

The



Star

Issue 78

"We Speak Their Names"

October 2015

First sight of son inspires pride

Pilot: greatest triumph having family

by Billy Winters



Lt. William R. (Bob) and Gloria Winters

My grandfather, Will Winters, was born and raised in southern Wisconsin, the son of Irish immigrants who had settled in the area in 1885. Will was an industrious fellow, having been a successful grocer in the small town of Delavan before becoming a world champion life insurance salesman for New York Life Insurance Co. in 1924, when he was described by his superiors as "grimly determined." My grandmother, Grace, had grown up on a farm in the nearby town of Lyons before she and Will met and married in 1909.

William Robert Winters (Bobby to his mother) was the third child of Will and Grace, born on July 2, 1917. Bobby's sacramental record at St. Andrew's Catholic Church shows that he was baptized on July 15, 1917 and he was confirmed October 9, 1928, taking the confirmation name Francis.

Tragedy first struck this family in 1925 when Will died in an automobile crash, leaving eight-year-old Bobby and his older siblings, Margaret and Ed, to be raised by their single mother. Bobby graduated Delavan High School in 1935.

I don't have any details of Dad's life after high school. He may have tried various occupations, the last one as an auto mechanic at the Bee Line Garage in Newton, Iowa, where he worked with his brother and their friend, Jack Hughes. Then, on September 27, 1940, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois, with

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***I love you but I can't read what you write.
Why would you expect someone who
doesn't know you and doesn't
love you to interpret that scrawl?"***

*- Mama Conway
(Gerry Conway Morenski's mom)*

Either my eyes or your handwriting is getting worse (probably both). Please write clearly on your member form. Messy handwriting will result in your membership, address or email not being updated. Please print your email address on your checks and include your email address every time you renew. You may have forgotten to notify AWON of any changes to your email address.

Having a correct email address in the database ensures that you get timely communications.



Thank You,
Gerry Conway Morenski
dbmanager@awondb.org

...Comm tools, from page 3

discussion is needed to determine which communications should be used for a 'blast' email as there is a limit to the amount of emails that can be sent at one time.

7. AWON Facebook page - Much discussion centered around member suggestions for an AWON Facebook page. There is one in existence, but no one seemed to be the monitor. Director Mike Forgy volunteered to investigate and to then create and monitor a new AWON Facebook page. Mike will also work with the AWON Webmaster to have a link to the AWON website on the AWON Facebook page. Update: Since the March board meeting, a new AWON Facebook page has emerged. In order to access it, AWON active members need only to log into Facebook and search for the AWON group.

Editor's Note: Coming up in the next two issues of *The Star* is the board's response on member comments pertaining to AWON conferences and AWON funds.



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Board aims to evolve, create comm tools members want

by AWON Board of Directors

At this time last year the AWON Board of Directors scheduled time at the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle for members to discuss three questions that the board felt would be helpful in planning for the future of AWON. Each board director sat at a table and charted the responses. The responses were published in October 2014 issue of *The Star*, and were the focus of the in-person board meeting in March in Boston.

The board was divided into three groups, each group focusing on one of the questions presented in Seattle. The results of these discussions will be shared over the next three issues of *The Star*. The AWON Communications discussion is being shared in this issue. While each member comment was not addressed individually, the group did address updating methods of communication with members based on the areas of communication that received the most comment.

Below are the Seattle comments pertaining to AWON Communications, followed by the result of the board group discussion:

1. *The Star: having a smaller newsletter with a two-month turn-around* - Much of the discussion centered on the time constraints that would be put on *The Star* editor, and the added costs involved in *Star* mailings eight times a year rather than four. It was concluded that as most member comments about *The Star* were in praise of what we are now doing that we will continue with the delivery of four *Stars* per year.

2. *The Star: inclusion of a "Letters to the Editor" column* - All approved of this idea, and we will be working with *The Star* editor

over the next few issues to determine when this will be included.

3. *The Star: suggestion for a Letter from the AWON President on an annual basis to update members on board projects and results of those projects* - The result of the board group discussion was to include this idea in an upcoming issue of *The Star*, mostly likely the July issue.

4. *AWON ListServ* - While this is still a good communication tool for our active members, many folks are not using the ListServ. This could be simply evolution – folks are turning more to Facebook for communications. Result of the group discussion is to continue using the ListServ, but we need to promote its use through *The Star*.

5. *AWON Website* - Many members responded in Seattle that they only visit the website for conference information and Father's Tributes. There were some positive comments that the information on the AWON website is helpful to AWON members.

6. *AWON Database* - The board group supported the use of the database to communicate to members about their membership status, such as monthly emails to those whose membership is due for renewal and to those whose membership has lapsed. In addition, monthly emails are sent from the database to pertinent AWON volunteers (Regional Coordinators Manager, ListServ Manager, the AWON New Member Coordinator) to inform them of any new members for that month. Each of them communicate to the new member. Update: The AWON Database now has the capability to send a 'blast' email to all members. This was first used to promote the 2016 AWON National Conference Florida cruise. Further board

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National conference departs Florida in October 2016

Dozens book AWON cruise

by the Florida 2016 AWON
Conference Committee

Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. America, from border to border and coast to coast, and all the ships at sea... If famed radio commentator Walter Winchell were here today he'd say - rapidly, of course - that the 2016 AWON National Conference Florida cruise is going swimmingly.

