



From exploited ward to town's favorite son

Twist of fate changes man's life



AWONer George Cropley, at his father's grave at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Memorial Day 1999.

by First Lt. Peter Duston, USA (ret.)

In 1996, I was asked if I would be conservator to George Cropley, a man with intellectual challenges who had been taken advantage of by an unscrupulous prior conservator. As adjutant for the American Legion Narraguagus Post #8 in Cherryfield, Maine, I was called upon to advocate for benefits for local veterans. It was explained to me that George received veteran's benefits on behalf of his father, but no details.

Over lunch at my first meeting with George, I asked what he wanted out of life. George, by the way, was boarded in a private home where he also was being taken advantage of. In fact, George had been in group homes, institutions and boarding homes his entire adult life.

George told me that he wanted to travel and that he wanted to be buried next to his father. I asked where his father was buried and he couldn't tell me – he didn't know. He said that he didn't know his father, that his father went off to war and never came back to marry his mother.

He said that his mother left him to be brought up by his grandmother in rural Maine where he was born. He told me heart-breaking stories of his life as a child, and how his grandfather would beat the grandmother until George got big and strong and

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AWON Board Election Underway

AWON orphan, family and associate members in good standing, which means dues are paid up, should have received an election envelope in the mail in July.

Five positions on the AWON Board of Directors are up for election. There are six candidates running for the board: Ron Burrus, Mike Forgy, Billie Meeks, Bonnie Oates, Jerry Pinkerton and Diane Pollard. Those retiring from the board are Judy

Hathaway, Judy Hoffman, and Kathy Le Comte.

The election mailing includes a cover letter, candidate biographies, and ballot. Please select the five members you wish to serve on the board for the next two years. The winners will be announced on the AWON ListServ and will be installed at the Seattle Conference.

Ballots must be returned to the address indicated on the ballot by August 1.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!!!

Unfortunately, the AWON database cannot switch between two addresses for our members who have two addresses, such as those who spend the winter months in the south. If you want your newsletter (and sometimes other information) to keep up with you, you need to inform AWON each time you change addresses. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.

One alternative to consider is to receive the *e-Star*. A notice is emailed to you whenever the next newsletter is ready to be viewed online.

To update your address or any other contact information, email Gerry Morenski at dbmanager@awondb.org



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Belgian field named for Pvt. Ward

by Judith Durkee Peter

The rain turned to snow showers. The biting, cold wind penetrated our thin jackets. The ground was wet and muddy. This place and moment in time, for me, was hallowed, honored, sacred ground.

It was February 21, 2014, near Medendorf/Lanzerath, Belgium. Surrounded by men who only days before were total strangers, I found comfort, peace and joy. We were standing on the very field where my father's blood stained the white snow of the Ardennes Forest in the last days of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

It was the dream of a young daughter who never knew the love of her daddy to walk where he walked and meet the French and Belgian people for which he fought and died. The compassionate men of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Badger State Chapter (WI); Chairman Frank Morris; and the help of 82nd Veteran Tom Laney; made the dream come true.

These men just knew I needed to make this trip to the Ardennes

area of eastern Belgium where my father, Pvt. Glenn H. Ward, 82nd Airborne Division, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), F Company, was KIA



Pvt. Glenn H. Ward holding daughter, Judith, one year and one month before he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge.

on January 30, 1945, in the last days of the Battle of the Bulge. They initiated a "Send Judy to Belgium" fundraiser and with help from VFW Post 3143 Commander James Pederson, raised airfare for me to make the trip to Belgium this past February.

Our trip coincided with the 32nd annual "In the Footsteps of the

82nd Airborne Division" walk. The walk followed the trails of the 504th PIR during World War II through small villages and rural towns of eastern Belgium which were occupied by German troops. More than 1,000 active military and re-enactors made the walk vividly real as it must have been during battle.

The journey to Belgium started on February 15 when my husband, Bernie; my son and daughter-in-law, Russell and Binu; and I left Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport for Belgium. It was emotional from the start as the airport is adjacent to Ft. Snelling National Cemetery where my father is interred. We took off flying over that beautiful cemetery where all too many young men and women are buried.

This was a most amazing and memorable trip. The highlight was meeting the liberated people of Belgium who, to this very day, honor, respect, and cherish the American serviceman.

"We will never forget that they did their duty," said Mathilde Schmetz, who along with her

...continued on page 4

...Peter, from page 3

husband, Marcel, established and operate the extraordinary Remember Museum in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium, dedicated to soldiers of the Battle of the Bulge. "Now we must do ours and never forget."

The museum holds thousands of personal World War II items left by American troops who used farm buildings for shelter. This museum should be a stopping point for anyone interested in World War II history. Visit it online at remembermuseum.com.

On February 21 we stood together as a family of a fallen American soldier along with men and women who under-

stood our years of grief. As we honored my father with flags, songs, flowers and tears, we remembered all the fallen who now lie in marked and unmarked graves around the world. We must never forget their sacrifice or the families who have to go on without them. Pray for lasting peace and comfort for those who will always carry the marks of war, terrorism and oppression.

We stood together in a farm field surrounded by the thick Ardennes Forest, and our Belgian hosts declared it to be forever called "Glenn's Field."

Erik Van der Hoeven of The Netherlands, along with others of the C-47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter, was instru-

mental in planning many of the meaningful events of our trip. In a letter sent to me after we returned Erik wrote:

There is no better proof of the contribution The Greatest Generation, with Glenn as a prominent member of it, made to make this planet into a better world than the ceremony we have had in Glenn's field in Lanzerath. Being there together 69 years after the events of that fateful January 30, 1945, was, for all of us, a most intense and intimate moment. In a small corner of German-speaking Belgium, with our group covering more than three nationalities, more than four languages, and including people from at least three continents and three generations, all gathered there on the occasion of Judy's visit to what we - from now on - will call Glenn's field.

In Their Memory, and with the hopes and prayers that all of you will find the peace and closure you long for for all these many years. Our God is good, all the time, and knows our hurts that seem never to heal. Trust that someday we will all be united again and those tears will stop flowing. He promised! All of you are in my heart, always.



A display marking "Glenn's Field," and at right, a brochure of the C-47 Club Salm River Chapter, which hosts veterans, relatives and those interested in the history of the Battle of the Bulge. The brochure features Durkee's father, middle right.

