



The Star



Issue #101

"We Speak Their Names"

Summer 2021

Searching

By Sandra Coldicott Britton



Above: Frederick Coldicott and his wife Elizabeth with two of their three children

Growing up, we never had a father to identify with.

I was about 21 months old, and my brother Fred only five months old, when our father, Private Frederick Brian Coldicott, was killed October 22, 1944. He perished in Wurselen, Germany - far from his home in Roseville, Michigan. There was no memory. Our mother, Elizabeth, didn't speak of him often, other than to tell us that he was a very special man.

Looking back on it, it seems very likely that the anguish she suffered at a young age - firstly losing my twin sister, Sally, who died suddenly at nine months of age, when my mother was only just 19, and then a year later losing both her brother and my father only a month apart - caused her to block out her memories of that time.

Regardless of the reasons why, my brother and I grew up never knowing who our father was as a person. All we had was pictures and letters sent to my mother from my father during the war. As children, my brother and I would watch war movies on TV, looking to perhaps catch a glimpse of our dad. My brother, my father's namesake, would practice my father's signature over and over again; as an adult, his signature is identical to my father's.

In August of 1945, my mother remarried and had three more children. Growing up in a world that seemed to want to forget the war, we learned to keep our emotions inside and our feelings to ourselves. There was so much secret pain that was never discussed. Even to this day my brother has trouble showing his emotions. We needed our father to show us love.

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Find AWON on the Web at

www.awon.org!

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the American World War II Orphans Network



President's Message

by Walt Linne

First off, I have received numerous comments and praises for our 100th/30 anniversary STAR issue. And I want to thank our STAR Editor Kristin Holmes for a "Pulitzer Prize" effort in producing this wonderful, color copy 30-year review of AWON's existence - job well done. (*Editor's Note - It's my pleasure! - K*). Let's all give a big thank you to our many volunteers over the years that have kept our Fathers' sacrifice alive the past three decades. Kudos to you all.

Secondly, I mentioned in one of my previous President's Messages that we needed to increase our membership numbers by 100 to continue our mission of promoting relationships with like organizations and keeping the sacrifices of our Fathers and all veterans, alive. I am pleased to announce that as a result of the Membership Committee sending out some gentle reminders, we have increased our renewal and new membership numbers by 24 members. Good job, Membership Committee!

Thirdly, Our By-Laws Committee has amended the AWON By-Laws as of 6/27/2021. I encourage our members to visit the AWON Website here: <http://www.awon2.org/members/bylaws.html> to review the current AWON By-Laws. The most significant amendment to the AWON By-Laws being *Article X – Dissolution*. Job well done.

Fourth, A National WWII Museum Victory Paver commemorating AWON Fathers will be installed in the heart of the National WWII Museum campus. We plan a small dedication ceremony during our National Conference, May 4-8, 2022. If you wish to donate to this Commemorative Paver, please send your donation to AWON, *Victory Paver, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216*. Please check out pages 14-15 for more information about the pavers.

Finally, the registration form for AWON's National 30th Anniversary Conference, *Honor and Remember*, can be found on page 11. The *Honor and Remember* conference will be held at the Higgins Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana across the street from the National WWII Museum, from May 4 to May 8, 2022. See you in New Orleans!



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www.awon.org
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Someone once mused, "What would Liz do, if Fred were to come home?" There was a long time where my brother and I hoped that statement could come true. To shatter this hopeful dream, my mother received a letter from a girl in Holland. She had adopted Dad's grave and sent pictures of his burial site. Mother said, "It would be nice to go to Holland someday."

But Mom, I wondered, where IS Holland?

It became my childhood dream to travel to this mysterious place called Holland someday and find my dad.

Forty years later, in 1984, in honor of our 25th wedding anniversary, my husband suggested we take a trip to Europe with a very special stop in The Netherlands - that place I had so long thought of as Holland. I was so excited that I called my Uncle Stan, my father's only brother, and asked him if he and his wife would like to take the trip as well. Uncle Stan and his wife Marilyn were thrilled about going. Much to my delight, Aunt Marilyn's sister and her husband also joined us.

I recall thinking as the plane took off, *I can't believe the time has finally come, am I dreaming?* But it was real; at long last my childhood dream had come true.

At the airport in Brussels, Belgium, a mini-bus was waiting for us. As we traveled along the route, I studied a travel guide and read about an old castle that had been converted into a bed-and-breakfast. We decided to stay there. It must have been fate, because much to our surprise, the route to the old castle took us past the Netherlands American Cemetery - Margraten. The castle was only ten minutes away from the place where my father lay!

As we passed by the cemetery, something inside of me longed to cry out *STOP NOW! I want to go see my father! I don't want to wait ten minutes more!* But of course, I had to choke that emotion

down yet again, as I had done so many times before in my life. But not for much longer!

Words cannot express the awesome sight that awaited as we entered Margraten Cemetery. It is an incredibly beautiful, almost holy place. Visiting Margraten is truly a spiritual experience. The caretaker of the cemetery escorted us to my dad's grave. While it was a very emotional moment, there were no tears. Instead I simply said, "Well, Dad, after forty years, I finally made it."

I was overcome with pride as I signed the guest register - pride in my father, pride in his comrades, pride in all 8,301 soldiers buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery who gave their lives so that we could live in the Land of the Free. I wanted people to know that I was there and that I found my dad - so I signed the register Sandra "Coldicott" Britton. Unbeknownst to me, at that point the caretaker made a phone call to a journalist and told him "I have found the Americans that you've been searching for."

We merely picked up and went on with our journey, traveling to Birmingham, England, my father's birthplace. There I met several relatives from my father's side of the family. One thing that stands out in my mind is that my great-aunt told the story of how she dressed my dad, at the age of two, for his journey to America.

And then, the unbelievable happened! We'd only just arrived home when the phone rang, not thirty minutes after we'd walked in the door. It was an international call from the Netherlands; a journalist named Jan Hendriks was on the other end of the line. At first, I felt apprehensive. Who was this person and what did he want of me? Mr. Hendriks explained that he was a journalist from the *DeLimburger* newspaper. He had been searching and working on an idea.

Mr. Hendriks told us, "In September of 1984, it will be forty years since the Americans have liberated Holland." To commemorate this anniversary, he wanted to bring the memory of an American

soldier to life. Who was he? Where did he come from? What had he looked like and where was his family today? Then he continued, “The people of Holland are so grateful and loyal to the American soldiers for their liberation.”

I asked him, “Why has my father been chosen, of all the 8,301 soldiers that are buried at Margraten Cemetery?” Mr. Hendriks replied that he had been searching through records and looking for any family connections. But his searches kept coming up with dead ends. He then said that due to my recent visit to my father’s grave, I was the missing link he had been searching for. With great excitement I told him that he was welcome and invited him to visit our home in America. I explained that my mother was present, right then and there, while we were having the phone conversation. Mr. Hendriks was extremely happy to hear this and then generously offered an all expenses paid trip for my mother to visit Holland as well, courtesy of the *DeLimburger*.