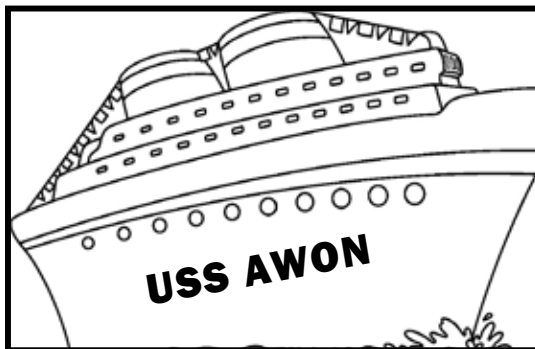
The five-night *Cruisin' in Freedom, Honoring Our Fathers* cruise departs Port Canaveral, Florida, on Oct. 30, 2016. So far, 72 people including two grandchildren have booked cabins. If you haven't committed by booking with a \$100 totally refundable deposit, please come on board for this first-in-a-lifetime tour of the western Caribbean with your AWON siblings - and bring your children and grandchildren!

The itinerary starts at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016, when the *Freedom of the Seas* departs Port Canaveral. The ship arrives in Coco Cay, Bahamas on Monday morning where it will spend the entire day.

AWON activities will be held on ship while at sea. Wednesday morning the ship arrives at Cozumel, Mexico, for the day. Thursday will be at sea again and will feature

various AWON activities. We arrive back at Port Canaveral Friday morning.

Your Florida 2016 AWON Conference Committee is planning stimulating speakers, Sharing Circles, a memorial service, a cocktail party, and lots of time to meet new AWON members and renew old friendships. The days at sea will be chock-full of AWON activities.



Please book your cabin now. Staterooms are selling out quickly. If you delay and AWON group cabins are sold, your cost will be higher. A fully refundable \$100 per person deposit until August 1, 2016, will get you the cabin of your choice at AWON rates. Cabins at the AWON group rates have been extended depending on availability.

If there is enough interest, we will book a hotel near the

port for people wishing to fly in before the cruise or stay after. The best airport to fly into is Orlando and you can arrange for Royal Caribbean to pick you up. We will have more details in the future.

Lastly, your Florida Committee needs volunteers to help make the AWON 2016 Conference more fantastic. Please contact Paul Bremer at bremergolf@aol.com, or Sam Tannenbaum at samtan7713@gmail.com to volunteer.

To book a cabin, contact cruise specialist Paula Podradchik at 877-583-3956 or 561-498-5461, or email her at ppodradchik@cruiseplanners.com. Here are the cabin choices. All rates are per person, double occupancy:

Interior:	K	\$506.23
Ocean View:	G	\$861.23
Promenade:	PR	\$526.23
Superior Balc:	D2	\$706.23

All prices include taxes and fees, and you will receive a \$50 per cabin on board credit to spend. You also may prepay gratuities. Please be prepared to give a valid passport number when booking a cabin.

**WANT TO BE ON A PANEL ABOUT
SIBLINGS? SEE NEXT PAGE...**



2016 AWON National Conference Sibling Panel Discussion

AWON members frequently refer to themselves as "siblings" even though there is no biological relationship. Many AWON members feel they have more experiences and emotions in common with other World War II orphans than with their blood siblings. However, there is much to learn about our relationships with blood siblings, half-siblings and step-siblings other than the obvious. Biological siblings, half-siblings and step-siblings was a recent topic on the AWON ListServ.

Dr. Vamik Volkan, M.D., is the author of a 2014 book with a very long title: Siblings in the Unconscious and Psychopathology: Womb Fantasies, Claustrophobias, Fear of Pregnancy, Murderous Rage, Animal Symbolism, Christmas and Easter "Neuroses," and Twinings or Identifications with Sisters and Brothers. Put simply, the book examines adults' identifications and mental representations of sisters and brothers in their daily lives.

Volkan, who is married to an AWONer, will moderate a panel on siblings during the 2016 AWON National Conference Florida cruise. Panel volunteers are asked to review the questions below as thought-starters (not to fill out and submit) and, if interested in participating, to contact Sam Tannenbaum at samtan7713@gmail.com.

Questions to Ask Yourself About You and Your Sibling

1. When did you start honoring your father? (e.g., child, adult, following death of mother/step-father, after visiting overseas cemetery/battlesite)
2. When did your sibling start honoring your father?
3. Did you and your sibling have different surnames?
4. What is your sibling's gender?
5. What is your sibling's birth order?
6. Did you and your sibling have different friends? (e.g., introverts, extroverts)
7. Did you and your sibling have different peer groups? (e.g., scholars, athletes)
8. Did you and your sibling have different interactions with teachers?
9. Did you and your sibling have unique experiences? (e.g., physical illness, auto accident)
10. Was there sibling rivalry?

FATHER, SON & FREEDOM

And so they come, armed young men in landing craft. They take the beach and march the flat roads north then take cover in leech-filled rice paddies as nineteen heavy machine guns like typewriters rip the blown out rice paddy dikes back and forth.

A Howitzer barks, overshooting a Sergeant. His B.A.R. now pours out 450 rounds a minute, and 14 magazines later, the big gun is silent as sniper fire rips into the 77th from the right flank. The 307th breast heavy fire from some 1,740 Japanese rifles, while the 306th take on the flanking fire from a tall lava spout 2,000 yards south of Camp Downes up on the Leyte hills. Captain Robert Bringham led round the left side of the rifle pits while 1st. Lt. Philip Ford led his men in a charge around the right. "FUNG GOO," yelled Ford, firing his rifle. "Forward men, I see them," and his Gerand spoke its last.

