



The Star



Issue #114

"We Speak Their Names"

Fall/Winter 2025

Ann Bennett Mix -1940-2024



AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix, daughter of PVT Sydney Worthington Bennett, died on Oct. 30, 2024. She leaves behind an incredible legacy spanning three decades, in which she touched the lives of so many war orphans and their descendents.

AWON's beloved founder Ann Bennett Mix died on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024. She was born to Eloise and Sydney Bennett on Nov. 14, 1940, in Bakersfield, CA.

Ann graduated from Bakersfield High School in 1958. The following years were peripatetic, moving first to San Francisco, Calif., then to Embudo, N.M., where she identified with the emergent Hippie counterculture. After leaving New Mexico, she lived throughout the West eventually landing in Bellingham, Wash., where she returned to college to receive her BA (Interdisciplinary Concentration-Biographical Research and Writing) from Western Washington University in 1990.

By 1991, Mix had begun research on the circumstances surrounding the death of her father, PVT Sydney Bennett, 10th Mountain Division, during World War II. Sydney Bennett was killed in action in Italy in the Apennine mountains known as the Gothic Line on April 19, 1945. His untimely death left a deep wound in Ann's family and homelife.

During her research she discovered that 183,000 children were left fatherless. Later that year, with a desire to connect with people who shared her story and life experience of being a war orphan, Ann founded the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON), an international organization devoted to sons and daughters who lost fathers to World War II. To foster the organization, she began a longstanding friendship with Senator Robert Dole who had fought in the 10th Mountain Division with Mix's father and served as an advisor to the organization.

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President's Message

by Walt Linne

Ann Bennett Mix, our Founder, has passed away. What can I say!?

Ann brought my Father "off the shelf" and back into my life.
 She introduced me to other WWII orphans.
 She encouraged me to share my story with my orphan siblings.
 By her example, Ann inspired many of our sister orphans to display their Father's name as their middle name.
 She created and produced the first AWON newsletter.
 She established the AWON Bookstore reviewing and recommending books of interest to our orphan members.
 Ann authored *Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights and Resources for Families of American World WWII Casualties* and coauthored, with Susan Johnson Hadley, *Lost in the Victory: Reflections of American War Orphans*.
 She made numerous speaking engagements and wrote articles about AWON, encouraging us to spread the word about AWON.
 She created a WWII orphans database and encouraged us to reach out for our fellow orphans.
 Ann suggested to the National WWII Memorial planning committee that Gold Stars be added to the Memorial, each Gold Star representing 100 military deaths for a total of over 400,000.

I met Ann at the No Greater Love Dedication Service at Arlington National Cemetery, hosted by Carmella LaSpada. At that service, I was able to thank my Dad for his sacrifice for the first time. I brought him "off the shelf" and into my life wholly for the first time. I also met Joan Marlow, the first war orphan I had ever met outside of my brother. We talked for hours.

It was at that moment that I realized how important an organization Ann had created, one that I wanted to be a member of. Sometime later Lorin McCleary invited several orphans to Washington DC to help Ann reach out to more WWII orphans. That gathering of fellow orphans became known as the First Founders. Now 30+ years later we are still reaching out to our siblings.

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....President's Message, con't from page 2

We have been blessed to have Ann Bennett Mix come into our lives. Thank you for everything, Annie, and bless you for Founding the American WWII Orphans Network. Much love!

If you have a memory of Ann Bennet Mix, our beloved founder of the American WWII Orphans Network, and how she touched your life, please feel free to let us know. We want to share as many remembrances of Ann as we possibly can.

Our AWON national conference planned for May has been cancelled based on dependency of registration (members wanting to attend, but not sure if they would be able to make it) and the high cost of cancelling the hotel contract at the last moment. We are now exploring a National Remembrance Conference for Ann in the Fall of 2025. More information to follow.

Finally, we continue to plan handing off AWON to the next generation whether it be our precious dependents or other war organizations i.e. Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT) from the Vietnam war and other Gold Star Children from recent war conflicts. Until then we will remain standing until the last WWII orphan remains.

In Their Memory - Never Forgotten!

Looking for Back Issues of The Star?

The Star can be found online here:

<https://www.awon.org/past-issues-1>

You can also buy back issues
from the AWON Bookstore:

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

For Our Annie - A Tribute to Ann Mix

Elaine Ricketson Danks
Originally Shared in the 2000
AWON Conference Program

Each of us is here today because of you,
There are even more of us not present, but
Cheering you silently from across the
country.

From your love for your father and your
need to know him, you reached beyond him
to us, and in doing so, you have changed our
lives.

For showing us how to break out
of the cells of silence that have held us
alone and mute in our loss,

For seeking out & sharing with us
the resources and knowledge from which
we can gather the thread to weave
together our lost father's stories,

For bringing us together:
To share and be enriched,
To speak and to be heard,
To listen and to understand,
To rejoice and be glad together.

For helping us reclaim not only our fathers,
but also our own identities:
Their sons and daughters.

For giving us your leadership, your courage,
your strength, and your wisdom,

For this and for all that you are,
you have our love and unending gratitude.

...Ann B. Mix, con't from pg. 1

Important contributions made by Ann during her tenure as Founder of AWON include establishing an international community of families of those who lost fathers to WWII, the return of the remains of many servicemen lost abroad, greater recognition of the contributions of African American servicemen during WWII, and advocacy for the building of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. Through those efforts she was honored with an invitation to visit the White House by George W. Bush. It was her suggestion that 'stars' be added to the WWII Memorial to represent the war dead, which resulted in The Gold Star Wall of Honor.

Her work with AWON was featured in "Newsweek," "Finally, A Time To Grieve" by Maggie Malone on Oct 26, 1998, NPR Radio's "The Diane Rehm Show," and "All Things Considered."

Ann Bennett Mix was the author of two books: *Touchstones - A Guide to Records, Rights and Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties* and *Lost in the Victory: Reflections of American War Orphans* co-authored with Susan Johnson Hadler as a collection of stories from survivors. The book was critically praised by *The New York Times* news service, among others, as "reading that will tug at your heart, your emotions — and perhaps, just perhaps, will change forever the way you look at Memorial Day. It's not to celebrate but to reflect."

Her interest in public service and politics led Mix to be a founding member of the Grant County Tea Party and an active member of the Grant County Republican Party (2002-2018), often as its public spokesperson. She was also a commissioner on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for Grant County. Motivated to make a visible change in the former military housing neighborhood where she lived, Ann created a community anti-graffiti coalition resulting in art replacing graffiti. She was a poet, songwriter, animal lover and loved hidden treasures and collectibles.



Above: Ann Bennett Mix was beloved by so many. Beyond her work with AWON, she was a mother, a political activist, an author, and an animal lover. She touched so many lives and she will be missed by all who knew her. Rest in peace, Ann.

As a historian, she took enormous pride in her family history and ancestors, especially her famous cousins Presidents Grover Cleveland and George Bush I and II, William Williams and George Taylor both signors of the Declaration of Independence, inventors Wilbur and Orville Wright, author Ernest Hemingway, impresario PT Barnum, and abolitionist Elizabeth Mix Cowles. She also qualified as a Daughter of the American Revolution through her ancestor Dr. Samuel Mix.

She is survived by five children, five grandchildren, three daughters-in-law and one son-in-law.

The family requests that any contributions go to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans in the name of AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix.

The donation link may be found at <https://bit.ly/WWIIDONATE>.

A Tribute to Ann Mix

by Ginger Rutledge Gregory



Above: AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix and AWON First Founder Susan Johnson Hadler, co-authors of *Lost in the Victory: Reflections of American War Orphans*.

Ann and Susan traveled extensively interviewing orphans to share their stories in their book - a book that finally broke the silence surrounding mention of fathers who died in WWII and how their deaths affected their children.

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



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

<https://mewe.com/>

This is my tribute to Ann Bennett Mix: Although I never had the privilege of knowing Ann personally, I will forever be grateful and appreciative of her long hours and hard work put into founding and continuing AWON.

Through AWON, I have become friends with many who lost their dads in WW2 as I did. Through AWON, I was encouraged and walked through how to visit my dad, Robert Lee Rutledge, at his resting place in the US Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. I finally made the trip to his gravesite in Margraten in May 2015. It was the trip of my lifetime and filled a hole in my heart, knowing that he was resting at this beautiful place.

I also had the opportunity to attend the National Convention in Washington D.C. taking my mother, my brother and his wife, and my husband. And again, going to the National Convention in New Orleans, taking my two children whose eyes were opened to what a sacrifice their granddad and his comrades made for our freedom.