AWONers to meet in September

AWON to provide airport shuttle, “buddies”

Here's the latest news about the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle:

Transportation

Seattle has a light rail system that operates between downtown and the airport. The fare is 75 cents for seniors. The issue with the light rail is that it is a about a four-block uphill walk from the University Street station to the hotel, or a six-block less hilly walk from Westlake station. If you do not want to walk, you can take a cab from the Westlake station, but this requires a luggage transfer.

A second option is Shuttle Express from the airport directly to the Renaissance, about \$18. Their website is: <http://www.shuttleexpress.com/hotel-airport-shuttle-service#DSeattle>.

A third option is the ten-passenger shuttle AWON will run between the airport and the Renaissance from September 2-4. AWON will provide it for free but will ask for donations. Do not give your donation to the driver, but do feel free to tip the driver. Donations should be given at the conference registration desk. The shuttle will run once every hour between the Renaissance and airport. Conference attendees may experience a wait. Those who are interested in the AWON shuttle are asked to email Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com with their arrival time so that you can be scheduled for the shuttle.

Cabs can be as much as \$50, and there are other transportation services, but many of them are new so we don't recommend them.

Parking

There are two parking lots approximately two blocks away from the Renaissance. One is at 8th and Marion: \$12 all day, \$5 evenings (6p.m. to 6 a.m.). The other is at

8th and Madison, \$14 all day and \$5 all night. Neither has in-and-out privileges, and both are outside and unguarded. Hotel parking is \$22 per day with in-and-out privileges, and is inside.

Conference Buddies

First Timers will be assigned a “buddy” or experienced member to help them get acclimated quickly and easily to the AWON conference. The buddy will introduce them to other members, make sure the newcomer is given the option to join any groups having a meal or to join in non-conference-related tours or activities, and to answer any questions. If you would like to volunteer to be a “buddy,” please contact Judi Hollis Kramer at ladybug5@juno.com or Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com.

Roommates

If attendees traveling alone wish to share a room with someone, contact Judi and Barry, above, who will try to pair up others who also want to share a room.

Conference Raffle

The raffle will be held after the banquet on Saturday. All items are donated by attendees. Raffle items should be something that can be easily transported. It could be something representing your home state, such as a book, coffee cup, or food item, but no white elephants. Proceeds go to the conference fund. For more information contact Judi, above, or call her at (360)373-0938.

Hotel Reservations and Registration

Hotel reservation information is on page 6. If making reservations by phone, be sure to mention the hotel name - the Renaissance Seattle Hotel. A conference registration form appears on page 7.

Seattle an outdoors destination

What to do in, beyond the Emerald City

Some free time has been built into the Seattle conference. Here are some ideas for filling it:

In Seattle

- The Space Needle, Seattle's icon since the 1962 World's Fair, observation deck and revolving restaurant
- Chihuly glass garden, a garden made of glass
- Pike Place Market, the country's longest continuously operated farmers market, fish throwing, ghost tours, gum wall and more
- Historic water front, a variety of shops and good seafood dining
- Other local points of interest include the Museum of History and Industry, the Seattle Art Museum, the Pacific Science Center, the Burke Museum, LeMay America's Car Museum in Tacoma, Century Link Field (home to the Seattle Seahawks), and the local music scene

Water Tours

- Take a ferry across Puget Sound, AWON group will go to Bremerton by ferry on Sept. 7 to see AWON plaque from 1995 AWON National Conference
- Take a harbor tour to see Seattle from the water
- Tillicum Village on Blake island for a native dining experience of butter clams on the beach, and salmon cooked native style and a wonderful Native American show after dinner
- Book a dining cruise with narration and live music

Other Places, Other Spaces

- Boeing Factory, where the jumbo jets are built in the largest building in the world in cubic square feet
- Crystal Mountain, southeast of Seattle, take a gondola up 2,800 feet to see all five volcanoes in Washington



- Victoria, British Columbia, see Butchart Gardens, Butterfly Gardens and the Empress Hotel, very walkable city but visitors need a passport
- Whale watching in the San Juan Islands

Ready to Relax?

- When you are all done exploring and want to relax, enjoy the views of the city from the AWON Bookstore and hospitality rooms at the Renaissance, and rooftop dining and drinks in the R room

2014 AWON National Conference

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Sept. 4-7, 2014

Group Rate Starts Sept. 2

Room rates:

1-2 pp \$129/tax

3-4 pp \$139/tax

Reservations: (877) 901-6632

resweb.passkey.com/go/orphans

Registration Form
2014 AWON National Conference
I'll Be "Sealing" You – In Seattle
Seattle, Washington • September 4–7, 2014
Please return registration as soon as possible

Member Name: _____
Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Is this your first AWON Conference? (circle one) yes no
Do you want registration information listed in the conference roster? yes no
Do you have special needs? (If so, please indicate below) yes no

Please indicate choice and number of banquet entrees: Chicken _____ Fish _____
Vegetarian _____ Beef _____ (additional \$5)

Registration Fee
(includes banquet)

Active Member	\$125 / \$75 deposit	\$ _____
Inactive Member	\$150 / \$75 deposit	\$ _____
First Guest	\$75 / \$50 deposit	\$ _____
Add'l Guests w/banq.	\$65 / \$50 deposit	\$ _____
Add'l Guests no banq.	\$30 / \$15 deposit	\$ _____

Total registration fee enclosed: \$ _____

Name Tag Information (please print clearly)

Name (include maiden name) and state of residence: _____
Name of spouse/partner attending: _____
Name of mother attending: _____
Other guests attending (designate if veteran): _____
Serviceman's name: _____ Branch of Service _____
rank first middle last
KIA or MIA (circle one) Date KIA/MIA _____ Country KIA/MIA _____

Mail registration form with check or money order payable to **AWON** to:

AWON 2014 National Conference
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

AWON Overseas Friend dies unexpectedly

AWON remembers beloved members, family, friends

Donald K. Gilbert, 73, passed away April 2, 2014, in Boerne, Texas. Don was the son of the late Pvt. Kenneth J. Gilbert and the late Mary Cihiy Gilbert. He is survived by two sisters, Maryanne Gilbert Pollick and AWONer Andrea Gilbert Shreves; two nieces; two nephews, and several grand nieces and nephews. Don was the docent who led AWONers through the Alamo at the 2006 AWON National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.