Two company officers advanced up Bloody "Hell Hole Hill", but only one returned. The other remained, paying Freedom's bill for his Country, for his grieving Widow for 47 years and he paid Liberty's Toll this day for the Grand Children of his Son, who will be two years old tomorrow.

His legacy, two medals: Silver Star, for Gallantry in Action and Purple Heart, for Meritorious Service paid for in blood. A life of just 28 years traded for two 7.7mm pieces of copper and lead, a telegram from General MacArthur and a flag of Red, White and Blue.

Like a million others o'r the years who climbed up the hill, from Bunker Hill to Gettysburg, Iwo Jima to Afghanistan and were carried back down the hill to serve forever on the hills of Arlington, Always Gallant, Always Brave. So many have dedicated their lives for Liberty for us all, have given their blood, their futures and their sacred honor for Freedom's call, just to watch now as we lose it all...

So how will you fight for Liberty's prize, will you Vote for Freedom next time? Will you carry a placard or an Activist be, will you be counted among America's Free? Say what you will on the public square, it's your right for Free citizens to do. Keep your rifle clean and your powder dry as Patriots did on Lexington's green. And support the Freedoms the Constitution gives and learn what that document means.

But never give up the Freedom's given you by GOD and paid for by the blood of America's Brave.

Tom Ford, Proud Son

The information for this piece came from the sergeant with the BAR and Lt. Bill Ketchum (later a California congressman) who were there and noted in a letter to Tom's Aunt Lola the "typewriter" bullets. Tom knows the exact spot of his father's death from a drawing from Col. Robert Bringham. The volcanic cone is visible on Google eye in the sky. Tom's dad was hit while taking off his gear to receive first aid, and shot again while lying on a stretcher. Tom's "uncle" (he referred to his dad's best friends as "uncle"), Capt. Arthur Brockless, was there, too, and broken-hearted at the loss of his friend. Ten days later, on the other side of Ormoc, Leyte, Capt. Brockless was far ahead of his troops, came upon a Japanese officer and two aides with all the battle plans. Capt. Brockless killed them and sent Tom the officer's Samurai sword, which he has and cherishes today.

Welcome New Members

Stephen Smith, IL, son of 1LT William A. Smith, Army
Linda Partridge, MN, dau of 1LT Norman E. Twetten, Army
Daniel Chapman, TX, grandson of PFC Albert L. Meyer, Army
James Price, OH, son of PVT Robert E. Lee Price, Army
John Piani, CA, CPL John T. Piani, Army
Kathryn Travis, PA, dau of James T. Gurley, Army
Cherie McCollum Eldridge, MO, granddau of PVT Clarence E. McCollum, Army

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

Easy, fun to organize an orphan group

Meet other members at a Regional Gathering

by Barry Barr-Finch

Have you ever wished you could have an AWON member close by? Have you wanted to talk to someone about something regarding your dad, or your family growing up? How about seeing some AWON members from time to time when you can't get to a conference? AWON has the answer to these questions: Regional Gatherings.

Local Regional Coordinators (LRCs) are AWON members who help keep us all in touch. AWON tries to have a Local Regional Coordinator in each state, or even more in larger population areas. There are about 50 LRC's now and hopefully they are organizing a gathering near you occasionally.

Some LRC's host Regional Gatherings at someone's home.

These can be potlucks to make life simpler for the host. Others arrange for the group to meet in a restaurant. AWON even will provide a small amount of funds to help defray costs, such as for a private room at a restaurant. A private room is a great way to meet in a central location and have a quieter, more private setting for a gathering.

There are no rules to a Gathering. A meal can be involved, or not. Attendees can dress up, or not. Spouses and siblings can come, or not. Gatherings can last 30 minutes or three hours. Two people can meet, or twenty. The only constant is that it's a time to share your father's story. Members frequently bring photographs, notebooks, or any other item related to their father to share.

After joining AWON a new member should be welcomed

by an LRC either by email, snail mail or a phone call. Sometimes this welcome has taken a while and we apologize. Everyone is a volunteer in AWON and sometimes things fall through the cracks. Sometimes illness, travel, family commitments and even technology issues prevent a quick welcome from being extended by an LRC. If this has happened to you please let me know and I will get an LRC to contact you.

LRCs will not give out your contact information to any other member without your permission. AWON is committed to your privacy. But if permission is granted then members can contact each other and even get together on their own. For example, here in Seattle a couple of ladies live fairly near each

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Update to floral fund program

ABMC to provide free photos to NOK

As reported in the March issue of *The Star*, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) has ended its Floral Program Fund and no longer is processing floral orders.

This does not mean flowers and wreaths cannot be placed at American National Cemeteries overseas. Instead, flower orders now must be placed directly with florists.

This was disappointing news to many in AWON, as it

greatly affects AWON's Memorial Day Wreath Program. Some members contacted ABMC, their congressmen, and other government officials. The change in policy is final, but the only apparent effect it has on AWON seems to be how floral displays are ordered.

At the time of the announcement it was unclear whether ABMC would continue to provide photos of floral arrangements. Now the ABMC has announced that it will

provide a photo to direct next-of-kin, at no charge. Direct next-of-kin are a parent, spouse, sibling or child of the deceased. Photos may be ordered using the online request form at abmc.gov/about-us/our-services/floral-arrangement-photo-request. Those who do not use computers or the internet may request a photo by calling 703-696-5177.

As for ordering flowers, the ABMC website has a list of commercial florists. ABMC does not endorse any particular florist but is providing the list as a service. Procedures for ordering flowers vary based on the vendor. For more information about ordering flowers, visit abmc.gov/about-us/our-services/order-floral-decoration.