My mother had always kept silent, locking her memories deep within her heart for forty years. Surely a journey to her lover’s grave seemed like an impossible dream for her. Yet here it was, the golden opportunity, something we had never imagined coming to pass. But would she take it?

As I hung up the phone, I turned and looked at my mother. With a smile on her face, it revealed to me that this was, indeed, her secret desire. I knew my mother would make the trip, no matter what. From that moment on, her life changed.

A couple of months later, Jan Hendriks and his wife Annie came to visit our home. Jan interviewed my mother, my brother Fred, and family members. He also interviewed a friend of the family that I have known for years. Much to my surprise, I learned that this man I’d known for so long was actually my father’s best friend! I had never been aware of our connection!

We had a wonderful time with the Hendriks. Their ten-day visit went by far too quickly. I felt in my heart we would have a lasting friendship. After all, we both had come to the end of our search. Through the will of God, this was meant to be.

Jan and I stayed in touch as he sent plans for our return trip with my mother. The plans included our attendance to the reunion of “Old Hickory”, my father’s army division. I looked forward to the honor of being with the 200 veterans at the reunion. On this trip, my mother, my brother Fred, his wife Sandy, and myself made the journey from America. We were joined by Uncle Stan and



Left: Fred Coldicott with his children Sandra and Fred, Jr.

Below: Elizabeth and Fred pose for a photo together

Right: Private Frederick Brian Coldicott



...Searching, continued from previous page

Aunt Marilyn in Belgium. Jan had arranged for our lodging; my mother stayed in the home of Elizabeth, the woman who had adopted and cared for my father's grave through the long years. How strange that both women shared the same name!

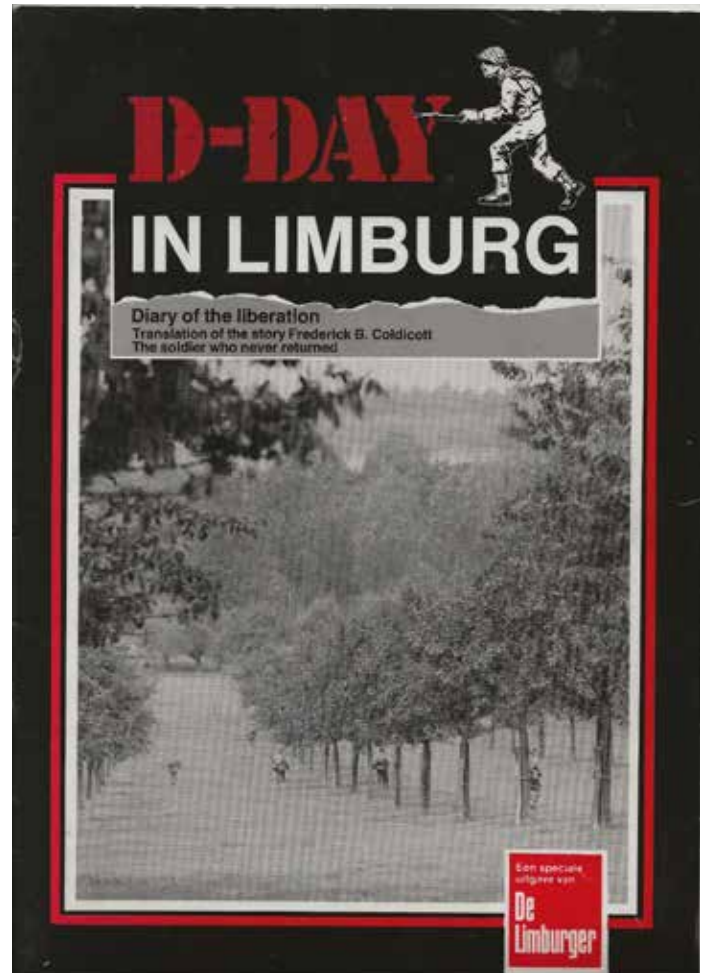
Together we walked through Margraten Cemetery, tears streaming down my mother's face. She spoke of my father's love of rolling land and trees. She said, "Fred would have liked this resting place." In that moment, it appeared to me that all the doubts and questions she had had about bringing my father's body home were put aside, and she was at peace with her decision.

It was an amazing, incredibly moving feeling, gazing upon the 8,301 white crosses for fallen soldiers. As we came upon my father's grave, my mother began to mournfully sob. The emotions came pouring out of her, showing the first expression of love that I had ever witnessed by my mother to my father. I will never forget that moment. I will always hold it dear to my heart.

As we were leaving the cemetery, we entered into the Wall of the Missing, a memorial to 1,722 fallen comrades. Looking at the names engraved on the wall held us speechless. While attending the reunion of "Old Hickory", of all the many wonderful things I learned among their company, was the true meaning of being a proud American. Both the men who lived and the men who died sacrificed so much to teach not only me, but all of us, this lesson.

The Dutch people did eventually come to know the soldier Fred Coldicott. Jan Hendriks wrote a book, and a series of articles were published in the *DeLimburger* daily newspaper. His grave is visited daily with fresh cut flowers, and my search has ended.

An impossible dream has come true. I have come to know a father whom I can identify with. My life has been forever changed. Dad, I thank you, and I love you.



Above: The cover of the English language edition of the Dutch newsmagazine containing the complete story of Private Frederick Coldicott's life, written by journalist Jan Hendriks of the *DeLimburger*, the daily newspaper of the city of Limburgh, in the Netherlands.

AWON Members -

Is your father buried in a national cemetery?
Check out the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)!

VLM is an online memorial space managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). NCA manages over 150 national cemeteries to honor our Nation's veterans, and memorializes more than 3.7 million veterans interred in those cemeteries in a digital memorial, providing a VLM profile page for each veteran, to which personal touches like photos and tributes can be added.

Find out more by visiting their homepage at:
www.va.gov/remember

AWON Moments

by AWON President Walter Linne

*The mission of our **AWON Moments** series is to review AWON history, celebrating special moments experienced by AWON orphan members since Ann Bennett Mix founded the organization in 1991.*

As we celebrate AWON's 30th anniversary, here are a few of AWON's milestones and AWON Moments that our members have experienced:

From *American WWII Orphans Network Newsletter Vol 29, Spring 2003* – Mark your calendar for the AWON National Conference – In Their Memory Washington DC – May 28-31, 2004 and the National WWII Memorial Dedication – May 29, 2004.

From Vol 30, June 2003 – From the Jack Forgy article *Mom, Why was Daddy Drafted* – Most AWON Dads were conscripted or drafted into the service during WWII. It is easy to tell who they were. They were lower ranking men whose Army Serial Number began with a 3 or a 4. Since nearly all branches of service used the draft in WWII, one could also tell who the draftees were because their titles would include USNR, USMCR and USCGR. Their R stood for Reserve. In other words, they were Citizen Soldiers.

From Vol 31., September 2003 – *Bob Hope, R.I.P. (29 May 1903 – 27 July 2003)* - The world mourns the passing of Bob Hope, who cheered millions with humor during his incredible career. For nearly 60 years, beginning during WWII, he entertained U.S. troops, across the globe. Those who saw him, either on TV, in movies, or in person, will never forget him.

