



# The Star



Issue #109

"We Speak Their Names"

Summer - 2023

## American WWII Orphans Network member Carol Donahue's story is told



Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Coleman, father of AWON Member Carol Donahue, was killed during the D-Day Invasion. He was buried at Normandy American Cemetery.

*On Veteran's Day 2018, the story of AWON Member Carol Donahue, and her father, S/SGT Stephen J. Coleman, were featured in the Asbury Park Press, in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in an article written by journalist Jerry Carino. You can read the original story at the Asbury Park Press:*

[\*French honor the dad Colts Neck woman never knew, killed in WWII\*](#)

*Because AWON members outside of the New Jersey area also want to know Carol's story, and to help her continue to honor her father Stephen Coleman, we here at **The Star** have done additional research into the family's story and are proud to share it with you.*

Carol Donahue was only two months old when her father was killed at Normandy. Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Coleman, called Joe, survived the initial assault on Utah Beach as a part of the 8th Infantry Regiment, but six days later he was mortally wounded as the army moved eastward into enemy-controlled territory. He was buried at Normandy American Cemetery, where his grave is still tended by the grateful French citizens he gave his life to liberate.

Carol never met her father because he was deployed at the time of her birth. But through the years she collected as much information as she could about him.

Stephen "Joe" Coleman was a military man. Born December 25, 1917, he had enlisted in the Army before Pearl Harbor. He married his sweetheart Eleanor Schafer

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# President's Message

by Walt Linne

As I've stated previously our AWON mission remains the same - reaching out to our fellow war orphan siblings and helping them to learn more about their Fathers, educating the public about our Fathers' service and sacrifice and, finally, keeping their sacrifice alive. In Their Memory – Never Forgotten!

After over 30 years of AWON we have pretty much accomplished our first two objectives, though we continue to actively reach out searching for sibling WWII orphans. Our last and final mission, keeping our Father's service and sacrifice alive, has become paramount. With that in mind, our organization must consider our options - handing AWON off to our children/grandchildren, working with other war orphan groups to form an American War Orphans Network and/or continuing operations with old fashioned Outreach until the last AWON sibling is standing, using social media like Facebook and MeWe to facilitate this outreach. Please send me your thoughts and comments regarding the above considerations.

The National WWII Museum has announced the dedication of the Liberation Pavilion (with an area dedicated to the cost of war) and the Barksdale Parade Ground (AWON has a Victory Paver on the Parade Ground) will be on November 3, 2023. The formal dedication program runs from 9:00AM to 10:30AM. Looking forward to meeting up with fellow AWON siblings who plan to attend. Please see page 19 for an invitation to meet up at the dedication!

And, finally, the AWON 2024 National Conference is on the horizon. We are not yet sure of the Western location, whether it will be a Spring or Fall event and what kind of participation we will have. The primary purpose of the conference is to meet new orphans and share our stories, and of course to meet up with our beloved AWON siblings. Please let me know your feelings about when and where we should hold the conference and if you will attend. Thank you!

In Their Memory – Never Forgotten!



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Above Left: Carol Ann Coleman as a baby with her mother, Eleanor. Above middle: Eleanor Schaefer marries Carol's father, S/SGT Stephen "Joe" Coleman, on Jan. 16, 1943, Fort Gordon, GA.

Above Right: Carol Donahue, daughter of Stephen J. Coleman, with her collection of precious photos and memories of her late father, whom she never knew (photo by Thomas Costello of the Asbury Park Press)

on January 16, 1943, while stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He shipped overseas with the Eighth Infantry Division. He was in England when he received word that his daughter, Carol Ann, was born. "He never saw me," she said.

Carol would attend college on her father's GI Bill, become a teacher, get married and have four children and eight grandchildren. Even after having visited her father's grave, a gaping hole remained. "Growing up, everybody had a father," she said. "I couldn't relate."

A few years back, around the time of her second visit to Normandy, Donahue came across AWON. Upon meeting her AWON siblings, she came to learn that many others were out there who had experienced a similar heartbreak.

Through AWON, Carol was able to meet an amazing Frenchwoman by the name of Valerie Gautier Cardin, who grew up not far from the beaches of Normandy. As a teenager, Gautier Cardin met an American WWII veteran named Bill Sullivan, who'd returned to France to thank locals who had helped him during the early days of the Normandy invasion. Gautier Cardin realized many veterans might want to return, but

some lacked financial means. Others felt fearful or unwanted, and needed some convincing.

Sullivan's stories inspired Valerie Gautier Cardin to co-found a non-profit called Veterans Back to Normandy Association (Retour des Vétérans en Normandie). This association has assisted over two dozen veterans to return to Normandy - a task made more difficult as our precious veterans age and become increasingly infirm. She also works at a local school, and she arranges meetings between students and Americans who return. "When they see the emotion in his eyes," Gautier Cardin told the Asbury Park Press via email, "I can tell you, the kids will remember it all their lives."