Many AWON Overseas Friends realize the difficulty or uncertainty AWONers feel about the ABMC's policy change. Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz of Belgium, who operate the Remember Museum '39-'45, have offered their assistance.

"I talked with a florist who has his shop at Welkenraedt. His wreaths are the nicest, price and quality-wise. His red, white and blue wreaths rae just perfect," Mathilde says.

... Gatherings, from page 7

other and get together quite regularly.

At Regional Gatherings someone usually takes a picture of the group and sends it to *The Star* to appear in the *AWON Connections* column. Not only does this encourage other meetings, but it also helps us put a face to a name, and gives us another way to share in our camaraderie. For an example of two different types of Regional Gatherings see *AWON Connections* on pages 18-19 in this issue. One is a large group that has met for many years, while the other is a meeting of two members because one happened to be visiting the city of the other.

AWON always can use more LRCs. Even if there is an LRC in your area you both can be an LRC and share the load. All the job requires is a desire to meet other orphans, to arrange a meeting time and place, and then to enjoy yourselves. As head Regional Coordinator I will send you an email of the names and contact information for the members in your state or area. If you don't use email Judi Hollis Kramer will call or write. She enjoys calling people and I think that she is good at it.

If you would be interested in being an LRC, or if you have not heard from your LRC, let me know and I will connect you. You can reach me at barrfinch1@gmail.com or 206-200-0864.

Shop owner Mr. Leusch. He can be reached at fleurs-mertens@hotmail.com. He accepts payments via PayPal. His son delivers the flowers to the cemetery, placing them on the grave, and even will take a picture and send it via email.

AWON Overseas Friend Jean Marc Lesueur of France also has been very helpful to AWON, contacting ABMC officials in Washington to express AWON's concerns, and informing AWON about the photo request policy two months before it was made public.

For more information about the ABMC floral program, visit abmc.gov/about-us/our-services/order-floral-decoration.

New ABMC film features AWONer, Dutch

The ABMC has released a new short film, *The Journey Back*. It tells the story of S/Sgt. Max Chotin, and how his son, AWONer Arthur Chotin, visits Margraten to deliver a meaningful thank you to the Dutch people during the 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony. Chotin also meets for the first time the Naaijken family that has adopted his father's gravesite. Visit abmc.gov/multimedia/videos/journey-back. There also is a full transcript of the video.

Margraten Adoption Committee grateful for AWON gift

AWON received this letter following this spring's AWON Margraten tour:

Dear Mrs. Ann Bennett Mix,

"In 1962 President John F. Kennedy, in response to a question from a reporter about the inequities of military service, famously told Americans 'life is unfair.' But my family, and the families of the 10,022 men and women buried or remembered in Margraten, already knew."

This is a quote from the speech of Mr. Arthur Chotin he gave on Memorial Day 24th of May 2015 in Margraten, the Netherlands. His outstanding speech gave words to the feelings of all the 55 participants of the AWON group led by Gerry Morenski.

We were very glad to be able to host them on their trip to Margraten to see and visit the graves of their loved ones and to celebrate with us 70 years of liberation and 70 years of adoption program. The adopters of all these graves were present and for the AWON community it was a big comfort knowing that there always was a person taking care of the graves of their loved ones.

For us it was a big surprise when Mrs. Gerry Morenski offered our Foundation and all our adopters a marble bench on behalf of AWON. We realize that we did not show properly our gratitude and thankfulness for this generous gift. The surprise was too unexpected.

By this letter we officially express our gratitude. This piece of art will honour all of our adopting families and will be a token of mutual friendship, a symbol of good relationship between the United States of America and the Dutch adopting families.

I am sure that our strong relationship will be continued and that there will be a next visit of the AWOM community in the future. Our Foundation will do its best to make this visit a success as well.

Yours sincerely,



Ton Hermes
Chairman

...Family, from front page

his brother enlisting there the following February. I do not know what prompted them to do this. Nobody ever explained this to me, and I never had the sense to ask someone.

Pvt. William R. Winters completed the Link Trainer Instructors Course at the Air Corps Technical School at Chanute Field on June, 27, 1941. He was promoted to corporal in the 78th Bombardment Squadron on February 1, 1942, at Grenier Field in Manchester, New Hampshire. By May 1942, he was a member of the Air Corps Training Detachment at Harvey Parks Airport in Sikeston, Missouri, where he soloed for the first time on May 14, 1942, after only 8:05 of flying time.

Dad's next station, from July to September 1942, was Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas, where he was a member of the Aviation Cadet Detachment. From there, he went on to Foster Field in Victoria, Texas, where he graduated Advanced Flying School with Class 42-J on November 10, 1942 and was commissioned a second lieutenant. From his letters it is clear he was homesick after two years away, and he was sure he was going to catch a break so he could go home and see his "Mommy." However, just four days later, he found himself arriving by train in Orlando, Florida, to become a member of the newly-formed 81st Fighter Squadron, where he was tagged with the nickname "Whitey" by his new buddies due to his thinning white hair.

Gloria Frances Dickens had lived in Orlando almost all her life, growing up in the sleepy, central Florida town as the only child of a divorced mother who had come to Florida from Georgia

when Gloria was just two years old. Gloria graduated Orlando High School in 1941 as a popular girl with many friends. By 1942, the town was bustling with Army Air Corps boys arriving to train at Orlando Air Base. Gloria always told me that she had, early on, made a decision that she would not have any involvement with those raucous boys, though I can't help but believe her protective mother might have had some influence.



Army enlistees, Ed and Bobby Winters, 1941.

