



# The Star



Issue #106

"We Speak Their Names"

Fall - 2022

## A Missing Father Comes Home

Compiled from media reports by Kristin Holmes



2LT Eugene Chauvin of the Army Air Corps, KIA Sept 17, 1944, was listed as missing until the identification of his remains on March 3, 2022. Chauvin was buried in his hometown on July 23, 2022 thanks to the diligent efforts of his daughter, AWON member Linda Chauvin.

From the day his plane went down on Sept. 17, 1944, to March 2, 2022, 2LT Eugene Chauvin of the Army Air Corps, was listed as missing in action.

The plane piloted by Lieutenant Chauvin had been one of six Pathfinder planes to head for the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden, the Allied offensive that sought to open a route into Germany in September 1944. When his C-47 Skytrain aircraft went down over Retie, Belgium, Chauvin and his crew were taking a southern path to a drop site near Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, to establish a landing zone of paratroopers who would help clear the way for three airborne divisions that followed.

AWON Member Linda Chauvin, only three years old when her father died, never stopped wondering about him. "All I was driven by as a child was I wanted to know about my father," she said. (As an adult, Linda changed the spelling of her name back to its original French spelling of Chauvin. Eugene Chauvin had expressed a desire to legally change it himself when he got home from the war, and Linda honored that wish when she changed the spelling in 1971.)

Eugene Chauvin was one of nine children born to Palma Leroy Chauvin and Maude Pearl Chauvin, nee Garrett. Eugene grew up in Hillyard, WA, close to Spokane, and married Phyllis Stoffer in 1940. Four of the boys in the Chauvin family served overseas during the war years; Eugene signed up as a private in the Army Air Corps and eventually reached the rank of Second Lieutenant.

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found on Page Three!**

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# President's Message

by Walt Linne

Wishing a big Happy Birthday to our Founder Ann Bennett Mix. And an even bigger thank you for founding the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON). Without AWON I would never have brought my Dad off the shelf and into my life. And I would never have met any of my orphan siblings to share my feelings, and to discover they were not unique to me. Thank you, Ann - love you.

In our last *STAR*, Issue #105, we posed two questions regarding our next national conference. Question #1: Will we have the next conference in 2023 or 2024? The most pertinent comment at the New Orleans business meeting was, "we're not getting any younger." Question #2: Where will the next conference be held? It is time for our next conference to be in the Western part of the United States e.g., San Antonio, Tucson, Fredericksburg, etc. Please send your comments and questions to me at [wlinne@iupui.edu](mailto:wlinne@iupui.edu) or mail your answers to AWON HQ's, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Our Board of Directors election results will be posted in the next *STAR*. As noted in the last issue of *The STAR* we have several exceptional candidates who have applied. The central theme in the biographical sketches was that eventually we had to work towards handing the organization off to the next generation. Hence, one of our main goals for the new year is to work towards that end.

I recently received a note from an inactive member asking if we were still a viable organization. Active members receiving *The STAR* or visiting AWON's Website - [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org) - can see how active we have been with the Gold Star Organization, the American Battle Monument Commission, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and so on. And our 14th National Conference held in New Orleans at the National WWII Museum was outstanding. Please, please pass the word, "AWON IS STILL IN BUSINESS!"

Finally, Happy Holidays, all! And may we have a bountiful and blessed 2023! In Their Memory!!



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Ann Bennett Mix

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The Shauvin Family - Eugene, Linda, and Phyllis

Phyllis Shauvin followed her husband to training sites in California, while their daughter Linda, remained with grandparents in Eugene, OR. "He had told (my mother), their last night together, that he had a premonition that he would not come back from the war," Linda Chauvin said.

In the early fall of 1944, Shauvin was assigned to the 95th Troop Carrier Squadron, 440th Troop Carrier Group. On Sept. 17, Shauvin was piloting a C-47 Skytrain aircraft that was shot down over Belgium, en route to the Netherlands to drop ten Pathfinder paratroopers. Shauvin courageously fought to keep the plane level to allow the paratroopers every chance to escape the burning plane. Six paratroopers were able to successfully bail out. The five-person crew, including Shauvin, died in the crash, along with the other four paratroopers.

"As we crossed the front line in the vicinity of Retie, Belgium, our ship was shot out of the air," Jumpmaster 1LT Charles Faith said. An eyewitness reported that flak from German artillery anti-aircraft fire struck the plane's left engine, which burst into flames, igniting the plane's wing. Lieutenant Faith, along with five other paratroopers, was able to jump free. Faith

landed in a canal. He was taken in by a family who hid him until British soldiers liberated the area from Nazi control. The other Pathfinders were captured by the Germans and later repatriated.

Several eyewitnesses saw the plane crash. A few days afterward, local residents recovered eight bodies and buried them in two common graves. After the Germans left the area, the remains were exhumed and reinterred them in the cemetery of the village of Retie.

In June 1945, the Army disinterred 22 sets of American remains associated with air losses from the invasion and transported them to the U.S. Military Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium for processing. By 1951, all passengers from Lieutenant Shauvin's aircraft had been identified and accounted for, except Eugene Shauvin. He had been declared non-recoverable on Oct. 29, 1945.

While Linda's mother, Phyllis, was devastated by her husband's loss, eventually she did move on with her life, trailblazing her way into a successful career - no easy feat for a single mother at that time - and remarriage to country singer Bud Burrows.

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As she grew older, Linda Chauvin continued to piece together stories of her father's life however she could. "There was always this hollow feeling. And I think I just always felt like I didn't belong to anybody," Linda said. In high school, she read everything she could about the war and sought out people who had known her father during his youth. "When I would find out somebody had known him, I would question them, give them the third-degree."

Around 2000, Linda Chauvin turned to the Internet, posting to discussion boards in an attempt to find out anything about her father. "I'm living in Seattle, and I went on a website for the C-47 aircraft he flew," she said. "I posted this little message."

Her "little" message caught the attention of Dave Berry, an amateur Pathfinder historian. "I got all these hits from people that I later realized were all serious researchers and historians, and one of them was a man in Ohio," she says. "He wrote back, 'I think I may be able to help you.'" Berry told Linda about the history of Pathfinders - a special unit, comprised of handpicked paratroopers and pilots, sent in advance of invasion, to scout and set up landing sites and radio beacons to aid in the arrival of the main invasion force.

Berry helped her get in touch with Charles Faith, one of the last men to see Eugene Shauvin alive. "All of his life he wondered about me because he knew Gene had a wife and daughter. And he welcomed me as if I was his own daughter," Linda said, as she reminisced about meeting Charles Faith.

After interviewing Faith, Linda, along with Dave Berry, flew to Belgium. Assisted by other war researchers, they began speaking with anyone who might have known what happened after Eugene Shauvin's plane was hit.

A man living near near the crash site in Kortijnen, near Retie, remembered seeing the plane go down, lighting a house on fire. They spoke with another man who said he'd been ordered to dig graves for the men who died in the crash. The daughter of a man who'd painstakingly documented the history of Operation Market Garden in the area around Eindhoven, Netherlands, provided photographs of the crash site. "She is the one who went over to Belgium and found the crash site. She was like a bloodhound. She inherited all of her father's records," Linda explained.

In 2000, Linda Chauvin, a Pathfinder historian, and the family who lived at the crash site home of their grandfather began working as a team to establish a Pathfinder memorial there. After securing support from the local government, that memorial was dedicated on September 17, 2001, marking where Eugene Shauvin and eight other U.S. soldiers lost their lives. The couple living at the crash site home hosted Linda, her family, Dave Berry, the son of Lieutenant Charles Faith, and the nephew of one of the paratroopers on the plane for the dedication of the Pathfinder memorial.

"Our first evening in Kortijnen, we visited that farm field crash site, just at twilight. Dave Berry and I were some distance away, hearing an elderly eyewitness describe what he saw that day, when my mother and others yelled at me while pointing up to a tree," Linda recalls. "There was this big, light-colored bird sitting there watching." As she moved around, the bird kept watching her. The field had been plowed many times, and the owner of the property believed it impossible that remnants of the plane would be found. But as darkness fell and the group walked across the field, the owner tripped on something. A big piece of steel from that DC-3 #00981.