A few years ago, through a mutual friend involved in AWON, Valerie Gautier Cardin came across Carol Donahue's Facebook entries about her dad. Always eager to personalize the stories behind Normandy's endless rows of white crosses, she struck up a dialogue with Donahue and learned about Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Coleman. Now, when she visits the burial ground every few months, Gautier Cardin lays a flower at his cross. When she brings students along, she tells Joe Coleman's story.

...Story Told, continued pg. 4





Above: What a legacy! The Donahue family visits SGT Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Coleman's grave at Normandy.

One day Carol was overjoyed to receive a photograph of her father's grave in Normandy, surrounded by several French teenagers, all with a look of reverence on their faces. They've placed a solitary rose at the cross' base.

"It means that he has not been forgotten, that they remember his sacrifice," Donahue told the Asbury Park Press, fighting back tears. "And they honor it."

The average American has no idea of the deep

Below: French students visit the grave of Stephen "Joe" Coleman along with their advisor, WWII activist Valerie Gautier Cardin. (photo by Valerie Cardin)



reverence French citizens hold for our veterans. French youths are known to erupt in applause upon meeting veterans or their descendants. It is not an unusual occurrence to see locals dress up as American GIs every June 6.

"It's wonderful," Donahue said. "It's part of their education as students. That's something we are missing here."

Carol Donahue never met her father, but she's gained a measure of solace knowing his legacy lives on across the ocean.

If you would like to watch Carol's video with the ABMC, you can find that here: [We Remember S/SGT Stephen J. Coleman](#)

If you would like to assist Valerie Gautier Cardin's organization to help aging veterans return to Normandy, you can find their Facebook page here: [Veterans back to Normandie \(Retour des vétérans alliés de la seconde guerre mondiale en Normandie\)](#)



Above: AWON Member Carol Coleman Donahue visits with Valerie Gautier Cardin, WWII educator and caretaker of Carol's father's grave.



WWII Orphan Karen Wisner was in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego on Sept. 11, 2023. Karen's presence helped complete this 'Long Gold Line' - Gold Star family members from each of America's military conflicts of the recent past.

L-R, at left: Operation Iraqi Freedom Gold Star Father Manny Martinez & Gold Star Mother Armida Martinez - parents of Sgt. Michael Martinez (Army), KIA 6/28/07 in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; Patty Lee - Gold Star

Daughter of Platoon Sgt. Delbert C. Totty (Army), KIA 3/31/67 in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; Carol Reed - Gold Star Daughter of Captain Austin E. E. Brenneman (USMC) who was KIA on 5/28/51 in North Korea during the Korean War; Karen Wisner - Gold Star Daughter of Pvt. Worrell F. Oberg (Army) who was KIA on 12/22/45 in Germany during WWII; the World War I Gold Star Pilgrimage Medallion presented in the 1930s to Gold Star Mothers, the Medallion is being held by Tony Cordero - Gold Star Son of Maj. William E. Cordero (USAF), KIA on 6/22/65 in Laos during the Vietnam War.

## Invitation to the San Diego Groundbreaking for a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

**September 11, 2023 at 11:00am**  
(ending by 12:00 noon)

**Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

*Please join us for a unique Groundbreaking at  
Miramar's Memorial Walk in special honor of  
WWII Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams\**




*"Dying for freedom isn't the worst thing that can happen. Being forgotten is."*






**Note: The Dedication is scheduled for Veteran's Day, November 10, 2023 at 11:00am.**  
\*Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are the mission of the Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a charitable 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization. Sadly, Woody passed in mid-2022 as the last living WWII Medal of Honor recipient for his actions on Iwo Jima the day of the famous flag raising atop Mt. Suribachi.

### 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)

The official dedication for the San Diego Gold Star Families Memorial Monument will be held on November 10, 2023, 11 am, at Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego.



# *Another Year of Remembering, Honoring, and Teaching!*

*Don't forget to order your wreaths for 2023 - Serve and Succeed!*

*By Sandra Walker*

Their hopes buoyed after seeing the Allies triumphant in several horrific battles, by September 1944 American journalists started writing that troops could be home for Christmas. Soldiers and families were hopeful, not about just "being home for Christmas, if 🎵 only in dreams 🎵" but actually celebrating the holiday together.

Alongside the exciting headlines, reality existed: many Gold Star families yet endured an empty place at the dinner table. Into November 1944, the war in the Pacific and in Europe grew even more horrendous. During the Battle of the Bulge, Christmas Day was white.

Rather than any "dreaming", a hideous nightmare ran for hours as fighting raged through bitterly cold, cruel conditions. The season brought remembrances, especially for grieving children, wives, mothers, brothers and sisters. From both theaters of war, more telegrams were delivered well into the summer of 1945.