Gilbert

Margaret A. "Peggy" Hopkins, 96, mother of AWONer Penny Hopkins LeGrand, passed away at her home in Oro Valley, Arizona, on March 26, 2014. She was the widow of 1st Lt. Charles E. Hopkins Jr., U.S. Army Air Corps. She is survived by her daughter, Penny, son, Richard Hopkins Gray; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Hopkins

She was preceded by one granddaughter.

Kent F. Kelly, 50, son of AWONer Barb Francis Kelly, passed away May 30, 2014, in Indianapolis, following a long battle with brain cancer. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. In addition to his mother, Kent is survived by his son, Christopher; father and stepmother; sister, Kristie (Tom) Clark; and extended family. He was pre-



Kelly

ceded by his grandparents, particularly, his maternal grandfather, Lt. George "Bob" Francis.

AWON was surprised to learn of the unexpected passing of AWON Overseas friend, Denise Thill, of Luxembourg, on June 7, 2014, at Mont-St. Michel in Normandy, France. Denise and her companion, Marco Eifes, were there as members of United States Veterans Friends, Luxembourg (USVFL), an organization dedicated to honoring U.S. World War II veterans and their families.



Thill

On D-Day (June 6) Denise and Marco had participated in the 70th anniversary ceremonies commemorating the Allied landings in Normandy.

AWONer Roger Connor offers these reminiscences of Denise:

"I found AWON in 1999 and soon decided that as a way to honor my father's life and death, I had to be at his grave as the millennium turned. I was granted permission to be in the cemetery at that historic hour. A friend introduced me to Denise, who invited me to stay with her in her home for almost two weeks in December 1999 and January 2000.

"Through Denise I met key members of the cemetery staff and officers of USVFL, and with the help of these wonderful people, I was able to accomplish all I had set out to do, and more. Denise took time off from work to facilitate my activities, and before I left she gave me a grand tour of Luxembourg - a tiny jewel of a country, the size of Rhode Island.

"During a subsequent trip to Luxembourg in 2006 I was, again, the beneficiary of her hospitality and kindness. In 2009 and also in 2010, I was in Luxembourg during Friendship Week, and observed

American WWII Orphans Network

Durkee Named MA National Guard Support Person of Year

In March, Waltham, Massachusetts AWONer Mary Anne Durkee and her daughter, Kelly Durkee-Erwin, were named the 2013 Massachusetts Army National Guard Family Support Persons of the Year.

Durkee has helped soldiers and veterans since her father was KIA in World War II. According to her daughter Durkee has done a series of amazing volunteer projects as a member of different organizations, including AWON, Gold Star Families, Blue Star Mothers, VFW Ladies Auxiliary Sullivan Post 10334, and Serve Our Servicemen.

Throughout her life Durkee has supported friends, neighbors, brothers-in-law, daughters-in-law, her husband, and three sons. Her oldest son, Scot Durkee, was a tank commander in the first Iraq War. Her youngest son, Brien Durkee, was deployed twice - once stateside and once to Afghanistan, where he came home with a purple heart. Since then, the family has been members of the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #205. Son Sean Durkee currently is serving as a warrant officer in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and is senior vice commander of the Waltham VFW 2152.



Oregon Dedicates WWII Memorial

On June 6 - D-Day - the State of Oregon dedicated its World War II Memorial.

AWONer Sherry Haxby, who had been anxiously awaiting the memorial's completion, had to miss the dedication but visited the memorial a few weeks later.

It sits on a corner adjacent to the state capitol in Salem. There are two long walls inscribed with the names of those who were killed or are missing in action. There are several benches for visitors to sit and reflect or enjoy lunch.

The memorial was made possible through the efforts of a group of Vietnam veterans.

Pictured above is the memorial, with Sherry pointing to her father's name.

Sherry also points out that there were about 4,000 casualties in Oregon, "a small state with only one big city."

first hand her great contribution to that complex week-long event in honor of World War II veterans. In 2009 my wife, Sharon, was with me, and I was so pleased that she got to meet this woman I had spoken of so often.

"During the last few years of her life, Denise became close friends with Marco Eifes, a widower and member of USVFL. Together they continued to be of service to AWONers. Just this past Memorial Day, Denise accompanied AWONer Cherril Wehmüller McMillian as she presented the AWON wreath. Denise and Marco also invited Cherril and her husband, Kent, to dinner, and the

next day took them on a tour of Luxembourg City. To the very end of her life, which ended too soon at the age of 68, Denise was a friend of AWON and AWONers.

"At her memorial service, the church could not accommodate all who wanted to pay their respects to Denise; the crowd overflowed into the street. She was as beloved in Luxembourg as she was by those of us in America who had the honor of knowing her. She will be sorely missed."

Memorable Memorial Day at Sicily-Rome

by Gail Brown

My husband, Rex, and I flew to Milan, Italy on May 14. After touring Bellagio, Venice, Siena, and Cinque Terre, we arrived in Nettuno, south of Rome, on May 25. We wanted to be at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery for Memorial Day. My daughter and I were there in 2000, and I wanted my husband to share the experience, too. This Memorial Day was quite special since there would be a ribbon-cutting for the new Visitor Center prior to the ceremony.

The morning of May 26 was sunny and warm when we arrived at the cemetery around 9 a.m. I had time to visit my father's gravesite before the ribbon-cutting. I was glad to see that the flowers I had ordered through the American Battle Monuments Commission were there, along with flags representing the United States and Italy. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts had placed these flags on all the gravesites a day or so before. Sicily-Rome American Cemetery is a beautiful place, as are all the ABMC cemeteries, and I felt so blessed to have made a second trip there.

When we walked back to the Visitor Center for the

ribbon-cutting, I found my dear friend, Alessandro Campagna, who belongs to a group that studies the history of World War II in the area around Formia, Cassino, and Anzio. When my daughter and I were there in 2000, he very kindly drove us all around the area where my father was killed. With Giacinto Mastrogiovanni, Ales-



Gail at her father's grave Memorial Day.

sandro has recently written a book about the war in this area, and included a few words about my father, with his photograph. Of course the book is in Italian, and I can't read a word of it!

My father, First Lt. Harry Rudolph (Rudy) Albright, was killed May 12, 1944, during Operation Diadem, the Breakout on the Gustav Line. The Gustav Line extended all across Italy, and

the Germans believed that it was impenetrable. The Breakout began at 11 p.m. on May 11, and few survived the first assault.