"To me," Linda said, "that bird embodies the souls of those people who died on that plane and that they wanted to be known."



In 2001 Linda went to Hawaii to present her case for a second excavation to the director of the Central ID Lab of Hawaii (CILHI), forerunner of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA.) By 2002, an investigatory team using Ground Penetrating Radar verified that site as the resting place of her father's plane.

In 2003, a recovery team of 12 arrived from CILHI to excavate. Dave Berry and Linda were given permission to work with the team, carrying buckets and screening the dirt for artifacts.



Above: The Belgian memorial to the five-man crew of C-47 Skytrain 0981 and the paratroopers who lost their lives September 17, 1944. Linda Chauvin, AWON member and daughter of hero pilot Eugene Shauvin, is at left.

Above Right: Phyllis Shauvin, accompanied by her daughter Linda, receives an Air Medal on her husband Eugene's behalf.

"It was a big honor to be able to do that, but after two weeks the officer in charge said, 'Okay, we're done,' before they had investigated the location of the two 1944 temporary mass graves. It was agonizing. Dave Berry and I cried. I went home and put away 68 pounds of files."

Linda stayed in touch with members of the team, most especially life support specialist Sgt. Howard Tiave Mariteragi, whom she had gotten



Receiving the Air Medal from Maj. Edward Gastreich, of Geiger Field, at an informal ceremony at her home, is Mrs. Phyllis S. Shauvin of E3028 Indiana, as posthumously awarded to her husband, Lt. Eugene P. Shauvin, killed in the European theater of operations. Lt. Shauvin was highly commended for bravery and devotion to duty in the citation.

to know during that 2003 mission. Linda did not realize that Sgt. Mariteragi was also hoping her case would eventually re-open. She hoped to bring her dad home, and to that end, she stayed in touch with historians, the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, and contacts she made in Belgium. "It was a battle," Linda recalls.

At a DPAA family update in Norfolk in 2015, Linda again presented her case to the CILHI director, pointing out that there had been no search of the temporary graves. The official report from the DPAA had called the excavation "incomplete".

Linda's diligence paid off. After enduring several cancellation dates beginning in 2016, eventually her father's case was reopened. Although it took years, multiple frustrating setbacks, and weathering a pandemic before any more action was taken, finally, in spring of 2021, the excavation began. This time, the DPAA sent a team of 24 and much more sophisticated technology.

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Above: The Belgian excavation site where DPAA investigators searched for Lieutenant Eugene Chauvin's missing remains.

Armed with a team three times the size, and with several advancements in methodologies and technology at his disposal, Inspector Mariteragi was thrilled to get a chance to return. “I waited almost 20 years to come back here,” said Howard Mariteragi, now a civilian investigator. “This case became important to me, I’ve been watching over it. I’m finally here again and want to find answers, and hopefully be able to give the family those answers as well...When we say ‘No one is left behind’ we truly mean it. Our country will do whatever it takes, send the right people with the right technology and right ability to find them, bring them home where they belong, and allow their families to close this incredible chapter in their lives.”

The 24-person team was made up of seven DPAA members and 17 additional military members from Fort Lee, Virginia and Chievres Air Base in Belgium. Despite the majority of the team being new to recovery missions, they quickly adjusted to the demanding physical labor, critical need for attention to detail, and the unpredictable Belgian weather. Throughout the 72-day mission, the DPAA team was able to excavate and screen an estimated 1,013 tons of soil in a 422 square-meter area, despite the Belgian spring weather proving very difficult to work in. The team faced every type of weather imaginable and often experienced all four seasons in a single day.

“They got there in April, and you can’t believe what all they did,” Linda Chauvin gushed. “The weather has been atrocious,” she added. “I have watched this team march out there in hail, wind, rain, cold weather and work so diligently, rarely taking breaks. When you say that expression ‘move heaven and earth,’ they have moved earth, tons and tons of earth!”

With COVID-19 still very much a global threat, it seemed unlikely Linda would be able to travel to Belgium to be a part of the second excavation, as tourist travel was still prohibited. But the local Belgian friends she made in 2003 and has remained close with over the years fought hard for her to return. Through her efforts and the push from her Belgian friends, Linda was granted special permission by the government to travel to Belgium for the site’s second excavation.

“I wanted to be here more than anything in the world, but it seemed impossible,” she said. “Because of those people, I am here today. The Belgian people just keep welcoming me here, they’re my family now.”

Linda was able to be there for the team’s last week of excavation, but to mitigate COVID-associated risks she was forced to remain at a distance. She occasionally stood at the edge of the field and simply took in the scene. If a team member was ever within earshot, she made sure to express her deep appreciation for their work. “They are doing everything they can to find my father’s remains,” Linda said. “I am so humbled by this contribution that these people have made. I’ll just never be able to say thank you enough.”

The crew finished in May, leaving Belgium with remains that were taken back to the United States



Be sure to follow AWON on Facebook for the latest updates about ongoing activities and exciting new projects!

for testing. After the digging was complete, Linda Chauvin returned to the excavation site and received another sign. "This big white bird flew down out of nowhere, and it flew over that rectangle that had been a big excavation unit. It flew about 18 inches off the ground, back and forth, like in a grid. ... It was like it was healing that area. And then it flew off. We were dumbfounded."

Linda was able to hold the case of the remains before they were taken out of the country and call her mother, Phyllis, who died in November at age 99, just prior to the identification of the remains. "I called her and I told her, 'Mom, they found remains.' That's all I said. I wasn't specific, because I couldn't be. That satisfied her."

Six months later, after the recovered remains had been sent to the military's DNA lab at Offutt AFB in Omaha for testing, Linda Chauvin got the news she'd been waiting her whole life to hear: She'd found her father. Both anthropological and scientific analysis positively identified the remains as those of Lieutenant Eugene Shauvin.

The DNA that Linda and her uncles gave the agency turned up a perfect match for the genetic material found on the site - exactly where the local Belgian man had helped dig the crew's graves in September 1944. "I just blubbered," Linda said of when she got the call.

In July of 2022, Eugene Shauvin's body was flown home to Spokane, where he was met with a hero's welcome. Funeral Director Theresa Sullivan picked up the casket on the airport tarmac. She described the scene as peaceful. "The airport staff stopped what they were all doing. Everybody stood in a line," Sullivan said.

On Saturday, July 23, 2022, community members came to Holy Cross Cemetery to pay tribute to Lieutenant Shauvin. Well over 100 people attended, many of them military members there to honor one of their own, missing for 78 years. "This is probably one of the very best days of my entire life," Linda Chauvin said to all in attendance.

At her father's funeral, Linda Chauvin read a poem her mother had written about her father not returning from overseas - a poem that spoke to the heartache of losing a husband and a father. "I was thinking of my mother, wondering if she knew of this. I wonder if they were all up there looking down," Linda said.

The funeral included a flyover from a KC-135 and a C-47, the very model of plane Lt. Shauvin was flying when he crashed. "To see that plane fly over, and to know that's how that looked in the sky when my father was commanding that plane, and he loved it so much," Linda said.

Lt. Shauvin was buried with full military honors. The recovery team flew from around the country to be in attendance. A woman from Belgium

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Below: Airport staff at Spokane International Airport arranged a long overdue welcome home for fallen local hero Eugene Shauvin.



The new MeWe ListServ



ALL AWON members in good standing are invited to participate in AWON's MeWe page!

Check it out!

<https://mewe.com/>





whose family lived for generations where the plane crashed also attended and spoke. "It was really something to see," said Linda.

Linda Chauvin says she's comforted by the idea that her father is now truly at peace. "Several people have said to me, 'Linda, he would be so proud of you,'" she says. "I bet he is."



**Above, header:** 2LT Eugene Chauvin is laid to rest in his hometown of Spokane, WA, July 23, 2022.

**Immediately above:** Eugene Chauvin receives his grave marker, at long last, thanks to his daughter's efforts.

**Left and Below:** The rosette has been placed next to Eugene Chauvin's name in the Wall of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, indicating that his remains have been recovered.





## THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL NEED YOUR HELP!

### Contributors for Friends of the National WWII Memorial Virtual Education Series Needed!

By Rondy Elliot,  
AWON Liason to the National WWII Memorial

Holly Rotondi, the director of the Friends of the National WWII Memorial, asked if any AWON members might be willing to contribute to the monthly "Virtual Education Conference Series" that the Friends have been sponsoring. Holly hopes to schedule one of us each month to take part in this monthly event. Several AWON members have already participated, and their presentations have been warmly received.

The conference installments are prerecorded and are posted publicly on Saturdays. They are roughly 30 minute presentations, in which you can use pictures, letters, and your own recollections to educate participants in your father's life and death, and your experience growing up without him. You can choose a topic, but mostly people just tell their personal stories. Our presentations have always been warmly received. Grandchildren are also welcome to volunteer, because each of you have unique stories, also!

If you're interested in being a part of this amazing program, but are worried that it might be intimidating or that you're not technologically savvy enough to make it happen, don't worry. A professional videographer from the Memorial will get in touch with you ahead of time and help you each step of the way. And remember, the series is prerecorded, so there's no cause for concern if you're not an experienced public speaker - mistakes can be fixed by the videographer during editing! It's such a rewarding experience, and I hope you all think about participating!

The dates of the remaining Fall-Winter series 2022-2023 are as follows: December 17, January 21, February 18, March 18. If you are interested and willing, contact Holly Rotondi at:

[hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org)

### What is A Virtual Education Conference?

The Friends of the National WWII Memorial have put together an incredible Monthly Educational Conference Series on a variety of WWII-themed subjects. Several members of AWON have been featured so far in this series, including Sam Tannenbaum, Arthur Chotin, Janice Powers, Robert Meek, Gerry Morenski, Bob Holliday, Sandra Lane Walker, and Nancy Kragh among others.

Additional videos have been made by historians like Friend of AWON Alex Kershaw, and even some videos made by veterans themselves. These videos can be accessed easily at the [Friends of the WWII Memorial Site](#) (just click the link on your e-device) or by searching for "monthly video series" in the Friends' search box, with the magnifying glass.

Editor's Note - Be sure you click on the point/tip of the "play" arrow in the lower corner of the video, rather than the back or center of the icon, as I had trouble getting the videos to play at first.

### AWON Orphans - PLEASE Take the SDIT Survey!

Sons and Daughters In Touch is an all-volunteer non-profit organization committed to locating, uniting and supporting the now-grown children of American servicemen who perished during the Vietnam War. For nearly 30 years, SDIT has worked to elevate the visibility of ALL Gold Star Families.

SDIT and AWON have a good working relationship that we hope to build on for both of our benefit. To that end, a survey has been created specifically for WWII orphans and we need as many respondents as we can get! This survey will help create a database of historical information helping America understand what became of the Gold Star Families whose loved ones were lost in World War II. This information will be of benefit not only to the orphans of the WWII and Vietnam era, but for all war orphans from every era. Your participation is appreciated!

Can you help?? Fill out the AWON-SDIT survey here:

<https://sdit.org/survey-wwii/>

## **The Veterans History Project from The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress**



Do you have a collection of your father's correspondence and are not sure what to do with it in the long term? Do you wish you could record your memories of your father to ensure that they are preserved for future generations?

[The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center](#) collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Stories can be told as personal narratives, through correspondence, and through other visual materials such as scrapbooks and art.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation, a bipartisan effort, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President Clinton on October 27, 2000. The focus of the Veterans History Project is preserving first-hand accounts of U.S. veterans who served in wars and conflicts the US was involved with. Living veterans have contributed oral history to this end.

For deceased veterans, The Veterans History Project collects the following documents:  
original narratives/memoirs  
wartime diaries or journals of at least 20 pages  
collections of letters (10 or more)  
official military documents  
collections of original photos or artwork (10+)

The Veterans History Project may be an ideal way to ensure that your father's letters and other important, historically relevant paperwork is in good hands to be preserved as the historical documents they are, for the indefinite future.

In 2016, the Veterans History Project, courtesy of the Gold Star Families Voices Act, expanded the original scope of the Veterans History Project

to also include the recording and preservation of oral histories by immediate family members (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) of "members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war."

Gold Star Family members, defined by legislation as a parent, spouse, sibling or child of a service member who "became missing in action or died as a result of their service during a period of war," and over the age of 18 are invited to participate. You may contribute a recording in audio or video form or a written account, sharing reminiscences about your veteran, and how losing them to war has affected you and your family.

VHP strongly encourages you to anchor the recording with original photographs, diaries, journals and correspondence that belonged to your veteran, so the researchers of today and future generations will have access to a fuller story of your family member's service, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our nation.

If you are interested in participating in the Veterans History Project or the Gold Star Family Voices Project, it's easy. There's a step by step guide here: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/> and the Field Kit can be downloaded here: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/vhp-field-kit/>

Editor's note - the Field Kit looks intimidating at first! Please check out the [VHP website](#) where it's broken down into steps with videos to guide you, or contact the VHP Liason for assistance:

Kerry Ward, Liaison Specialist  
Veterans History Project  
[kwat@loc.gov](mailto:kwat@loc.gov)

## *I'll Be Seeing You*

by Kristin Holmes

The iconic song "I'll Be Seeing You" is one very familiar to AWON members, having been sung at the closing of every AWON conference.

The song is indelibly linked to the WWII era in many people's minds, but it was actually written

by songwriters Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal as a part of the Broadway play *Right This Way* - in 1938, the year before Britain entered the war, and three years before the US did. The play was a flop, closing after only fifteen shows. Lyricist Irving Kahal believed it the finest song he'd ever written and sadly died before seeing "I'll Be Seeing You" become one of the most beloved songs of all time.

It was almost as if Kahal knew "I'll Be Seeing You" would be needed in the very near future. Once the war began in earnest, several recording artists realized how well the song captured the spirit of the times, and everyone from Billie Holiday to Frank Sinatra to the premier songstress of WWII, Vera Lynn, covered it. Bing Crosby had the biggest hit with the song - his beloved rendition of "I'll Be Seeing You" was the Number One song during the week of July 4, 1944.

It's hard to imagine a song more perfect for the war era. Servicemen and civilians alike experienced a heartbreaking number of goodbyes, and far too many of them were forever. Against this backdrop, "I'll Be Seeing You" became the unofficial theme song of separation, undoubtedly because it was both beautiful and yet entirely relatable, resonating with anyone who had lost a loved one and yet kept hoping to someday see them again. It seemed to apply equally to everyone, not only romantic partners but mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, neighbors and childhood friends.

"I'll Be Seeing You" captures something universal - the magic of love, any love, transcending miles of distance and years of time.



Hollywood got into the act, with David O Selznick producing a film featuring the song titled, perhaps unsurprisingly, *I'll Be Seeing You*. The holiday-themed movie starred Joseph Cotten as a shellshocked soldier, Ginger Rogers - at that time the hottest box office commodity in Hollywood - and a teenage Shirley

Temple, in a heartwarming melodrama that came out during the Christmas season of 1944.

Even after the war, "I'll Be Seeing You" remained incredibly popular. Artists continued to record the song during the 50's and 60's. Both Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra re-recorded new iterations of the tune during this time period, only to have bigger hits the second time around. Billie Holiday's 1956 live version from Carnegie Hall is believed by some to be the quintessential version. Liberace used "I'll Be Seeing You" as the theme song in his 50's TV show, and adopted the song as his theme throughout his entire life.

During the 1990's, Johnny Carson had Stevie Wonder serenade his final audience with "I'll Be Seeing You" as he ended his reign as host of *The Tonight Show*. Liberace's version was even played over the credits of the last episode of MTV's grossout comedy *Beavis and Butt-head*.

Into the 21st century, "I'll Be Seeing You" continues to be revered as a near-perfect ballad of long-distance love and unwelcome separation. It's the theme song of the 2004 romantic smash *The Notebook*. Billie Holiday's version was played as the last transmission to the Mars Rover in 2018 as it was shutting down due to low batteries. And millions of people adopted Norah Jones' 2020 remake as the unofficial anthem of the pandemic shutdown. It's a rare thing that can touch so many generations. "I'll Be Seeing You" is truly a timeless classic for the ages - all ages.



