right up there with astronauts and generals on the speaking circuit.**

*The stories and events you were involved in at the end of WWII were truly spiritual.*

This inspirational story reminds me how proud I am to be an American.

**Byron gave a wonderful program combining history and emotion. We found it moving and inspiring.**

We consider your presentation to be a success in all ways!

We were honored to have you share this powerful story with us. Your presentation was very moving, and the applause was so loud at the end because we could feel your heart and spirit come through as you shared your experience with us.

*Your presentation was spectacular! I'd like to hear it once more.*



Crew of the B-29 that at the end of WWII dropped life-saving food and supplies at the Naoetsu, Japan, POW camp where Louis Zamperini was held. Pilot Byron Kinney is second from left, standing.

## BIOGRAPHY - BYRON W. KINNEY

### COLLEGE

- Entered Northwestern University, Sept. 1942 on scholarship
- Enlisted U.S. Army Air Corps, Dec. 15, 1942
- Returned to Northwestern University, June, 1946
- Graduated Commerce School, June, 1949 -- B. S. Degree in Business Administration

### U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS (later U.S. Air Force)

- Pilot training - Graduated with pilot wings, commissioned 2nd Lt. at Stewart Field, West Point, April 15, 1944 at 19 years of age
- B-24 Bomber School, Maxwell Field, Ala.
- Gunnery School, Tyndall Field, Fla. flying B-24's for aerial gunners in combat training
- Assigned Dec. 1944 to new B-29 Bomb Wing, 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force, later deployed to Guam
- Discharged as 1st Lt. May 8, 1946
- U.S. Air Force Reserves, 1946-1951
- Member, 315th Bomb Wing Association, 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force

### BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- Bell and Howell Co. 1949 - 1959
  - Newspaper Editor
  - Asst. Manager, Microfilm Equipment Sales
- Presbyterian Life Magazine 1960 -1966 -- Advertising Sales, Midwest Region
- Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation 1966 -1987
  - District Sales Manager, Chicago - 1966-1981
  - National Marketing Manager, Reading and Early Childhood Programs 1981 - 1987. Retired 1987.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- WGN Radio Interview - Milt Rosenberg Program "World War II Flyers - Feb. 1999"
- WGN Radio Interview - Milt Rosenberg Program "Memorial Day - May, 2000"
- May, 2007 - Interviewed by Laura Hillenbrand, author of best selling book "Seabiscuit: An American Legend" for her writing of the biography of P.O.W. Louis Zamperini published under the title "Unbroken" by Random House on November 16, 2010
- Speaker and Program Presenter, "20th Air Force P.O.W. Rescue Missions, 1945"
- "Interviews With The Veterans" - Evanston Community TV Station, February, 2010
- Author of Several Books of Family History, 1996-2008
- Former Program Chairman, North Suburban Genealogical Society
- Presbyterian Elder and Deacon
- Former Chairman, Adult Education, Presbytery of Chicago, Presbyterian Church USA
- Former Chairman, Adult Education, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Evanston, IL.

### PUBLICATIONS

- "A Peer-Led Writing Group", *The Forum*, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Spring, 1993, page 20
- "A Mission of Mercy Touches Two Lives: A Pilot Meets a POW", self published book, United Letter Service, Chicago, IL., 1995
- "World War II Remembrances", *Northwestern Remembrances: The War Years And NU's Response, World War II Commemoration*, Final Volume, January 1996, pages 69-70
- "John Bowater (1629-1704), Son of Bromsgrove and Early Quaker Minister", *The Bromsgrove Rousler*, The Bromsgrove Society, Bromsgrove, England, December, 1997, No. 12, pages 18-26
- "John Bowater (1629-1704) - His Life as A Quaker and His Sermons From Prison", 2010, 66 page self published book
- Numerous Articles in the Award Winning North Suburban Genealogical Society Newsletter (1993 - 2000), Winnetka, Illinois