From Vol 32, January 2004 – *Touchstones – A Guide to Records, Rights and Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties* by Ann Bennett Mix - First published in 1996 and representing five years of researching information sources and privileges,



Touchstones is a guide to locating records of WWII casualties. Survivors of persons killed in World War II have certain rights and privileges granted by the U.S. Government including burial markers, flags, medals, and awards, and other provisions. *Touchstones* offers these sources to those who are interested in what records are available today. *Note: Many of these resources can be found currently on the Internet.*

From Vol 33, April 2003 – *All Eyes on AWON – WWII Orphans' Stories Continue to Attract Interest as Nation Prepares for WWII Memorial Dedication* by Adam Shapiro, Widmeyer Communications. – The efforts to raise the visibility of AWON and its mission have continued into New York and are picking up steam as we head into the Memorial Day weekend. Currently we are compiling an AWON Media Guide that will contain information about members, their fathers, details about their service and other unique elements that will interest reporters. This guide will be shared with reporters along with public relations departments of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation.

...AWON Moments, continued from prev. page

Vol 34, Summer 2004 – *Wreaths For Our Fathers* – What began Memorial Day 2003 with a wreath placed at Henri-Chappelle in Belgium by Belgian “Godparents” Régine Achten-Villers & Bernard Achten, this year expanded to seven overseas cemeteries. Wreath tributes were placed at Ardennes, Florence, Luxembourg, Manila, Margraten, and Sicily-Rome. Each wreath-laying was facilitated by an AWON member who represented participating members whose fathers rest there. We hope that each year additional cemeteries will be added until tributes are paid to our fathers at all WWII overseas cemeteries. *Note: That goal was met!*

Vol 35, November 2004 – *Sons and Daughters In Touch* – Our “sister” organization, SDIT, is comprised of the sons and daughters of those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. SDIT has scheduled their 2005 conference for Father’s Day weekend, June 16-19, at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, VA. A Father’s Day Ceremony will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 10:00AM on Sunday, June 19 in DC. Additional details are available on their website at www.sdit.org.

Vol 36, Spring 2005 – *Howdy Partners* – Mark your calendars for the 2006 AWON Conference in San Antonio, Texas, May 2006 (exact date forthcoming). Details are still being planned, but you can count on the following: sharing circles, sessions on research, writing, and orphan experience, business meeting, banquet, making and renewing friendships and free time to explore the city. Some of San Antonio’s main attractions, The Alamo, Fort Sam Houston, and several military bases with museums.

Vol 37, May 2005 – *Wisconsin Gold Star License Plates* – AWONer Dave Stanek, son of Aloysius “Al” Stanek, was instrumental in Wisconsin issuing the Gold Star license plates. The plates were issued without the extra fees applied for special license plates. Dave asked that any Orphan contact their Assemblyperson and encourage them to get the Gold Star Plates for Wisconsin.

Vol 38, August 2005 – AWON’s Regional Coordinator Program is up and running with 32 Regional Coordinators in 20 states so far. Large or more populated states were divided by zip code. Contact information for those who have indicated that it is OK to release it to other members was sent to the regional coordinators. If you haven’t signed the “release form” and wish to be invited to activities in your area, please contact our Database Manager. As the year progresses, we hope to have Coordinators in all 50 states organizing activities for members between conferences.

Unforgettable AWON Moment – *Angie’s Story* by Angela Christian, Chesterfield, England – When I was twelve, my mother told me who my father was – PVT Gilbert M. Bush, who died 8 May 1945 near Unna, Germany. She said he liked dancing, playing craps and other usual things done by soldiers in those horrendous times – and that was that. As I come from England, I found it absolutely fascinating to learn that my father was an American GI, but I was left with the impression it was a topic better not discussed. By August 2003, my mum had been dead for some years, but thoughts about my father gnawed at my insides.

I knew I needed to do something - anything. With the help of my son Daniel, he quickly found that my dad was buried at Margraten Military Cemetery. At that precise moment, the bedroom door slammed shut, and I knew my dad was there in the room with me. Since that night, the information has been coming quick and fast, and it has been quite a roller-coaster ride. Many people have helped me along the way and I particularly want to thank AWON for allowing me to know there are others just like me and for embracing me as part of its family, a feeling I had longed for all my life.

Please send your *AWON Moment* to:
AWON STAR, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

or president@awon.org

Walter Linne, brother of John,
Sons of Walter John Linne
KIA March 24, 1945
Germersheim-on-the-Rhine, Germany

**The Star Guidelines for
Submitting Material**

We want to tell your story
and your family's story.
We accept submissions
both electronically and via
US mail. If you have an
article or picture and aren't
sure how to submit it, that's
ok. Message *The Star*
and we will work with you.

Please keep text reasonable
in length. 500-1000 words or
1 page is a good guideline, but
we publish longer pieces too.
Preference is given to material
written by, for, and about
AWON members and families.

Authors retain copyright to
published original writing.
Permission to reprint should
be obtained from the author
by contacting the editor.

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Make Sure the Next Generation Hears YOUR Family Story!!!!



The STAR needs your
submissions today!



Don't let your family's
stories go untold!!

As we enjoy AWON's Thirtieth year, we here at *The Star* want to urge every AWON member to share with us the story of your father's life, your family's loss, and your personal journey of self-discovery.

Please don't hesitate - contribute!

It's easy - our editors will do all the hard stuff,
we just need to hear from YOU! Submit today!

The new MeWe ListServ



All AWON members in good standing are invited to participate in AWON's Facebook page, and test out our brand new MeWe page! To find out more about MeWe (it's just like Facebook, but with better privacy protections) and receive an invitation to join AWON's MeWe Page contact Lorin McCleary at ldmccleary@gmail.com.



MeWe FAQ

Here are some FAQs - or "Frequently Asked Questions" - about the AWON MeWe site and instructions about how to join compiled by our MeWe guru Lorin McCleary.

What is MeWe?

MeWe is a social networking site similar in concept to Facebook. Users can post articles including text, graphics and photographs, chat with the group, chat privately with other members, respond to the posts of others, and search previous posts.

How does MeWe differ from Facebook?

MeWe protects the privacy of its users. Unlike Facebook, MeWe does not compile data on its users based on the user's Internet searches or articles a user reads on Facebook or elsewhere on the internet. Facebook compiles this user data which it then sells to advertisers and others for their targeted marketing purposes. MeWe does not do this. Your data is not for sale with MeWe and your privacy is protected.

Why was the AWON MeWe site launched?

AWON, in cooperation with the West Point Alumni Association, has offered the AWON ListServer email sharing service for many years. The ListServer format has many limitations: it is text-based; photos and graphics cannot be posted; there is no search function; there is no group or individual chat; and no opportunity to react to posts or comment in a thread. After evaluating many competing products, the AWON Board voted to discontinue the AWON ListServer effective March 1, 2021 and adopt the AWON MeWe site as an alternative.

What does it cost to join MeWe?

There is no cost to join MeWe as a basic member. A premium membership is offered but you can decline that to join if you don't want those extra services. You will also be asked if you want to upload your contact list to MeWe. You can decline that also if you don't want to do so.