Thank you, Ann Bennett Mix, for making this possible. RIP, sweet lady, you did a wonderful job pulling all of us war orphans together and helping us to realize that we were not alone in losing our dads!

The Time Ann Mix Met Wyatt Earp

contributed by Rik Peirson

A little known piece of AWON history was the time AWON founder Ann Mix met Hugh O'Brian, famed for his role as television's Wyatt Earp in "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp." The beloved show aired on ABC from 1955-1961. Hugh O'Brian was a man of great success, both off and on the camera. Hugh served in the Marine Corps during WWII and became the youngest drill instructor in Corps history.

He founded Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program in 1958, based on his belief in the potential of every human being, and a commitment to helping the youth of the world become major contributors to society. Today, nearly 500,000 HOBY alumni have gone on to make a difference in the lives of others, thanks to the vision and passion of Hugh O'Brian. Aside from Baby Boomers' fond memories of Hugh as Wyatt Earp, Hugh will be remembered as a person who dedicated his life to inspiring a global community of youth and volunteers committed to leadership, service, and innovation. Like the legendary lawman he was so proud of playing, Hugh was a hero.

"I believe every person is created as the steward of his or her own destiny



Above: AWON Founder Ann Mix and actor/activist Hugh O'Brian at the "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" celebration in 2010.

with great power for a specific purpose: to share with others, through service, a reverence for life in the spirit of love," Hugh once said.

In 2010, Hugh O'Brian met up with our own Ann Mix as a part of the "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" celebration that year, commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of the war, August 14, 2010. They rode together in a WWII Jeep waving to the crowd as a part of a parade in Washington, D.C. They hung out at a hotel while both were being interviewed for the Spirit of '45 program. Hugh was kind enough to tutor Annie in the finer arts of being filmed for an interview.

Ann described Hugh O'Brian as a feisty and loving guy, and said it was an honor to meet him.

What a moment!



Recollections of Ann Mix

by Lorin McCleary

I first became aware of Ann Mix in 1991. An article about her founding an organization for the children of WWII KIA had appeared in Seattle P-I newspaper. Being one of those children, I clipped out the article, saved it and eventually reached out to her first by letter then by telephone. In 1993, I received a phone call from Ann letting me know that she, Susan Hadler, and another WWII orphan named Jim were going to be meeting in Seattle that afternoon and evening. Might I like to join them?

I was scheduled to work that day flying an aerial photo mission so I was doubtful that I could. As it turned out, the day turned overcast and the photo flight had to be scrubbed. So, off I went to meet the others in Seattle. To my knowledge, I had never met anyone else whose father had been KIA in WWII so I really had no idea what to expect.

We met at a Seattle restaurant and as soon as I walked in and sat down, Susan pulled out a tape recorder and asked if I would mind being recorded. Hmmm...yes I would. (I had not, at that stage, come to terms with my father's death, so I was not ready to talk on the record about it.) In any case, we had a few drinks then we all went back to Jim's nearby apartment to continue our conversation.

Once there, Susan and I began to compare notes and found that we had very similar experiences growing up with a mom who would not talk about her dead husband. I realized then and there that my life had just changed!

Thus began a life-long friendship with Ann and Susan which only ended when first Susan and then Ann passed away. I miss them both so much. Ann Mix sure had the right idea when she realized that we WWII orphans needed to come to terms with the death of the father so many years ago.



Above: 29 years ago, AWON members traveled from Seattle and the first AWON National Conference to Bremerton, WA for the ceremony marking the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the surrender documents aboard the USS Missouri which formally ended the fighting in WWII. Annie Mix, Walter P. Linne, and Lorin McCleary represented AWON with other VIPs on the Surrender Deck of the ship for the Ceremony, an unforgettable experience. Here is a photo of Ann and Lorin standing by a Marine guard before they headed up the ramp to the ship for the Ceremony. Photo credit-Walt Linne



Hey - Where's My Star?

Due to the passing of Ann Mix and some unavoidable delays in the previous edition of The Star, it was decided to combine the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 edition into one.

Starting with our Spring 2025 edition, we are back on schedule and will continue bringing you AWON news and informative stories about our Fathers, AWON siblings, & interesting moments in WWII history.

Thank you for your patience!

Ann Mix in her own words - An Orphan's Story

Ann contributed this story of her life to the 100th edition of the AWON Star.

My father, Sydney W. Bennett, was killed April 19, 1945, in Mongiorgio, Italy, while serving with the 10th Mt Div, 87th Mt Infantry. He died thirteen days before the Germans surrendered. The end of WWII came four months later with the surrender of Japan.

I was four and a half years old when my Dad died, and almost five when the war ended. My mother had talked to my brother and told him our father was killed, but no one talked to me, as they believed me too young to understand.

When the Victory came, I was still waiting in my child's heart for my Daddy to come back. We lived only half a block away from the Main Street of East Bakersfield, California, and I remember standing on the sidewalk with my mother and grandmother to view the Victory Parade.

We were standing in the same block that contained precious memories of my father: the pool hall where he liked to go off and play cards and drink beer with his buddies, the ice cream store where we spent our "bribe" money he gave us to go home when my brother and I would go looking for him, the gas station where he once found me sound asleep on the passenger side running board waiting to go with him if he drove away, and the Firestone Store where he worked selling tires and appliances.

I stood watching soldiers in uniform marching towards us in the parade, and looking for my Dad. The last time I saw him, he was dressed that way. I stared at every face but when they had all walked by and he wasn't there, I began to cry. I clung to my mother's leg and wailed so loud people were staring at us. "I want my Daddy," I cried.

My mother and grandmother leaned over me and I looked up into two faces I could not read. My mother said, "I don't know what to do with her." They took me by the hand and marched me home.

The feelings I felt that day - the outrage, the loss, the confusion, were buried but they never died. Grief became chronic, hidden away in a hole deep in my being. The energy it took to keep it hidden tempered me into a seriously intense child and adult. The thread that tied me to my Father, to God, and to love, was snapped. It dangled inside me like a scanner, looking for someone or something to attach itself to, and make me whole again.

It wasn't until my late forties that I tried to open the short book that was my father's life and fill in the blanks. I began to ask questions, to search for records, and look for every clue I could find. I suddenly realized there had to be others out there like me, who had lost their fathers in WWII. I wondered, how many were there? Do they feel the same things? How did their lives turn out? These questions led me on a hunt and a journey that changed my life.

When I found another American WWII Orphan by going on a local radio show and we met, I immediately knew I had to find others, and bring us all together. From that experience I knew no one would understand us as well as we would each other.

I founded the American WWII Orphans Network and dedicated myself to the search for other orphans. We began coming together for the first time. The results were miraculous, and healing. We began to learn from each other, and those dangling threads began to help us find a new way to live and be in a world that had forgotten us long ago. We were empowered to talk about our fathers and ourselves, and eventually began to share our stories with the world.

We all hope that when we send fathers and mothers to war in the future, all the children will be acknowledged, and helped to grow up. We hope that children who have lost their loved ones to war will never again be Lost in the Victory as the 183,000 American WWII Orphans were.

Ann Mix in her own words - A Tribute to PVT Sydney Worthington Bennett

Ann shared this tribute to her beloved dad on the AWON Website

My father, Sydney Worthington Bennett, was funny. He made you laugh when he walked into the room. He would say dumb things like, "Gee, it would be cold if it wasn't so darn hot!" For some reason it made us laugh. Especially in Bakersfield, California, where it was 120 degrees in the shade!

I loved my father. He was sunshine, and I always waited for him to come home.

We lived with my father's mother in an old house on the East side of Bakersfield. His father was killed by a horse in a lightning storm in New Mexico when my dad was just thirteen. My grandmother, who was a dentist, worked to support them. When he could, he dropped out of high school to go to work and help her out.

Then he married my mom and they had my brother Sydney and me. The war loomed in the background of our lives from the beginning of my earliest memories. We feared the draft. At first, my dad was exempt because he had a dependent widowed mother, a wife and two children. But the awful day came when they reclassified him from 3A to 1A, and within days he had to report for a physical. My grandmother wrote a letter to the draft board pleading that he not be taken -- but to no avail.

He went. Was he a hero? I don't know. He didn't want to go, mainly because he had a strong feeling that he would be killed. He told everyone he wasn't coming back. He came home once on leave, and my mother got pregnant with my brother Tom. He stopped on the way East and asked an uncle in Indiana to watch out for us kids. He had spent hours saying goodbye to his mother, and he prayed with her on his knees, agreeing, finally, to be saved. He asked my brother to watch out for me and my mom, he told me to be good, and then he left in the dark of early morning.