# AWON Moments

by AWON President Walter Linne

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

**From American WWII Orphans Network Newsletter Issue #46, September 2007 – *A Message from the Editor*, by Kathy Le Comte, Editor, and granddaughter of George J. Le Comte.** – This is my first issue as editor of *The Star*. I am honored former editor Doni Morrison Troglio and the board of directors entrusted me with this responsibility. I can only hope to be as worthy of the position as Doni was for too many years to mention. Hopefully, you've noticed some of the changes I've made to *The Star*, including the new masthead, and other minor changes. The one thing that hasn't changed is the need for you to submit articles and pictures, so keep them coming!

**Issue #47, December 2007** – Mark your calendar for the AWON's 8th National Conference – AWON "Healing Ourselves" Conference – Tucson, Arizona November 7-10, 2008. Westward Look Hotel. Plan to Attend!

**Issue #48, March 2008 – *The National WWII Museum New Orleans – A report on AWON's campaign supporting the expansion at the National WWII Museum, formerly the D-Day Museum.* By Chickie Shields Berry.** As of January 22, 2008, the National WWII National Museum has recorded a total of \$5,800 from orphan members. The following comments were received from the museum's President and CEO Gordon H. Nick Mueller, PHD. "As we continue to expand the National WWII Museum, it is especially meaningful to have the support of the American WWII Orphans Network. Thank you for all your work in helping coordinate this very special partnership. We are honored to have AWON members as part of our Patriots Circle".

**Issue #49, June 2008 – *Margraten Group Shares Award with AWON*** – Recently Gerry Morenski was contacted by the Adoption Committee at the American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten, to share the good news that the committee had won the Limburg Award for 2008. The award is granted to persons or organizations that have distinguished themselves in promoting the Province of Limburg. In her acceptance speech, Adoption Committee President Fien Opreij announced that the committee had decided to share a large portion of the monetary award (3,500 euros) with Margraten members of AWON. The committee requested that AWON use this gift as a travel stipend to any AWON Margraten orphans who have never visited their father's grave at Margraten.

**Issue #50, September 2008 – *Wreaths Laid at National Cemeteries*** – AWON members presented Memorial Day wreaths at three national cemeteries this year. They were Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia; Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California and the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii; popularly known as "Punchbowl." There are 125 national cemeteries. Six national cemeteries are under construction. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an average of 1,800 veterans die each day, with ten percent being buried in national cemeteries. The peak year is expected to be 2007 or 2008.

**Unforgettable AWON Moment – *54-Year Wait Not Too Long to Find Father* by Fred O'Keefe** – If you are a member of AWON then I can say with some certainty that we have shared some of the feelings and experiences of losing a father during WWII. My father's story and that of my mother and brother, more than likely follows a pattern that was common to the period during and following the war. Loneliness and silence seemed to be the rule of the times for widows and their kids.

Children generally were seen and not heard so there was little information that we, as children, heard or were made aware of. It was their way of creating for us a sense of normality. Years go by and we lived in the shadows of our fathers never really knowing the complete story. That is, until we mature, and the wondering takes on a different form. What type of person he was or would have been if he had lived? My journey started when I discovered the American WWII Orphans Network on the Internet and finished when I met my father's military organization and attended a reunion.

Do YOU have an AWON Moment to share?  
Please send your AWON Moment to:

AWON STAR, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis,  
IN 46216 or [president@awon.org](mailto:president@awon.org)

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

### 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](http://www.va.gov/remember)

## 75 Year Old Mystery Solved -

### How Many WWII Fallen are Buried at Arlington National Cemetery?

Amateur historian Don Milne had a dream - to document and preserve the life stories of the fallen soldiers behind the 4,080 stars on the National World War II Memorial. Through his ongoing labor of love, [Stories Behind The Stars](http://www.storiesbehindthestars.org), Don and his small army of volunteer researchers are making that dream a reality! They have compiled the life stories of over 21,000 fallen WWII troops so far, including those killed at Pearl Harbor and on D-Day.

During their research, a mystery was revealed. Incredibly, for more than seventy-five years nobody knew the answer! How many WWII troops are buried at Arlington National Cemetery?

The Stories Behind The Stars researchers started with a list of 1941-1946 burial names provided by Arlington National Cemetery, augmented by additional names provided by the remembrance organization [Find A Grave](http://www.findagrave.com). These intrepid volunteers spent more than a thousand hours going through these names one by one, excluding those who did not serve in World War II, and adding basic information to the database.

As of Veterans Day 2022, the number of WWII fallen buried or remembered with cenotaph graves in Arlington National Cemetery was found to be 8,299. Stories Behind the Stars is calling for volunteers to write the stories of all of these fallen, so the 4 million people who visit Arlington National Cemetery every year can approach any of their graves and read the fallen men's life stories via a free smartphone app.

So far, more than 120 volunteer writers have completed more than 3,000 stories of the Arlington WWII fallen. The goal is to finish the rest by Memorial Day 2023. Help spread the word!

It only takes 2-3 hours to research and write a story of one of these heroes. Participation is free and free access is provided to Ancestry.com research sites. To request more information about joining this historic project, or just to learn more about the program, visit:

<https://www.storiesbehindthestars.org/volunteer>

# Free Entrance to America's National Parks for Gold Star Families - LIFETIME PASS

On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveiled a lifetime pass providing free entrance to national parks for veterans and Gold Star families. The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, veterans, and Gold Star Families.

“This is a small token of appreciation for veterans who have bravely dedicated their lives to defending our freedom. This pass conveys our immense gratitude and respect for those who have given so much,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “As a veteran, I know firsthand the many sacrifices that members of the Armed Forces and their families have made in service to our country, and I am thrilled that Gold Star Families and military veterans can now enjoy lifetime access to national parks and other public lands.”

NPS Lifetime Military Passes offer free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks and forests, and this will be extended to Gold Star Families to thank them for their sacrifice, acknowledge their support of our country, and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

The lifetime pass will be eligible to all veterans who have served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and can provide proof of service in the form of an unexpired Department of Defense identification card, veteran health identification card, veteran ID card, or veteran designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or ID.

Eligibility is also granted to Gold Star families, defined as any next-of-kin to a member of the Armed Forces who lost their life in war, terrorist attack or military



operation while serving with the Armed Forces. Gold Star Family members can download and print a voucher to present to park staff to get a pass.

If you or a loved one is a current U.S. military member, or a dependent of a current US Military member, NPS offers a free annual military pass in lieu of the lifetime pass.

Accessible sites are spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Arches and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. There is a list of sites covered by the pass here: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/pickup-pass-locations.htm>

The waiver fee does not cover extended amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits or special tours. But it does cover all occupants of a single, private non-commercial vehicle OR the voucher-holder and three persons (16 and older) where per person fees are charged. The voucher is non-transferrable and void if altered.

As Gold Star children, AWON members can obtain a Gold Star pass by downloading the Gold Star Voucher from the Internet, and printing and filling out the Voucher. Or, you can use the voucher on the opposite page. After your voucher is filled out, present it to park staff to receive your lifetime pass - no need to mail it!





# GOLD STAR FAMILY

## Free Access Voucher



Present this voucher upon arrival, or fold here and leave  
this side up on your dashboard at unstaffed sites



### Print this page!

Keep it in a safe place until you are ready to use.

*Please read and check box.*

☐

I hereby affirm that I am an eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a qualifying situation, such as war, an international terrorist attack or a military operation outside of the United States while serving in the United States Armed Forces, as identified in sections 3.2 (Qualifying Situations) and 3.3 (Eligible NOK) of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

*Print Your First and last Name:*

---

*Sign your name below:*

---

Federal law at 18 USC 1001 makes it a crime in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States for any person knowingly and willfully to falsify, conceal, or cover up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact; to make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or to make or use any false writing or document knowing that it contains a material false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry. Violations of 18 U.S.C. 1001 are punishable by fines of up to \$10,000, imprisonment of up to five years, or both.



### Know Before You Go

With this voucher, entrance fees for the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Forest Service sites will be waived for Gold Star Families.