Today Alessandro was with the First Special Service Force, a joint American-Canadian World War II fighting force formed to undertake special operations in Europe. Children and grandchildren of those who fought with the FSSF's Black Devils Brigade, along with 92-year-old veteran Eugene Gutierrez from McAllen, Texas, were on a tour that followed the FSSF's path. Rex and I were invited to join the group for a couple of days. We learned so much from Alessandro and Gianni Blasi, who led the group.

We were very impressed with the new Visitor Center, which details the war from Sicily up to Rome. There are plans to turn the old Visitor Center into a 1950s-era living room – something similar to what veterans would have returned to. Ambassador David J. Lane, U.S. Representative to U.N. Agencies in Rome, was the speaker for the ceremony, and we were able to meet him at the Visitor Center – a remarkable man, genuinely interested in Sicily-Rome American Cemetery.

Any military ceremony is

impressive, and Memorial Day is no exception. Both American and Italian military bands played, and various speakers talked about the importance of remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The most poignant moment was the playing of Taps by the American bugler, echoed by the Italian bugler. The AWON wreath was quite beautiful, and I was honored to be there representing AWON.

After the ceremony we spent some time looking around and visiting a few gravesites of friends' fathers before joining the FSSF group as they travelled to Cassino. We spent the afternoon at an excellent war museum, Piana delle Orme, that had exhibits about the Italians who were transported to concentration camps, as well as various World War II battles.

The next day, our last full day in Italy, we joined the FSSF group to visit Monte Cassino, the abbey that was destroyed by Allied bombing. It has been beautifully restored, with almost everything returned as it was prior to the bombing.

That afternoon, Alessandro drove Rex and me to the area where my father was killed – Hills 66 and 69, near Mintur-



Rex and Gail Brown with Ambassador Lane.

no. He had taken my daughter and me there in 2000, but then we only looked at the hills from a distance. This time we were to hike up the hills! Giacinto met us, and we began climbing through thistles, brambles, rocks, and high grass.

When we got to the top, we could see the remains of German trenches and foxholes, as well as the mountains that the Germans thought the Allies could not conquer. Giacinto videotaped as Alessandro interviewed me, to get my feelings about being at the place where my father was killed. He promised to send it to me, and I can't wait to view it!

I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to experience this lovely green, peaceful scene, since the pictures I have from 1944 war-time are very different, with vegetation destroyed, dark, and depressing. Time really

***Finding Fathers* Film Available Online**

Photojournalist and filmmaker France Costrel, a native of Normandy, France, has produced her first documentary, *Finding Fathers*.

The 40-minute film, which has won numerous awards, is an in-depth look at how World War II orphans struggled to overcome the loss of the fathers they never knew. The film follows AWONers Harry Strahlendorf and Maxine Graham Olson, and orphan Anne Snyder, as they explore the relationship between memory and history, places and identity.

Viewers either can rent the film online for \$2 or buy it for \$5 online. A trailer may be viewed for free.

For more information, go to: <http://findingfathers.weebly.com/> or watch on demand at: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/findingfathers>

does heal both the spirit and the land.

One of my friends tells me that I must be part Italian to love the country so much, but I have nary a drop of Italian blood. I think I love Italy because that's where my father gave his all, not only to protect his country and his family, but to bring peace to Italy itself.

Memorial Day 2014

For the eleventh year, AWON presented Memorial Day wreaths at 15 American military cemeteries overseas. Each floral wreath is emblazoned with the names of AWON fathers buried or memorialized at that cemetery. The AWON Memorial Day Wreath Project is chaired by Sharon Crowley Connor, with design assistance from Webmaster Rik Peirson, and overseas coordination assistance from AWON's many Overseas Friends. More color photos and information are online at <http://www.awon.org/new/memorials.html>



Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, Italy

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bill Chiodo • Presenter – Superintendent John Luncheon • Honors – Lt. Col. Charlotte Carpenter, U.S. Marine Corps Attaché to Italy, U.S. Embassy in Rome (pictured); and Vicenza, Italy VFW 8862 Past Commander Ron Reynolds (not pictured)



Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, Belgium

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Gail Eisenhower • AWON Overseas Coordinator and Presenter – Bernard Achten



Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, Netherlands

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Gerry Morenski • Presenters – AWON Overseas Friend Henk Dideriks, AWONer Angela Christian, and her daughter, Frances. Also in attendance, AWON Overseas friend Joost Claassens



Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Paul Bremer • Presenters – AWONers Paul Bremer and Billy Winters



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, England
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Jean Rhinehart • Presenters – Staff



Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, Luxembourg

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Donna O'Brien • AWON Overseas Coordinator – Denise Thill • Presenters – AWONer Cheril Wehmueller McMillian and Denise Thill, U.S. Veterans Friends, Luxembourg, placing flags on McMillian's grave the day before. *Editor's note: Thill passed away unexpectedly in Normandy on D-Day. Her obituary appears on page 8.*



Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial, Italy
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bob Meek • Presenter – AWONer Gail Brown



Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Philippines

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Patty Temte • AWON Overseas Coordinator – Asst. Cemetery Superintendent Bert Caloud (front row, left) • Presenters - AWONers Vicente Lim III and Vicente Lim IV (front row, second and third from left). Also present were Superintendent Larry Atkison, center, and Lim family and friends.

Memorial Day 2014 Stateside

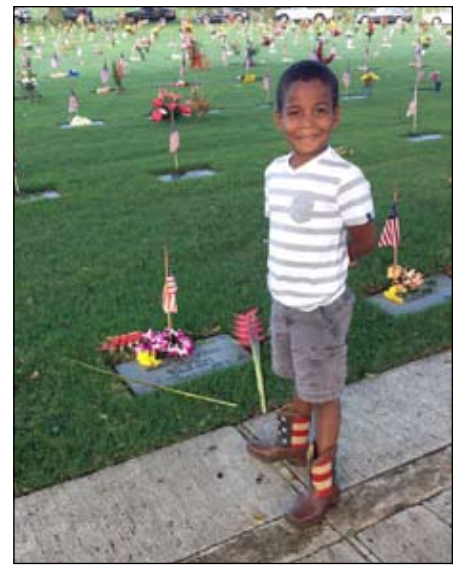
More images of AWON
Memorial Day wreaths will
appear in the October issue
of *The Star*

A Message to AWON

Oscar Castaneda, a U.S. Navy veteran now working with the federal service in Germany, sent this letter to AWON members:

This past Memorial Day 2014, I attended the service for the 5,000+ Americans buried in Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. There were many wreaths presented by various organizations, but the one that touched me the most was the wreath presented by The American WWII Orphans Network. Please let the members of your organization know that their loved ones will never be forgotten, and to always remember that the blood of "heroes" runs through their veins. Feel free to share my video with your organization at <http://youtu.be/yToMK78mXcY>

*Sincerely,
Oscar Castaneda*



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific "Punchbowl"

AWONers Vanita Rae Smith and Alix Bonnyman Pre-jean, pictured left, have presented the AWON wreath on Memorial Day in Honolulu for about ten years. Vanita's grand-nephew, Solomon, pictured right, has attended the ceremony for the past five years. He is standing at the grave of war correspondent Ernie Pyle, a civilian who was accorded military honors.