Today, remembrances from that profoundly sad, silent era will be beautifully expressed. This December 16, Wreaths Across America will orchestrate the placement of tens of thousands of wreaths across Arlington National Cemetery, and in 2,100 additional locations. WAA's iconic fresh evergreen wreath with a bright red bow placed against a snowy-white background spreads a heartfelt expression honoring selfless service to the United States and to the world.

Wreaths Across America (WAA) began in 1992 because of Mr. Morrill Worcester in Harrington, Maine. As a 12-year-old boy Worcester had visited Washington D.C. and the Arlington National Cemetery for the first time. The indelible impression of the vast cemetery stayed in his soul. When Mr. Worcester retired, he created a way to honor soldiers, especially ones who made the ultimate sacrifice.

From those humble beginnings at Arlington National Cemetery, today WAA reaches across the nation and even to our international American cemeteries.

While we at AWON observe the date of our Father's death, we also respect our national dates of

remembrance through the official Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day commemorations. National Wreaths Across America Day is another opportunity for us to pay our respects and remember the sacrifices of our fathers and the other young men just like our fathers, true American heroes.

While we aren't having a designated AWON WAA page this year, your participation is still welcome! If we as members actively participate, AWON interaction with WAA, a huge and nationally renowned organization, will help expand awareness of AWON, enabling us to possibly find more of our fellow orphans.

Above all else, we align with the WAA stated purpose: **Remember, Honor and Teach**, for WAA is committed to teaching younger generations where the value of their freedom rests. This AWON outreach project can broaden our ongoing commitment for lasting remembrance of the selfless sacrifice by our heroes.

Recognition day for Wreaths Across America was established in 2008 by the United States Congress, to be observed each December 13. In 2023 the placing of the WAA wreaths will be held on Saturday, December 16. The extensive national WAA organization offers the opportunity to send \$17 for a wreath and also fund additional wreaths. WAA is a non-profit 501-(c) (3). Additionally, WAA needs and welcomes volunteers regardless of location.

To read more about WAA's broad national and international involvement, one can go to their website, sign up for the weekly newsletter, and/or visit their home office in Columbia Falls, Maine. The Wreaths Across America website is found at:

[www.wreathsassamerica.org](http://www.wreathsassamerica.org)

Mailing address for Wreaths Across America: WAA, P.O. Box 249, Columbia Falls, Maine, 04623.

And one of the easiest ways to order from WAA is by phone: 877-385-9504.

The deadline to order a wreath for a specific grave is **November 30, 2023!**



Let's make our holiday season more meaningful by enhancing the remembrance of our Fathers through supporting Wreaths Across America - and beyond the United States, at our ABMC cemeteries abroad!

How do AWON members or supportive family engage in this important outreach project?

You can help in two ways:

1. Donating funds for a wreath or wreaths. One wreath is \$17. The most common donation is \$85 (five wreaths) but smaller donations are accepted. It is critical that anyone wishing to donate for a grave specific wreath do so by **November 30, 2023**. All funds are due in the WAA office by that date.

2. Volunteering to help WAA in the placement of thousands of wreaths. To volunteer requires no financial investment, only a commitment of your time.

It is also very helpful to let friends and family know about the WAA program. Help spread the word about this awesome organization. One way to do this is by sending invitations to others at the time you place your order. They will learn about WAA and all it takes is the click of a button.

To send an invite, while placing orders online, you will be given the option to send an invite to friends and family to also make a donation. You can also choose to send a card to let someone know you've sent a wreath as a gift on their behalf. Or both!

**IMPORTANT!!!!** We are NOT using the AWON dedicated page at WAA this year. Instead, you should order your wreaths directly from WAA. WAA is a non-profit 501-(c) (3). Online donations in the form of wreath orders are completed securely on the WAA online fundraising page:

[www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org). Or if you prefer, you may mail donations by cash or check using the fundraising form available on WAA's website. The deadline to order is **November 30, 2023**.

To indicate the choice of where to volunteer, on the WAA website, click "volunteer" and then you'll be given the option to enter your zip code or search by cemetery. Volunteers are guided by the location coordinator.

To donate wreaths to a specific cemetery, including the overseas cemeteries, but NOT to a specific grave, from the HOME page of the WAA Site, select "sponsor a cemetery". This is in VERY SMALL white letters, just below the red "Sponsor Wreaths" button. Once you click that button, a window will open up that allows you to order wreaths to be delivered to a particular cemetery. If you don't select a cemetery, your wreaths will go to any cemetery where they are needed.

To order a grave-specific wreath, at the time you order your wreath online, be sure to click the box marked "Honor and Remember a Specific Person." You will be given the options to honor a deceased veteran, a living veteran or first responder, or just for your wreaths to go wherever they are needed. Please note, if you order an "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" Wreath, it cannot be delivered to a specific grave.

**REMEMBER: Deadline to order is November 30!**

Let's spread the AWON holiday spirit across the world this year! Support Wreaths Across America...