- ★ Valid for qualified holder of the voucher and occupants of a single, private non-commercial vehicle OR holder of the voucher and three persons (16 and older) where per person fees are charged.
- ★ Void if altered
- ★ Non-Transferable
- ★ Valid photo ID required
- ★ Representations of the voucher are prohibited; must show physical voucher.
- ★ The voucher does not cover expanded amenity fees, such as parking fees, camping, special recreation permits, tours, etc. May not cover organized groups or concession operated facilities or activities. Check with the site ahead of time to find out.

# AWON's Victory Paver Has Been Installed at the National WWII Museum!

*This exciting news was just received from Gigi Gauthier, Director of Tribute Programs and Special Projects, at The National World War II Museum.*

Dear Mr. Linne and Ms. Layne,

Thank you and AWON for supporting The National WWII Museum's Road to Victory Commemorative Paver Program. We are delighted to honor your heroes on our campus and appreciate your patience as we navigated unexpected installation delays due to COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida.

We are so pleased to inform you that your 12x18 commemorative paver has been placed in section LP, near the Liberation Pavilion, which opens in Fall 2023.

In a few weeks, you will receive an email with your paver's specific coordinates. Until then, please use the map (upper right) to find the appropriate section for your paver location.

With many upcoming events in the next few weeks, we wanted to inform you of our progress and hope you take the opportunity to visit in the near future.

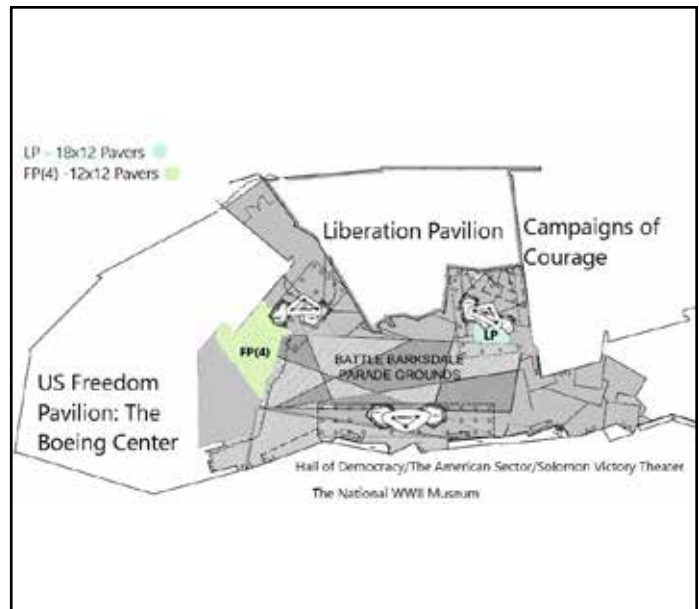
A special paver dedication ceremony will be held in 2023, following the grand opening of the Liberation Pavilion. We will invite you and your family to join us for these exciting festivities. Please look for more information at a later date.

It is a privilege to work with each and every paver donor as our vision for the campus comes to life. We are so incredibly proud to honor your heroes on our campus in such a meaningful and permanent way.

With my gratitude,

Gigi

Gigi Gauthier, Director of Tribute Programs and Special Projects, The National WWII Museum



## Help Wanted!!

An AWON membership chairperson and volunteers to assist the chair!

Part of AWON'S mission is to find the other 100,000+ war orphans out there.  
We need your help!

In AWON's database we have over 5,000 names, but not all are active dues-paying members.

We need to reach out to those members who have lapsed, and to find more of our long lost orphan siblings who do not know us yet.

Can you help? Please message  
Barry Barr-Finch:  
[barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com)  
or Judi Kramer:  
[ladybug5@juno.com](mailto:ladybug5@juno.com)

for more information about how you can get involved!!

## A Great Holiday Gift Idea from an AWON Sibling!

AWON First Founder Dr. Frank Burtnekt has written a new edition of his book, *Career Challenges: Straight Talk about Achieving Success in the Technology-Driven World*. Dr. Burtnekt, a veteran career counselor, examines the eight phases of career development, discussing the right and wrong ways to move through career development. Topics include everything from conducting an effective job search and knowing how to manage career growth and mobility to essential tasks like preparing a resume, managing an interview' and dealing with job stagnation, change, or loss. Added to this edition are two new chapters dealing with the changing nature of work, workers, and the workplace in a high technology, post-COVID world. *Career Challenges* discusses more than two dozen significant challenges that members of the workforce must face



and successfully resolve as they navigate their career. If you are shopping for a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild this year, with economic uncertainty on the horizon, *Career Challenges: Straight Talk About Achieving Success in the Technology-Driven World* would make an outstanding and practical gift.

For a discount, use the code **RLEGEN20**.

You can order here:

[Dr. Frank Burtnekt's Career Challenges](#)

or direct from the publisher, [Rowman and Littlefield](#).

## Call for Tributes!

**Add a Tribute to the AWON Website!** This could be one of the most long-lasting and satisfying ways to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, or Uncle. Just be a current AWON Member!

**Here's How:** 1. Have a look at our website's TRIBUTE section at [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org) (click "Our Fathers") to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on "How to prepare a Father Tribute" – (at [www.awon.org/check5.html](http://www.awon.org/check5.html)); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko's scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . [janceysue@gmail.com](mailto:janceysue@gmail.com). If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/529-2315.

**Don't let another day go by.** AWON is honored to help you honor your Father or loved one! . . . a Tribute page is yours for the asking.



### AWON Director Email Addresses

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Barbara George	<a href="mailto:blgeorge@aol.com">blgeorge@aol.com</a>
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## ***AWON Wishes to Thank Our New and Renewing Members from the past year - Late 2021 through Fall of 2022!***

***We've been so busy here at The Star reporting on the exciting things AWON  
members have been doing, we hadn't had space to include these names.***

***Thanks to each and every AWON Member who helps keep our mission alive!***

Bernard Achten	Barbara Clark	Janice Harwell
Regine Villers	Diana Clark	Judy Hathaway
Paul Alegi	Kristie Clark	Jean Herz
Donna Allen	Theresa Cook	Kathie Schuler Hobbs
Susan Anthony	Daniel Crough	Carla Sue Holcomb
Jim Anthony	Ivan Cupp	Brian Hope
Nicole Aure	Philippe DeHand	Donna Hurt
Jerry Baker	Daniel Denning	Patricia Inselmann
Paula Baker	Nadine Dowdy	Judith Jantz
James Barnes	Pat Fabri	Marilyn Jensen
Barry Barr-Finch	Charles Farris	Bonnie Johnson
Richard Basile	Barbara Ferguson	Barbara Kelly
Betsey Belvin	Phyllis Fish	Brenda Kightlinger
Chickie Shields Berry	Valerie Jean Flynn	Judi Kramer
Judy Bezjak	Marie Fowley	Jerome LeClerc
Barbara Bienkowski	E. Lynn Freeman	Penny LeGrand
Betty Birdwell	Eugene Fromm	Regena Lemon
James Boese	Judy Gamble	Stewart "Rusty" Lerch
Nancy Boothe	Barbara George	Catherine Light
Sheila Brevogel	R. Keith George	Walter Linne
Carol Brooks	Betty Lou Gilbert	Shannon Linne
Sandra Brown	Larry Graber	Joseph Lippi
David Burkey	Rosalend Grabowski	Phyllis Louis
Frank Burtnett	Apryl Graham	Meredith Lowe
Adrian Caldwell	Charli Greenlees	Fred Lubinger
Catherine Casey	Felicity Hallanan	Maryalyce Luper
Millie Cavanaugh	Norma Hamilton	Judith Markland
Susan Chadd	LaVada Hancock	Kathleen Mayerski
Linda Chauvin	Robert Harding, Jr.	Jamie McCollum
Arthur Chotin	Elizabeth Harris	Jocelyn McComb
Lois Ciccone	Robbie Harvell	William McElvain Jr

...Renewing Members, con't from previous page...

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT AWON!!  
We couldn't do it without you!!