He never came back, and I will always wish he had. It took me a lifetime to learn that when people die



they are truly gone forever. I always thought that they were just across the sea, or over the mountain, just out of sight.

PVT Sydney Bennett spent the winter of '44 in a replacement depot in Italy. When Spring of '45 came, they began an offensive,

driving the Germans out of the mountains north of Florence. He was brought up to the front by night as a replacement for the 10th Mountain Division, 87th Mountain Infantry.

He was a machine gunner, probably because he was such a good shot. In fact, he used to sit on the back porch and shoot rabbits with a single shot .22 Winchester. He was with the 87th for just three days when they entered the small village of Mongiorgio. He was the first one across a clearing and was shot by a sniper in the neck, dying instantly.

The men who were with him never had a chance to know him, but one of them found his pipe on the ground near where he fell, and stuck it in his pocket. I have that pipe, thanks to the soldier. I also have the Winchester he used to shoot off the back porch, his razor, and a cheap ring that says "Firenze" on it, that he bought in Florence.

I am one of the lucky ones who have a few memories of their Dad. He is buried in Florence American Cemetery, Florence, Italy.

A Final Homecoming for Garland Collier

excerpted from Coleman County Living Magazine

*In the last issue of **The Star**, there was an article about the funeral of Garland Collier, who had been missing for 78 years and had just returned home. With the help of Collier's great-niece, Judy Gamble, **Coleman County Living Magazine**, and the local paper the **Coleman Chronicle**, we are pleased to share the rest of the story.*

Garland Collier was born on November 3, 1918, in Novice, Coleman County, Texas. His parents, father Abner Collier and Abbie Morris Ralph Collier, welcomed eight children into what was by all accounts a close knit, loving family. Garland was the youngest.

Everyone in the Collier family was a hard worker with Depression era values. During his school years, Garland excelled in athletics, taking part in football, basketball, and track. Though Garland Collier lost both his parents before he graduated from high school, he managed to complete his education with the support of his older siblings, graduating from Coleman ISD in 1938.

When the war began, two of the older Collier brothers enlisted. Garland followed their example, joining the US Army on Sept. 1, 1942, while living in Arizona and working with the Civilian Conservation Corps. In the Army, Garland became a member of a new type of military initiative - an elite group specially handpicked and intensively trained to become a large-scale mass invasion force. These men were called paratroopers, and Garland soon earned his parachute wings and certification.

Now nicknamed "Tex", Collier was assigned to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, HQ CO, Light Machine Gun Platoon. He completed advanced airborne training at Fort Benning and Fort Bragg. In August of 1943, the 506th transferred to Camp Shanks, New York, to



prepare for deployment in the European theater. They arrived in England a month later, where they trained for an additional ten months, in preparation for D-Day.

Garland "Tex" Collier was one of 18,000 Allied paratroopers dropped into the invasion area to provide tactical support for the infantry divisions on the Normandy beaches. Unfortunately, after successfully crossing the English channel and deploying twenty paratroopers, Tex included, safely into the Cherbourg peninsula, the C-47 the men had flown in crashed into the sea and all men aboard perished.

Behind enemy lines in France, Tex was wounded twice but survived to return back to England for rest, recovery, and more preparation, this time to take place in Operation Market Garden - the invasion and liberation of the Netherlands.

On Sept. 17, 1944, Tex Collier made his second wartime jump, landing north of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. His unit continued northward for several days, liberating small Dutch villages while

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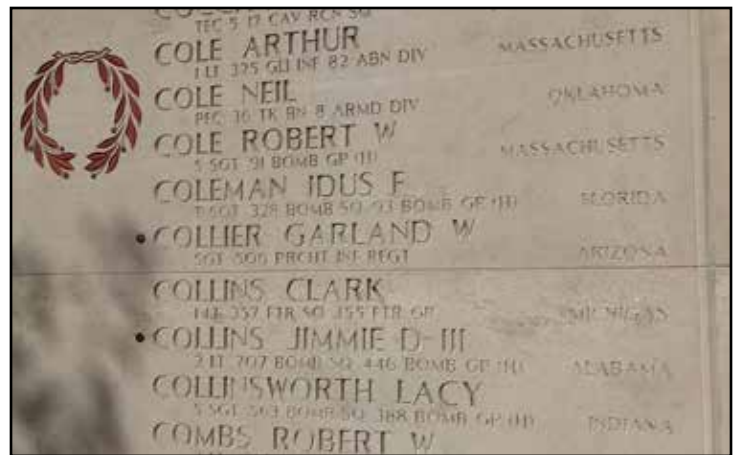
at the same time encountering heavy German resistance along what was known as "Hell's Highway."

In a small village called Opheusden, located in a low-lying area between two rivers called "The Island", Tex's machine gun section was overrun by German troops. He was killed in action in a slit trench, his buddies at his side, near the railway station. Garland Collier and his regiment never knew that with their service and sacrifice, the war was won.

Though his family was notified that Garland had been buried in an American military cemetery, Garland's remains were never properly identified nor recovered. In spite of official efforts by US and Dutch officials, by November of 1950 the family was notified that their beloved son and brother was one of a handful of non-recoverable losses from the area. The name of Garland Collier was memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery, alongside the 1700 other soldiers killed in the nearby area whose remains were never found.



Above: SGT Garland "Tex" Collier with his Light Machine Gun Platoon, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, 1943. Sergeant Collier is on the 4th row up from the bottom, at the far left on the end.



Above: The rosette next to SGT Garland Collier's name on the Tablets of the Missing at Margraten Cemetery, placed August 2022. At the time of his enlistment, he resided in Arizona, and is identified as being from Arizona. Collier was born and raised in Texas, and was nicknamed "Tex".

In 2015, DPAA historians began working on a comprehensive research and recovery project focused on the missing from Operation Market Garden. They analyzed the circumstances surrounding a set of unknown remains known as X-3324 Neuville, recovered from a civilian cemetery and buried at Ardennes American Cemetery, in Belgium. Following an analysis of dental and circumstantial evidence by historians, forensic anthropologists, and odontologists, it was determined that these remains could possibly be those of Garland Collier. The remains were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory in Nebraska for examination and identification.

To identify Collier's remains, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis. The family was notified on June 17, 2022, that the remains had in fact been recovered and definitively identified through DNA testing.

Officially, Sgt. Garland W. "Tex" Collier was accounted for on June 15, 2022. Though Collier's name is still on the Walls of the Missing at Margraten, a rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

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During his years of service, Garland Collier was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and meritorious service, the fourth highest-ranking award a service member can receive for bravery and sacrifice in service of their country during an armed conflict. He also earned a Purple Heart for his wounds incurred in France, and a posthumously awarded Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster by Franklin Roosevelt's administration.

While 2022 was Garland's 104th birthday, in the words of his nephew Collier R. Watson, Garland will be 25 forever. Garland gave his life as a sacrifice to our freedom and the freedom of many others, but to his loved ones he was more than a soldier. He was a son, a brother, and a friend to many.

Judy Gamble, Garland Collier's great-niece, shared her recollection that her mother and her aunts and uncles always spoke of their brother with the greatest reverence. Since Garland's parents had both died young, his older siblings were caretakers and protectors of their youngest brother. Garland was the baby of the family, the baby brother who was always supposed to return from the war - but never did. A picture of Garland, framed in brass, rested on Judy's grandmother's nightstand, and when she spoke of her younger brother, tears streamed down her face. Garland's brother Grady, who had also served in the war, felt a lot of guilt that he hadn't been able to protect his youngest brother and return him to his family.

On Saturday, November 22, 2022, Garland "Tex" Collier was laid to rest at White Chapel Cemetery in Coleman County, Texas. His family had originally placed a monument to Garland when they heard of his death, and the family chose to leave it as a tribute to the family, adding another stone celebrating his return, in addition to the original marker. A graveside service with full military honors took place, while crowds of family and others paying their final respects filled the site. It was a long time coming, but so very much deserved.

For an amazing video tribute to Garland Collier's life and return, including his memorial ceremony:

[SGT Garland Collier](#)



Above: SGT Garland Collier's burial place at White Chapel Cemetery. His original grave marker, in between those of his parents, was placed there by his family back in the late 1940's was not removed, and this small stone was added to the memorial.

Below: Garland's photo at his memorial ceremony.