Does the AWON MeWe site compete with the AWON Facebook site?

No, the MeWe site is a replacement for the Listserver which is being discontinued. The AWON Facebook page will continue unchanged into the future. If you like the AWON Facebook page and are comfortable with Facebook's handling of user privacy, by all means, please continue to participate on the AWON Facebook page.

Can I join both the AWON Facebook page and the AWON MeWe page?

Yes, absolutely, you can. There is very often different content on both sites on the same day.

What are the key features of the AWON MeWe page?

The AWON MeWe page has a focus on the history of WWII and on honoring and remembering our AWON fathers. A list of the AWON fathers who died on that specific day, including their military unit and the location of their death, is posted daily. Where possible, historical articles relating to the fighting in which they died or other historical WWII information is posted. Father tributes are encouraged. Members are encouraged to post any information relating to the history of WWII and the honoring of our AWON fathers.

How do I join the AWON MeWe site?

It is very easy to join the AWON MeWe site and it works in two steps just like it did when you joined Facebook and then signed up for the AWON page.

Step 1 is to join MeWe at this link: <https://mewe.com/>

Step 2 is to sign up for the AWON MeWe page. Once you have joined MeWe, simply enter AWON in the search bar on the top right of the screen and select Group from the results. Select AWON and you will go to our AWON page. Request to join, then answer two simple questions: "Are you a WWII orphan?" and "Are you a member of AWON?" After that, your request to join will be approved. AWON membership is not required, but it is encouraged.

Will I get spammed once I join MeWe?

No, you will not get spammed. MeWe does not sell its membership list to others. Your privacy is protected.

See you on MeWe!

Register Now for AWON's 2022 Conference:

https://group.curiocollection.com/_AmericanWWIIOrphanNetworkAWONBiennialMeeting



AWON is pleased to announce our upcoming 2022 "Honor and Remember" conference. It will be held at the Higgins Hotel and Convention Center at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, May 4-8, 2022.

Since its opening in 2000, the National WWII Museum has become a popular destination for history lovers, war buffs, and families. The museum's stated mission is to tell the story of the American experience during the Second World War, or in their words, "the war that changed the world" - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

At first blush, a hotel like the Higgins, part of the distinctive Curio Collection by Hilton, built alongside a war museum seems a strange pairing. But when that museum is the National WWII Museum - the #3 museum in the United States and amazingly, the top tourist destination in tourist mecca New Orleans - it only makes sense to give the museum's hundreds of yearly visitors a place to stay while they explore one of the most important chapters in our nation's history.

The Higgins Hotel and Conference Center provides a luxury hotel experience only a minute's walk from the National WWII Museum, and ample meeting space for organizations like AWON to conduct their business. Named after shipbuilder Andrew Higgins, whose company, Higgins Industries, built the amphibious LVCP (Higgins Boat) widely used in WWII, the Higgins Hotel features spectacular Art Deco stylings with all the modern amenities.

The National WWII Museum features a vast array of displays, exhibits, and much more. For a gorgeous gallery of photos from the Higgins Hotel and the National WWII Museum, please visit: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/msyrvqq-the-higgins-hotel-new-orleans/gallery/>

Participants are due to arrive in at the "Honor and Remember" convention May 4, 2022, and depart May 8. However, should you wish to extend your stay, the booking agent can help you with that when you call to make arrangements.

To book your room, please call 833-357-1172 with your credit card at the ready. Know your desired arrival and departure date and if you would like a room with a king bed or two queen beds. Your group code will be **AWONCI** and the group name is the American WWII Orphans Network. This will make it easier for the booking agent to find the right group for your reservation!

Or, use the handy link under our title above!

After booking, you will receive an automated confirmation email. Guests will be able to earn Hilton Honors points according to their membership. Parking fees and other additional info will be included in the next edition of *The Star*.



Registration

New Orleans WWII Museum • Higgins Hotel • May 4-8, '22

Please return registration and fee by April 1, 2022

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is this your first AWON Conference? Y N Do you want your name listed in the conference roster? Y N

Do you have special needs?: _____

Registration Fee (includes Reception, Banquet, Meeting Room Fees and WWII Museum Admission)

____ Members & Guests X \$200 \$ _____

____ New Members & Renewals X \$225 (includes 1 year AWON Membership Dues) \$ _____

Total Registration Fees enclosed: \$ _____

Name Tag Information (please print clearly – and include State of Residence)

Your Name: (include maiden name) _____ State: _____

Guests Names: _____ State: _____

Serviceman's Name: _____ Service Branch: _____

Rank First Middle Last

Circle One: KIA MIA Died while on Duty Date of Death: _____ Country Died: _____

Mail Registration Form with check or money order payable to AWON to:

AWON 2022 National Conference
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216



Airport

New Orleans • WWII Museum Higgins Hotel • May 4-8, '22



**Louis Armstrong New Orleans
International Airport**

Airport Code

MSY

Address ~ 1 Terminal Drive
Kenner, LA 70062

Phone ~ 504/464-083



Distance to the Higgins ~

15 Miles

Drive Time ~

25 Minutes

| Type | Typical Minimum Charge |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Limousine | 115.00 USD |
| Super Shuttle | 24.00 USD |
| Rental Car | 40.00 USD |
| Taxi | 36.00 USD |



Schedule

New Orleans • WWII Museum • Higgins Hotel • May 4-8, '22

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/4 | |
| Wednesday ~ | <i>Noon - 5:00 PM - Conference Registration</i> <i>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Free Time</i> <i>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Informal Welcome – Hospitality Room</i> |
| 5/5 | |
| Thursday ~ | <i>9:00 AM - Noon - Conference Registration</i> <i>Noon - 1:00 PM - Free Time</i> <i>1:00 PM - 1:30 PM - Welcome by Museum Representative</i> <i>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM - Presentations</i> <i>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Sharing Circles</i> <i>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Free Time</i> <i>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Welcome Reception</i> |
| 5/6 | |
| Friday ~ | <i>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - Dedication of Father's Commemorative Paver</i> <i>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Memorial Service</i> <i>11:00 - Closing - Museum Tour</i> |
| 5/7 | |
| Saturday ~ | <i>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Business Meeting</i> <i>11:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Free Time</i> <i>6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Cocktails</i> <i>6:30 PM to 8:00 PM - Dinner</i> <i>8:00 PM - Presentations and Entertainment</i> |
| 5/8 | |
| Sunday ~ | <i>Free Day</i> <i>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Farewell – Hospitality Room</i> |

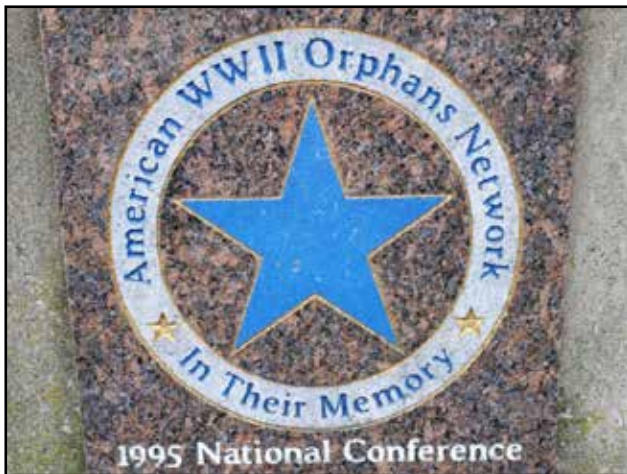


AWON Memorial Fund Raiser

National WWII Museum Victory Paver

Over the years AWON has dedicated a memorial or plaque at most of our national conference sites to commemorate our organization and our Fathers.

