

# The



# Star

Issue 67

"We Speak Their Names"

December 2012

***AWON National Conference • Indianapolis 2012 • Celebrating 20 Years***

## **We Are AWON!**



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*Pictured above are most of the 90 orphan members of AWON who visited the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis during the 2012 AWON National Conference in October. They had just completed a private tour and memorial service for their fathers. There were dozens of spouses, associate members and other family in attendance as well. This issue of The Star carries full coverage of the conference, including photos, daily summaries of events, comments from attendees, and a message from the conference co-chairs. But that's not all! There are several new additions to The AWON Bookstore, photos and stories of member get-togethers, AWON Board minutes, and other important AWON news.*

# Thanks for a Great Conference

Dear AWON Members,

Barbara and I would like to thank all who made this a memorable 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary national conference - from the presenters to the chairpersons to the volunteers to the attendees to the First Timers. We hope all had a good conference and enjoyed the Hoosier hospitality.

Indianapolis was the perfect place to host our 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference, *Celebrating 20 Years*. The historic military district in the heart of downtown includes the Soldiers and Sailors Monument; the *USS Indianapolis* National Monument; the Medal of Honor Wall; monuments to Vietnam, Korea and World War II; and the Indiana War Memorial. The Indiana War Memorial was the site of the AWON Fathers Memorial Service.

Thanks to the AWON Board who selected us to co-chair the event. Thanks to the volunteers. It takes a team to plan, organize and execute a conference. Thanks to our presenters and their informative topics. Thanks to the First Founders for their role in growing the organization. And thanks to the First Timers for affirming that we are accomplishing our mission.

Finally, a special thanks to AWON's founder, Ann Bennett Mix. Thanks, Annie, for a job well done.

*Barbara Kelly and Walt Linne*  
Co-chairs, 2012 AWON National Conference

Dear Walt and Barb,

It was a great conference. It went by so fast, I wasn't ready to leave everyone. Gerry Morenski, I think, said, "I wish we had another day just to be together." You both did a really wonderful job. The conference was just great.

One thing I realized was that the tragedy happened to all the children whose fathers left. Ours never came back and the other children's fathers were never the same. The overriding tragedy was that they left.

Thanks for all you have done over the years, as well as this conference. You have both helped me, and others, bring our father's back into our lives, and helped in the healing of the hurt that never goes away completely.

*Ed Peters*  
President, AWON Board of Directors



## AWON FOUNDER

Ann Bennett Mix

## AWON OFFICERS

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Ed Peters

### Vice President

Gerry Conway Morenski

### Secretary

Judy Geis Hoffman

### Treasurer

Jerry Pinkerton

## AWON DIRECTORS

Norm Burkey

Norma Nicol Hamilton

Judy Hathaway

Kathy Le Comte

Bonnie Oates

## AWON ADMINISTRATION

**Database Manager** Gerry Morenski

**Dues** Jerry Pinkerton

**Bookstore Manager** Walt Linne

**The Star Editor** Kathy Le Comte

**Webmaster** Rik Peirson

**ListServ Moderators** Judy Hathaway,  
Judy Hoffman

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

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Issue #67 1M (12-12)

## WP-ORG Thanks AWON for Continued Support

Every year, AWON budgets money to donate to West-Point.Org. West-Point.Org is the non-profit organization that provides email listserv services to dozens of military organizations, including AWON.

Even though they are non-profit, they have expenses. They purchase and maintain computers and servers, electricity, and a technical staff. Many volunteers keep expenses low.

Twice a year West-Point.Org conducts a fund drive on their hosted listservs to cover their operating expenses for the coming six months. Once they reach their goal they stop fundraising.

Because they host the AWON ListServ, and a significant portion of the AWON website, AWON contributes \$350 annually to West-Point.Org. Their services would cost a great deal

more than the \$350 AWON donated this year if AWON had to buy them elsewhere.

Recently, AWON ListServ Moderator Judy Hoffman received the following email from Sam Price, one of the many West-Point.Org volunteers who help to keep the AWON membership connected. She thought AWON members might value what he says because, as Judy says, "He seems to 'get it.'"

If you do not subscribe to

the AWON ListServ, please consider it. It is an easy way to stay in touch with other AWONers on a regular basis. It also is a great way to get answers to research questions. You can receive messages daily or in digest form less frequently. Contact AWON ListServ Moderators Judy Hoffman and Judy Hathaway for more details at [jghoffman@satx.rr.com](mailto:jghoffman@satx.rr.com) or [judt0305@yahoo.com](mailto:judt0305@yahoo.com). Price's message is below:

*Subject: AWON DONATION*

*Hi Judy,*

*I wish to personally thank you for the generous contribution of \$350 from the AWON Network.*

*I'm the volunteer who enters checks received for the fund drives into the WP-ORG accounting system.*

*During the fund drive, my mind wanders as I do the job. When donations are received from AWON, I think to myself of the many lost at sea, or in battle in those long-ago days. I had never given thought to the orphans of that era. It must be interesting and exciting sometimes to become acquainted thru the AWON listserv with others who lost love ones in these situations. Comparing notes with them must be fascinating and sometimes exciting, if you find others whose loved ones were lost at the same time, be able to compare notes and share experiences. I'm glad the listserv is helpful to you all.*

*Thanks again for your donation, and thanks for being the moderator of the AWON Listserv.*

*Sam Price  
Volunteer Check Registrar*

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## Welcome New Members

Vicki J. Cool, CO, dau of PFC Victor F. La Count, Army  
Joyce Manning, PA, dau of BM2 William P. Hawkins, Navy  
Barbara Jean Walker, WI, dau of Cpl Earl W. Walker, Army Air Corps  
Gary Countryman, IL, grandson of T/Sgt Arthur W. Countryman, Army  
Calvin M. Boardman, UT, son of Maj. Gomez B. Cahoon, Army  
Barbara S. Belmont, VA, dau of Pvt Albert Belmont, Army  
William F. Ludtke, NM, son of PFC William F. Ludtke, Army  
Roxie Jeanne Tracy, OH, dau of Pvt George L. Goetz, Army  
Barbara J. Braden, NE, dau of William Braden, Army  
Evelyn J. Failer Ritchie, WA, dau of RM2 Vernon L. Failer, Navy  
Robert Eckstein, PA, son of M/Sgt. Ernest I. Eckstein, Army Veteran

(new members since the September issue of *The Star*)

## Pay Attention to Address Label, e-Star Email Alerts

AWON Database Manager Gerry Morenski wishes to remind members to look at the address label on their newsletters, or to read the complete email message if they receive the *e-Star*, for their membership status and renewal date.