White House Gold Star Families Breakfast

For the fourth time AWON was invited to attend the annual White House Gold Star Families Breakfast on Memorial Day. Representing AWON this year was, left to right, Jean Herz Felger, Ed Peters. Donna Talhelm Pile, and Ron- dy Elliott.

AWON raises awareness at WWII Weekend

by Norm Burkey

As many of you know, there is a huge World War II show in Reading, Pennsylvania, each June. The Mid Atlantic Air Museum's *World War II Weekend* includes planes, hundreds of re-enactors, talks by World War II vets, music, displays, and other features too numerous to mention. You can check it out at www.maam.org.

The *World War II Weekend* has been going on for 24 years, and AWON has been there for at least ten years. The first year we attended we made our own arrangements, but fellow orphan, Rusty Lerch, who has served

as a volunteer for the show for many years, came to the realization that first year that he was one of us. Since then, he has made arrangements for a free table, including a few passes, in a prime location.

This year, as usual, Rusty did a great job arranging for the table and our passes. His son, Kevin, also attends the show every year. And his grandson is now a re-enactor and is rebuilding a Jeep, in his granddad's garage. His other grandson missed this year for the first time in several years.

AWON's purpose in attending is two-fold. First, AWON wants to let the general public know we exist; and just as

importantly, AWON hopes to locate more war orphans. There have been some years when we found more orphans, but most years, we have found at least one.

This was one of our more successful events in several years. We found three potential members. One has visited the table several times in the past but hasn't been able to move forward. Hopefully this will be the year she decides to join us. Mostly, she walks around the show holding her dad's information and weeps.

We also assisted another person who has an unknown relative in England by referring her to GITRACE. This organization was founded to locate American fathers of British children born during the war. The English person contacted the American family years ago, but they found the situation too embarrassing. I told her to keep us informed even though it isn't an orphan situation.

Then Elizabeth stopped by and specifically asked us to thank all AWON members for their sacrifice. Her grandfather lost his parents, siblings, wife and son in the concentration camps. He met a fellow prisoner and they eventually married and found their way to the United States. As she told us, "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all those who sacrificed so much to win the war."

Cuddy Raising Funds for Plaque Restoration

AWONer Richard Cuddy is trying to raise \$15,000 to restore plaques bearing the names of Port Chester, New York, residents who were killed in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

There are about 100 plaques on trees around Port Chester's Lyon Park. The money will be used to replace 33 missing plaques, as well as refurbish the remaining ones. The plan also calls for moving the plaques from tree trunks to the base of each tree.

An article in the *Central Westchester - Sound Shore Express* says AWON inspired Cuddy to take on the project. Every Memorial Day he and a few others arrange for an American flag to be flown at the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial in Tunisia. Cuddy's father, Maj. William V. Cuddy, was killed in action in a crash in North Africa in 1943.

For information about the plaque restoration effort, contact Cuddy at westfair21@aol.com.

Welcome New Members

Joanna Haven, MD, granddau of SGT William C. Copeland, Army
Bernard Boland, MN, son of 2LT Bernard H. Boland, Army
Karen Yancy, TX, niece of PVT Daniel A. Yancy, Army
Stephen Feldman, CA, son of Gerald Danziger, Navy
Carol Donahue, NJ, dau of S/SGT Stephen J. Coleman, Army
Jo Lynn Hunt, FL, dau of FO Max L. Hunt, Army Air Corps
Karla Owens, TX, niece of PVT Daniel A. Yancy, Army
Carol Messeri, NY, dau of Thomas DeCesare

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

2 WWII servicemen returned for April burials

The remains of two servicemen from World War II recently were identified and buried with full military honors.

According to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, Army Pfc. William T. Carneal, 24, of Paducah, Kentucky, was buried in April in his hometown.

In mid-June 1944, the 27th Infantry Division landed on Saipan as part of the Allied goal of securing the Mariana Islands. On July 7, 1944, enemy forces conducted an intense attack on the 27th ID, 105th Infantry Regiment position. During these attacks, elements of the 105th sustained heavy losses, killing and injuring more than 900 servicemen. Carneal was reported killed in action.

On March 21, 2013, a Japa-

nese nongovernmental organization worker uncovered human remains, personal effects, and military equipment while searching for Japanese soldiers on the northern coastline of Saipan Island. The remains and equipment suggested that the burial site belonged to an American soldier. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command was notified, and three days later two JPAC anthropologists excavated the site.

Carneal was identified through circumstantial evidence, dental comparisons, and mitochondrial DNA that matched Carneal's maternal-line grand-nieces.

DPMO also announced that U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Verne L. Gibb, 22, of Topeka, Kansas, was buried in Leavenworth in April.

Gibb was the pilot of a C-47B

Skytrain, with three other crew members and two passengers, which departed Burma en route to India, on a routine cargo flight. The weather along the route was unfavorable and the aircraft was never seen again.

More than 60 aerial search missions were flown to recover the crew and passengers, but the crash site was never located. All six men aboard the aircraft were declared dead.

In May 2002, JPAC received human remains that had been turned over to the U.S. Defense Attaché in Rangoon, Burma. A Burmese national reportedly found the remains 30 years earlier and gave them to a local priest, who in 2002 gave the remains to an American school teacher working in the area.

Gibb was identified through circumstantial evidence and mitochondrial DNA that matched Gibb's sister.

Our Wall

Submitted by Ben Weber

During the Battle of Britain in 1940, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill spoke these words:

The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

When the air battle against the fanatical German Luftwaffe was over, 544 Royal Air Force pilots and crew had made the ulti-

mate sacrifice. Britain was safe from Nazi tyranny.