So, for the summer of '42, 18-year-old Gloria was sent to work as a cashier in the dance pavilion, the *Victory Ballroom*, at the Lake Lawn Lodge resort in Delavan. She lived and worked under the watchful eye of her great aunt Julia, who had for many years worked the summer seasons at the resort as a hostess. For a dime, a guy could buy a dance ticket from Gloria and dance to Big Band music with a pretty girl. As it would happen during that summer of 1942, Gloria met a Delavan fellow who happened to be home on leave. He nicknamed her "Peaches" due to her Southern roots and distinct southern accent. Before he left town he secured her Orlando phone num-

ber, which he promptly sent off to his hometown pal, Bob Winters.

Lt. Winters had been in Orlando only a short time in November 1942 before he dug out that phone number from his pocket and placed his first call to Peaches Dickens. Sticking to her earlier resolution, she told him she just wasn't interested in going out with any Army guys. But, with determination he must have inherited from his father, Bob persisted with follow-up calls to the point that Gloria finally agreed to receive him at her home in downtown Orlando, but only when

her mother was present. Bob continued to pursue her until she relented and agreed to a date, but only if it would be a double date. When Bob asked who else they would be double dating with, Gloria told him it would be with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. Bob was not to be deterred and that first date in late 1942 included dinner and dancing at the infamous Flamingo Night Club on the outskirts of Orlando.

That night was the beginning of a courtship that continued until the wedding of Peaches and Whitey. In the spring 1943, Lt. Winters finally got enough leave to travel home to Delavan to see his mommy for the first time since his enlistment in 1940. While home for five days he barely mentioned he had met a girl in Orlando and gave his mother no indication there was a serious involvement. Back in Orlando, just a short time later, he wrote to his mother and told her he had given "the girl" (no name) a ring. A few days later he wrote her again to announce the wedding plans at the Orlando Air Base Chapel on June 3, 1943, followed by a two-day honeymoon at Daytona Beach.

Bob continued air combat training at Orlando and in Cross City, Florida, in preparation for a March 1944 departure for Europe. The squadron left Orlando March 13th, and traveled by train to New York where they boarded the British passenger ship *HMS Sterling Castle*. The trip took two weeks with arrival in Lymington, England on April 5th. According to his flight log, which I have, my father flew three missions on D-Day, providing close air support over the Normandy beaches. The squadron soon moved into France and moved across the country as the ground troops advanced.

I was born on July 16, but my father would not know until eleven days later. When he finally saw my photo on November 15th, he wrote my mother:

I really feel quite flattered to be his Daddy. You know I don't think I ever really felt proud about anything before until I saw the picture this morning – and then I knew I was proud to have a family – to be Billy's Daddy – and that you were his Mother. It just seems that other things were just nice – like it is nice to have a new car – or nice to get a write-up in the paper or something like that. But for the first time I have really realized I have a family. Because he does look something like me I think.



The photograph Capt. Winters received of his son, Billy, ten days before his plane crashed.

Ten days later, on November 25, 1944, my father was flying his P-47 Thunderbolt "Peaches" on a close support mission from base A-96, Toul-Ochey, to Sarrebourg. His buddy, Lt. Joe Carrieres, described the scene in the Missing Air Crew Report:

Red and yellow flights were making simultaneous strafing and dive bombing passes on two roads running north and south about one-half mile apart. Pulling up to the left in our second pass, my wingman said, 'Someone is going in.' Looking down I saw our flight leader, Capt. William R. Winters, 0-667017, in a P-47D-26, aircraft serial number 42-28406, about 20 feet above the ground and going in. The aircraft hit with a very violent explosion. There was very intense, light, accurate flak in the area.

My mother received the MIA telegram from the War Department on December 9th, and then

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waited 138 days for the KIA telegram. This delay caused her untold grief and anxiety and resulted in her carrying nearly lifelong doubts that my father's body had ever really been recovered, or properly buried. In fact, it was AWON resources that led me to secure my father's Individual Deceased Personnel File which revealed that his body, which was recovered within a few days, was so badly mangled in the crash that immediate identification was not possible. Fingerprints were taken and he was buried as Unknown American X-29 in the French cemetery at Hochfelden. The fingerprints were confirmed as my father's by the FBI in Washington on April 28, 1945. In 1948, at my mother's instruction, he was moved to the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold, France, where he rests today.

Capt. Winters was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with Two Silver and Four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. The citations reads:

Distinguished Flying Cross: For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations. On 17 August 1944, Captain Winters led his flight against an extremely large enemy force. Leading several dive bombing and strafing attacks against the enemy he inflicted severe damage to the enemy which contributed in large measure to the successful advances achieved by our ground forces on the Continent. The superior airmanship and deep devotion to duty displayed by Captain Winters on this occasion is in keeping with the highest tradi-

tions of the Army Air Forces. Air Medal, Two Silver and Four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters: In recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations, he having participated in the required number of operational sorties, and for participating in sustained operational flights against the enemy.

His commanding officer, Lt. Col. Robert D. Johnston, wrote a grieving letter to his fiancée on 3 Dec 1944:

Bob is the most loved man in the organization.

He receives more respect from the personnel than the Group C.O. himself. Tell Gloria that we love him here as she loves him. We here are a strange lot but we do learn men and Bob is a man. I know – I fought with him. You have a hard task ahead of you Jeannie; you've got to make Gloria realize that there is a lot of life ahead of her and that Billy has a dad to be proud of and to live up to.



From left, Capt. Winters' Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

My tribute to my father is not complete without tribute to my mother who raised me to understand who and what my father was, and that I must do my best to live up to his standard.