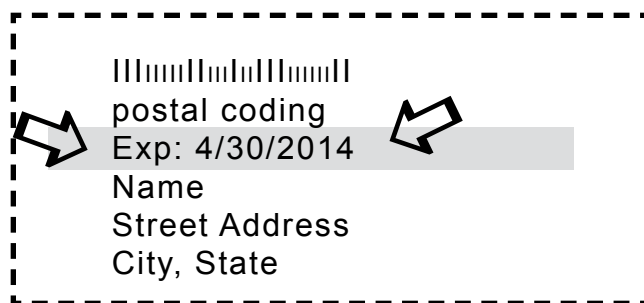
The date a member's dues expires appears on the newsletter mailing label just above the member's name (see gray box to the right). If the member's dues have lapsed, the line above the name will have the date the dues ran out. For example, the line might read **Exp:12/30/2012**.

Members who elected to receive their newsletter by email will not have an address label. Instead, the email they receive announcing the latest newsletter is available on the website for viewing and downloading will contain the date their dues expire.

If you do not receive a newsletter, please inform Gerry or *The Star* Editor Kathy Le Comte as soon as possible. It is possible the issue wasn't delivered because you moved or because your address is incomplete. The U.S. Postal Service has instituted several measures to cut down on undeliverable mail. If your name or address has changed your AWON mail could be returned to AWON

or be lost. AWON can send a replacement issue.

Sometimes members forget that they signed up for the *e-Star*. If they sign up for the *e-Star* they will not receive a hard copy of



the newsletter in the mail. They must watch for the email notification that the *e-Star* is posted on the AWON website. If a member wishes to have the hardcopy instead, contact Gerry and she can make the change.

Hardcopies of the newsletter can take several weeks to be delivered by the post office. The date the newsletter is put in the mail is announced on the AWON ListServ. Generally, *The Star* is mailed around the last week of February, May, August, and November.

Contact Gerry Morenski at [dutiem@comcast.net](mailto:dutiem@comcast.net) for address corrections.



# AWONers Research, Present Heroic Story at 35ID Reunion

by Paula Baker

Several AWON members attended the 95<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association, September 6-8, 2012, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Orphans of the "Santa Fe" Division attending were Maggie Fenstermacher, Pat Rowe Cook, Shirley Theis, Victoria Frisenda, Paula Baker, Marilyn Jensen and Neal Thomsen.

The eighth attendee, Ben Weber, is the nephew of Maj. Gen. Edmund B. Sebree, assistant commander of the 35ID. His *Task Force Sebree* liberated the city of Nancy, France. Ben is a member of AWON because his cousin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Zean G. Gassman Jr., a P-51 pilot, is MIA.

Spouses attending were Bill Baker, Curtis Cook, Sherry Weber and Doris Thomsen.

The AWON members of the 35ID worked together to create a presentation about one of the 35ID's heroic events. Twelve volunteers from the 134<sup>th</sup> Regiment rescued 81 small children from a school under bombardment. The story of the "Baby Patrol" was circulated nationwide by the Associated Press, and appeared in *Time* magazine on September 29, 1944, but it was omitted from the Division history books and regimental journal. The story and recent additions may be read on the 134<sup>th</sup> website at <http://www.coulthart.com/134/time.htm>.

Pat introduced the presentation by Shirley, Paula and Ben. Marilyn organized the PowerPoint and presented a video tribute to the



*From left: Maggie Fenstermacher, Pat Cook, Shirley Theis, Victoria Frisenda, Paula Baker, Ben Weber, Marilyn Jensen and Neal Thomsen. Neal passed away in October.*

group's heroic fathers. The video was created by Mike Ven of the 35ID support group in Belgium.

The reunion also featured excursions to the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. President Truman was a member of the 35ID in World War II. Fort Leavenworth is the headquarters of the current 35ID and the Frontier Army Museum.

Other special events included a dinner with current 35ID members in dress uniform, followed by a USO show, a panel presented by World War II veterans, static displays by 35ID reenactors, a memorial ceremony, and Hall of Fame induction.

The 35ID welcomes widows, orphans and families to its membership. Several World War II orphans are members of the 35ID board of directors.

# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members  
Gathering Around the Country ... and wo



On their way to the AWON National Conference in Indianapolis in October, Richard and Norma Nicol Hamilton of Carmichael, California, left, took a detour through Springfield, Illinois. They flew to St. Louis then drove to Springfield to take in the Lincoln sites. After visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum they had lunch at *Cafe Brio* with John Lupton and his wife, AWON granddaughter Kathy Le Comte, right. The next day the Hamiltons verified Lincoln was still in his tomb, then headed on to Indianapolis. *Kathy*



Dick and Donna Allen, left, of West Virginia, vacationed on St. Simons Island, Georgia, in August. Jamie and Jimmie McCollum, both AWON orphans, of Florida, drove up to

spend a day with them. It also happened to be Jimmie's 76<sup>th</sup> birthday. *Jamie*



Four AWONers met for lunch at *Chickpeas* in Waynesboro, Virginia, in March. We had a great time getting acquainted and sharing stories. Pictured left to right are Linda Chauvin, Bill Phillips, Ellen Jones Blackburn, and Betty Volkan. *Ellen*



Married orphans Roger and Sharon Crowley Connor (above right) arrived home in San Diego from the AWON National Conference in Indianapolis in October just in time to meet AWONers Dick and Pat Cervenak Albani, above left, of Albuquerque, before their cruise through the Panama Canal. After