Bottom: Garland's great-niece, Judy Gamble, reads an obituary at the funeral service. Judy is the granddaughter of Garland's older sister Nannie Lee Collier Ferguson.



Friends of the National World War II Memorial Remembers AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix, and their Conference Series Continues into 2025!

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial shared a lovely tribute to AWON's Ann Mix on their Facebook page recently, featured at right:

And in this new year of 2025, be sure not to miss the Friends of the National World War II Memorial Conference Series!

On the third Saturday of each month, the Friends of the National WWII Memorial have an educational conference via a webcast. The purpose is to provide educational info about WWII and the people it affected. If you want to take part in the livestream, you must go to their website to register. It's free and easy, just use this link:

[WWII Memorial Conference Series](#)

If you can't make the live webcast, the conferences are archived, and are accessible online indefinitely. Older videos can be accessed easily at the Friends website here:

<https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/> or by searching "events video archive" in the Friends' website search box, with the magnifying glass.

Helpful hint: to watch the videos, be sure you click on the POINT of the "play" arrow rather than in the middle. The video doesn't always play if you click the center of the arrow.



Friends of the National World War II Memorial

February 4 at 12:01 PM · 🌐

Friends of the World War II Memorial are saddened to have just learned about the passing of Ann Bennett Mix of Moses Lake, WA on October 30, 2024 at the age of 83. She founded the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON), an international organization devoted to sons and daughters who lost fathers in World War II.

Mix was born in Bakersfield, CA on November 14, 1940. Her father, Sydney Worthington Bennett, was killed April 19, 1945 in WWII while serving with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. In 1991, Mix began researching the circumstances surrounding her father's death. During her research she discovered that 183,000 servicemen who died were fathers. Later that year, with a desire to connect with people who shared her story and life experience of being a war orphan, she founded AWON. Mix began a long standing relationship with Senator Robert Dole to foster the organization. Senator Dole, who had fought with Mix's father, served as an advisor to the organization.

President George W. Bush honored Mix with an invitation to the White House for her efforts regarding the design of the National WWII Memorial. Mix fought to make sure the dead were honored in a meaningful way. Her suggestion to the planning committee and Architect that they use Stars to represent the war dead was taken and led to the creation of The Gold Star Wall of Honor.

Mix is the author of Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights and Resources for the Next of Kin of American World War II Casualties and the co-author of Lost in the Victory: Reflections of American War Orphans of World War II by Ann Bennett Mix and Susan Johnson Hadler.

Rest in Peace Ann!

[#WeRememberThem](#)

In 2024, AWON member Barry Barr Finch participated in the webcast, alongside many other interesting presentations. AWON members Sam Tannenbaum, Norm Burkey, Madeline Teremy, Arthur Chotin, Bob Meek, Bob Holliday, Sandra Lane Walker, Janice Powers, Gerry Morenski, Carol Rajner LaBounty, Nancy Kragh, and others have also participated. If you are interested in taking part, get in touch with Friends liason Holly Rotondi by email at: hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org

And don't worry if you're not technically minded, epic computer skills are not required to take part. These events are filmed and edited by professional videographers who will help you every step of the way - no need to be an expert. Looking forward to seeing YOUR story someday!

Day of Infamy

By Kristin Holmes

December 7, 1941, is widely remembered as the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. But less commonly known, is on that same infamous day, Japan launched attacks on several other key locations in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, devastating locations controlled by the US and the Allied nations. These attacks continued for months afterwards. While many Allied military leaders anticipated the war with Japan, the ferocity of these attacks caught the Allies off guard and put the Japanese in a position of advantage at the start of the war.

The assault on Pearl Harbor was just one part of a larger strategy aimed at expanding Japanese territory across the Pacific and Southeast Asia. These attacks were intended to cripple U.S. and Allied forces in the Pacific, ensuring that Japan could continue its aggressive expansion towards securing natural resources, without significant interference from Allied nations.

The Philippines: At the time, the Philippines was under the American sphere of influence, and it was one of the primary targets in Japan's wider strategy to neutralize U.S. military presence in the Pacific. Japan launched airstrikes against U.S. military sites in the Philippines such as Clark Field and Iba Airfield, early on the morning

of December 8, 1941. (The date discrepancy is due to different time zones. It was still Dec. 7 in America at the time of this attack.) The capital city of Manila also came under attack as the Japanese sought to neutralize command centers and disrupt communications.

The attacks in the Philippines were intended to cripple the U.S. military's ability to respond to Japan's subsequent invasion of the nation. The Japanese quickly launched a full-scale invasion of the Philippines, which was soon followed by the surrender of U.S. and Filipino forces in Bataan and Corregidor. The Japanese held the Philippines until 1945 and committed many horrific atrocities during that time, including the Manila Massacre and the Bataan Death March. (Please see pages 16-19 for more about the Philippines.)

Wake Island: This small island located in the central Pacific was a key strategic location for the United States, containing a small military garrison. Japan launched an air attack against Wake Island on December 8, 1941 (December 7 in the US), bombing the island's defense installations. Although the U.S. forces on Wake Island put up a determined resistance, Japanese naval forces began an invasion shortly after the airstrikes. Wake Island was eventually captured by Japanese forces on December 23.

Guam: A U.S. territory in the Mariana Islands, Guam was another key target of the Japanese assault. On December 8, 1941 (Dec. 7), Japanese bombers attacked the island, targeting military installations, naval bases, and airfields. The American forces stationed on Guam were unable to mount a significant defense against the overwhelming Japanese forces. After a brief



Left: While the attack on Pearl Harbor is remembered yearly, simultaneous attacks on Allied nations and territories also took place on December 7, claiming thousands of lives and beginning the War in the Pacific.



Above: A Japanese artist's rendition of the Japanese invasion of Guam, December 7, 1941.

resistance, Guam was occupied by Japan. The island remained under Japanese control until its liberation by American forces in 1944.

Hong Kong: The British colony of Hong Kong was another significant target of Japanese aggression on December 8 (7), 1941. Japan had been expanding its influence in East Asia for years, and the British colonial territories in the region were seen as ripe for conquest. On the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan launched an invasion of Hong Kong. The British defenders, along with Canadian, Indian, and local forces, were overwhelmed by the invasion, and the colony fell to Japan on December 25, 1941. After the surrender of Hong Kong, atrocities against civilians were committed, most notoriously the St. Stephens College massacre, in which doctors, nurses, and hospital patients were assaulted and murdered. This was the beginning of a prolonged period of Japanese occupation in Hong Kong.

British Malaya (now the Malay Peninsula of Malasia and Singapore): The attack on British Malaya began a few hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor; it was part of the same coordinated assault by Japan. On December 8 (7), 1941, Japanese forces landed in northern Malaya, beginning the invasion of British Malaya with a combination of infantry, tanks, and air support.

Within weeks, the Japanese captured key cities, including the capital, Singapore, which would fall in February 1942. The attack on Malaya marked the start of Japan's campaign to secure natural resources in SE Asia, particularly oil supplies in the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia).

Thailand: Though Thailand was a neutral and independent country at the time, it was also targeted by Japan on December 8 (7), 1941. Japan sought to use Thailand as a staging ground for further operations in Southeast Asia. Japanese forces entered Thailand shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and although the Thai government initially resisted, they soon capitulated to Japan's demands. Within a day, Thailand allowed Japanese troops to move through its territory to launch further attacks on British Malaya and Burma (Myanmar). In return, Japan promised to recognize Thailand's sovereignty, and a pro-Japanese government was soon installed.

The attacks on these locations, along with the attack on Pearl Harbor, were part of Japan's larger strategy to neutralize American, British, and Dutch military forces in the Pacific, allowing Japan to pursue its imperial expansion in Asia and the Pacific without significant interference. By targeting Allied and American airbases, naval installations, and colonial territories, Japan aimed to weaken the U.S. and its allies' ability to respond quickly and forcefully.

The consequences of these attacks were profound. While Japan's initial successes seemed overwhelming, they also provoked a strong response from the United States and its allied nations. The Japanese attacks unified American public opinion and led to the U.S. declaration of war on Japan on December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The terrible day we call "Pearl Harbor Day" marked the beginning of the United States' involvement in the Pacific Theater of World War II, which would continue until Japan's surrender in 1945.

The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Manila

On February 3, 2025, the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Manila will occur. This significant event commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of both Filipino and American forces who fought against the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1945.