My mother remarried in January 1946 to my uncle, Dad's brother, Ed, and he became my new Daddy. They gave me two brothers and four sisters in a large, happy family home.

The rest of Dad's family moved from Wisconsin to Orlando by 1950 and they made sure I knew that my father was someone very special. My grandmother lived to be 96. In her later years she would fail to recognize me when I entered the room, but

Next Dutch generation continues 'eternal gratitude'

AWONers Walt Linne and Barb Kelly wish to share this email message with AWON from a man they met at the Memorial Day ceremony this year at Lorraine American Cemetery:

Dear gentlemen and lady,

I hope this message will find you all well and sound. Let me quickly re-introduce myself to those who don't remember me. My name is Silvano Theunissen, 23 years old and I live in The Netherlands in the town of Echt, close to Linne and Roermond. I spoke with you prior to the start of the ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial.

Here I told you about my thoughts on what your fathers have done for my freedom. As well as the thousands of other young American soldiers. Even today they keep fighting for my freedom, without them our freedom will be shattered. So again thank you for your fathers' service and that of your fellow country men.

In the several years now that I have come to talk with veterans, their families and their children. I have come to know that they are truly one of a kind, as we now say "The Greatest Generation". Which in my eyes is truly correct. Without them I perhaps would not live today, or in slavery and oppression.

Long story short, the photographs that I took of you during Memorial Day are sended thru WeTransfer. You can download them thru there, if you don't know how it works, feel free to contact me: s.theunissen1991@gmail.com and I'll send them thru the e-mail. If you would like to have the other photographs of the ceremony, that is possible as well. I would be more then happy to forward them!

You all have my eternal gratitude and appreciation. Your fathers' and their fellow countrymen who were Killed in Action during the war, are NOT forgotten. We shall always remember and honor them and their service. Their sacrifice has not been in vain, I am sure I will not be the only one who thinks like this.

As a final note I would like to say, that whenever you need anything, please do not hesitate to ask me. I will try and do my best to make it happen. Like Bill knows, I try to visit his father's grave every time I visit the Cemetery and place a rose at his grave. Also if you are ever close to my home town Echt, feel free to inform me before your visit. And I'd be happy to invite you in my home. My home is yours.

*All the best and God bless,
Your new Dutch friend,
Silvano Theunissen*

then she would grab my hands and say, "Oh, you have hands just like my Bobby's."

Many of my father's buddies had married Orlando girls during their training in 1944, so they came back to Orlando to settle after the war, keeping in touch with my mother and becoming my friends. They are all gone now, but I knew them all as fine men and I could see how my father re-

lated with them. Mom died at age 87, leaving me with the profound knowledge of my father that I am so very thankful to have.

Editor's Note: This article will conclude in the January issue of The Star with Billy's 2014 trip to France where he was greeted with a surprise, and attended the unveiling of a memorial in the French town where his father's plane crashed.

Beauty turns dark past into brighter future

Turning loss into gain, creating presence out of absence. These are results of AWONer Susan Hadler's adventure into her mysterious past in *The Beauty of What Remains*.

"Almost everyone inherits some form of trouble from past generations," explains Hadler. "I was born into a family with missing people, the result of war, family feuds and mental illness. The door to information about them was locked and I didn't have the key."

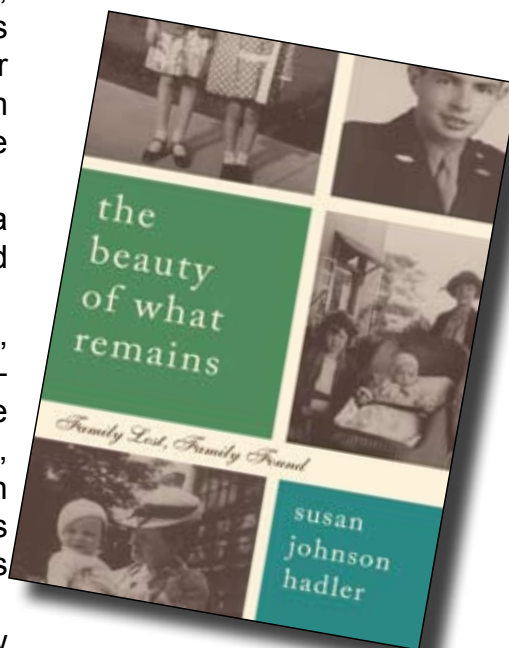
One day, Hadler found a key. And then another, and another.

"I found keys everywhere, in Army records, a family Bible, city libraries, state documents, and best of all, in people who had known my father and my mother's two sisters, the people I was looking for."

Hadler was only a few months old when she lost her father at the end of World War II to a mine explosion, an event that so shattered her mother that she refused to talk about him. But Hadler's father wasn't the only family secret. Her mother had two sisters, Dorothy and Elinor, with whom she was close to growing up but had lost contact, and Hadler had never met. Why?

First a map turned up of the route her father's battalion followed across France and

into Germany, where he was killed. And then a note fell out of a Bible. The note led to older sister, Elinor, who had been sent to a mental hospital in 1936 when she was 23 and the mother of two children. Hadler unexpectedly found her alive, at age 94, living happily if not with any family. Elinor's children had been told that she



had died. Hadler then found Elinor's children - her cousins - and then the younger sister, Dorothy, and her children.

Captivating and often heart-wrenching, *The Beauty of What Remains* is a memoir about liberating a family from secrets, ghosts, and untold pain; of reuniting four generations shattered by shame and fear; and of finding the ineffable beauty of what remains.