**Remember, Honor and Teach.**



# Editorial: NO, the photo on Iwo Jima was NOT faked!

By Kristin Holmes

Over the past few months, I have seen a meme floating around the Internet regarding the iconic American flag placed on Iwo Jima. Even though the meme is extremely misleading, I haven't seen anyone in the media rushing to fact check it. In fact, most people are so sadly jaded that they believe the meme without question and pass it along without doing any follow up investigation beforehand.



The text that accompanies the meme is something along these lines (this is a real social media post!):

*The real flag raising had already taken place. But a zealous General wanted to take credit and get a photo op with his marines. It's also sad, they took the men who raised the second flag and paraded them around the nation afterwards, even having them stage flag readings at sporting events etc to raise war bonds and it really messed some of them up. One committed suicide if I remember correctly.*

Let's take a closer look at this iconic photo and find out where the truth really lies.

The most dangerous lies contain a small grain of truth at their core, and this meme is no exception. It is indeed true that there were two flag raisings on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, and it's also true that the photo in the meme is of the first flag raising. But the second photo was not staged as a photo-op. The idea that anyone even COULD stage a photo-op in a war zone as brutal as Iwo Jima, a small island containing over 20,000 hostile Japanese soldiers and 70,000 Marines, all fighting one another to the death, is laughable.

When the first flag was raised on Iwo Jima by the 3rd



*Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima*, by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, was not a staged "photo-op" as modern day cynics would have us believe.

Platoon of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, it was under [profoundly dangerous conditions](#). The second flag was raised under conditions that were barely better. Two of the four men who raised the original flag, Ernest Thomas and Hank Hansen, and three of the men in the famous photo of the second flag raising, Franklin Sousley, Michael Strank, and Harlon Block, and their Battalion Commander Chandler Johnson, were later killed on Iwo Jima. The Japanese island was being defended to the death by an entrenched and well-prepared enemy, and the idea that things were so calm and peaceful as to allow anyone time to set up a photo-op is completely ludicrous.

It had taken four days of brutal fighting for US Marines to summit Mt. Suribachi, and the 46-man patrol who succeeded in the task had been given direct orders from Colonel Johnson - "if you make it to the top, raise the flag". And so they did, using a small flag from the *USS Missoula* - the transport that had carried the 3rd Platoon to their staging area at Saipan.

The Japanese in the area used the flag as a target and began firing at the spot. The only photographer in the area, Marine S/SGT Louis Lowery, was unable to get a picture of the moment simply because the bullets



...Iwo Jima, from previous page

were coming so thick and fast that it was impossible. Only four of the men in the 46 man patrol made it through their time on Iwo Jima without injury, and even Lowery himself had a gun drawn on him, was attacked by a swordsman, and had a grenade explode nearby *while* trying to take photos of the flag raising. Despite these overwhelming odds, S/SGT Lowery did manage to take the picture featured in the meme, just after the first flag was raised.

The problem with the first flag was that it was quite small. Flags aren't just for decoration; they have a purpose, and the purpose is that they are markers, and a type of communication across distances. The Allied troops needed to be able to see the Stars and Stripes from all over Iwo Jima, and the flag from the *Missoula* did not serve that purpose. It was only 54x28 inches in size, and could not be seen without binoculars. While an announcement had been made that the mountain had been taken, many of the fighting men couldn't see it for themselves.

It was imperative for morale, thought Colonel Chandler Johnson, for that flag to be visible with the naked eye across the entire island. Mt. Suribachi was the first piece of Japanese territory to be captured by American troops and Colonel Johnson knew that the sight of the Stars and Stripes would inspire the men who were still desperately fighting for their lives.

No overzealous General desperate for a photo ever existed. Some have claimed the Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, wanted the first flag as a souvenir, and claims have been made that Colonel Johnson sent his men to get the flag back first to prevent Secretary Forrestal from getting his hands on it. But these rumors, despite having been published in a popular book that was later turned into a Clint Eastwood movie, are likely apocryphal. After the war, Forrestal ran afoul of a gossip columnist who is known to have manufactured several false rumors about him. Additionally, Forrestal was known to be deeply respectful of the Marine Corps, fighting tirelessly to get adequate supplies and support for his men - to such extent even FDR himself once rebuked him. He was not the type of man to squander Marines' lives for a



Left: The taking of the "Gung Ho" picture - photo by Bob Campbell. Joe Rosenthal is at the far left, and Marine cinematographer SGT Bill Genaust, who shot the video

footage proving that Joe Rosenthal did not stage the Iwo Jima photo, is standing on the right. SGT Genaust was himself KIA nine days later while providing lighting for Marines clearing a cave on Iwo Jima.

souvenir. Above all else, it is unlikely that Colonel Johnson, the Battalion Commander, would have risked his men's lives in such a petty endeavor.

Regardless of motive, Colonel Johnson had his men secure a bigger flag from *LST 779*, a vessel beached near Suribachi's eastern base. Another group of Marines, most particularly PFC Rene Gagnon, the company messenger, had to haul the much larger and more visible flag up the mountain so it could be seen from across the island. PFC Gagnon also brought back the first, smaller flag for safekeeping.