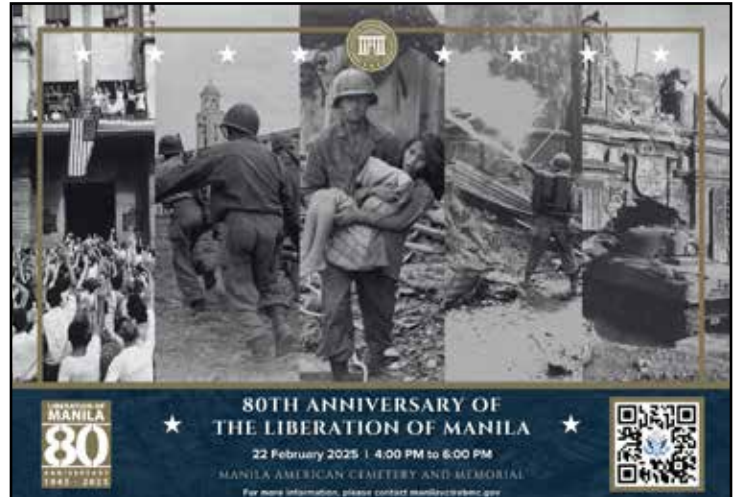
The Battle of Manila is considered the most devastating urban battle of World War II. The month-long conflict resulted in the destruction of the city and the tragic loss of 100,000 lives. Filipino civilians suffered greatly, with Japanese troops committing atrocities against the population, and Allied artillery causing additional casualties. Manila itself was nearly destroyed, with the destruction of the city ranking alongside Warsaw and Stalingrad in severity.

The Allied forces, led by U.S. and Filipino troops, entered the decimated city on February 5, 1945, and declared victory on February 6, though the battle didn't officially end until March 3, 1945.

Many commemorative events will be held in Manila during the month of February, as a reminder of the heroism and sacrifices made by Filipino people and by Allied troops.

Friend of AWON Vicente Lim IV shared the following post on AWON's Facebook page:

Do you know a lot about the Liberation of Manila in 1945? If you don't, it would not be surprising, given how, in many cases, entire families were lost in those harrowing days between 3 February and 4 March 1945. This was the worst urban fighting in the Pacific in World War II, rivaling all of the more well-known engagements in Europe in terms of scale, brutality and human cost. Manila, the "Pearl of the Orient", the "Paris of the



Above: The graphic shared by Vicente Lim IV inviting the public to a ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Manila, to be held at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. The date of the event is Feb. 22, 2025.

You can register for the event by scanning the QR code on the invite - this is likely easier to do on AWON's Facebook page where the image is larger - or by emailing manilavc@abmc.gov for more information.

East", the most beautiful city in the Pacific, was utterly ravaged, its soul, ripped out.

We've poured our hearts into this ceremony for the better part of a year at this point. This is not merely a ceremony for ceremony's sake. With this commemoration, we want to tell a story — the story of the men, women and children who had given the last full measure of devotion. They deserve nothing less than our conscious effort to ensure that all of it will not have been made in vain, and that their memories are kept alive.

*February 22, 2025; 4-6 pm
1600H; Manila American Cemetery
The event is open to the public. For more information, email: manilavc@abmc.gov*

Manuel Quezon's Open Door

by Kristin Holmes

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Philippines became a sanctuary for Jewish refugees fleeing the horrors of Nazi Germany. Under the leadership of President Manuel L. Quezon, the country welcomed around 1,200 to 1,300 Jews. These refugees joined a small but distinct community of Jews who already called Manila their permanent home.

Jewish refugees began fleeing to the Philippines in the mid-30s when the Nuremberg Policy was made official. After the fall of Shanghai, where some 25,000 Jews had been living, the trickle became a flood, as one nation after another closed their doors to the refugees. The formal initiative, begun in 1937, was called the Open Door Policy, and involved not only allowing Jewish families to resettle, but also called upon Filipinos to welcome and assist the newcomers.

Though President Quezon and the Philippine people opened their arms to the refugees, the Open Door Policy was originally the brainchild of the Frieder brothers, five cigar-importing Jewish brothers who worked out of the Philippines before the war. The Frieder brothers played poker with some impressive individuals - President Quezon, U.S. High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, and future U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower. These men devised a plan to admit as many as 100,000 Jewish refugees to the Philippines.

Because the Philippines was a US protectorate at that time, American cooperation was needed to allow the Jews to come to the Philippines. Commissioner McNutt worked behind the scenes to issue as many visas as possible for the refugees. Despite facing opposition from members within his own cabinet and his political opponents, Quezon continued to support the admission of Jewish refugees. The president even used his own dwelling to house Jewish refugees.

The refugees who arrived in the Philippines during this time became known as the "Manilaners". At first, these new arrivals experienced culture shock. Not only was the language new and difficult to master, but the hot and humid weather was very different



Above: Filipino president Manuel Quezon, who fought to allow Jewish refugees to enter the Philippines

from what they were used to in Europe. They lived in community housing and were forced to rely on their hosts for all their needs. That having been said, those who were children at the time have fond memories of their time in the Philippines, describing delicious cuisine and playing in the warm sea.

During the Japanese occupation of the Philippines from 1942 to 1945, the Jewish refugees who had found sanctuary there faced new challenges. The Japanese forces interned many Allied nationals, including Jews, in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. This camp was not a concentration camp and the Japanese authorities were relatively well-behaved towards the Jewish refugees, but their fates were ultimately in the hands of the enemy. As the war progressed, the refugees and their saviors experienced hardship and brutality, but at the end of it all, they survived.

Despite the original hope of bringing many Jewish refugees into the Philippines, the American government would only agree to allow 10,000 over a span of ten years. Only about 1,300 Jews ever made it to the Philippines, though many more visas were issued; just having the visa enabled the holder of the visa to travel more freely and aided in escaping the Nazi regime.

To this day, Manuel Quezon and the citizens of the Philippines are honored as heroes by the Jewish people. In honor of the Philippines' heroic act, Israel erected a monument in 2009 titled "Open Doors", located in Holocaust Memorial Park in the Israeli city of Rishon Lezion. It honors the Filipinos' opening of their door to Jews at a time when the rest of the world deliberately closed not only their doors, but their eyes.

Two Great WWII Heroes of the Philippines

By Kristin Holmes

Brigadier General Vicente Lim

Vicente Podico Lim (February 24, 1888 – December 31, 1944) was a distinguished Filipino brigadier general and World War II hero. His life was marked by exceptional achievements and unwavering dedication to his country.

Born in Calamba, Laguna, Lim was the first Filipino graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point (Class of 1914). He was accepted to the Academy due to his outstanding marks on the math portion of the entrance exam, and received a scholarship to attend. After overcoming some initial prejudice and a language barrier, Lim was much respected amongst his classmates.

Lim was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Philippine Scouts, a native Filipino unit of the US Army. He pursued additional education at the US Army Infantry School and at the Army's Command and General Staff College. He also taught military tactics to junior officers. Rising quickly through the ranks, Lim became a lieutenant colonel in the US Army in 1936. At that point, he resigned and joined the Philippine Army as a brigadier general. Lim played a crucial role building and modernizing the newly-formed independent Philippine Army and preparing it for the challenges ahead in his role as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army of the Philippines.

The training the men of the Philippine Army had received by 1941 was not enough to withstand the Japanese invasion. The US and Philippine Army units were overwhelmed by the initial Japanese onslaught. Lim and his men of the 41st Division, Philippine Army were able to withdraw to Bataan, where they were able to mount an effective resistance to the Japanese during the Battle of Abucay and soon after, the fight for Bataan.



Left: A portrait of Brigadier General Vicente Lim, an inspirational figure to both the American and the Philippine people. Lim was a military genius whose outstanding leadership and courage continue to inspire soldiers on both sides of the Pacific today.

Despite General Lim's exceptional leadership and courage, after holding out for four months, Bataan fell. Approximately 78,000 Filipino and American troops surrendered and were marched across country in the notorious Bataan Death March. General Lim survived the Death March and incarceration at Camp O'Donnell. He was allowed to rejoin his family in Manila, where he feigned illness to avoid being forced to join the Japanese puppet government.

Despite being targeted by the Japanese secret police, Lim contributed to the Filipino resistance movement until his capture and execution by the Japanese in 1944. His body was never found.

Lim's legacy lives on in the Philippines, where he is memorialized on the 1,000-Peso banknote alongside other heroes who fought against the Japanese during World War II. His contributions to the military and his unwavering patriotism continue to inspire future generations of Filipinos.