American WWII Orphans Network



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breakfast they visited San Diego's new Bob Hope Memorial. A life-sized Hope stands in the center of circular plaza holding a mic. A USO audience of men and women from World War II onward is in front of him. From hidden speakers listeners can hear his endless repertoire of quips. Pat quickly spotted a sailor who reminded her of her father, S1C Albert M. Cervenak. That is where the above photo is taken. After the Connor "send off" the Albanis ended their cruise in Florida, in November. They rented a car and drove to Boynton Beach to spend a few days with AWONer Sam Tannenbaum and his wife, Rachel. Pictured below from left are Dick, Sam, Pat and Rachel. *Roger and Pat*

are pictured above in her backyard. As Bill says, he's the scruffy one and Angie is the pretty one with blonde hair. Bill trekked for three and a half weeks around Ireland, England and Scotland. He also paid his respects at Cambridge American Cemetery. "I still shake from thoughts of roundabouts and driving on the left!" he says. *Bill*



In August several orphans gathered at the New Mexico home of orphan Lorin McCleary and his wife, Roberta Holmes. Above are orphans Lorin McCleary, Pat Cervenak Albani of Albuquerque, and Walt Linne and Barb Kelly, both of Indianapolis. Below is more of the bunch enjoying food and conversation. From left are Roberta Holmes; Pat Albani; AWONers Steve Estrada and JoAnne Hughes; Walt Linne; Steve's wife, Eleanor; and AWONer Dick Albani. *Lorin and Pat*



Bill Chido dropped in on Angela Christian in Barlborough, England, in August. They

*Also Locates German Who Shot Him Down*

# U.S. Soldier Finds Missing Fighter Pilot

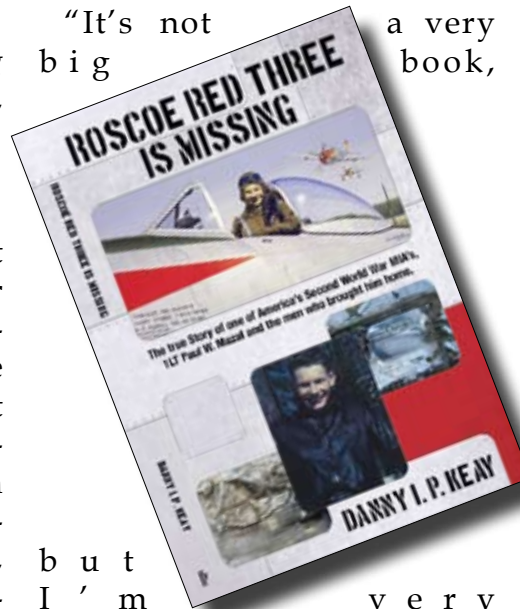
The family of an American World War II fighter pilot, missing in action for 60 years, can thank a hobby archaeologist soldier and the German pilot who shot him down for bringing his story to print.

*Roscoe Red Three is Missing* is the extensively detailed, six-year saga of the discovery and recovery of the remains of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul W. Mazal, a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot with the 406<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 513<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, based in England. The 22-year-old Mazal was shot down and killed by an anti-aircraft gun manned by a German pilot and his mechanic on March 19, 1945, during an attack on a German airfield. Sixty years later, on August 27, 2005, his remains were recovered by a team of civilian aviation archaeologists led by author Danny I.P. Keay.

Keay is the founder of Missing Aviator Research/Recovery Team. Since 2004, he has been involved in the recovery of nine missing aviators, including Mazal, and more than 30 crash sites. Of late Keay is researching the missing soldiers of the 84<sup>th</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisions, killed during the Battle for Geilenkirchen, Germany, where he resides when not stationed in the states as a military intelligence specialist in the U.S. Army.

Keay's team of English, American and Germans were able to solve the 60-year-old Mazal mystery in less than five hours, but the book didn't coming along as fast.

"It's not a very big book,



but I'm very detail-oriented, and in a lot of cases it took me six years to get that data," Keay explained in a May 2012 interview with the *Fort Campbell Courier*. "If I couldn't find a certain answer, I just stopped writing for a while.

"The German pilot that shot down Lieutenant Mazal

- I've been in contact with him for a few years - contacted me and he goes, 'Danny, when's this book coming out that you promised me two years ago? I don't know how much longer I've got. I want to read this book.' And so that was the push to finish it. It was actually the guy that shot him down who was the motivator to finish the book."

Keay describes not only Mazal's last day, but also explores the shoot-down from both the American and German perspectives, the recovery efforts, the identification process, the return of Mazal's remains to his family, his unit's last reunion, and the memorial service for Mazal.

*Roscoe Red Three is Missing* can be purchased at Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com, or ordered through the author at [danny.keay@gmail.com](mailto:danny.keay@gmail.com) if the buyer would like their copy signed. AWONer Adrian Leist Caldwell wrote one of the two forewords.

## Entering a Parade?

AWON Magnetic Logos (to Place on the Side of a Vehicle) and Banners Available for Use by Members in Parades

Contact Norm Burkey for the Magnetic Logos at [normanburkey@verizon.net](mailto:normanburkey@verizon.net)  
Contact Walt Linne for the Banners at [wlinne@iupui.edu](mailto:wlinne@iupui.edu)





## 2012 AWON National Conference

Indianapolis

*Celebrating 20 Years*

# AWON Conference Daily Reports

by Darlene Mott

## Friday • October 19, 2012

The conference got underway at 1 p.m. with an official welcome by conference co-chairs Walt Linne and Barb Francis Kelly. They read proclamations from the mayor of Indianapolis and the governor of Indiana.

AWON Board President Ed Peters then welcomed members, with a special welcome to our "First Timers." Ed then introduced AWON Founder Ann Mix, who was presented a corsage. Ann shared how AWON came to be and introduced her daughters, Serena Bennington Worthington and Cydney Michelle Payton.

Our emcee was Sam Tannenbaum. He welcomed all and introduced Judy Hathaway, First Timers and Sharing Circles hostess; and Rondy Elliott, who talked about her new book, *Unmistakable Beams of Light*. Judi Kramer then talked about her AWON quilt, which members can write their father's name on, and the AWON raffle. At the beginning of the conference the quilt had 295 names on it - with more names being added this weekend.

Lorin McCleary shared his role in the early days of AWON and how the AWON logo came to be. He mentioned all the First Founders and how they each donated \$500 to get AWON started. Letters were read from First Founders Ann Black and Susan Hadler who could not be in attendance.

At 2 p.m. Dr. Vamik Volkan began his presentation on Transgenerational Influence. We learned how the problems our mothers faced were passed on to us orphans and even our grandchildren. Helping Dr. Volkan with his program was a panel consisting of orphans Barry Barr-Finch, Sue Perko and Rondy Elliott, and grandson and First Timer Keith Vernon. Each of them related how they grew up, then Dr. Volkan commented on the effect of transgenerational influence

in their story.