Flt. Lt. William Walker, a British pilot shot down in August 1940 during the Battle of Britain, wrote the poem, *Our Wall*. It is inscribed at the National Memorial on the Dover Cliffs containing the names of 2,941 members of 'The Few' who flew in the battle from July to October 1940. Walker died October 21, 2012, at age 99.

Editor's note: Ben was inspired by the poem because it reminds him of his cousin, Second Lt. Zean Gassmann, U.S. Army Air Corps. He was 22 in March 1946 when he disappeared off Palawan, Philippine Islands, flying a P-51 Mustang. He was never seen or heard from again. The words in the poem that strike him the most are: Many now lie in sacred graves and many rest beneath the waves.

Our Wall

by William Walker

*Here inscribed the names of friends we knew
Young men with whom we often flew,
Scrambled to many angels high,
They knew that they or friends might die.
Many were very scarcely trained,
And many badly burnt or maimed.
Behind each name a story lies
Of bravery in summer skies;
Though many brave unwritten tales
Were simply told in vapour trails.
Many now lie in sacred graves
And many rest beneath the waves.
Outnumbered every day they flew,
Remembered here as just 'The Few.'*

Poem and photos reproduced by permission from the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust

© Battle of Britain Memorial Trust
<http://www.battleofbritainmemorial.org>

...Duston, from page 1

stopped that. He thought his uncles were his brothers. He was frequently taken advantage of by the local boys and once was convinced by others to steal from the movie theater, an event that landed him in juvenile jail for a year.

He was receiving a pension from the Veterans Administration as the handicapped child of a soldier killed in action, but we had no details. The VA had no record except a brief report of death that listed name, rank, serial number and death date in the European-North African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations. The family who might have known had died off, and his father and mother were not married. It was clear that his late mother could not face being an unwed mother of a handicapped child in a small Maine town in 1944.

The first thing we did was to take a trip to Florida and visit Disney World. George was thrilled and we had a great time. George is an affable guy who meets people easily, and if there's anybody from Maine in the vicinity, he will find them and we will find out how many friends we have in common.

A couple of years went by as I managed to get George out of a dysfunctional boarding home and into a subsidized housing apartment. We taught him to cook and take care of himself, and he kept

one of the neatest apartments - much to the amazement of the old ladies there.

Then one day, his, mine, and the whole town's life changed when I read an article in the *Sunday Parade Magazine* about Ann Mix and AWON. Her story was inspiring and in-

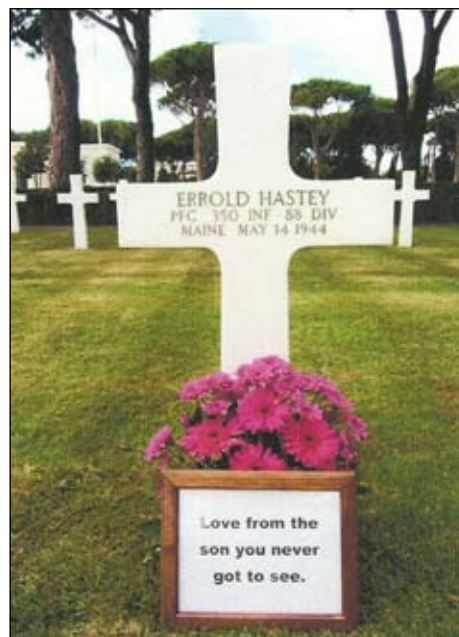
cluded her email. Two hours later, Pfc. Errold Hastey, 350th Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division, was located in Section H, Row 12 and Grave 5 of the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. Ann's email went on to say that George was entitled to a free passport as next of kin to visit the grave. We were put in touch with the secretary for the 88th Division, who made George an honorary member and an orphan of the Division. Needless to say, George joined AWON.

The following year we spotted an advertisement for Luxembourg Air's new international flights and cheap introductory airfare. I already had obtained a passport for George so I called the airline. When I mentioned the purpose of the trip, we received a further discount. The booking clerk explained that Luxembourg provided deep discounts to World War II veterans and their orphans as a way of expressing gratitude for the sacrifices we made to liberate them from the Nazis.

We flew to Luxembourg just before Memorial Day 1999, but the plane was delayed and we missed our connection to Rome. The Luxembourgers put us up for the night



Above, U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard with Lt. Duston and George at Pfc. Errold Hastey's grave in 1999. Below, several times a year George has flowers placed at the grave.



and gave us a VIP tour of the city and, of course, a tour of the Luxembourg American Cemetery. We were moved by the dozens of school children who placed an American flag, a Luxembourg flag, and a red rose on each of our soldier's graves. The cemetery director who gave us the tour explained that they want to continue teaching their school children about the cost of their liberty in the blood of so many American young men who were buried in their soil.

On to Rome. Hotel rooms downtown had been arranged for us by the American Battle Monuments Commission, very near the American Embassy. Memorial Day dawned clear, warm and beautiful. The lieutenant colonel in charge of the cemetery came with his car and driver to take us to the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, which is about 30 miles outside the city. At the cemetery, the superintendent met us and personally escorted George to the grave site.

The scene brought tears to our eyes. George was reunited with the father he never knew, in a place far from home in Maine. Of all the tens of thousands of service people buried or memorialized at the cemetery, George was the only next of kin in attendance, yet the Memorial Day program was conducted as if all the families were there.

The U.S. ambassador, the fleet admiral, and the Italian minister of defense all spoke. A full Italian military band played the Memorial Day pieces while memorial wreaths

were placed on the cemetery's monuments. Earlier, we had watched as boy scouts from American military bases in Europe on a campout helped place flags and helped clean the crosses and Stars of David.

As we were leaving and George was lingering over his father's white cross, the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Marine Honor Guard came over and offered to arrange a memorial photo for us with a couple of their team members. That photo and

the large poster of the cemetery hang in George's apartment in honored remembrance.

We had a few days in Rome where George and I walked from one end of the city to the other as we explored Roman ruins, ancient churches and chapels, and of course, the Coliseum. We went to Mass at St. Peter's and got all of Washington Coun-

ty, Maine, blessed by holding up the Town of Machias phone book when Pope John Paul II came out on the balcony to bless the people. The old guys on the downtown "Lars Bench" back in Cherryfield had asked us, jokingly, to bring them back blessings because they sure needed some. I don't know whose idea it was to bring the county phone book but we did and they got blessed.