At that same time, S/SGT Louis Lowery headed back down the mountain. His camera had broken during the grenade attack and he needed to retrieve his backup. Mid-trip, he met AP photographer Joe Rosenthal, headed up, accompanied by another photographer named Bob Campbell, and Marine cinematographer SGT Bill Genaust. The men got to Suribachi's summit about the same time the larger flag did.

Rosenthal saw several Marines fabricating a flagpole from a long piece of pipe, and got his camera set up, using stones and some Japanese sandbags under his feet to achieve a good angle. He had time for a single picture, just one, and he took it. In the moment, he really didn't give it another thought. He had no idea he had just taken one of the most iconic photos of the entire war, if not of the 20th century. Then, he arranged a group of Marines together round the flag, for a group shot that later came to be called "the Gung Ho" picture.

...Photo not staged, continued from previous page

Modern photographers work with digital cameras, and thus they can immediately look at the pictures they took and know what they've captured. Joe Rosenthal had no such luxury. Film has to be developed, and for that, you need a darkroom. The nearest darkroom was in Guam. Rosenthal sent his film off and stayed on Iwo Jima. By the next day, *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima* was featured on front pages around the world.

Rosenthal had no idea. As the days passed, he heard rumors that one of his summit photos was making waves back home. He mistakenly assumed it was "the Gung Ho" photo, and so when he was asked later that week if his photo had been staged, he said it had been.

This ignited a scandal, with both the military and *LIFE Magazine* staging serious inquiries into the event. Even though retractions and apologies were almost immediately issued, to this day many people still believe the photo was staged. Even though Rosenthal went on to win a Pulitzer Prize for the photo, and even though [video footage verified beyond a doubt](#) that he was telling the truth, the rumors and accusations are still here with us, decades later. They seem to be finding fertile ground in the minds of people who can't comprehend life in a world without digital photography and immediate communication.

All that having been said, the flag raising on Iwo Jima is not without controversy. In the confusion, the military brass got the names confused on the men who were actually in the photo. The men involved were not questioned about who was who until six weeks later, and mistakes were made. For reasons that are lost to the ages, someone in a position of power apparently believed that it would be an embarrassment for the military to admit that fact that they'd gotten it wrong. So until 2016 and 2019, two of the men - Harold Schultz and Harold Keller - who'd raised the flag were not believed to have done so. Even though Keller did try to set the record straight, the military brass would not admit publicly they'd gotten it wrong.

Thus it came to pass that two of the men who were long thought to be in the picture - Navy Corpsman



Ira Hayes, John Bradley, and Rene Gagnon appearing as the men who raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi in the John Wayne movie **The Sands of Iwo Jima**, in 1949

John Bradley, who had been involved in raising the first flag on Iwo Jima and was in both the "Gung Ho" photo and Lowery's photo of the first flag, and PFC Rene Gagnon, the man who had risked his life running the larger flag up the island and bringing back the smaller flag for safekeeping, were not actually in Joe Rosenthal's beloved photo. The man believed to be Bradley until 2016 was in fact PFC Harold Schultz, and the man believed to be Gagnon until 2019 was CPL Harold Keller. Additionally, the man at the base of the photo was first believed to be Henry Oliver Hansen, who raised the first flag and was KIA on Iwo Jima, but it was actually CPL Harlan Block, also KIA.

It cannot be stressed enough that Bradley and Gagnon were undeniably heroes. You can make a case for Gagnon being the biggest hero of the entire day, a day full of courageous acts and self-sacrifice, for running up and down Mt. Suribachi repeatedly in the midst of a pitched battle. Not only has it been shown that he located and retrieved the second flag on *LST 779*, he also helped lower the first flagpole, a dangerous job as that flag was drawing a lot of enemy attention. The flag raising would not have happened without Rene Gagnon, full stop. And Bradley won the Navy Cross for actions he performed before he even started up Mt. Suribachi! This was not in any way a case of stolen valor. Something happened, no one is really sure what, and some of the men in the photo were misidentified - by the men themselves! Even Ira Hayes, about whom there is no doubt - he was in the photo, with his hands outstretched as the flagpole leaves them - misidentified the men in it. He did try to correct the mistaken identity of Hansen vs. Block, but he too believed Gagnon and Bradley were the men in Joe Rosenthal's photo.

...Photo not staged, continued from previous page

Again, this is something perhaps difficult for modern people used to digital photography and immediate access to electronic images may find tough to understand. But six weeks had passed. The battle was incredibly stressful and chaotic, and several pictures were taken that day at various points - the men had no way of knowing when the photo had been taken. We do not know what questions were asked of these men, what photos they thought they were identifying. Bradley had been injured and was still recovering, and was indeed in the first photo. The other men in the photo - Block, Strank, and Sousley - were KIA and unable to give testimony. Above all else, no one had any idea they were living in a moment that would be remembered through the ages. It was an honest mistake made by men who believed what they said.