Janie McPherson  
Peggy Meyers  
Catherine Miedema  
Joan Miller  
Patrick Mockus  
John Morgan  
Tommy Morris  
JoAnne Morrissey  
Dale Moyer  
MaryLee Obert  
Ann O'Connor  
Bobby Odom  
Maxine Olson  
Mary Anne Otte  
Ann Robinson Page  
Ronald Paskey  
Richard "Rik" Peirson  
Sue Perko  
Penny  
Pinkerton-Bernstein  
Annalee Pogue  
DonnaMarie Pressley  
George Rajner  
Frances Randall  
Marilynn Reese  
Mary Alice Renner  
Everett J. Roberts  
Brian Ryder  
Ed Sanders  
Margaret "Kay"  
Sandhoff  
Shirley Santini

William "Bill" Sarver  
William A. Sarver  
Pearlie Eileen Schorsch  
Mary Shipler  
Kenneth Sills  
Darlene Smith  
Ronald Frank Smith  
Barbara Smith  
Vanita Rae Smith  
Lucy Spence  
Jan Stocklinski  
Sam Tannenbaum  
Steven Telecky  
Patricia Temte  
Madeline Teremy  
Nancy Thaut  
Miriam Towey  
Nellie Turman-Vass  
Carol Ann Verbeek  
Helen Vernon  
Vamik Volkan  
Sandra Lane Walker  
Charles Wardle  
Robert Wasmer  
Rozanna Wedel  
Gertrude Wentsler  
Thomas Wiedmeyer  
William Wilson  
Robert "Billy" Winters  
Ruby Wolens  
Diana Wood  
Gretchen Wronka  
Cary Zehner

## AWON Author Jan Powers featured on radio program! Be sure to give it a listen!

AWON Sibling Jan Crandell Powers shared the story of how she found her father, 1LT Leonard J. Crandell, in Issue #98 of *The Star* - the same story she shared in the pages of her book *Pieces of Us*, available in the AWON Bookstore, page 26 of this newsletter.

Powers and her husband visited the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten in 1967 and again in 2018. "Every grave in the cemetery has been continually 'adopted' by the people of Netherlands. I have known for a long time that the people of Netherlands have been caring for my father's grave from the very beginning, taking flowers and attending memorial services in his honor for over 70 years," she noted.

In October 2022, Frans and Marjan Crijnen, members of the Netherlands family that have undertaken the responsibility of tending LT Leonard Crandell's grave, visited the United States. "After a two-week holiday, they came to Peoria where they stayed with my family. What for years has been a white marble cross inscribed with Leonard's name has taken on a new meaning, a new humanity for everyone," said Powers.

Jan and Marjan Crijnen visited with journalist Steve Tarter in the WCBU/Peoria Public Radio Studios to tell more of their amazing story. It's been posted to the Internet and you can listen to it here:

[Jan Crandell Powers on WCBU radio](#)

### **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, but we do occasionally run general interest or educational articles with a WWII theme.

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

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**99117 (509) 279-5241**  
[atomicsagebrush@gmail.com](mailto:atomicsagebrush@gmail.com)

Looking for Back Issues of *The Star*? We got 'em! Access *The Star* online here: <https://www.awon.org/past-issues-1>

You can purchase back issues of *The Star* from the AWON Bookstore, pgs 26-27.

## **Hey, you Big Silly! You still haven't sent your family story to *The Star*?**



## ***The STAR* needs submissions today! Don't let those stories go untold!!**

As we head into AWON's NEXT Thirty Years, we here at *The Star* want to urge every AWON member to share the story of your father's life, your family's loss, and your personal journey to learn more about where you came from.

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

Even you've sent your story in before, please don't hesitate to get in touch with *Star* Editor Kristin Holmes again! Sometimes stories don't fit in a particular edition and especially in the digital age, things occasionally get lost along the way. If you'd submitted your story to another person it's even possible it wasn't seen by the present editor. We want to publish as many of your stories as possible! Don't wait!

[atomicsagebrush@gmail.com](mailto:atomicsagebrush@gmail.com)

Guidelines for stories can be found here:

<https://www.awon.org/stardetails>



# Help Keep Their Memories Alive!!

*In Issue 99 of **The Star**, we introduced you to Michael Naya, Jr, a college freshman from Kenilworth NJ. Michael's love of history has motivated him towards learning as much as he can about the Greatest Generation.*

*As Michael says, "I feel that we often forget those who were killed in the war as those who are living are fading away from the American memory."*

*We recently received a request from Michael for assistance with his latest research project. Can you help?? If this is something you are interested in, please contact Michael at [mnayajr@aol.com](mailto:mnayajr@aol.com) or by phone at 732-986-7768. Michael has a present interest in the 12th Armored Division, but all AWON members are encouraged to get in touch. Thank you!*

Greetings, AWON Members! My name is Michael Naya, Jr., and I am a twenty year old Kean University junior from Kenilworth, New Jersey. For over six years I have been interviewing Great Depression survivors, World War II and Korean War veterans.

I have been doing this because I love history and one day I would like to write a book on the men and women from these events.

Through my research I have interviewed several members of AWON about their fathers and their roles in World War II. Additionally, I have had the privilege to speak to two World War II widows who lost their husbands in World War II. These widows were Lula Dovi, widow of John B. Martin and Phyllis Shauvin Burrows, widow of Second Lt. Eugene P. Shauvin, mother of AWON member Linda Chauvin. (Editor's Note - see our featured front page story on the Chauvin/Shauvin family!)

I am an associate member of the 12th Armored Division and recently found the obituary of Barbara Chambers Corcoran Lonergan whose husband Earle was killed while serving at the Battle of Herrlisheim with the 12th Armored Division. I was wondering if it would be possible to place a brief notice in the next edition of *The Star* inquiring if any AWON members had fathers killed in the 12th Armored Division? The 12th Armored Division Association is going strong and recently held their annual reunion in Texas this past summer.

Thank You -Michael Naya, Jr.

AWON 2022 EOM Account Totals					
Treasurer Report as of 11/30/2022					
	General (Wreath)	Conference*	Book Source	Money Market	Comment
JANUARY	\$23,334.51 (\$5,784.27) (\$1,625.00)	\$1,384.50	\$471.27	\$48,073.70	<b>Note: The</b>
FEBRUARY	\$24,204.61 (\$5,954.27) (\$1,675.00)	\$2,184.50	\$453.04	\$48,074.48	<b>General Fund</b>
MARCH	\$26,357.71 (\$6,326.27) (\$2,330.00)	\$7,034.50	\$448.00	\$48,074.89	<b>includes</b>
APRIL	\$26,774.76 (\$6,481.27) (\$2,430.00)	\$14,234.50	\$460.84	\$48,075.28	<b>(Wreath Fund)</b>
MAY	\$25,308.18 (\$7,296.27)	\$2,433.47	\$444.38	\$48,075.69	<b>deposits.</b>
JUNE	\$25,474.82 (\$7,496.27)	\$1,553.53	\$439.38	\$48,076.08	<b>The Paver Fund</b>
JULY	\$25,602.02 (\$7,536.27)	\$1,553.53	\$434.38	\$48,076.49	<b>has been resolved</b>
AUGUST	\$25,855.07 (\$7,571.27)	\$1,553.53	\$429.38	\$48,076.90	<b>and removed from</b>
SEPTEMBER	\$24,990.68 (\$7,771.27)	\$1,553.53	\$424.38	\$48,077.30	<b>the General Fund</b>
OCTOBER	\$24,264.52 (\$7,771.27)	\$1,553.53	\$419.53	\$48,077.70	<b>as of May</b>
NOVEMBER	\$24,805.93 (\$7,871.27)	\$1,553.33	\$426.38	\$48,078.10	
DECEMBER					
* No bank fee	is applied to the Conference Fund				

# AWON Dad PVT Fredrick Kinley Honored With Bridge Dedication

Abridged from David Sutor's article in the *Tribune-Democrat*, Photos by Thomas Slusser



Left: The sign honoring PVT Fredrick Kinley, near the bridge over the Little Conemaugh River, Pennsylvania, which now bears his name.