Following the Volkan presentation we had Sharing Circles, where orphans gather in small groups to talk. Orphans were grouped by branch of service or theater of war, while spouses and family went to another Sharing Circle.

After a break we gathered for the evening reception and dance. The room was decorated with blue and gold star balloons. The snack table had tall gold glitter candle decorations. Walt cut the 20th anniversary cake and everyone danced to the music of *The Rhythmaires*.

Hopefully you feel like you were with us in thought, and know that we are thinking of you and your fathers, also.

## Saturday • October 20, 2012

Board Director Norma Nicol Hamilton started our day with a very informative presentation on AWON archiving. Norma has researched and attended Society of American Archivists conferences to learn how to plan for the future deposition of the AWON Archives.

In 2011, an inventory was started of AWON materials, including board meeting minutes, financial records, *STAR* newsletters, AWON database, AWON website, books written by AWON members, newspaper articles printed in local newspapers, and the AWON quilt. Ann Whalen O'Connor maintains the AWON Archives. If you have any articles about your father or AWON published in your local newspaper, be sure to send an original copy to Ann.

Just as AWON turns its thoughts to the future, Norma encouraged us all to think ahead, and be deciding what we want to happen to our personal collections of our father's records and memorabilia. Leave specific directions to whomever will be handling your estate some day.

...continued on page 12





Nick and Darlene Mott. Yes, she IS standing!



AWON Founder Ann Mix, center, with First Founders, clockwise from left, Mary Swaggerty Slowey, Sam Tannenbaum, Walt Linne, John Linne, and Lorin McCleary



Conference co-chairs Barb Francis Kelly and Walt Linne



Elizabeth Harris



Sharon Crowley Connor and Roger Connor

### So Many Photos, So Little Space

View all the photos from the conference, in color, at the AWON website at <http://www.west-point.org/family/awon/indyconference/pictures/>



Norma Nicol Hamilton



Gloria Zuccarella Layne, Danielle Bevan and Jeanne Rhinehart



Transgenerational Influence panelists, from left, Barry Barr-Finch, Rony Elliott, Dr. Volkan, Keith Vernon and Sue Perko

# AWON Conference Daily Reports

... Daily Reports, from page 10

Our main speaker was Dr. William Tuttle, who spoke about children and the homefront - the subject of his award-winning book. He spoke informatively through his research, as well as his personal experiences. He signed copies of his book afterward.

Next, we screened two incredible videos. The first was First Timer Maxine Graham Olson's *Finding Fathers* video, honoring her father, 2LT Max Kenneth Graham. It had an interview with Ann Mix and a segment by Harry Strahlendorf, honoring his father. The second video was *The Last Flight of Lieutenant Estill*. It had awesome footage of the search of Sharon Estill Taylor's father's P-38 that went down 60 years before his plane was located, and his remains found and identified by JPAC. It ended with his burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

After the screenings we again met for Sharing Circles. It's a very emotional time for some, because they have never had anyone to talk to about their father. But orphans listen - and understand. Members ask advice on areas such as research ideas, obtaining their father's records, or how to arrange visits to overseas national cemeteries to go to their father's graves for the first time. Orphans learn what other orphans experienced growing up. It's a tremendous time of bonding and healing.

The evening was free to tour the city, eat with friends - or rest.

## Sunday • October 21, 2012

We gathered at 9 a.m. on a sunny, Sunday morning and boarded busses to shuttle over to the Indiana War Memorial Museum. What a stately building! Directly across from it we could see the American Legion National Headquarters Building.

We were greeted by Executive Director Brig. Gen J. Stewart Goodwin, USAF (Ret), who led us into the Gen. John Pershing Au-

ditorium. It was extremely ornate! We listened intently while he told us the history of the memorial and museum, built in the 1920's, at a cost of \$2.2 million. He was a great speaker: his facts flowed swiftly, with a keen sense of humor throughout. The auditorium has perfect acoustics, with rounded corners, cork material in the ceiling, and special acoustic material in the walls. It seats 500 in its original seats.

We then toured the Shrine Room and the museum areas, which display memorabilia from every war Indiana has participated in. One of their most prized possessions is an American flag from the Battle of Gettysburg, full of bullet holes.

After the tour we enjoyed a catered lunch.

The next order of business was the AWON business meeting. We were introduced to our board directors, and they explained what projects they chair. It was expressed more than once that this is a harmoniously-working board. A motion was made for the current officers to retain their positions.

Database Manager Gerry Morenski reported there are about 4,000 names in the AWON database. Our membership of 629 yields about 500 active members. Janice Buterbaugh mails First Inquiry packets to prospective orphans, and Judi Hollis Kramer sends welcome packets to new members. There was discussion about establishing a committee to explore the possibility of financial assistance for members who are unable to attend conferences.

Regional Coordinator Chair Barry Barr-Finch requested a volunteer to work with him. Barry notifies state volunteer regional coordinators around the country to contact new members in their states.

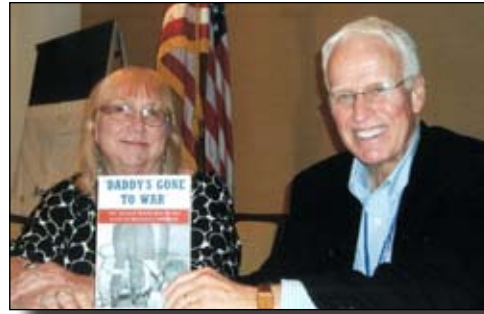
It was announced that the 2014 AWON National Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington; co-chaired by Barry Barr-Finch and Judi Hollis Kramer. There was talk that the 2016 Conference may be in Florida.