Hadler has a Ph.D. in human development and used her years of experience as a psychotherapist to give a measured, sympathetic treatment to the struggles faced by those in the family who used silence to cover tragedy. But make no mistake, this is a captivating journey into a family's mysterious past.

"(Hadler's) unique blend of talents - equal parts writer, psychologist, and bloodhound hot on the trail - make for highly engaging and relatable reading," comments David A. Lande, *National Geographic* senior researcher and author of *I Was With Patton*. "No one who reads this book will ever look at his or her own family history the same way again."

All families have mysteries and perhaps dark corners. The lesson in *The Beauty of What Remains* is to turn those troubles into happiness, darkness into light.

"I've learned that we are all keys for each other through what we write and say and do and are," Hadler says. "It is the story of finding the keys that can change past traumas, separations, and sorrows into wholeness."

The Beauty of What Remains is available in the AWON Bookstore and amazon.com. Hadler also is co-author of *Lost in the Victory* with AWON Founder, Ann Bennett Mix.



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

Authors in **bold** are orphan or family members • Items marked with an asterisk (*) include P&H

____ *K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for His Father Through the Fog of War*
by **Patrick Audinet** **NEW!!** **\$10.00***
All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON

____ *The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found*
by **Susan Johnson Hadler** **NEW!!** **\$15.00***

____ *In Search of A pilot: Hanford "Rusty" J. Rustand*
by **Marilynn Rustand Lieurance** \$7.00*

____ *My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag*
by **Jerry W. Pinkerton** \$12.00*

____ *The Measure of a Man: My Father, the Marine Corps, and Saipan*
by **Kathleen Broome Williams** \$28.00*

____ *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

____ *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**

____ *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

____ *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 Lt. Col. Jacques Adnet USAF (ret.) **REDUCED!** \$5.00

____ *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

____ *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
NEW PRICE!! hardcover \$20.00 softcover \$10.00

____ *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

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



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



CD / DVD

____ *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*
REDUCED! was \$5.00 \$ 3.00*

____ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers*
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**
REDUCED! was \$15.00 \$ 3.00*

____ *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** **REDUCED!** was \$30.00 \$20.00*

AWON Logo Products

Close Out on the following AWON merchandise:

____ Sweatshirt \$45.00
only two left: one white 2XL, one blue 2XL
____ Windbreaker (blue) \$40.00
only one left: XL
____ Golf shirt ____ white ____ blue \$35.00
only three left: one white XL, two blue XL
____ 20th Anniversary Logo T-shirt (navy) \$20.00
only three left: blue 2XL
____ T-shirt \$10.00
only one left: blue M

____ Hat \$15.00
____ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00
____ **AWON 20th Anniversary Totebag REDUCED!*** \$5.00
* 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
____ *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

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: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Send check or money order to:

AWON Bookstore

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

email: bookstore@awon.org

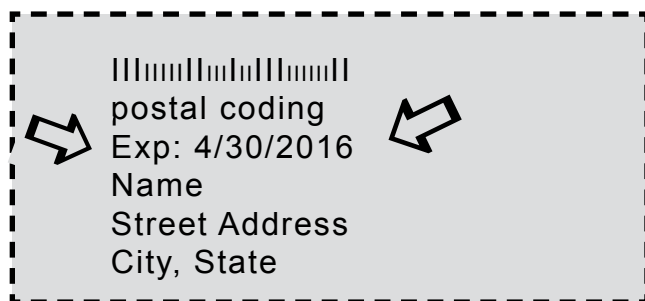
For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html

Pay Attention to Address Label, e-Star Email Alerts

Please look at the address label on your newsletter and read emails from AWON as they both contain important information about your membership dues.

The address label contains the date your AWON membership expires. If you receive the newsletter via the internet, you will receive two emails from AWON alerting you that you need to renew your membership.

The date your dues expire appears on the newsletter mailing label just above the member's name (see gray box below). If your dues have lapsed, the line above your name will have the date your dues ran out. For example, the line might read **Exp:4/30/2016**.



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 *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 uses 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 you signed up for the *e-Star* you will not receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail. Watch for email notification that the *e-Star* is posted on the AWON website. If you wish to receive

a 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 December, March, June and September.

Contact Gerry Morenski at dutiem@comcast.net for address corrections.

Star of The Star

A volunteer who makes AWON work

Lynne Lecrone

York, PA Gatherings

***Thanks for organizing TEN
straight years of AWON
Gatherings in York, PA,
helping dozens of orphans
maintain friendships.***

There are more than 115 AWON volunteers who donate their time and money to activities like updating the AWON website, coordinating overseas wreaths, arranging regional gatherings, mailing AWON materials and much more. Many members have been doing these jobs for years and would be happy for some help or for someone else to take over.

Contact a board member to volunteer.



AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



AWON members attending the York, Pennsylvania gathering were, seated left to right: Lynne Lecrone, Donna Allen, Jennie Sauer and Maxine Olson; and standing, from left: Janice Buterbaugh, Ed Peters, Rusty Lerch, Jeanne Rhinehart, Ken Sills, Norm Burkey and Sandra MacDuffee.