The first AWON Memorial was established on the waterfront in Bremerton, Washington at our first national conference in 1995. Subsequent memorials have been in the form of AWON plaques presented to the host conference site as a memorial to our visit and to our Fathers.



Of course, the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in Washington DC was celebrated by AWON, along with the nation, at our 2004 National Conference.

AWON raised several thousand dollars for the memorial that honored all WWII veterans.

And AWON was involved in the design process, ensuring that the Gold Stars be added to the National WWII Memorial to commemorate our Dads and all who died in the war.



In keeping with AWON tradition, a commemorative Victory Paver has been purchased at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, in celebration of AWON's 30th anniversary. The cost is \$3,000.00.

This Victory Paver will be installed in the heart of the National WWII Museum campus on the Colonel Battle Barksdale Parade Ground and Founders' Plaza, commemorating the selfless sacrifice of our Fathers and guaranteeing that AWON's commemorative Victory Paver honoring our Fathers will be appreciated by hundreds of thousands of Museum guests every year.



The commemorative Victory Paver will be located in the Founders' Plaza pictured at left, the largest gathering area at the National WWII Museum.

The size of the Victory Paver is illustrated at the bottom right of this page - 18" x 12", the largest size available.

To donate:

**American Orphans Network
Victory Paver
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216**

Any donations above \$3,000.00 will roll over to the AWON Wreath Fund. Thank you!

AWON's commemorative
Victory Paver at the National WWII
Museum will contain the lettering
featured below:

AWON
AMERICAN WWII
ORPHANS NETWORK
183,000 CHILDREN
LEFT FATHERLESS
"IN THEIR MEMORY"



Memorial Day 2021 at the ABMC's Overseas Cemeteries

While things aren't *quite* back to normal at the ABMC's Overseas Cemeteries, with private ceremonies still being held in the wake of the coronavirus, they're getting there! The Wreath and Banner Program was able to place some stunning wreaths bearing the names of 657 fallen AWON Fathers' names this year.

In Their Memory!



Left: AWON's Wreath laid at Ardennes American Cemetery

Right: AWON'S Wreath at Brittany American Cemetery



Right: AWON's wreath at Cambridge American Cemetery





Above: AWON's wreath at Epinal American Cemetery



Right: AWON's wreath laid at Florence American Cemetery



Left: AWON's Wreath at Henri-Chappelle American Cemetery

Lower Left: AWON's Wreath laid at Lorraine American Cemetery

Lower Right: AWON's Wreath at Luxembourg American Cemetery





Above: Vicente Lim IV poses by the AWON Wreath laid at Manila American Cemetery.

Below: Joost Claassens with the AWON Wreath at Netherlands American Cemetery

Right: Jean-Marc Lesueur with AWON's Normandy American Cemetery Wreath



To enjoy ALL AWON's wreath pictures and read more about the overseas cemeteries, please click the Connected "W" symbol below to take you to our extended online content:

For more pictures:





Left: AWON's Wreath from the North African American Cemetery

Center Left: AWON's Wreath from Rhone American Cemetery

Bottom Left: AWON's Wreath laid at the Cemetery of the Pacific

Above:
This wreath was laid by AWON at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery

Below: The AWON Wreath laid at Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial



Memorial Day - Stateside

From Maggie Malone, at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Manhattan:

Most Memorial Days, we lay a wreath on behalf of AWON, but this year, due to the coronavirus, the ceremony was short. Only one wreath representing all the organizations that are usually part of the program was laid - a far cry from the past, when 20-plus wreaths were presented from groups representing all wars America has been in.

While the last complete ceremony (2019) featured four of us orphans speaking of our Dads and our families, this year there appeared to be some resistance to our taking up time from the politicians and military VIPs.

General Thomas Principe, a champion of AWON who has encouraged our participation for ten years now, spoke up for us at the board meeting. Bless him! There are still those who would ignore the children of the fallen! So hard to believe but it was true when we were young and it's true now.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Harris and I were AWON's representatives today. We took 98-year-old Lucille Posner, the WWII Wave, to lunch and she was such fun! So lively and interesting! A born storyteller! Lucille was in intelligence in DC, specializing in predicting weather wherever our troops were.

The program for 2021 consisted of an Army officer singing the Star Spangled Banner and then a biker played Taps. That was it. Next year we hope for a return to form, with the the usual dozens of sailors from Fleet Week, the units of soldiers, the dozens of military bigwigs, veterans and politicians, and at least 200 West Siders and other New Yorkers in attendance to honor the fallen.



Above: The Memorial Day Wreath at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, in NYC



Left: The delightful WWII Wave Lucille Posner, who attended the ceremony

Below: AWON Representatives Betsy Harris and Maggie Malone with General Thomas Principe





From the National World War II Memorial in Washington , D.C:

Above Left: AWONers Ken Underwood and Robert Meek, Jr. with AWON's 2021 wreath. Robert Meek also was proud to assist 95-year-old WWII Navy Veteran Les Jones in laying a wreath on behalf of the USA, remembering the fallen who never made it home.

Middle Left: Majors Robert H. Meek III and David Meek presented the AWON wreath on behalf of all AWON dads, but especially their grandfather, 2LT Robert H. Meek.



Below Left and Right: In 2017, Laurence Smelser left a rose marked with every name of the B-17 crewmen killed when his father, Major Harold C. Smelser, USAAF, was shot down in 1942 over the coast of France. Because there was no place to leave individual flowers at the National WWII Memorial, Mr. Smelser laid the roses beneath the bronze airmen's tablet.



Memorial Day Overseas - A Call for Coordinators

By Rik Peirson



Memorial Day is the last Monday in May. But unlike Veterans Day and the 4th of July, the focus of Memorial Day is on honoring and remembering those who gave everything for their country, and for us.

For many of us who remember our fathers and loved ones in cemeteries overseas, more of the natural focus is on the Memorial Day services themselves.

Memorial Day services are held at 26 American overseas cemeteries that hold our War dead, maintained by the ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission). Sixteen of these hold World War II dead; enclaves of service to the memory of our fallen. This spirit of reverence is evident in the dedication of the Superintendents and Associates, and in their meticulous, detailed care of the grounds.

It is at these hallowed places ~ every one of them holding AWON fathers and loved ones ~ that AWON has maintained the Wreath and Banner program since 2003, thanks to a dedicated crew of Stateside Coordinators and overseas loyalists.