...continued on page 14





Breakfast at Embassy Suites



Ann Mix with Dr. William Tuttle



First Timer Steve Estrada and wife, Eleanor



Antonette Niro Bell and Rita Niro Blair



Lunch at the Indiana War Memorial



Ron Burrus



First Timers, back row from left: Keith Vernon, Howard Walker, Louis Kunz; middle row, Brigitt Caito, Dale Moyer; front row: Jackie Rackley, Charlene Czajkowski, Camille Mueller



AWON Overseas Friends from The Netherlands, Ad and Elly Van den Heuvel



AWON Philippines Group, back row from left: Judy and Jerry Pinkerton, Caroline Fuller Jackson, Sherry Bigger Haxby; front row: Barry Barr-Finch, Bonnie Oates



Wilma Stover Bergeret and husband, Gaston, WWII veteran of the Free French Forces



AWON Board of Directors, back row, from left: Norm Burkey, Kathy Le Comte, Judy Hoffman, Jerry Pinkerton, Judy Hathaway, Norma Nicol Hamilton. Front row; Gerry Moreski, Ed Peters and Bonnie Oates

# AWON Conference Daily Reports

... Daily Reports, from page 12

Back in the Pershing Auditorium for the AWON Memorial Service, we were surrounded by gold stars. It seemed like they put them there nearly 90 years ago just for us AWON orphans to visit all these years later. The ceiling had a huge circle of gold stars, as well as the walls. The auditorium is still used for military ceremonies, funerals, weddings, and viewing documentaries.

First was the presentation of the colors by the color guard, complete with the Pledge of Allegiance. AWON orphan, Pastor Louis Kunz, son of PFC Louis R. Kunz, led us in the invocation. Walt Linne read the moving poem, *High Flight*.

AWON grandchildren Ron Burrus, Kristie Clark, Mark LaPointe, Kathy Le Comte, Chuck LeGrand, Joey Tartell, and Keith Vernon, reverently read each of our fathers' names. As each father's name was read, that orphan lit their battery candle light. By the end, candles glowed all around the room, reflected in our tears. I get glory bumps just thinking about the next event on the agenda at the memorial. Mark LaPointe, grandson of Sgt. William G. Aubut, played his guitar and sang his original tribute, *Somewhere in Germany*. It was composed from lines from wartime letters written between his grandparents. Beside Mark, as he sang, was a framed portrait of his grandfather. His song, on CD, is available in the AWON Bookstore.

Our Memorial Service ended with *Taps* perfectly played by Joey Tartell, son of Judy Geis Hoffman and grandson of S/SGT Daniel R. Geis.

Many pictures were taken as we waited to board buses back to our hotel. Maybe the first-ever AWON group orphan pictures were taken on the steps. We looked like the paparazzi all lined up with our cameras!

And now for the last event of the day and the conference - our banquet. Time has passed much too quickly! This is such a bit-

ter-sweet time. We're looking our best, but feeling the separation anxiety that is about to take place, when we say our goodbyes. It will be two years until our next conference.

We were greeted by Emcee Sam Tannenbaum, Board President Ed Peters, and Conference Chaplain Louis Kunz. Following a delicious meal, we met our honored guests: National American Legion Commander Jim Koutz, and his aide, Steve Short; and Indiana War Memorials Commission Executive Director Brig. Gen. Stewart Goodwin. They received beautiful AWON plaques of appreciation and monetary donations.

AWON Founder Ann Mix, *STAR* editor Kathy Le Comte, and Vice President and Database Manager Gerry Morenski, were recognized for their outstanding service to AWON.

The late Col. Jack Forgy's sister, Pamela Forgy Klein, shared stories about Jack before the Col. Jack Forgy Distinguished Service Award was presented to Walt Linne. Walt is an AWON First Founder, past president, AWON Bookstore manager, and 2012 Conference co-chair.

Judi Kramer then began the raffle, with assistance from Millie McConnell Cavanaugh and Sharon Crowley Connor. I believe \$1,100 worth of raffle tickets were sold. Among the raffle items were two gorgeous lap quilts made by Judy Geis Hoffman and Pat Peters.

The 2012 AWON Indianapolis Conference then came to a close with the singing of our AWON song, sung to the tune of *You Are My Sunshine*, and accompanied by Bonnie Carter on her flute; and then tearfully we sang *I'll Be Seeing You*.

Thank you, Ann, for AWON. Thank you Walt and Barbara for the best ever conference. Thank you to the board. Thank you to all the many volunteers for AWON. Thanks, Rik and Dianna, we missed you! Thank you, Penny, for your marvelous hotel selection. Thank you First Timers, it was great meeting you!

In their memory.





AWON Regional Coordinators



Dave Stanek



Maxine Graham Olson  
and husband, Fred



Sharing Circles



Barb Kelly and Brig.  
Gen. Stewart Goodwin,  
USAF (Ret.)



Pamela Forgry Klein



Diana Jo Pete Clark and  
Robin Barnes



Jim McConnell, Bill Chiodo and Walt  
Linne, viewing the AWON Fathers  
transforming photo frame



Roger Connor and  
the AWON Missing  
Man Table



Ann Mix and American  
Legion National Com-  
mander James E. Koutz



George and Carol Long Buckley



David and Norma Dille Bly

# **Home Front Life Leaves Mark on Children**

by Judy Hathaway

I have been asked to write a brief summary of the presentation given at the Indianapolis conference by our guest speaker, historian William M. Tuttle Jr., Ph.D.

Dr. Tuttle is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. As I also live in Lawrence, I knew of Dr. Tuttle and his book about children on the home front, *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children*. Early in the 1990's, in preparation for his book, Dr. Tuttle solicited letters from men and women then in their fifties and sixties by writing to many of the largest newspapers across the United States. Those letters, as well as his own memories of being a child on the home front whose father had gone to war, formed the basis of his presentation. Of particular interest to this group, one of those who wrote Dr. Tuttle in the early 1990's was AWON founder, Ann Mix.

The war was a pervasive element in the everyday lives of children on the home front. Dr. Tuttle spoke of a girl's indelible memories of the December 7, 1941 attack, as witnessed from her family home on the naval base at Pearl Harbor. He recalled the impact of the media on America's children: the necessity for children to be quiet when gathered around the radio to hear news of the war; the graphic images provided by *The Eyes and Ears of the World* news reels at the neighborhood movie theaters; the war themes so prevalent in movies and even in cartoons and short subjects; the comic books and magazines, notably *Life*, with its photographs from the war. He spoke of "duck and cover" drills at school and of children participating in scrap drives. Many children recalled helping with the war effort

by taking labels off empty cans, removing the ends, and flattening the cans by stomping on them. Families saved bacon grease. One boy contributed his most prized possession, a mechanical car, to the scrap drive. Children took pride in their patriotism and felt they were contributing to the war effort through these activities. Dr. Tuttle recalled participating in war games with children in his neighborhood.