Private Fredrick Kinley was affectionately called "Pappy" by his fellow soldiers because at the age of 37, he was much older than most of the men he served with, and was already a family man. A Pennsylvania native, he left his wife Blanche and his children - Lee, George (called Gary) and Sandra - when called up to serve his country in Europe.

Kinley, born in Portage in 1907, served in the Army's 313th Infantry Regiment as part of an anti-tank company until he was killed in action on Dec. 14, 1944. He earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Kinley is buried at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France.

Recently, Fred Kinley was honored closer to home with a bridge bearing his name. PVT Fredrick Kinley Memorial Bridge carries Route 53 over the Little Conemaugh River in Croyle Township, just outside Summerhill, Pennsylvania.

During the ceremony, State Senator Wayne Langerholc Jr. of Richland Township said, "It's so important to keep the memory alive of what so many great men and women have done on behalf of our country." He added, "It's so important. These serve as reminders to everyone that passes through of the sacrifices that were made on behalf of our country to keep us free."

"I'm proud of what he did," said PVT Kinley's son, George "Gary" Kinley, a member of AWON. (Editor's Note - You can read more of the Kinley family's story in Issue 97 of *The Star*.)



Above: George "Gary" Kinley, PVT Fredrick Kinley's son, reacts at the unveiling of replica bridge marker during the Private Frederick Kinley Memorial Bridge dedication ceremony held Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Below: Gary Kinley, surrounded by family, beams at the dedication ceremony for the bridge named in honor of his father, who was killed when Gary was very young.



# Woody Williams 1923-2022: A Life of Heroism and Service

Abridged From the Woody Williams Foundation Website and WV News

This past summer, West Virginia and the nation lost one of the Greatest Generation's last true heroes, Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, who died at the age of 98.

Williams, the short, always-smiling embodiment of valor and sacrifice who was known around the world for his legendary exploits in the Pacific Theater during World War II, was mourned by state leaders and the public, being honored one last time by lying in state at the West Virginia State Capitol and lying in honor at the U.S. Capitol.

Many AWON members will be familiar with the Woody Williams Foundation. To date, Woody's foundation is responsible for establishing 115 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the United States with more than 67 additional monuments underway in 50 states and 1 U.S. Territory. The Foundation continues to grow its reach by being involved in multiple initiatives across the country.

But what some may not know is how Williams rose to his status as a Medal of Honor recipient for his bravery during World War II.

According to the Woody Williams Foundation website:

During the Battle of Iwo Jima, Williams displayed "valiant devotion to duty" and service above self as he "enabled his company to reach its objective." Williams' actions, commitment to his fellow service members and heroism were recognized on Oct. 5, 1945, when he received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman at the White House. Williams was the sole surviving Marine from WWII to wear the Medal of Honor.

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3rd Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 23 February 1945."



"Corporal Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Following the war, Woody worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for 33 years as a Veterans Service Representative, allowing him to continue serving veterans and their families. He retired after serving 20 years in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves. He later served as the Commandant of the Veterans Nursing Home in Barboursville, WV and on the Governor's Military Advisory Board in the State of West Virginia.

The West Virginia Legislature included Woody in the West Virginia Hall of Fame and named him a Distinguished West Virginian in 1980 and in 2013. His actions have often been recognized by our military and its highest officers. Recently the Secretary of the Navy named T-ESB 4 (Expeditionary Sea Base Ship 4), the USS Hershel "Woody" Williams mobile base sea vessel. She entered Navy service in early 2018. The Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation since 1932. In his hometown of Fairmont, WV, the 32 million dollar Hershel "Woody" Williams Armed Forces Reserve Center is the only National Guard facility in the country named after a Marine.

On June 29, 2022, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel Woody Williams, would go to his final duty station in heaven. He had devoted his life to serving others. Before he passed, he left us with clear orders to all be a part of the mission to never forget. He would want us all to remember his motto:

"The Cause is Greater than I.."







**Pamela Lynn  
Forgy Klein**

**Sept. 12, 1944 -  
Feb. 6, 2022**

Pamela, "Pam," Lynn Forgy was born on Sept. 12, 1944, in Hot Springs, AR to the late LTC Dell Forgy and Pauline E. Forgy. LTC Forgy was KIA during WWII, 6 weeks prior to her birth. Pam peacefully passed away on Feb. 6, 2022, at her home in Bay City, MI, surrounded by her loving family, after a lengthy illness.

Pam was preceded in death by her parents, her mother-in-law, and her brother, LTC Jack Forgy. Pam is survived by her husband of 52 years, Chris Klein, her daughter, Kristin; her daughter, Kendell Reffett (Michael); her granddaughter, Kenley Reffett, beloved extended family and AWON siblings, and her dog, Kandi.

Donations may be made in Pam's honor to an animal shelter of your choice, or to the American War Orphans Network ([www.awon.org/donation](http://www.awon.org/donation)).

**Norman Stahl**

**June 19, 1945 -  
March 10, 2022**



Norman C. Stahl, 76, of Topeka, KS, passed away on March 10, 2022, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Norm was born in Chillicothe, Missouri on June 19, 1945, the son of PVT Norman C. Stahl and his wife Mable Marie Scott, and after his parents' untimely deaths, was raised by his great aunt, Patricia Cooper.

Norm proudly served in the Army National Guard and on active duty during the Vietnam Conflict. He spent most of his career as a human-resources professional. Norm is survived by his wife Terry; his children Becky (Glen) Weishaar, Nortonville; and his son Alan (Randi) Stahl, Topeka. Grandchildren: Lauren and Chace Terry and Austin and Alyssa Stahl, his sisters, and many nieces and nephews.



**Patricia Temte**

**July 16, 1939 -  
July 23, 2022**

Patricia Arlene Temte, of Dallas, Texas, passed away recently due to lung cancer and complications of COPD. A much-loved member of AWON, she was with the organization to remember her father, SGT Ernest G. Radcliffe, who was memorialized on the Walls of the Missing, Manila.

Patty was preceded in death by her father, her mother, and her son Jon. She is survived by her husband Jerry and daughter Kristin, and her grandchildren.

Of Patty, AWON Member Eric Rosen said, "She has been a rock and a true friend in remembering those of us whose fathers died in the Pacific Theater. Each year she arranged for the wreath in Manila and I so appreciate it."

**Kelly Ann Mott**

**July 29, 1973 -  
August 19, 2022**



Kelly Anne Mott, daughter of Nick and Darlene Mott, passed away after a long illness. Kelly was the granddaughter of PFC Garner William Mott.

Kelly Ann was known for being an upbeat person with a passion for music and helping others.

She was survived by her son, Braden Dellinger and his wife Bekah; her parents, Nick and Darlene Mott; her sister, Deanna Mott Toombs (Michael) and Deanna's children: Zackary Pogue (Casey and daughter Charlie); Derrick Caruso; Grace Caruso, and Deanna's sister Jessye Studer. She is also survived by many friends, including her dear friend Debbie McMains, and her cherished cat Sneaky.

# Membership



This is a

- ☐ New Membership  
☐ Renewal  
☐ Family Membership  
☐ Database Registration Only

## About You:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobilephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you're renewing, skip to the Dues Section  
 Your Relationship to Serviceman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you hear about AWON \_\_\_\_\_

## About your WWII Service Member:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hometown & State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Military Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Burial Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wife's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional information on your WWII Service Member's  
 Military Service, Death, or Burial. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check:

Payable to AWON, include it with this form and send it to:

**AWON Treasurer**  
**5745 Lee Road**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana 46216**



## Membership Types:

☐ **Orphan Member:** Any son or daughter of a member of the US Armed Forces, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty, or who later died of wounds or injuries sustained during WWII.

☐ **Family Member:** Other relations who are not a son or daughter.

☐ **Supporting Member:** Other individuals with an interest in WWII, who wish to support us and participate in our outreach activities and programs.

## Membership Dues:

**Basic Orphan Member Dues** are \$25 a year – starting when we receive your check. This includes your AWON Membership Card, a Web Tribute for your father, a physical or E-version of our quarterly newsletter, **The Star**, a personal account on the AWON online List-serv, and an account on the AWON Facebook Page.