The trip home was anticlimactic; we were tired, besides, George had never been anywhere out of the woods of Maine except for the Disney World trip the year before. Although George discovered where his father



Left, George with the Gold Star Medal from the State of Maine; right, First Lt. Peter Duston, USA (ret.), bugler with the 101st Air Refueling Wing Honor Guard at Bangor Air Base, Maine. (Images from cherryfieldlegion.org).

...continued on page 20

was buried, he still never got to find out who his father really was as a living man.

Fast forward a few weeks to the Cherryfield "Liars Bench," where the old guys sit out in the sun in front of the local convenience store. George was showing off the scrapbook I had made of the photos from Italy and the trip. Joe Sproul, one of George's protectors in town, exclaimed, "George! I didn't know your father's name was Errold Hastey, because your last name is Cropley. I knew your father! In fact, Phyllis (Joe's wife) grew up next to your father and knew him well."

The following Sunday, George was invited to dinner and heard all about his father from Phyllis Sproul. She grew up next to the Hasteyes in Machias, and as a young girl had a "crush" on Errold. He was big, strong, and very respectful of the younger kids in the neighborhood. He loved to sing and had a wonderful voice. He was a hard worker and popular.

Phyllis remembered

the very day Errold left for the war. He and a neighbor boy walked down the long dirt road to the main road to catch the train for basic training. The girls watched him go. As he disappeared in the distance, he never looked back and never came back.

They had heard later that he was killed overseas, helping a wounded buddy. Errold's mother was inconsolable but they never heard anything about a child. Because his mother had opted for an overseas burial, there was nothing back in the hometown to remind anyone about Errold's fate. George was born at the other end of the county to a mother embarrassed by his birth, so George just became another casualty of World War II – an orphan.

It is amazing that we had to go all the way to Rome, Italy, and back to discover the truth that was there all along at home in downtown Cherryfield.

George sends flowers several times a year to the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, and receives lovely color photos of the flowers on his father's grave with a small notice that reads, "Love from the son you never got to see."

A Serendipitous Encounter

George made small donations in his father's memory to help build the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. When the memorial was dedicated, George received Founding Sponsor tickets to attend.

George and I traveled to Washington on the train from Portland, Maine, with hundreds of World War II veterans and their families going to the event. While walking in the crowd on the Mall, I bumped into former president Bill Clinton. Seeing my uniform, President Clinton thanked me for my World War II service.

Explaining that I wasn't that old, I introduced him to George and explained how George was the one to be thanked, having to endure all those years of neglect and pain with no father or mother to protect him. The president stopped and spent quality time with George, expressing his and the country's thanks for what he had to suffer.

The State of Maine also honored George with a Gold Star Medal that George wears proudly at every event remembering our veterans for their sacrifice. It is heartwarming to know that George's sacrifice is also not forgotten.

George was three months old when his father was killed by a German sniper in Italy. Thank you, Ann Mix and AWON, for helping George Errold Cropley discover his father, Pfc. Errold Hastey, and heal the hole that George had in his heart for so many years.



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

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

____ *The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War*
by **Nancy Kenney** \$16.00

____ *"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
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by **Bruce Brodowski** **FREE WHILE COPIES LAST!**

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by **Jeff Wignall** \$18.95

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by **Imogene Woods** and Twelve WWII Infantrymen \$15.00

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____ *In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network*
by Turner Publishing Company
Standard Book was \$49.95 **REDUCED!** \$10.00
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____ *The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on
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hardcover \$35.00 softcover \$24.00

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

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in World War II*
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____ *An 8th Air Force Combat Diary*
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by **Susan Johnson Hadler** and **Ann Bennett Mix** \$32.50

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by **William C. McGuire II** \$16.95

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by **Michael J. Goodwin** \$19.95



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



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____ *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

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

____ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers*
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**
was \$15.00 \$ 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*
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____ Golf shirt ____ white ____ blue \$35.00
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(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

____ Hat \$15.00

____ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00

____ **AWON 20th Anniversary Totebag** *\$10.00
* small, P&H included

____ Tote bag (large) \$20.00

____ **20th Anniversary Garden Flags** \$15.00
without holder

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

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(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.

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5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

email: bookstore@awon.org

For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html

AWONers featured in ABMC online videos

AWON is partnering with the American Battle Monuments Commission in the ABMC's "Never Forgotten" video series.

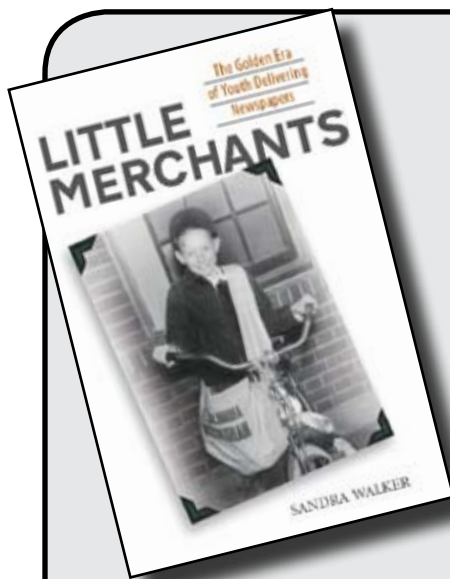
This online series, which started production last fall, helps to tell the story of those who gave their lives from the perspective of their family members. Currently the focus is on those buried or memorialized at Cambridge (England) and Sicily-Rome American Cemeteries, because those cemeteries are in the process of adding or have recently added visitor centers.

Each interview will be 2-3 minutes in length and will be shown on the ABMC website.

Initially, ABMC interviewed subjects who were in the Washington, D.C., area, but may expand the interview area as well as the number of ABMC cemeteries involved.

So far, two AWON members have been interviewed and videotaped: Ken Underwood and Jean Brooks Rhinehart, with a third - Bob Meek - in the process.

Their videos can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNf0XtfKcdTrdCsZrC_2JjxRczGRgcml or at <http://www.multivu.com/mnr/61800-abmc-never-forgotten-online-video-series-honors-world-war-i-and-ii-fallen>



The Golden Era of Youth Delivering Newspapers

Multi-million dollar businesses - entrusted to youth! This is the story of legions of children put in charge of the daily delivery of America's newspapers, all the while having adventures - and misadventures - along the route. *Little Merchants*, compiled from oral histories, shares evocative stories that arc from hilarious to horrific, poignant to repugnant. Explore the heyday and vintage photos of this almost by-gone era. Paperboys and papergirls - an American icon.