Even when the Marine Corps realized that a mistake had been made with CPL Block, they would not let the truth of the matter come out till later. Private Ira Hayes, who was the last man interviewed and tried to set the record straight on CPL Block's identity, was told that the names had been made public on April 8, and wouldn't be changed. Only after the war was Corporal Block's name made public and the record on his involvement in the flag raising corrected.

Under orders from President Roosevelt, the military sent Bradley, Gagnon, and Hayes on tour selling war bonds. This is a fact, it really happened. The men were a part of the Seventh War Bond Tour. The meme would have us believe that this pressure to peddle bonds to the American public really "messed these guys up". I find this a ridiculous suggestion reminiscent of an episode of "*Behind the Music*" about a sad rock star mooning around their million dollar mansion being terrible to everyone, justifying it by claiming that "fame is hard".

But these men? These men had just survived the brutality of war, and one of the worst battles not only of World War II, but of any war in human history. If anything "messed them up" it would have been that - both what they endured while serving their country, but also the guilt of surviving when so many other men did not. John Bradley in particular was known

to be traumatized after finding the defiled remains of his good friend Ralph Ignatowski, who had been captured and brutally tortured by the Japanese.

Furthermore, the war bond effort was not some tedious mundane chore, it was a noble endeavor. The people who took part in the war bond tours took pride in what they were doing, and rightfully so. A LOT of money was raised for the war effort - money that went to providing soldiers, sailors, and Marines the supplies that they needed to keep on fighting. The Seventh War Bond tour these men were part of raised 26 billion dollars - no small feat in 1945.

While it is true that Ira Hayes and John Bradley at some points in time did express frustration with the attention they received, they did take pride in their achievements at the same time. All three men attended the dedication of the Marine Corps War Monument in Washington DC and proudly played fictional versions of themselves in the John Wayne movie *The Sands of Iwo Jima*.

Ira Hayes struggled with some personal demons of his own, namely alcoholism. However, contrary to what the meme claims, he did not take his own life. Tragically, he died of exposure after having a physical altercation after a poker game at only 32 years of age. While all three men died at relatively young ages, Gagnon and Bradley both succumbing to heart attacks at 54 and 70, respectively (sadly, uncredited flag raisers Harold Schultz and Harold Keller also died quite young of heart attacks - Iwo Jima took its toll) none of the flag raisers committed suicide.

We live in a world where technology allows a lie to travel around the world a billion times before the truth puts its pants on, while at the same time, historical illiteracy is alarmingly high. But worse than that, is the cynicism. I cannot even imagine going through life seeing the photo *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima* and immediately looking for the downside, the trick, the angle, the fakery involved, instead of being inspired by the triumph of the human spirit captured by a camera. We're all of us wrong from time to time, but cynicism is a choice. I hope that people start to make different choices in the very near future.



# AWON Memorial Day 2023 In Their Memory...



See more wreath photos and  
remembrances by clicking the  
Connected "W"!!





## 2023 Wreath Photos, Previous Page:

Top: Epinal American Cemetery

Middle Right: AWON Wreath Program founders Bernard Achten and Régine Villers, along with their lovely daughter Marie at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

Middle Left: Normandy American Cemetery

Bottom Left: Manila American Cemetery  
Bottom Right: on the left side of the photo: Friend of AWON Jean-Marc Lesueur at Normandy American Cemetery, with a fellow Memorial Day wreath presenter



## 2023 Wreath Photos, This Page:

Top Left: Henri Chapelle Cemetery  
Top Right: Florence American Cemetery

Middle: Sicily-Rome American Cemetery

Bottom: North African American Cemetery





## AWON Memorial Day 2023, continued from previous page



### 2023 Memorial Day Wreath Photos, This Page:

Top Left: Netherlands American Cemetery  
Top Right: Three generations of the Mulder family present the Margraten wreath.

Bottom: Luxembourg American Cemetery

### 2023 Memorial Day Wreath Photos, Next Page:

Top Left: Cambridge American Cemetery  
Top Right: Vanita Rae Smith and her nephew Solomon presented the wreath at the Cemetery of the Pacific.

Middle: A close up of AWON's wreath at the Cemetery of the Pacific.

Bottom Left: Ardennes American Cemetery  
Bottom Right: A close up of the banners at Netherlands American Cemetery.







See MORE Memorial Day  
Photos on the AWON Website  
by clicking the Connected "W"!!





# AWON Memorial Day 2023, cont'd from previous page



Bottom Right: The memorial to George Riley Francis on the DeHand farm in France

Bottom Center: Friend of AWON Vicente Lim IV with AWON's wreath at Manila American Cemetery.



Bottom Left: Eric Rosen at the square in Worcester, Mass, named for his father, Samuel "Sonny" Rosen.