**Family Member Dues** are \$25 a year – including a printed Star – OR \$10 a year for Membership with an E-Star.

**Supporting Member Dues** are \$25 a year – including either version of **The Star**.

## Membership Dues Levels:

Please circle your Dues Level below:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Orphan	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (Printed Star Version)	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (E-Star Version)	\$10	\$20	\$30
Supporting	\$25	\$48	\$70
Gold Star (Increased Donation)	\$100	\$192	\$280

## Donation Considerations:

Memorial Day Wreath Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Operations & Outreach \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Dues & Donations Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_





# 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>	
<b>By Janice Crandell Powers</b>	<b>\$20.00*</b>
_____ <i>A Daughter's Quest: Retracing My Father's Footsteps During World War II</i>	
<b>By Laura Smail Sims</b>	<b>\$16.95</b>
_____ <i>The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance</i>	
<b>By Robert Fowler</b>	<b>\$15.99</b>
_____ <i>Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found</i>	
<b>By Reda Reynolds</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
_____ <i>Feisty: Chronicles &amp; Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse</i>	
<b>By Joe Finnigan</b>	<b>\$12.99</b>
_____ <i>A Bit of Earth</i>	
<b>By Wendy Crisp Lestina</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>
_____ <i>K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for His Father Through the Fog of War</i>	
<b>By Patrick Audinet</b>	<b>\$10.00*</b>
_____ <i>All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON</i>	
_____ <i>The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found</i>	
<b>By Susan Johnson Hadler</b>	<b>\$15.00*</b>
_____ <i>In Search of a Pilot: Hanford "Rusty" J. Rustand</i>	
<b>By Marilyn Rustand Lieurance</b>	<b>\$7.00*</b>
_____ <i>My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag</i>	
<b>By Jerry W. Pinkerton</b>	<b>\$12.00*</b>
_____ <i>The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War</i>	
<b>By Nancy Kenney</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>
_____ <i>"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the lives of America's Children</i>	
<b>By William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
_____ <i>In My Father's Words: Letters From a WWII Soldier</i>	
<b>By Bill McElvain</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>
_____ <i>Farebersville 1944</i>	
<b>By Jeff Wignall</b>	<b>\$18.95</b>
_____ <i>A Soldier's Daughter</i>	
<b>By Lois Brown Klein</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
_____ <i>The Ordinary Infantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again</i>	
<b>By Imogene Woods and Twelve WWII Infantrymen</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
_____ <i>Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search</i>	
<b>By Mary Lee Coe Fowler</b>	<b>\$29.95</b>

_____ <i>Love Always, Ben</i>	
<b>By Huey Tyra, nephew</b>	<b>Reduced! \$2.00</b>
_____ <i>Sporty Course (bomber pilots)</i>	
<b>By Col. Jack Swayze</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
_____ <i>The Hotton Report (About the Battle For Hotton)</i>	
<b>By Robert McDonald</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>
_____ <i>World War II: A Legacy of Letters-One Soldier's Journey</i>	
<b>By Clinton Frederick</b>	<b>\$26.95</b>
_____ <i>An 8th Airforce Combat Diary</i>	
<b>By John A. Clark</b>	<b>\$49.95</b>
_____ <i>When I See a "Forty and Eight"... I Remember World War II</i>	
<b>By Lt. Col. Jacques Adnet USAF (ret.)</b>	<b>Reduced! \$5.00!</b>
_____ <i>In Their Memory: American WWII Orphan's Network</i>	
<b>By Turner Publishing Company</b>	
<b>Was 49.95</b>	<b>Reduced \$10.00</b>
_____ <i>The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on The Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial</i>	
<b>By William Downes</b>	<b>\$24.95</b>
_____ <i>The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause</i>	
<b>Forward by Damon L. Gause</b>	<b>\$21.95</b>
_____ <i>No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy</i>	
<b>By Walter Ford Carter</b>	<b>Reduced! \$18.00</b>
_____ <i>D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History</i>	
<b>By Jerome J. McLaughline</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
_____ <i>They Also Served: Women's Stories From the WWII Era</i>	
<b>By Jeanie Sutton Lambright</b>	
<b>New Price!</b>	<b>Hardcover \$20.00      Softcover \$10.00</b>
_____ <i>Finding Billy</i>	
<b>By Diana Thompson Dale, niece</b>	<b>\$16.95</b>
_____ <i>Father Found: Life and Death as a Prisoner of the Japanese In WWII</i>	
<b>By Duane Heisinger</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>
_____ <i>Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific</i>	
<b>By Michael J. Goodwin</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>



# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form

### CD/DVD



\_\_\_ *Leather and Strings*

by **Mark LaPoint**, grandson of Sgt. William G. Aubet featuring *Somewhere in Germany*, written and sung by Mark at AWON's 10th conference memorial service \$6.00

\_\_\_ *Letters of Love and War* (CD for Mac or PC)

By 1LT John and Betty Peirson \$19.44

\_\_\_ *AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication* (VHS)

Reduced!! Was \$5.00 \$3.00\*

\_\_\_ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers* (VHS)  
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**

Reduced! was \$15.00 now \$3.00

\_\_\_ *AWON 2000 Conference Journeys - Finding Our Fathers* (VHS)

by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$3.00\*

\_\_\_ *Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru*

by Shawnee Brittan Reduced! was \$30.00 \$20.00\*

## AWON Logo Products

*Closeout on the Following AWON merchandise*

\_\_\_ AWON Hat \$15.00

\_\_\_ Scarf (royal blue fleece - only 3 left!!) \$10.00

\_\_\_ 20th Anniversary Tote Bag (small)  
REDUCED! \$5.00

\_\_\_ Tote Bag (large) \$10.00

\_\_\_ 20th Anniversary Garden Flag (without holder) \$10.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON Holiday Ornament \$10.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON lapel pin \$10.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON Button 2 1/4" \$3.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON Lanyard w/ nametag and ticket holder (blue with white lettering, 4"x6"holder)

\$6.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON notecards & envelopes (pkg of 20) (Only 2 left!!) \$20.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON bookmarks

Circle amount: 1 for \$1.00 5 for \$3.00 10 for \$5.00

## The Star Newsletters

\_\_\_ \*Individual issues: \$4.00 - Includes P&H

\_\_\_ \*All archived issues: \$40.00 - Includes P&H

\_\_\_ \*Special!! Most recent five issues: \$15.00 Inc. P&H

## Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$8 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) include postage and handling.

For multiple purchases: Up to \$40 - \$10 P&H \$40-\$60 - \$12 P&H \$60 and up - \$15 P&H

Washington State residents please add 7.8% sales tax

For more information and color photos please visit <https://www.awon2.org/resources/bookstore.html>

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**AWON Bookstore**

**5745 Lee Road**

**Indianapolis, IN**

**46216**

email: [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org)

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## The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

AWON Headquarters  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
[www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org)



### AWON Mission

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.

# AWON Directory

#### Address Corrections

Lorin McCleary [ldmccleary@gmail.com](mailto:ldmccleary@gmail.com)

#### Archives

OPEN POSITION

#### Bookstore

Walt Linne [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org)

#### Database Coordinator

Robert Meek [ldmccleary@gmail.com](mailto:ldmccleary@gmail.com)

#### Dues

Paul Bremer [rhmeekjr@gmail.com](mailto:rhmeekjr@gmail.com)

#### Facebook

Barry Barr-Finch [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com)

#### First Inquiry Coordinators

Lorin McCleary [AWON@awon.org](mailto:AWON@awon.org)

Janice Ott Buterbaugh [Janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:Janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com)

#### Friends of the National WWII Memorial Liason

Rondy Elliot

#### MeWe

Lorin McCleary [ldmccleary@gmail.com](mailto:ldmccleary@gmail.com)

#### Membership

Open Position

#### Memorial Day White House Event

Marilynn Lieurance [mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com)

#### Memorial Day Wreath & Banner

Jeanne Rhinehart [hart1003@comcast.net](mailto:hart1003@comcast.net)

Rik Peirson [rik@dayone.com](mailto:rik@dayone.com)

#### Regional Gatherings Project

Barry Barr-Finch [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com)

#### The STAR

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