AWON Wreath and Banner was the brainchild of Bernard Achten and Régine Achten-Villers, of Ans, Belgium, and was founded at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in 2003 by Régine and Bernard, Sharon Connor, and Rik Peirson.

For a more complete history of the program (and our thanks to so many who have been involved) ~ follow this story onto the AWON Website using the Connected 'W' icon on the following page.

Memorial Day 2020 was Covid-restricted, with ALL overseas ABMC cemeteries closed to the public. On Memorial Day weekend 2021, however, and with a glimmer of normality on the horizon, the ABMC cemeteries held services, mostly local and private. They may have been without the pomp and circumstance of dignitaries and color guards, but for Memorial Day 2021, these services were NOT without AWON Wreaths and Banners. You can see them at:

<https://www.awon.org/memorial-day-2021>

The magic responsibility of Coordinating an American overseas cemetery holds a different gift for all of us. But it involves managing communications with AWON sons and daughters; building relationships with cemetery Superintendents and Associates, overseas florists, and longtime AWON friends; and coordinating presentations when an AWON Member goes overseas for Memorial Day.

Many wreaths are on display at the overseas American cemeteries, but few are formally presented. And ONLY our AWON Wreaths include the names of men buried there.

Coordinators start by seeking donations among the sons and daughters of each cemetery, so the cost of each cemetery's Wreath and Banner can be shared at a reasonable cost. Bells go off (as it's always a big day) when a Coordinator finds a new member, often representing a NEW remembrance on a Banner. Seven new men were added just this year.

Coordinators also arrange for a Wreath and facilitate the critical marriage of the Banners to the Wreaths with a cover letter that accompanies all Banner sets to clarify what needs to be done at the florist or cemetery.

Coordinators reconcile donations and pay the florist, ending the Memorial Day year by gathering Memorial Day photos (like the one above, taken at Florence American Cemetery) and sending them to Rik Peirson for the Website and to Kristin Holmes for *The Star*.

We still need some help! Four American cemeteries need Coordination help for 2022, so 164 AWON men can be remembered.

Your help is needed at Ardennes (in Belgium), at Epinal and Lorraine (in France), and at Florence (in Italy.)

Our 16 cemeteries with MEGA thanks to all CURRENT Coordinators ~

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ardennes American | <i>Needs a Coordinator!</i> |
| Brittany American | Brian Hope |
| Cambridge American | Jeanne Rhinehart |
| Epinal American | <i>Needs a Coordinator!</i> |
| Florence American | <i>Needs a Coordinator!</i> |
| Henri-Chapelle American | Rik Peirson |
| Lorraine American | <i>Needs a Coordinator!</i> |
| Luxembourg American | Sandy MacDuffee |
| Manila American | Ruthie Joyce |
| Netherlands American | Gloria Layne |
| Normandy American | Rondy Elliott |
| North Africa American | Bonnie Hellums |
| Rhone American | The Group |
| Sicily-Rome American | Bob Meek |
| Suresnes American | The Group |
| Cemetery of the Pacific | Susan Chadd |

If Ardennes, Epinal, Florence, or Lorraine is calling you, please call Jeanne Rhinehart (717-697-9608). Or write Rik Peirson (Rik@dayone.com).

Bob Meek, AWON Treasurer and one of our longest-serving Coordinators, puts it this way:

I've had the honor and privilege of coordinating the AWON wreath for Sicily-Rome since AWON started the program. I have also had the profound experience of visiting my Dad's grave at Sicily-Rome as have several of my family members. I know not all of my AWON siblings have had this chance, so anything I can do to enhance their honoring and remembering their Dads is a small task compared to the sacrifices we all have made not having our Dads. It has been a pleasure getting to know my fellow Sicily-Rome sibs over the years and some tears over those we have lost. Therefore, as long as I am able, I will be honored and consider it a privilege to continue as the Sicily-Rome Coordinator for AWON.

Rondy Elliott, a Past Board Member and newer Coordinator of Normandy American expressed it like this:

Doing the Memorial Day wreath Coordination is a rewarding job; one we can do for AWON (which has given US so much) just once a year. It makes us feel very connected with our father, the cemetery in which he lies, and also connects us with others whose dads are in the same place. That's a special kind of camaraderie!

Gloria Layne, AWON V.P. and Coordinator of Margraten:

We visit our Dutch family almost every year . . . either there or them coming here. Over the years, we have made friends and we keep in touch with many people. My daughters and grandsons have visited and have also become friends and have learned about my father and the many other Americans who fought to free people from Hitler's grip. It is one thing to read a book . . . it is another to visit the sites where these heroes walked. It is much like our visit to Auschwitz. We had read books, but when we walked through the camp and saw pictures, shoes, glasses, the ovens . . . we came out with a renewed feeling of thank God for all the men who fought to ensure our freedom.

Rik Peirson, Webguy, and Coordinator of Henri-Chapelle:

We do it for so MANY reasons. One of mine involves George Zatco, who had corresponded first with Janice Buterbaugh, then met Shirley McKinney at a book signing (first sib he'd ever met). George joined AWON immediately, even as his cancer was progressing. Knowing he probably wouldn't last until the San Antonio conference, he confessed to Shirley that he worried he hadn't been around AWON long enough for us to remember his father. This is when Shirley and I promised George that we'd remember his Dad, SGT George Joseph Zatco on the Memorial Day Banner for Epinal every year we're still alive. Shirley passed in September of 2015, leaving me and all of us to remember George's Dad.

For Ruthie Joyce, who did a wonderful job for Manila American in her rookie year as Coordinator, it was even simpler:

I always wanted to do more (for AWON) but didn't really know what. Now I know what!



This story is continued on the AWON Website - please click the Connected 'W' for more about the Wreath and Banner Program!

Changes Made to AWON By-Laws

by Walt Linne

An organization's by-laws are a set of governing rules established by an organization to regulate itself and its mechanisms of operation, as allowed and implemented by the Board of Directors duly elected by its membership.

AWON's By-Laws were amended on June 27, 2021, in accordance with the previously established guidelines. The following areas were amended: All reference to "Associate Member" throughout the by-laws has been changed to "Supporting Member". Two ex-officio (non-voting Board members) were added - Editor and Webmaster.

In addition, several Articles have been changed, updated and/or added. These include Article VII – Quorum, Article VIII – Nominating, Article IX – Liabilities and Article X – Dissolution. You can read these changes in greater detail online here:

<http://www.awon2.org/members/bylaws.html>

The most significant addition to our By-laws is Article X – Dissolution.

Article X – Dissolution

When in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the organization is unable to function properly because of declining membership and/or financial shortfalls, the Executive Committee by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority may adopt a resolution to dissolve the Organization. The Executive Committee will notify the Board.

If the Board approves the resolution, it will notify all members. Such resolution must then be approved by 51% of the active members attending the first annual meeting held subsequent to the adoption of the Executive Committee and the Board's resolution to dissolve the organization.

The resolution so adopted by the Executive Committee, the Board, and the delegates shall contain a date of dissolution together with a provision for the distribution of the assets of the Organization on hand as of the dissolution date. Distribution should be in accordance with the Non-profit guidelines of the state of Washington.