General Vicente Lim's family continues to serve their nation, and the Lim family has been longtime valued friends to AWON members in their work at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

Food Scientist Maria Orosa

Maria Ylagan Orosa (November 29, 1893 – February 13, 1945) was a pioneering Filipina food technologist and war hero. A native of Taal, Batangas, Orosa's contributions to food science and her bravery during World War II left an indelible mark on Philippine history.

Maria Orosa was born into a family that valued education and public service. Her father, Simplicio Orosa, was part of the Philippine commission that campaigned for Philippine independence. Maria excelled in her studies and earned a scholarship to study in the United States. While living in a YMCA and working odd jobs, Orosa completed bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Washington, in Seattle, in pharmaceutical chemistry. She also earned an additional degree in food chemistry.

Orosa was then offered a coveted position as an assistant chemist for the State of Washington before choosing instead to return to the Philippines in 1922, to focus on addressing the problem of malnutrition in her homeland.

Once back in her native country, Orosa worked for the government as the country's foremost chemist. She was passionate about making the Philippines self-sufficient in food production and focused on studying native food and preservation techniques, taking advantage of the abundant natural resources of the Philippine Islands. She became head of the Philippine government's Home Economics Division.

Orosa's most famous invention, banana ketchup, was born out of necessity when there was a shortage of tomatoes. She created a sauce using mashed bananas, vinegar, and spices, which she later dyed red to resemble tomato ketchup. She also invented Soyalac (a protein-rich powdered soybean product) and Darak (a rice bran powder rich in thiamine and other vitamins) which could also treat beri-beri. She made cookies known as "TikiTiki" using Darak that helped keep civilian children healthy during the Japanese occupation.



Above: Filipina Heroine Maria Orosa was honored with a "Google Doodle" for her lifesaving work.

During World War II, Orosa joined the Marking's Guerillas, an underground force resisting the Japanese occupation. Instead of fighting on the frontlines, she used her expertise as a scientist, teaching civilians to preserve food safely when it was unavailable, and smuggling Soyalac and Darak into prison camps inside hollow bamboo sticks. Her actions saved hundreds of lives.

In 1945, as Allied troops fought to take back Manila, Marie Orosa was killed by shrapnel from the shelling of the city. Her contributions to the field of food science and her bravery during the war continue to inspire today.

If you have a lot of ripe bananas on hand, give this banana ketchup recipe a try:

6 medium bananas (ripe and peeled), mashed
2 tablespoons canola oil
1/2 cup red onion, chopped
4 clove cloves garlic, chopped
1/4 cup water
1/2 cup tomato paste
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup white vinegar
1/4 tsp salt and pepper to taste

Cook onion and garlic in oil till translucent. Add ingredients except salt and pepper, and stir to combine. Simmer, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. Add more water if mixture gets too thick. Let cool slightly and puree with an immersion blender or food processor. Add salt and pepper to taste. Banana ketchup can be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week in a sealed container.

A Daughter's Diary

by Betsey Belvin

25 October 2024 - Today is the 80th anniversary of the sinking of my Dad's ship, DD533, the Hoel. The Hoel was the third of his three ships that had been sunk while he served on each: USS West Virginia BB48, 7 December 1941; USS Worden DD352, 12 January 1943; and Hoel, lost this day, October 25, 1944, in the [Battle of Samar](#) that changed the course of the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

On this morning 80 years ago, the sailors of Taffy 3 awoke to find Admiral Takeo Kurita in his flagship Yamato and his armada steaming south towards them. Wasting no time, Taffy 3 - or Task Unit 77.4.3, the northernmost of the three escort carrier groups that comprised the only American forces remaining in the area - charged the Admiral. Composed of only six escort carriers, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts, Taffy 3 was intended to provide shore support and anti-submarine patrols, and did not have guns capable of penetrating the Japanese armor.

In one of the classic naval battles not only of the war, but of all time, with our American ships hiding in smoke screens and squalls, two destroyers, Johnston and Hoel, shot through with holes, hurled themselves at Yamato, just before sinking. Their sacrifice was followed by the loss of one destroyer escort, Samuel B. Roberts, and the baby flattop Gambier Bay.

Taffy 3 was David, all odds against them, but then Admiral Kurita unexpectedly turned his fleet around and headed back to Japan, leaving no support for the Japanese fight for Leyte in the south. David slew Goliath.

Today, 25 October, is also the Battle of Agincourt and Henry V's rallying "Band of Brothers" speech to his few troops about to engage and best the huge English army on St. Crispin & Crispian's Day:

*...We in it shall be remember'd;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;*



Left: Chief Machinist's Mate James Jarvis Belvin, father of AWON member Betsey Belvin, was lost at sea October 25, 1944, during the Battle of Samar, the turning point in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

*For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother...*

80 years ago today my Dad, alongside hundreds of sailors, all young men, were left afloat in the water when the remains of Taffy 3 were summoned by MacArthur south to the main action. They were forbidden to rescue their fellow sailors. No help came for three days.

My Dad, James Jarvis Belvin, was born 9 July 1918 in Galveston, Texas, and enlisted in the Navy 11 December 1936 in Dallas with a few friends shortly after graduating high school in 1936. He eventually rose to the rank of Chief Machinist's Mate.

80 years ago today, October 25, 1944, my Dad was 26; my Mom, also 26, was waiting for the fleet to return to San Francisco. I was 10 months old. The last time he and I met, I was four months in utero. I understand he spoke to me, called me "Buster," probably assuming I was a boy. I am pleased to report that he was thrilled to be the Dad of a sweet little girl baby.

28 October 2024 - 80 years ago today my Dad officially went MIA. His service record says he died today, but there is not, nor will there ever be, any evidence of that. His name and MIA status are carved into stone on the Walls of the Missing in our military cemetery in Manila and in his hometown Memorial to the Missing, in Brownwood, Texas.

...Continued page 23

Roland C. Noyes, Jr - USAAF

by Maxine G. Olson, daughter of
2nd Lt. Max K. Graham, USAAF
Cousin to Roland C. Noyes, Jr.

My second cousin, Roland Clifford Noyes Jr, was born August 28, 1921, in Galveston, Texas. The marriage of his father, Roland C Noyes Sr, and mother Louise Egert, ended in divorce. He moved to Shreveport, Louisiana in 1935 after his mother Louise remarried a man named Carl Fritiofson. Mr. Fritiofson was in the US Air Corps, and the family settled down on base.

Roland was given the nickname "Cicero" early in his life, after a baby in the comic strips. His mother's family was very fond of assigning nicknames to everyone. Roland was always known to me as Cicero.

Roland (Cicero) graduated from Byrd High School, in June of 1939. After graduation, he enrolled in night school courses at Centenary College. On November 22, 1940, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in Houston, Texas. He listed his occupation as actor, and he certainly was handsome enough to qualify for this career.

He was sent to Barksdale Field, Louisiana, where he had lived with his stepfather, mother, and little half-sister, Eva Louise Fritiofson. There Cicero received training as a member of a crew on a bomber airplane and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. After training, he shipped overseas to the Pacific Theater on January 12, 1942.

Cicero was assigned to an A-20 Havoc called "Abijah Gooch," Serial Number 40-155. According to the website [Pacific Wrecks](#), the plane had been assigned to the Netherlands East Indies Air Force and withdrawn two days later in favor of B-25 Mitchell Bombers. The Abijah Gooch was to be returned to the US Army and assigned to the 5th Air Force, 3rd Bombardment Group, 89th squadron. Cousin Cicero was one of the crew who was to return the airplane.

The Abijah Gooch left Cairns Airfield bound for Port Moresby, New Guinea, on November 16, 1942, on a clear day over friendly waters, and disappeared.



Left: SSGT Roland C. Noyes Jr., brother to Eva Louise Fritiofson and cousin to Maxine Olson. Noyes went missing Nov. 16, 1942, when the plane he was flying in disappeared over the Coral Sea, between Australia and New Guinea.

Aboard the aircraft were 1LT Francis C Pruitt, 2LT Cornelius F. O'Leary, SSGT Roger S. Martin, and SSGT Roland C. Noyes, Jr. The entire crew was reported as missing. On February 26, 1948, the crew was declared "deceased." There were no personal effects or remains to be sent home to families. These sons, brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins were simply gone, creating an absence that no amount of time could assuage.

One letter forwarded to Cicero's family after he was reported missing was from a young lady in Australia who was in love with him. She never received an answer from him. Another surviving letter from him to his family back in Galveston told his mother and half-sister how much he loved and missed them, and how he was looking forward to coming home to escort little Eva Louise to school. He never got that chance.