Most poignant perhaps were the descriptions of children saying goodbye to fathers as they went off to war. Mothers and grandmothers became the mainstays on the home front, and there were many changes as women entered the workforce. Children worried about their fathers in far-off lands and wondered when or if they would return. Many felt that they had to protect their mothers, taking on adult roles while still in childhood. When, at last, most of the fathers returned from war, many were greatly changed by their wartime experiences. Dr. Tuttle shared his own story of his father's departure for war when Tuttle was only four years old, not to return until he was nearly eight.

Dr. Tuttle's research and publications have concentrated on social and political history, in particular African-American history and recent American society including the history of childhood. Dr. Tuttle is the author of several highly-acclaimed books, among them *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children*, which was named a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times* and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1994. Of interest to many in AWON, Dr. Tuttle earned the United States Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service in 1962. For more information go to: <http://americanstudies.ku.edu/faculty/tuttle/index.shtml>.



# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### BOOKS

(Authors in **bold** are orphan or family members)

\_\_\_\_ **NEW!** *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children*  
by William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD \$30.00

\_\_\_\_ *In My Father's Words: Letters From A World War II Soldier*  
by **Bill McElvain** \$16.00

\_\_\_\_ *If These Stones Could Talk* **REDUCED!**  
by Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons, USA (Ret) \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ *The Dad I Never Knew: A War Orphan's Search for Inner Healing*  
by **Bruce Brodowski** **REDUCED!** \$7.95

\_\_\_\_ *Farebersville 1944*  
by **Jeff Wignall** \$18.95

\_\_\_\_ *A Soldier's Daughter*  
by **Lois Brown Klein** \$17.00

\_\_\_\_ *The Ordinary Infantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again*  
by **Imogene Woods** and Twelve WWII Infantrymen \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ *Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search*  
by **Mary Lee Coe Fowler** \$29.95

\_\_\_\_ *Love Always, Ben*  
by **Huey Tyra**, nephew **REDUCED!** \$2.00

\_\_\_\_ *When Your Number's Up: Meritocracy Goes to War*  
by Raymond S. Ross, PhD. \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ *Sporty Course (bomber pilots)*  
by Col. Jack Swayze \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ *The Hotton Report (about The Battle for Hotton)*  
by Robert McDonald \$13.95

\_\_\_\_ *World War II: A Legacy of Letters - One Soldier's Journey*  
by **Clinton Frederick** \$26.95

\_\_\_\_ *In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network*  
by Turner Publishing Company  
Standard Book was \$49.95 **REDUCED!** \$10.00  
Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 **REDUCED!** \$25.00

\_\_\_\_ *The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial*  
by William Downes \$24.95

\_\_\_\_ *The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause*  
by Maj. Damon "Rocky" Gause, foreward by **Damon L. Gause** \$21.95

\_\_\_\_ *Soldier's Son*  
by **Ben McClelland** \$28.00

\_\_\_\_ *No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy*  
by **Walter Ford Carter** **REDUCED!** \$18.00

\_\_\_\_ *D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History*  
by Jerome J. McLaughlin \$25.00

\_\_\_\_ *They Also Served: Women's Stories from the World War II Era*  
by Jeanie Sutton Lambright  
hardcover \$35.00 softcover \$24.00

\_\_\_\_ *Finding Billy*  
by **Diana Thompson Dale**, niece \$16.95

\_\_\_\_ *Father Found: Life and Death as a Prisoner of the Japanese in World War II*  
by **Duane Heisinger** \$13.95

\_\_\_\_ *An 8th Air Force Combat Diary*  
by John A. Clark \$49.95

\_\_\_\_ *When I See a "Forty and Eight" ... I Remember World War Two*  
by Jacques Adnet, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.) \$12.00

\_\_\_\_ *For Those Who Love, Time Is Not*  
by **Kay Brigham** **REDUCED!** \$16.00

\_\_\_\_ *Lost in the Victory: Reflections of America's Orphans of WWII*  
by **Susan Johnson Hadler** and **Ann Bennett Mix** \$32.50

\_\_\_\_ *After the Liberators: A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey*  
by **William C. McGuire II** \$16.95

\_\_\_\_ *Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific*  
by **Michael J. Goodwin** \$19.95

**More AWON Merchandise and Order Form on Other Side**





# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### CD / VIDEO

\_\_\_\_ **NEW! Leather and Strings**  
by Mark LaPointe, grandson of Sgt William G. Aubut  
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

\_\_\_\_ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers*  
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**  
was \$15.00 \$ 5.00\*

\_\_\_\_ *AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication*  
\$ 5.00\*

\_\_\_\_ *AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers*  
by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$ 5.00\*

\_\_\_\_ *Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru*  
by **Shawnee Brittan** \$30.00

\_\_\_\_ *The War in Europe* by **Shawnee Brittan** \$30.00

### AWON Logo Products

\_\_\_\_ Sweatshirt \$45.00  
(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

\_\_\_\_ Windbreaker (blue) \$40.00  
(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

\_\_\_\_ Denim shirt \_\_\_\_ short sleeve \_\_\_\_ long sleeve \$40.00  
(circle size: S M L XL 2X)

\_\_\_\_ Golf shirt \_\_\_\_ white \_\_\_\_ blue \$35.00  
(circle size: S M L XL 2X)

\_\_\_\_ **NEW! 20th Anniversary Logo T-shirt (navy)** \$20.00  
(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

\_\_\_\_ Hat \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Tote bag (large) \$20.00

AWON Gold Star crystal pendant (no chain included):

\_\_\_\_ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/2" (40mm) \$20.00

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

\_\_\_\_ Gold Star earrings \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON button (2 1/4 inch) \$3.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON lanyard and name tag/ticket holder  
(4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON note cards w/envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON bookmarks  
(circle amount: 1/\$1.00, 5/\$3.00, 10/\$5.00)

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON auto magnet \$6.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON holiday ornament \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ AWON blanket (royal blue w/gold lettering) \$30.00  
(send father's name & rank (if desired) with order)

