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Special connections: September 28, 1990

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SPECIAL

CONNECTIONS

Date September 28, 1990 Topic _____

Former POW to deliver inspirational message to UH employees, staff on Oct. 2

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, retired U.S. Navy Captain Gerald Coffee will share with UH employees and staff his experience as a prisoner of war for seven years, which allowed him to understand the strength of the human spirit and to inspire others. Coffee will deliver his inspirational message to the UH community that day from 1:30 to 3 p.m., in Keefer Auditorium. All members of the Hospital community are invited.

As a Navy pilot, Coffee was flying a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam when his aircraft was shot down by enemy fire in 1966. After parachuting safely to the ground, he was captured and held prisoner by the communist Vietnamese government. In his new book, "Beyond Survival," Coffee relates the details of his horrifying experience—from the time of capture to the time of his release seven years later. His deep faith—in God, himself and his country—coupled with the power of the human spirit, enabled Coffee to overcome adversity, and to teach others that they can do the same.

"While in many ways, the POW issue is obsolete, the specific lessons learned from it are not," says Coffee, whose military decorations and awards include two Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Vietnam Service Medal with 13 stars. "The question that invariably arises from [people's] minds is, 'How would I have done?' The answer I tell them is that they, too, could have survived—and gone beyond survival—by drawing on the same sources of strength I and others did."

International speaker

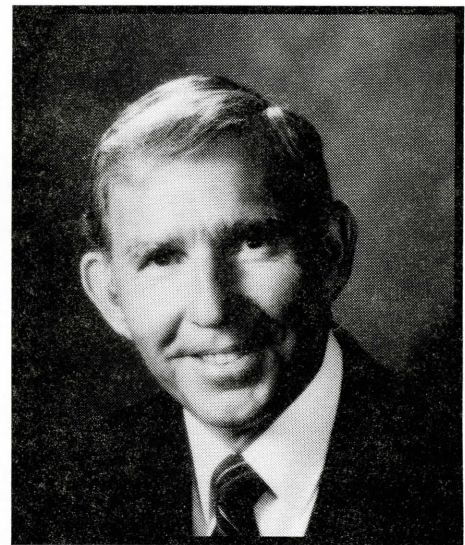
Since his retirement from the Navy in 1985, Coffee has addressed more than 125 audiences each year, including leading professional, business and service organizations both nationally and internationally. The following are some comments by people who have heard Coffee speak:

- "Captain Jerry Coffee is one of the best guests I've ever interviewed. His story is fascinating and compelling...a real inspiration."

Larry King, Cable News Network

- "Captain Coffee is the most powerful, inspirational speaker I've ever heard. He will demonstrate how you can live life to the fullest and how to make all of life's experiences positive ones. Hearing him is an unforgettably moving experience."

*Tom Johnson, publisher and CEO
Los Angeles Times*



Captain Gerald Coffee



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