There is an empty gravesite in Oleander Cemetery, Galveston, Texas, with a modest tombstone for SSGT Roland C. Noyes, Jr, Beloved Son and Brother. There is a brick inscribed with his name at the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Through the efforts of the citizens of Galveston County and several military organizations, the name of Roland C. Noyes, Jr. is inscribed on the World War II monument dedicated May 20, 1950. Cousin Cicero's name is listed on the monument at Fort William McKinley, Manila, the Philippines, and on the Wall of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery.

Eva Louise Fritiofson, Cicero's last living immediate relative, passed away in 2020. She requested that this final tribute be made to her beloved brother.

The Closest Call

Contributed by the American POWs of Japan Organization,
edited and expanded by Kristin Holmes

Editor's Note: Many people believe that Pearl Harbor was the closest the Japanese ever came to invading America. This missive, recently received by AWON from the organization *American POWs of Japan*, proves that this isn't the case. Here is the true story of a Japanese invasion on American soil.

In June 1942, Japanese forces landed on Attu Island, Alaska. This invasion, along with the simultaneous attack on nearby Kiska Island, marked the first time since the War of 1812 that a foreign power had occupied American soil. The Japanese aimed to establish a patrol network in the North Pacific and prevent potential U.S. attacks from Alaska.

At the time, the population of Attu consisted of 45 native Aleuts - the Sasakinax people - and two white Americans, Charles Foster Jones, an adventurer and radio technician, and his wife Etta, a schoolteacher. The Joneses, both born in 1879, had met in Alaska twenty years before, when Etta had come to Alaska to teach school. Though the couple met and married late in life, by all accounts, they were very much in love, and happy with their life on Attu. Visitors described the island of Attu as "a little Eden".

This Aleutian paradise was shattered on June 7, 1942, when hundreds of Japanese soldiers came across the hill above the village school, yelling and firing machine guns. Mr. Jones was able to dispatch a message informing nearby authorities of the invasion before destroying the radio. Though she didn't know it, Etta Jones had the unhappy distinction of being the first American woman captured by enemy troops on North American soil since the War of 1812.

There were limited weapons on the island and no time to mount a defense. The natives were rounded up and their homes searched. The Joneses were believed by the Japanese to be spies, and were interrogated as such. The couple was separated,

and it is likely that Mr. Jones was tortured. After refusing to fix the radio so the Japanese could use it, he was tortured and killed. Charles Foster Jones was the only American civilian killed by the Japanese Imperial Army in North America during WWII.

The 41 Indigenous Sasakinax who survived the Japanese invasion were taken to a prison camp near Otaru, Hokkaidō. Though the intent of the Japanese was to assimilate the Sasakinax into Japanese society, they were treated horribly and starved. Over half died while imprisoned. The last survivor of the ordeal, Gregory Golodoff, died in 2023.

Etta Jones was put aboard a troop transport and taken to Japan. For the first month, she was isolated in the Bund Hotel, which fronted Yokohama Harbor. In August, she was joined by 17 Australian military and civilian nurses, and one British plantation owner; these women had been captured by the Japanese as well. They found Etta sobbing from shock and loneliness, hiding behind a plant in the hotel lobby.

Although 30 years older than her new companions, Etta quickly integrated with the group. Some even claimed the vivacious Australians saved Etta from insanity. Eventually women were moved to a prison where they could garden and walk the grounds. Otherwise they were abused, starved, and isolated. They were afforded none of the rights of POWs or other civilian internees. Before liberation, the women were forced to dig "air raid trenches," which they assumed would be their graves. Their capturers had continually warned them that they would be executed if the Allies landed in Japan.

At war's end, Etta Jones became the first American liberated in the Japanese home islands. Upon liberation, the women became celebrities and heroines. They had endured one of the longest imprisonments of the Pacific War, along with its terrors, uncertainties, and physical toll.

Etta Jones returned to the US after 20 years of being away. Her physical and psychological wounds were long to heal. She died in 1965 at age 86. Her husband Charles was eventually disinterred from his unmarked grave on Attu and buried in the Fort Richardson National Cemetery near Anchorage. It is a military cemetery and he is its only civilian.

In May 1943, American troops retook Attu Island in a grueling 19-day battle that cost thousands of lives - 549 Americans were killed outright and another 614 died of exposure and disease. Many of the soldiers sent to Attu had trained in California and were woefully unprepared for the cold weather. The Battle of Attu was the first land battle in North America involving the U.S. military and an invading foreign army since the Battle of New Orleans -- and the last such to date.

2,035 Japanese were killed in the battle. Virtually the entire Japanese force fought to the death, making a last-ditch banzai charge that Americans were hard-pressed to fend off. Many Japanese soldiers chose to commit suicide rather than surrender; Only a handful of Japanese troops survived the battle, and those only because they were too badly wounded to commit suicide. Some of the men returned to find their families had held funerals for them.

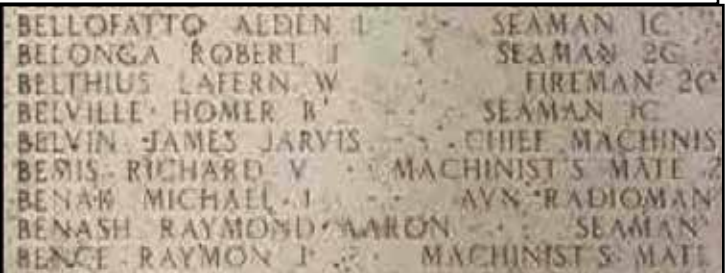
The island, like many battle sites, is littered with unexploded ordnance and the bones of the dead. Attu's people could not return home. On June 7, 2012, the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion, Senator Lisa Murkowski and United States Coast Guard Rear Admiral Thomas Ostebo travelled to Attu and dedicated a memorial to Attu Village, its residents who died in Japanese captivity, and honoring the survivors who were unable to return. The Japanese also erected their own monument to their fallen, and to the idea of peace.

The inscription on the monument at right reads:
IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES IN THE ISLANDS AND SEAS OF THE
NORTH PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II AND IN
DEDICATION TO WORLD PEACE.

Having had the bounty of attending several of my Dad's ship's reunions (thanks to AWON sibs) and meeting the survivors, hearing their stories of being afloat for three days, suffering from hypothermia, dehydration, hunger, and shark attacks, it confirmed my picture of my Dad's end.

Ariel sings in *The Tempest*:
*Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.*

That's a crushingly final picture, too hard to accept. I am finally now, after living 80 years with a missing Dad who could walk into my life at any moment and with that silence we all have lived through, quite comfortably telling people who don't know their history that I am a World War II War orphan and that my Dad is and will always be MIA because those were shark infested waters. His name, James Jarvis Belvin, is inscribed upon the Wall of the Missing, below.



Below: The Japanese monument to the fallen on the Aleutian island of Attu, dedicated to world peace.



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

Summer is coming soon, so we are re-running our feature on the special Lifetime Pass the National Park Service is issuing for Gold Star Families for 2025. If you haven't gotten yours yet, be sure to pick one up!

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. A pass can be requested by mail, but there is a \$10 fee.

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.

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 (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); 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. 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.



As we enter AWON's FOURTH decade, we here at The Star want to urge every AWON member, Orphan and Descendant alike, to share with us the story of your family's loss and your personal journey of self-discovery. Don't hesitate - contribute! Our editors will do the work, we just need to hear from YOU! Submit today!

AWON Orphan Members and Descendants!
We want to share your family's story!
Please contribute to The Star today!

As the years pass, we will need more and more grandchildren and great-grandchildren to become active, participating AWON members to keep the memories of our Fathers, Grandfathers, and Great-Grandfathers alive and never forgotten. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren also bring their own totally unique perspective to AWON that we would love to share.

Grandkids, great-grandkids, even great-greats, consider joining AWON and be sure to contribute to THE STAR! - we want to hear from you! Remember -Your stories matter!

A Gold Star Christmas

By AWON BOD Member Roberta Nolan, Ed.D



In keeping with White House tradition, each year a tree is dedicated to the Gold Star Families—those who have lost a service member in combat. This year, a stacked tree was chosen in place of a traditional evergreen. There are six gilded tiers, each representing a branch of the United States military. Adorning the spruces behind the primary tree are Gold Star ornaments, each inscribed with the name of a fallen service member. Above is the ornament bearing the name of LT James O'Boyle Lyons, father of AWON member Roberta Nolan. Nolan had the honor of decorating the White House this year, along with her daughter, Bridget Rose Nolan, Ph.D.