### The Star NEWSLETTERS

\_\_\_\_ \* Individual issues \$2.00 includes P&H

\_\_\_\_ \* All archived issues: \$35.00 includes P&H

\_\_\_\_ \* Special! Most recent five issues: \$7.50 includes P&H

### Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$8 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) include P&H. For multiple purchases:  
Up to \$40: \$10 P&H \$40-\$60: \$12 P&H Over \$60: \$15 P&H Washington State residents add 7.8% sales tax.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**AWON Bookstore**

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

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

For more information and color photos go to: [www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html](http://www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html)

## ***“Daddy's Gone to War”: The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children***

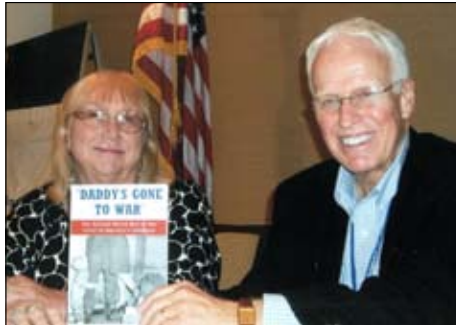
nominated for the Pulitzer Prize

from noted historian and

2012 AWON National Conference Keynote Speaker

William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD.

“Daddy's Gone to War” tells the story of us. It is a comprehensive study of American children on the home front during World War II - told by the children themselves, through their thousands of letters to Women relive the frustration of always having to play games. Men remember being up and go to war themselves. Children recall as though it were good-bye, perhaps forever, to overseas and the sometimes presence of a long-absent father's World War II left an indelible nightmares of an American



generation, not only in childhood, but in adulthood as well.

Available through the AWON Bookstore



## ***Leather and Strings***

a CD featuring the song

### ***Somewhere in Germany***

as performed by Mark LaPointe  
at the AWON Memorial Service

Sgt. William G. Aubut was killed in action on 23 February 1945 just after crossing the Roer river near Selgarsdorf, Germany. His only child, Donna, was three years old. When his widow re-married out of financial necessity, her new husband insisted that she throw away all of Bill's things, including all the letters he had written home to her and Donna. She told her new husband she threw everything away, but she really didn't. She placed the letters in a shoe box and hid them in the attic, where they remained until 1980. As she lived out her final days at that home she shared her secret with Donna. Together one day they sat in her bed and read the entire contents of that shoebox. Reading the letters one evening, Mark put his grandfather's words to music. The title comes from the heading of the final letter Sgt. Aubut wrote home, on what turned out to be the day before his death.

Available through the AWON Bookstore    **\$6**

## Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

- Topics considered for publication in *The Star* include, but are not limited to, unit reunions, visiting battle or crash sites, cemeteries, ceremonies, seeking or finding families and veterans, poetry, etc.

- Email copy-ready articles and photos to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTE, formats, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and photos also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.

- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words),

- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.

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

**Kathy Le Comte, Editor**  
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Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 787-6512  
johnkath5@comcast.net

**Deadline for the  
March Issue  
is February 15**

## AWON Board Business 15 July 2012

**Treasurer Change:** Treasurer **Norm Burkey** nominated **Jerry Pinkerton** for the position of treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry will be added as a signatory on the AWON bank accounts. Norm and board president **Ed Peters** will remain as signatories. The financial report was submitted prior to the meeting.

**Conference Report:** Conference co-chairs **Walt Linne** and **Barb Kelly** gave an update on the 2012 conference. Expenses and revenue, at this time, are roughly even at \$16,000 and \$17,000, respectively. There was discussion about speaker's expenses. The board approved to cover Dr. Tuttle's airfare, hotel and per diem from the AWON operating budget. A \$500 honorarium will be presented to the American Legion at the banquet with thanks for hosting the AWON office and providing continuing support. AWON member **Louis Kunz**, a retired minister, has been invited to provide prayer at the memorial service.

**AWON Archives:** **Normal Nicol Hamilton** provided a history of AWON's archival activities and information about an archivists' conference in the fall. Ed Peters reappointed Norma to the position of Archives Advocate.

**New Member Packets:** **Gerry Morenski**, **Judy Hoffman** and **Norm Burkey** offered to help **Kathy Le Comte** finish this project.

**Letter to Comped Members:** pended

**AARP ad:** pended

**Nominating Committee Report:** **Bonnie Oates** reported that the ballots, bios and cover letter were sent to **Kathy Le Comte**. **Kathy** reported that they had been mailed out to members. **Patricia Armstrong** and her husband, as well as **Dianne and John Bazynski**, will count the ballots. Voting will close on August 13. The results will be reported to the secretary by August 19.

**Layne Burial:** **Gerry Morenski** reported that former AWON president **Gloria Layne's** husband will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on August 19. Members in the area will be contacted to attend.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is August 19, 2012.

### **Judy Hoffman, Secretary**

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [awon.org](http://awon.org).

## AWON Board Business 19 August 2012

**Financial Report:** Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** reported the AWON wreath fund has a balance of about \$1,900 and that AWON election expenses were unbudgeted. The board approved allocating \$1,200 as an unbudgeted election expense. **Pinkerton** also noted



the printing and mailing of the revised AWON brochure also was unbudgeted. The board approved allocating \$1,500 for the new brochures in the public relations line item in the budget and carried as an overage.

**AWON Conference:** Conference co-chair **Walt Linne** reported that 70 orphan members have registered with a total attendance to date of 104 people. Registration has been extended to September 18 which is also the last day to book the hotel at AWON rates. AWON has received \$13,500 in registration fees and \$1,645 in program book memorial ads. There are eight first time conference attendees signed up. The board decided to meet with first time registrants at breakfast Friday morning.

**Conference Board Meeting:** **Ed Peters** discussed the content of the conference board meeting. The board agreed on the following agenda: each director describing their duties; costs involved in serving on the board; handouts and brief presentations of the minutes, budget, database, website, listserv and newsletter; and a handout about AWON volunteers and their job description. It was suggested to publish some of this information in *The Star* for those not at the conference.

**AWON Election:** Ed Peters reported that all four candidates running were re-elected to the board.

**AWON Archives:** **Norma Nicol Hamilton** reported on the archivist conference she attended. She gave out a number of AWON brochures and found her and AWON's interests fit best with the military archivists in attendance who represented 24 repositories and agencies. Among other things she learned MART (Military Archives Round Table) has an e-list for discussion of archival issues.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is September 16, 2012.