Top Right: Ken Underwood presented the AWON wreath at the National WWII Museum.

Top Left: Carole and August Alegi, Susan Perko, Elizabeth Harris, and Margaret Malone at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in New York City. The AWON wreath is directly behind them in gold, white, and blue.

### **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.

**Kristin Holmes, Editor**  
**PO Box 242, Creston WA**  
**99117 (509) 279-5241**  
[atomicsagebrush@gmail.com](mailto:atomicsagebrush@gmail.com)

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



*The STAR* needs your 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. 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!

*Calling all AWON Members!!*

*All AWON members in good standing are invited to participate in AWON's MeWe page! If you aren't sure about your membership status please send an email to [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org) To join AWON or renew membership visit: <https://www.awon.org/application>*

The new MeWe ListServ



**National Wreaths Across America Day is coming December 16, 2023! Please see pages 6-7 for more info about how you can get involved to Remember, Honor, and Teach.**



# 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 members since Ann Bennett Mix founded the organization in 1991.*

**From American Orphans Newsletter Issue #61, June 2011 – New AWON Logo Product!:** Wrap your Dad around you any time with this new cotton/polyester fleeced-backed blanket. The 50 x 60-inch royal blue blanket features gold-stamped lettering with American WWII Orphans Network and In Their Memory, centered above a gold stamped star. Add your father's name and rank above the text.

**Issue #62, September 2011 – The Poem by Ben Weber** – On the morning of March 18, 1946, 2nd Lt. Zean G. Gassman Jr., took off from Palawan Army Air Base in the Philippines flying a P-51 Mustang. He was scheduled to fly one hour. He was never seen or heard from again. He was the fourth of eleven children – the oldest son. His death was a great tragedy for everyone.

Nothing symbolizes it more than the poem his sister, Elizabeth, wrote about his disappearance:

*Soft summer evening on Elliot Street  
You won in games of Hide and Seek  
and Run Sheep Run  
Picking improbable places to hide.*

*War is not a children's game  
But finally it is over  
And one by one playmates grown old  
Have touched base – "Home Free"  
All but you.*

*And in endless summer dreams  
I search for you, calling  
"Come out, come out! Wherever you are!"  
Brother mine, that you could answer me.*

**Issue # 63, December 2011 – 'New' Christmas Letter Reveals More Than Father's Last Words by Janie Weekley McPherson:** Recently discovered a treasure for my brother – and for myself - that has given me a glimpse into my daddy's heart.

Somewhere in Germany, Christmas Night 1944...

*My Dear Son,*

*To say I'm thinking of you tonight. This is the night you will learn to love more as the years go by. It's the night everyone should be happy and I'm happy you are free from all the hardships of a war torn world and I know you will always be, for it's the land of the free. That's why I'm away from you, Mom and little sister, to make it stay free for you and them. As you grow older you will understand. Always be proud to be an American, uphold that which is right and you will be so. Take good care of Mother and little sister, tell them Daddy loves you every one.*

*I hope to see you soon, so be good for me and I'll be seeing you son.*

*With all my love to my son,  
Your Dad*

**Issue #64, March 2012 – Contributions Sought for Volkan Conference Topic:** Vamik D. Volkan, M.D., Nobel Peace Prize nominee and International Lecturer, has agreed to present at our 2012 AWON National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October.

Dr. Volkan has brought us presentations on linking objects and now will introduce us to transgenerational influence – how the loss of our fathers and associate mourning influenced the next generation, how our surviving mothers and our father's loss influenced our

...AWON Moments, continued from previous page

upbringing and, in turn, how it influenced the raising of our children. Please submit your comments to the 2012 AWON National Conference.

**Issue #65, June 2012 – AWON Website Place to Connect with Father's War Buddies – by Janice Ott Buterbaugh:** Military records and personal letters are great linking objects to our fathers, as well as sources for information. But imagine if you could correspond with your father's war buddy! The Lost Buddies Project is one of many resources on the AWON website, managed by AWON Webmaster, Rik Peirson. The project is located at <http://www.west-point.org/family/awon/lostbuddies/>.

**Unforgettable AWON Moment – Daughter Discovers Errors on Dad's Plaque by Accident – Mary Ruth Thier Klimow:** I clearly remember when I was four or five years old, in 1946 or 1947, planting a tree for my father in what was to become the Belle Harbor Memorial Circle. In the summer of 2005, I returned to the memorial to find that my father's last name, Thier, was misspelled as Their (which was common all my life), the middle initial was wrong {L instead of J), and the date of death was wrong. At that point I knew I had been sent there for a reason. The corrected plaque now reads Joseph J. Thier, United States Army, January 17, 1945. My job is done, but I still have to manually correct the spelling of my maiden name.

Please send your AWON Moments to:  
AWON STAR  
5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216  
Or email to [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



Be sure to "Like"  
AWON on  
Facebook for news  
and information in  
real time!