Sandra Walker, a World War II orphan, began researching her newspaper project to honor the memory of her brother, a former Mount Vernon Daily News (Ohio) paperboy. Discovering abundant stories, she expanded her scope to across America, interviewing hundreds of former paperboys and girls. As a teacher and counselor, she understood the rowdiness and reliability of these energetic children.



Walker was the co-chair of the first AWON National Conference, held in Seattle in 1995. She is donating a share of the book's receipts to AWON. It can be ordered online at www.thelittlemerchants.com or at Amazon.com for \$16.95 plus shipping.

If you want an autographed book label, contact Sandra at (425) 265-0718 or papercarrierusa@msn.com.

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



Kansas AWONers and their spouses had their second annual get-together in early April. Of our group, Judy Hathaway was the only one who had been seen by her father. The rest of us were born after our fathers had been killed. "It's like a bunch of brothers and sisters getting together," comments Jackie Rackley. "My husband, Don, and I are really looking forward to the Seattle conference. AWON has really met a need in my life. I love getting together with fellow orphans." Pictured above, from left, are Warren McNulty, Norman Stahl, Larry and Judy Hathaway, Don and Jackie Rackley, Howard and Penny Walker, and Janet McNulty. *Jackie*

As usual there was non-stop talk about our fathers and our experiences during an extended lunch. Jean Frinks Reid from Virginia was in Dallas visiting her daughter and was able to join us. Suzanne Parker and her husband drove down from Oklahoma City and met Suzanne's very first AWON sibs. It was a very special day for all of us. Pictured, from left, are Bob Landrum, Bill Rogers, Patty Temte, Jean Reid, Mary Alice Renner, Suzanne Parker, and Jerry Pinkerton. *Patty*



Jerry and Judy Pinkerton and Jerry and Patty Temte hosted the north Texas regional group in April at the Temtes' Dallas home.

Some Florida members met in Viera, Florida, in April, to discuss the possibility of hosting the 2016 AWON National Conference in the sunshine state. Pictured at the meeting are Billy Winters, Jimmie McCollum, Paul and Barbara Bremer, Joyce Reynolds, Jamie McCollum, Sam and Rachel Tannenbaum, and Donnette Winters. After spending several hours together and determining that we had diverse opportunities, we decided to gather historical information about past biannual conferences. We also discussed locations and will investigate some other ideas. One of our goals is to entice more members to attend by keeping costs reasonable. We hope the venue would attract a nice turnout

of AWON members and spouses, and hopefully reach down further into family units so that additional or younger family members will participate. We all enjoyed some spirited conversation while getting to know each other and sharing about our fathers. *Jamie*



Barry Barr-Finch and Tom Brewer, left and center, of Seattle, checked out Diane, right, and John Baczynski's new home in Phoenix in April over Barry's birthday. *Barry*



A dozen members, spouses, family and friends from four states met in Pennsylvania in April for the annual York gathering. The night before the official gathering, some of the group met at Hofbrauhaus, a quaint German restaurant in a small town just west of

York. They had delicious German food and great conversation. Gail Eisenhower was joined by her cousin and his wife, Jeanne Rhinehart brought her friend, Terry, and of course there was York's "first lady," Lynne Lechrone. It was a delightful night of fine dining and interesting conversation. The next day the official gathering took place, as always, at Hoss' Steak and Sea House in York. Twelve folks joined in lunch and conversation, memories of our fathers, and other information concerning orphans and AWON. Pictured in the front row, from left are Janice Buterbaugh and Lynne Lechrone of Pennsylvania; and in the back row from left are Gail Eisenhower of Connecticut, Donna Allen of West Virginia, Ken Sills and Jeanne Rhinehart, both of Pennsylvania, Ed Peters of Virginia, and Rusty Lerch of Pennsylvania. They were joined by their spouses Pat Peters, Dick Allen and Dody Sills, and Jeanne's friend, Terry. *Lynne*

Star of The Star

***Ann Whelan O'Connor
AWON Archivist***

***Thanks for collecting,
preserving and storing
AWON materials
for safe keeping.***



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.

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**Deadline for the
October Issue
is September 1**

AWON Board Business 9 March 2014

2014 Conference Report: Conference co-chair **Judi Hollis Kramer** gave a progress report on the national conference in Seattle in September. The conference program is in place and volunteers have been identified. The price for memorial ads in the conference program booklet will be the same as they were in 2012 in Indianapolis. The Roosevelt High School dance band will play music from the '40s, '50s, and '60s for the reception and dance. The conference registration page will be reprinted in the next two issues of *The Star*, and information will be posted on the AWON website.

Financial Report: The financial report was approved as submitted.

AWON Election: Nominating Committee chair **Norm Burkey** gave a report on candidates the committee is seeking for the AWON Board of Directors.

AWON Archives Advocacy: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** will attend the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists in August in Washington, D.C., giving a presentation about AWON to the Military Archivist Round Table sub-group.

Future Planning: **Gerry Morenski** will be in Washington, D.C., in May, to meet with Friends of the National World War II Memorial, and the American Battle Monuments Commission, to tell them about AWON's father and orphan database, and how AWON's unique compilation may be of interest to them in the future. The board agreed to pay Morenski's airfare.

Website Redesign: **Ed Peters**, **Gerry Morenski** and **Kathy Le Comte** met with The Support Group, a website developer and tech support for the AWON database, to ask for recommendations for technical improvements to the AWON website. Based on TSG's recommendation and other considerations, and on behalf of Ed and Gerry, Kathy submitted a website improvement proposal to the board before the meeting. Discussion followed, without a consensus. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with a website redesign, details to be determined later. A roll call vote followed. The motion passed with five in favor and three abstentions.

Resignation: **Judy Hoffman**, president of the Board of Directors, resigned, referencing her objections to the website improvement project. Nominations to fill the position will be entertained at the next board meeting.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Judy Hathaway, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

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 _____

Do you prefer to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N

(Checking Y means you will not receive a copy in the mail. You will receive an email notification to read your copy online.)

Renewing members may skip to Dues Options.

Relationship to Serviceman _____

Your Date of Birth _____

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? Yes No

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: \$ _____

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
2848 Woodside St. #401
Dallas, TX 75204

Editor, The Star
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Springfield, IL 62704-2832

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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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Indianapolis, IN 46216
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

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