Our active members are strongly encouraged to go to the AWON Website to review the current AWON by-laws here: <http://www.awon2.org/members/bylaws.html>.

If you wish to have a physical copy of the AWON by-laws, please contact AWON:

AWON, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

or by email: president@awon.org.

AWON Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm EST by President Walt Linne.

Present: Lorin McCleary - LM, Walt Linne - WL, Barry Barr-Finch - BF, Rik Peirson - RP, Judi Kramer - JK, Bob Meek - RM, Barbara George - BG, Kristin Holmes - KH. Excused: Ann Mix - AM, Gloria Layne - GL, Paul Bremer - PB

WL: opened meeting with discussion of matters relating to AWON membership levels. LM: Reviewed membership stats with the Board, updating it through April 8, 2021. WL: this past month, we received 22 renewals at the Indianapolis office.

BF: reported Joyce Kovalsky passed away recently and he will forward info to LM to enter in the database. RP: please forward info to him for inclusion on the AWON website.

RP: mentioned that wreath and banner emails contain a reference to remind people that they should keep their membership in AWON current. This should result in a flurry of renewals from the 342 messages which have gone out about Wreath and Banner.

WL: why are people not renewing? LM: the reason we hear most often is that they forget. He said that they may not be entirely candid when asked, however. LM: Based on some Internet searching he learned that organizations need to ask people why they do not renew. We need to regularly make them aware of the benefits of membership. The Renewal process has to be easy, quick and simple. We need PayPal or some other form of automated payment. BF: we need to have an automatic renewal and have members who wish to cancel to take action to cancel.

RP: is a proponent of having a single date of renewal for all members. WL: personal contact is one of the best ways to retain members. WL: leave the renewal date as it is to make it easier for database entry. WL: If we have lapsed members on Facebook, he does not favor removing them. He suggests that we should send out 2 notices then follow up with a telephone call to lapsed members.

There was then a discussion of the use of PayPal. BM: volunteered to investigate PayPal. LM: said that PayPal offers a discounted rate for non-profits. KH:

do renewing members need to fill out the entire form when renewing? WL: no, they only need to fill out their name and the dues info.

RP: we need to do outreach to attract new members. WL: what are you including in outreach? RP: advertising. RP: volunteers needed to follow-up on the advertising for outreach. RM: there are advertising opportunities available at no charge from other organizations like TAPS, Friends of the WWII Museum, MOAA.

WL: suggests hitting membership renewals twice a year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. LM: it is easier to get people to commit to work a finite period of time instead of working every month. RP: let's pick a week in June and ask for volunteers to help make some calls to lapsed members. WL: suggests we include an article about seeking volunteers for membership renewal in the 100th Issue of Star.

LM: who will tell him what data is wanted on the list? RP: will collaborate with LM on the contents of the list. WL: will email Gloria and Jeanne about calling lapsed members in June. RP: will make the Excel list from database into a PDF file for those who will be calling. LM: are we better off to seek volunteers in general rather than volunteers to help with telephoning? Can we call it a membership drive?

LM: sends out the list of lapsed members to the Board each month. He asked, "What happens to the list when it goes to the Membership Committee?" If no one on the Board or MC does anything with the list, that means there is no follow-up on lapsed members after the initial email reminder is sent.

WL: any comments on the membership calling script prepared by BG? Several members said it was really good and it should be used.

KH: announced that she needs the Memorial Day wreath photos forwarded to her quickly so that she can get the Summer issue out in a timely fashion to get back on schedule.

WL: will contact Billy Winters about coordinating Lorraine Ameican Cemetery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The Story of Stories Behind the Stars



Utah resident and amateur historian Don Milne had a dream - to document and preserve for posterity the life stories of the fallen soldiers behind the 4,080 stars on the National World War II Memorial.

With his children grown and leaving home, Milne began to use his spare time to write up the life stories of individual men on what would have been their hundredth birthdays - accumulating about 1600 stories between the beginning of January 2017 and 2020 on his blog, WWII Fallen 100.

What started as a pastime soon became a crusade. Mr. Milne moved beyond the blogosphere into the mainstream, turning his personal passion into an ambitious plan to compile biographies of every one of the more than 400,000 casualties of World War II, along with creating an app enabling visitors to our nation's monuments and cemeteries to look up the name of any one of these fallen soldiers and learn about them. This app is scheduled to be available for use by December.

Imagine, being able to walk among the Wall of Stars at the National World War II Monument while reading the life story of every single one of these heroes. It is a huge task that lies ahead, but just as the Allied Victory, even the largest of tasks can be accomplished with the assistance of enough individuals willing to sacrifice for the greater good.

To that end, in cooperation with Ancestry.com and the Greatest Generation Foundation, Don Milne has taken his crusade public with the Stories Behind The Stars initiative, <https://www.storiesbehindthestars.org/> where he is raising money and seeking volunteers to help with this project.

While many such memorial projects rely on family involvement, leading to some soldiers without surviving family neglected, Stories Behind the Stars uses volunteers to write up full biographies of EVERY



fallen hero, all of whom did their part to defend liberty. As Milne points out, it's tragic that American kids grow up knowing more about the exploits of comic book heroes than the sacrifices of real ones. We couldn't agree more.

Stories Behind the Stars recently celebrated a huge milestone with its D-Day Memorial project. Over 130 volunteers from three dozen states, plus France and England, undertook the monumental task of writing the life story of 2,502 fallen American soldiers who died June 6, 1944. You can read their stories here:

<https://www.storiesbehindthestars.org/post/every-d-day-fallen-has-a-story-2-502-of-them>

Stories Behind the Stars is currently gearing up for a new project, to write the life stories of the 2,335 men killed at Pearl Harbor. Between now and December 7, 2021, volunteers from all around the world will be working to complete this project.

If you are interested in taking part in the Pearl Harbor Project, documenting the life story of our fallen soldiers, please email don@storiesbehindthestars.org.

AWON is not officially partnering with SBTs at this time. This information is presented for your personal interest and should not be considered an endorsement.

A Question for the Editor:

How do AWON Members receive invitations to special events at the White House, such as the Memorial Day Reception?

I spoke with Marilyn Rustand-Lieurance, AWON's White House Liason. She kindly responded, "AWON members in good standing (current membership) can be added to the waiting list by emailing me at mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com. In return I will send a reply with the needed information for them to be added to the list. A simple email stating their name, phone number, and of course I'll already have their email, and will in turn contact them for the information needed for them to be added to the list."

Marilynn also explained to me that the waiting list is a necessity because of the quick turnaround for invitations to these events. It is not decided in advance how many invitations AWON will receive as many groups are lobbying for these same opportunities and there are sometimes last-minute cancellations providing unexpected opportunities. The waiting list is required so Marilyn can quickly contact interested parties immediately when she learns of an event.

The White House holds events within a very short period of time, meaning it is difficult to get information to them within their time frame for attendees to receive security clearance. It's important to have all your information on the waiting list ahead of time so it's ready to send the White House for vetting before the event. Marilyn said, "I wish we were given more time for the simple reason that more time would allow attendees to get a better rate for travel and accommodations, but it's just not the case."