**Judith Hoffman, Secretary**

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [awon.org](http://awon.org).

## AWON Board Business 16 September 2012

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Treasurer Jerry Pinkerton was not in attendance.

**Conference Report:** To date 75 members have registered for a total of 116 people, with nine as first time attendees. Discussion followed about making the First Timers feel welcome. The American Legion National Commander will attend. A box lunch will be provided for purchase on Sunday after the tour of the Indiana War Memorial.

**Old Business:** **Judy Hoffman** reported on the ID/password issue for accessing the Members Only page of the AWON website. She explained that no ID or password is needed if the URL for the Members Only page is used. If the Members Only page is accessed from the AWON home page, the ID and password are required. Discussion followed. This issue was pended until the January 2013 board meeting.

**Conference Board Meeting:** All board directors will send reports to board president **Ed Peters** who will bring packets to distribute to members in attendance at the conference. Each director will talk for three minutes or less about their responsibilities.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 21, in Indianapolis, IN.

**Judy Hoffman, Secretary**

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [awon.org](http://awon.org).



AWON National Conference – Celebrating 20 Years  
Indianapolis, IN October 19-21, 2012  
Evaluation Summary  
38% of the evaluations were completed and returned

- Was the hotel located conveniently? Yes (30) No (0)
- Was hotel rate reasonable for you? Yes (29) No (1)

Comments: Great hotel, professional and cordial staff. Breakfast and happy hour were pluses. Great location and offered mingling opportunities/social time.

- Ease of Registration? Yes (30) No (0)
- Availability of Conference Information Yes (30) No (0)
- Cost of Registration to you? Yes (30) No (0)
- Was the conference program helpful? Yes (30) No (0)

Comments: Excellent conference program. Perfect conference for Ann to come back, she was deeply touched. 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary handbags were nice. Thanks.

- Was the theme of the conference meaningful? Yes (29) No (0) No reply (1)

Comments: What a precious memory, 20 years! Thanks you so much! All themes and speakers were excellent.

- Would you prefer the 2-day conference? Yes (6) No (7) No reply (17)
- Or return to the 3-day conference length? Yes (18) No reply (12)

Comments: Need more time to visit and share. Just right. Need to be more specific as to when the conference programs begin.

- Was the food offered during the conference adequate? Yes (27) No (2) No reply (1)

Comments: Excellent. Light lunch at War Memorial hit the spot. The complimentary breakfast and happy hours provided a natural gathering place so no one was left to eat alone. It was great!

- Were the topics of the guest speakers of interest to you? Yes (29) No reply (1)

Comments: Tuttle and Vamik - excellent. Should have them back. All presentations were informative. Have Drs. Tuttle and Volkan speak again. A focus on the Pacific area. Have Burt Caloud from Manila, Philippine veteran, present. Have Bob Reynolds of Valor Tours present.

- Did you visit the Hospitality Room? Yes (28) No (1) No reply (1)
- Were the available beverages and snacks sufficient? Yes (29) No reply (1)
- Was the location convenient? Yes (30)
- Were the hours of operation adequate? Yes (30)

- Was the tour interesting to you? Yes (29) No (0) No reply (1)
- Was the length of the tour comfortable for you? Yes (26) No (1) No reply (3)

Comments: Exceptional venue for this type of event. Fantastic! Outstanding.

- Did the service meet your expectations? Yes (30)

Comments: Exceeded expectations. Day was fantastic. Like the lighted candles. Mark LaPointe's song touched very deep. Wonderful *Taps* (Joey Tartell). Bus drivers were very nice. Perfect!

General Comments:

The keynote speakers were awesome. They should be asked back. • Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this a great and wonderful conference and unforgettable. • It seems time just flies when we are together. We just need more time to visit with each other and share time with all the orphans. • Attention to First Timers was a highlight. Great job! Mainly – it felt good. • Indianapolis is a great town. Great job dedicating conference to Ann and the First Founders. Should have recognized the AWON Board and the hotel staff during the conference. Oops! • Great Job. Congratulations to all! • Everything about the Conference was wonderful. Exceeded all my expectations. • Thanks to all involved in planning and carrying out - Great job!

# American WWII Orphans Network

## Application, Registration & Renewal Form

- ☐ I would like to become a member  
☐ Register my father/family member and me only  
☐ Renew my membership

### Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home, work, cell, other)  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Serviceman \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you like to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N  
Where did you hear about AWON? \_\_\_\_\_

### Information about WWII Serviceman Who Died

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some of the information, leave it blank and we may be able to provide it to you. Do not delay mailing the application for lack of information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.  
Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_  
Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

Additional details about serviceman's death and/or service: (rank, medals, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Town and State \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Did widow remarry? Y N  
Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please include information on another sheet, if necessary.)

### Membership Levels

Any child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty or later died of wounds or injuries sustained during World War II, is eligible to join as an **Orphan Member**. Any direct relative is eligible to join as a **Family Member**. Any individual, including friends of those killed in World War II, those who wish to participate in AWON activities, or organizations with an interest in and compatible with AWON's purposes and goals, are eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

Check Your Membership Category:

☐ Orphan ☐ Family ☐ Associate

### Dues Options

Basic annual membership dues are \$25. Sponsor, Gold Star and Multi-year memberships also are available:

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Basic	\$25	\$70	\$110
Sponsor	\$50	\$140	\$220
Gold Star	\$100	\$280	\$440

AWON greatly appreciates gifts beyond these levels.

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to AWON to release my name, address, email address, phone number and relationship to and pertinent information about the serviceman to other members. I understand the list of members is confidential and will *never* be sold or given to any other organization or business. I hereby release AWON from any liability that may arise from the release of information.

Signature (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

AWON is a humanitarian, nonprofit, nonpolitical, public service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Federal Tax code (EINB #91-1538912). Membership is not required to register in our database.

Mail form and check payable to AWON to:

Jerry Pinkerton  
AWON Treasurer  
9327 Canter Drive  
Dallas, TX 75231



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869 S. Columbia Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62704-2342

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Address Service Requested

## The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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**AWON Headquarters**  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
(540) 310-0750  
awon@aol.com  
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

Gerry Morenski                      dutiem@comcast.net

### Archives

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