## The Liberation Pavillion is Opening November 3, 2023!

The National WWII Museum will be opening its final permanent exhibit hall, Liberation Pavillion, on November 3, 2023. The formal dedication program runs from 9:00AM to 10:30AM. The Liberation Pavillion will feature exhibits about the end of WWII, the Holocaust, the postwar years, and how the war continues to impact our lives today. According to the National WWII Museum, one of the main functions of the Liberation Pavillion is to honor the sacrifices of the WWII generation of soldiers and their loved ones on the homefront. It is only fitting that AWON's Victory Paver is located in the Colonel Battle Barksdale Parade Ground directly in front of the building dedicated to exploring the immense costs of war.

AWON member Nancy Bachant, and her sisters Janet and Karen, have received a personal invitation to the opening of the Liberation Pavillion. A photo portrait of the Bachant triplets' father with a photo of the girls, whom he never met, will be displayed at the entrance to the pavillion and in the area called "The Cost of War." Nancy expressed what a great honor it was and how thrilling it was for the Bachants to be a part of the permanent exhibit. Nancy and Janet will be in NOLA on November 1, 2, 3, at the Higgins, and would love to meet up with any AWON siblings in attendance.

In addition to the Bachant sisters being in attendance, AWON President Walt Linne extended the following invite on Facebook:

*Looking forward to meeting up with fellow AWON siblings. We (Barb Kelly and Walt) are arriving midday on 11/2 and will be staying at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center, leaving on 11/4. Millie and Jim Cavanaugh will also be in attendance. We can possibly meet up at the Higgins Hotel in the Kilroy Bar and Lounge or Rosie's on the Roof. Please contact me (Walt Linne) at 317-697-4697 to facilitate meeting up. In Their Memory, Never Forgotten!*

# 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 \$10 a year – includes an E-version of **The Star**, and \$25 a year – includes a printed version.

**Supporting Member Dues** are \$50 a year – includes 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 (E-Star Version)	\$10	\$20	\$30
Family (Printed Star Version)	\$25	\$48	\$70
Supporting	\$50	\$96	\$140
Gold Star (Increased Donation)	\$100	\$192	\$280

## Donation Considerations:

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



Submittable  
 Online >>>



AWON (American WWII Orphans Network) is a humanitarian, non-profit, nonpolitical service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the US Federal Tax Code.  
 (EINB #91-1538912) Membership is not required to be entered into the Database. For more information, the AWON Website is at [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org).





One of AWON's biggest challenges is keeping membership up to date. If you aren't sure about your status and think it may be time for you to renew, please send an email to: [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org).

In the subject line of your email, please write "Membership Check". If it is time for you to renew, we'll include your membership form in our reply!! It's so easy!

To join AWON for the first time, or renew membership yourself visit: <https://www.awon.org/about>

## THANK YOU, 2023 WREATH COORDINATORS!!

Ardenes American Cemetery Bernard and Régine Achten	Lorraine American Cemetery Coordinator Needed!	North Africa American Cemetery Bonnie Hellums
Brittany American Cemetery Brian Hope	Luxembourg American Cemetery Sandy MacDuffee	Rhone American Cemetery Coordinator Needed!
Cambridge American Cemetery Jeanne Rhinehart	Manila American Cemetery Ruthie Joyce	Sicily-Rome American Cemetery Robert Meek
Epinal American Cemetery Jocelyn Papelard	Netherlands American Cemetery Gloria Layne	Cemetery of the Pacific Susan Chadd
Florence American Cemetery Mary Alice Renner	Normandy American Cemetery Rondy Elliott	Suresnes American Cemetery The AWON Wreath & Banner Coordinator Collective
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery Rik Peirson		

## Summer 2023 EOM Account Totals

AWON 2023 EOM Account Totals					
Treasurer Report as of 8/31/2023					
	General (Wreath)	Conference	Book Source	Money Market	Comment
JANUARY	\$24,843.19 (\$7,981.26)	\$1,553.53	\$416.38	\$48,078.92	<b>Note: The General Fund includes (Wreath Fund) deposits.</b>
FEBRUARY	\$22,710.95 (\$8,056.26)	\$1,553.53	\$1,409.58	\$48,079.29	
MARCH	\$22,710.95 (\$8,258.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,409.58	\$48,079.69	
APRIL	\$23,875.89 (\$8,916.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,418.24	\$48,080.09	
MAY	\$24,294.25 (\$9,386.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,080.50	Wreath Debit \$420.40
JUNE	\$24,479.63 (\$9,700.59)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,088.44	
JULY	\$23,303.38 (\$9,280.19)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,231.73	
AUGUST	\$22,836.83 (\$9,889.59)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,387.63	



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

**Total Enclosed** (check/money order payable to AWON): \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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

#### Dues

Robert Meek [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

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#### Membership

Open Position

#### Memorial Day White House Event

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

#### Memorial Day Wreath & Banner

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

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