Currently, the names on our White House Event list will take us through a few years; however, sometimes people can't attend when their name comes up or have to cancel at the last moment, creating a rush to fill that spot. Marilyn goes down the list until she can find someone who is

able to attend an event. So please don't hesitate to add your name to the waiting list; you very well may end up getting to attend even if you are not topmost on the waiting list.

Again, to get your name on the list, email Marilyn Rustand-Lieurance at mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com. She will send a reply with the needed information to be added to the list.

Unfortunately, so far in 2021, the new presidential administration has not been very communicative, and the traditional Memorial Day reception was not held this year. Marilyn tried several ways to contact the White House to no avail. She has spoken with members of an organization similar to AWON whose members attend the event each year, and they too have not heard any news. Marilyn plans to continue reaching out until she gets in touch with the new contacts, if any.

And I think I speak for all of us when I say a huge THANK YOU to Marilyn for her responsiveness in answering this question and also for the good work she does on behalf of AWON!

Keep Their Sacrifice Alive!

Please contribute to AWON's Commemorative Victory Paver at the National WWII Museum!

See pgs 14-15 for info and to see a sample of the paver AWON will be purchasing.

To donate:
American Orphans Network
Victory Paver
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Donations above \$3,000.00 will roll over to the AWON Wreath Fund. Thank you!

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members Gathering Around the Country

Hey! Our AWON Connections are BACK!!

YES! We have AWON Connections again! Covid-19 can't keep us down forever!

Do YOU want to take part in an AWON meetup, but aren't sure where to start? The best way is by taking part in a regional group.

AWON has about 50 hardworking regional coordinators. A Local Regional Coordinator, or LRC, is a source of first contact for new members, reaching out to welcome them to AWON. They will also ask if new members wish to be contacted for future gatherings.

If you joined AWON thinking that getting together with people wasn't quite your cup of tea, but have since changed your mind, it's not too late! Just contact Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com and he will put you in touch with your LRC. And don't worry, your information is confidential!

If you haven't ever been contacted by your LRC, it may be your area lacks one. That could be YOU!

AWON does not have LRCs in all areas, and in many of the larger states, distance is a factor. It's just too far for people to travel, no matter how badly they would like to meet their AWON siblings. Having more people willing to organize gatherings and help keep our membership database current is of paramount importance to keeping AWON going another thirty years!

If you are interested in contacting your LRC or becoming a Regional Coordinator yourself, please contact Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com.

And if you're an LRC and haven't been in touch for a while, please reach out to Barry as well.

Even if you'd prefer not to continue in a coordinator role any longer, AWON leadership would appreciate being updated on that so we can find another volunteer to pick up the mantle!



On May 10, Patty and Jerry Temte met Donna Allen and Jack Fazenberger for a wonderful, and most importantly, IN-PERSON, lunch in Dallas, Texas. No more Zoom calls for this crew! As Patty put it, "It was actually good to be seen and not viewed!" (*Editor's Note: in Issue 100, I mistakenly identified Jack Fazenberger as Jack Allen...hugest apologies! This quarantine has gotten to me!*)



AWONers Steve and Penny LeGrande met up with Dianne and John Baczynski for a lunch out in Scottsdale, Arizona. A great pic of precious times with special friends! Looking good, guys!



IN MEMORIAM:

Joe Chichelo
March 29, 1936 -
May 14, 2021

Joseph Generoso Chichelo of West Orange, NJ passed away with his family by his side on May 14, 2021, at the age of 85. Joe was with AWON to remember his father, PVT Generoso Chichelo.

Joe was the Director of Creative Services for Hoffmann-La Roche in Nutley, NJ for 27 years before his retirement.

Joseph was the beloved husband of 61 years of Pauline; loving father of Joseph, Michael, Diane Koval, Denise McGee, Paul, David, and Anthony; numerous grandchildren and extended family members.

David Francisco, husband of AWON Orphan Member Rosalie Miles Francisco, daughter of PVT Howard Carl Miles, passed away April 2.

David was a draftsman at Boeing for 13 years and a special education teacher at Meany and McClure Middle Schools in the Seattle School District for 25 years. David was an artist and avid reader who had multiple interests.

He was survived by Rosalie, his wife of 53 years; children Matthew, Christopher, Michael, Patricia, and Caroline; 7 grandchildren; and his sister, Helen.



IN MEMORIAM:

David Francisco
May 2, 1934 -
April 2, 2021



IN MEMORIAM:

Vic Muller

Victor S. Muller, of Mission Viejo, CA was with AWON to honor his elder brother PFC Joseph Muller.

Vic was one of only six overseas coordinators who had been with AWON since the beginning of the wreath program. He undertook the job at Rhone American Cemetery, even though his brother Joe was buried at Luxembourg. He said it just needed to be done.

Vic was a beloved father, devoted friend, amateur historian, a loving brother, and a generous soul.

Kathleen Malone Prantner, age 83, of Eau Claire, WI, passed on June 27, 2021. Kathleen, along with her sisters Maggie and Mary, was with AWON to honor her father, PVT Richard J. Malone.

Kathleen was a highly accomplished scholar, receiving her Masters of English and Literature from Villanova University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She edited a scientific journal until her retirement, while raising three children after her husband's death.



IN MEMORIAM:

Kathleen Prantner
April 20, 1938 -
June 27, 2021



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form

Books

Authors in **BOLD** are orphan or family members

Items marked with (*) include P&H

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ <i>Pieces of Us</i> | |
| By Janice Crandell Powers | \$20.00* |
| _____ <i>A Daughter's Quest: Retracing My Father's Footsteps During World War II</i> | |
| By Laura Smail Sims | \$16.95 |
| _____ <i>The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance</i> | |
| By Robert Fowler | \$15.99 |
| _____ <i>Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found</i> | |
| By Reda Reynolds | \$9.00 |
| _____ <i>Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse</i> | |
| By Joe Finnigan | \$12.99 |
| _____ <i>A Bit of Earth</i> | |
| By Wendy Crisp Lestina | \$13.95 |
| _____ <i>K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for His Father Through the Fog of War</i> | |
| By Patrick Audinet | \$10.00* |
| _____ <i>All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON</i> | |
| _____ <i>The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found</i> | |
| By Susan Johnson Hadler | \$15.00* |
| _____ <i>In Search of a Pilot: Hanford "Rusty" J. Rustand</i> | |
| By Marilyn Rustand Lieurance | \$7.00* |
| _____ <i>My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag</i> | |
| By Jerry W. Pinkerton | \$12.00* |
| _____ <i>The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War</i> | |
| By Nancy Kenney | \$16.00 |
| _____ <i>"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the lives of America's Children</i> | |
| By William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD | \$30.00 |
| _____ <i>In My Father's Words: Letters From a WWII Soldier</i> | |
| By Bill McElvain | \$16.00 |
| _____ <i>Farebersville 1944</i> | |
| By Jeff Wignall | \$18.95 |
| _____ <i>A Soldier's Daughter</i> | |
| By Lois Brown Klein | \$17.00 |
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To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

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