Below is a photograph of the full Gold Star Tree display.

Photo taken by Erin Scott, courtesy of *House Beautiful*



In December, 2024, my daughter Bridget and I were chosen as White House Holiday Decorators. Over 3,000 applications were received from all over the country. 180 volunteers were selected to decorate the White House, with 83 trees, 28,000 ornaments, and over 100,000 lights. It was an extraordinary opportunity and an honor beyond words to contribute to such a meaningful tradition, one that brings warmth and joy to countless people during the holiday season.

Of all the experiences during this memorable time, I was especially moved by the chance to decorate the Gold Star tree, a moment that was broadcast on the HGTV special. This was a profoundly personal moment for me, as I was able to honor my father by placing an ornament in his memory. My father served valiantly during World War II and tragically passed away shortly after the Battle of the Bulge. The care and respect shown to families like mine through this tradition is deeply appreciated and serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many. I reflected on my father's service.

My father endured significant hardships during his service, including being taken as a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge and ultimately succumbing to starvation. As I said during the HGTV interview, I never heard his voice. I never felt his touch. I was only five weeks old when he passed.

To hang that beautiful Gold Star on the tree in the White House proved to be an emotional tribute to my Father and all Gold Star heroes. I am thankful for the privilege of being part of this remarkable effort and for the grace and care extended to families like mine. I am grateful for this opportunity to share another effort to keep their memory alive.

The opportunity to honor our nation's heroes and their families is a source of great comfort and inspiration! In their memory. Never forget!



Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific - A WWII Review



By AWON Great-Grandson Tate Holmes

*Editor's note: AWON descendant Tate Holmes, Great-Grandson of 2LT Lorin McCleary, Jr, recently watched the classic movie musical, **South Pacific**, as part of a high school project. As editor (and mom), I thought it would be fun to hear what a young person of today thought of a WWII-themed movie, so I asked him to write a review for the AWON Newsletter. Thanks, Tate!*

South Pacific, the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, is a magnificent tale of love, drama, and xenophobia set during World War II. The combination of iconic characters and thought-provoking themes make for an enjoyable experience for all viewers, both young and old.

The movie centers around two main love stories: that of Ensign Nellie Forbush, a Navy nurse from Little Rock, Arkansas, and Emile de Becque, a French plantation owner; and the romance between the doomed LT Joseph Cable and Liat, a young Tonkinese girl. Both relationships are challenged by the backdrop of the war going on, and the clash of cultures, adding uncertainty and passion to this otherwise fun musical.

What is truly special about this movie is its timeless music. From the passionate, *Some Enchanted Evening*

to the cheerful *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair*, to the hilarious, *There Is Nothing Like a Dame*, these songs are not just memorable, but they serve as a perfect narration for the movie. *Bali Ha'i* sets the stage, and *You've Got to be Carefully Taught* stands out for its emotional weight and meaty subject matter, including addressing the prejudice that was prevalent at the time.

Visually, the movie is perfect. The staging and direction of the movie makes for engaging viewing. The amazing tropical scenery, the colorful costumes, and creative choreography brings the viewers to a world where the beauty of Polynesia conflicts with the harsh reality of World War II. The dramatic themes were a very deep experience, contrasted with the beauty of the setting, and moments of sheer comedy.

In conclusion, *South Pacific* is more than just a musical. It's an exploration of love, humanity, and identity. The realistic, relatable themes make it an adored classic that continues to win the hearts of people worldwide. Whether you prefer the music, the romance, or the social commentary, *South Pacific* guarantees the viewer an incredible journey that they will remember forever. Check it out!

AWON 2024 EOM Account Totals

Treasurer Report as of 12/31/2024

	General (Wreath)	Conference	Book Source	Money Market	CD
JANUARY	\$20,306.43 (\$10,095.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,424.89	\$49,070.12	
FEBRUARY	\$20,217.00 (\$10,297.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,424.89	\$49,099.37	
MARCH	\$24,910.61 (\$10,382.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,424.89	\$49,120.56*	\$45,000.00
APRIL	\$26,303.66 (\$10,612.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,424.89	Closed Out	\$45,186.84
MAY	\$23,545.81 (\$9,346.15)	\$1,553.53	\$1,467.54		\$45,368.40
JUNE	\$25,864.26 (\$11,715.40)	\$1,553.53	\$1,455.09		\$45,556.77
JULY	\$24,772.51 (\$11,740.40)	\$1,553.53	\$1,455.09		\$45,739.82
AUGUST	\$24,136.78 (\$11,835.40)	\$1,553.53	\$1,465.42		\$45,929.73
SEPTEMBER	\$23,771.83 (\$11,945.40)	\$1,553.53	\$1,465.42		\$46,120.44
OCTOBER	\$23,567.88 (\$11,980.40)	\$1,553.53	\$1,465.42		\$46,305.75
NOVEMBER	\$23,507.75 (\$11,980.40)	\$1,553.53	Closed**		\$46,498.02
DECEMBER	\$23,018.17 (\$11,990.40)	\$1,553.53			\$46,648.14

* As of 3/22/2024, The Money Market purchased a \$45,000 CD, 5%, 8 month term. The remaining Money Market \$4,120.56 was deposited into the General Fund. ** As of 11/14/2024, Book Source Funds \$1,465.42 was moved to the General Fund.

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.

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.

Kristin Holmes, Editor
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AWON Members in the Media - Eric Rosen

AWON's own Eric Rosen, son of BM1 Samuel D. "Sonny" Rosen, was recently featured in a lovely TV news story (WCVB, Boston) about a young Navy Reservist named Matthew Sargent. The video can be located here: [Marlborough Man Works to Share Stories](#)

Sargent was doing research into local Massachusetts men killed during WWII for a personal project called The Memorial Project when he met Eric Rosen. With his Memorial Project, Sargent seeks to find and mark the graves of over 1,000 Marlborough, Mass, natives, who served in the armed forces. Sargent is researching their biographies, locating their photos and medals, and creating laminated biographical tags, which he places in grave marker flags at each site.

Marlborough's deceased veterans hail from the French and Indian War (1750s) through current times. They include women from the Army Corp of Engineers, a Red Cross nurse from WWI, and WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) from WWII. Sargent's grandfather, Harold Sargent, was stationed on the USS Mission Bay, a jeep carrier in the Atlantic, and his great uncle, Guy Sargent, landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and fought in North Africa and Sicily, making this project a personal one.

Working with local historical societies as well as municipal and federal agencies, Sargent's growing Memorial Project has discovered photos, facts, and other material unknown even to surviving relatives, with whom he freely reaches out to share what he's found. It was this process of research, discovery, and revelation that led him to meet Eric Rosen.

Matthew Sargent had uncovered information about Boatswain's Mate, First Class Samuel "Sonny" Rosen, a native of Worcester, Mass - Eric's father. Sonny Rosen was lost with the ship USS Spence when it went down in a typhoon, in the Philippine Sea off Luzon Island December 18, 1944. Sargent was able to uncover previously unknown information about BM1 Rosen.

In 2023, Eric Rosen received a letter from Sargent. Much to Eric's surprise, Matthew Sargent's research had uncovered that his late father had earned a commendation for assisting with a risky rescue at sea. Despite having researched his father's life extensively on his own, Eric had never known that. "He was able to get a volume of records that I didn't have ... and I never had any idea. And Matthew did tell me that it takes a lot of training and a lot of courage to do that," said Eric.

In addition to his work on The Memorial Project, Matthew Sargent also works to educate children on local World War II veterans, maintaining a legacy for the men and women who served and died in the very communities they lived in. "World War Two was very long ago. We're losing our last World War Two vets now, sadly. But it's great to recognize them and the men that made the ultimate sacrifice. That's the reason we're here," said Sargent.



It's Wreath Time Again!

**AWON's Overseas Memorial Day
2025 is coming SOON!**



Spring is on the horizon and with spring comes Memorial Day! If your father is buried in an overseas ABMC site, and you want to donate to a particular cemetery's wreath fund, please contact AWON'S wreath superstar Rik Peirson by email at Rik@dayone.com.

Rik can put you in touch with your wreath coordinator who will collect your donations. Better still, become a wreath coordinator yourself! We are in dire need of volunteer wreath coordinators for several of the overseas cemeteries.

If wreath coordinator is a job you feel you can take on, please let Rik know and he will get you started. We need YOUR help to keep THEIR memories alive!

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 \$ _____



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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

AWON Headquarters
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Indianapolis, IN 46216
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

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Archives OPEN POSITION

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Membership

Open Position

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