Many stories, news shared at annual York gathering

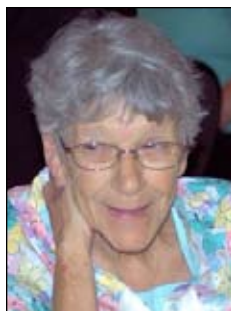
It was a beautiful day in York, Pennsylvania for the annual York AWON Gathering on April 25, 2015. The orphans and spouses gathered at Hoss's Steak and Sea House just before noon to greet one another and order lunch. After a delicious meal, Norm Burkey and Ed Peters talked about the AWON Board of Directors and the Florida cruise for the 2016 AWON National Conference. Rusty Lerch talked about the WWII Weekend that AWON attends every year at the Reading, Pennsylvania airport. Several members volunteer to man a table to talk about AWON, showcase the AWON family albums, and share our and our fathers' stories. Donna Allen then shared her experience about attending the White House breakfast on Memorial Day last year. Of course, we talked about our fathers, and displayed some memorabilia. There were carnations to take as a remembrance of our fathers.

On Friday evening, Sandra and Don MacDuffee and Lynne Lecrone enjoyed a good meal and interesting conversation at the Olive Garden.

The orphans and spouses that enjoyed a pleasant time of sharing with each other were Donna and Dick Allen, Norm and Mary Burkey, Janice Buterbaugh, Rusty Lerch, Sandra and Don MacDuffee, Maxine and Fred Olson, Ed and Pat Peters, Jeanne Rhinehart, Jennie and Jim Sauer, Ken and Dody Sills, and Lynne Lecrone. The next York Gathering will be Saturday, April 23, 2016. Save the date and join your orphan friends in York! *Lynne*

AWON remembers daughters, First Founder

Kathleen Newsom Swanson, 70, of Akeley, Minnesota, passed away July 16, 2015. Her parents were Cpl. Edward S. Newsom and Ethel Johnson. Kathleen was born August 16, 1944, one day before her father's death in the Philippines. She trained to become a licensed practical nurse and loved her large family and traveling. Kathleen is survived by sons, Allan (Amanda) Nodes, Thomas (Teresa) Nodes and Steven (Kris-



Swanson

tol) Nodes; daughter, Jennifer Rounsville; 15 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded by her husband, Robert Swanson; sons, Michael Nodes Sr. and Daniel Jesme; one grandson and a great-granddaughter.

Jeffrey L. Ward Sr., of Montgomery County, Maryland, passed away March 12, 2015. He was born February 8, 1942, in New York, to Sgt. Harold L. Ward Jr. and Jane Hooper. He moved to Virginia in his youth and graduated from Washington and Lee Law School. He was employed by the Maryland Judiciary for forty years. Jeff was an AWON First Founder and past board president, representing AWON at the groundbreaking ceremony of the National World War II Memorial in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Susan (Sheely); and two sons, Matthew and Jeffrey Jr. (Tiffany).



Ward



In late July Bill Chiodo of Windsor, Connecticut, was in Springfield, Illinois, for the Vietnam Veterans of America National Convention. One afternoon Bill had a long lunch with Springfield resident and AWON grandchild member, Kathy Le Comte. Another evening they got together again for dinner, with Kathy's husband, John Lupton, joining. Bill and Kathy go way back as former colleagues on the AWON Board of Directors. They had a great conversation covering topics from AWON and Vietnam to history and a comparison of their state capital cities. Above, Bill is sampling a flight of mead. *Kathy*



McKinney

Shirley McKinney, 77, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died September 15, 2015. She was born October 2, 1937, in Carbondale, Illinois, to Capt. Earl L. Jackson and Geneva Jackson. Shirley was active in AWON and the 84th Infantry Division "Railsplitters" Association, Company C. Shirley is survived by her husband, James McKinney; daughters, Sherry (Dave) Howerton and Brenda (David) Ball; six grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and two brothers. She was preceded in death by a son, James McKinney; one sister and one brother.

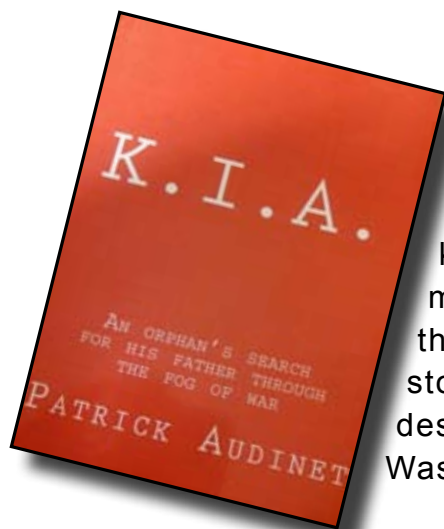
Schmetz' host U.S. Ambassador, decorate graves



Left: In July, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Denise Bauer and her family visited the *Remember Museum '39-'45*, created and run by AWON Overseas Friends Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz. The Bauers intended to stay 90 minutes but ended up staying for 2.5 hours, reports Mathilde, who was very impressed by the ambassador. "She really represents perfectly your country, and she is a very sweet and sensitive lady. She just couldn't believe what we do for Americans, old or young, but we told her that we owe twice our freedom to America, and that the soldiers did their duty and our duty is, at least, to remember their sacrifices." Right: The Schmetzes placed 1,000 red roses at graves in Plot A, Plot B, all the MIAs and all the Unknowns at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery the day before Memorial Day. They were assisted by a World War II veteran, whom they hosted for ten days.

K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for his Father Through the Fog of War

by Patrick Audinet



A boy's father departs for war on his son's first birthday. At age three he is orphaned by his father's death half a world away. For 55 years, the boy has two photos and a Purple Heart to represent the father he never knew. In his late 50s he discovers a desire to know this man called his father. Twelve years of research reveals the life and the death of this man called Dad. This is a story of discovery and of revelation, a search driven by a desire to know and, at times, slowed by the fear of knowing. Was he a good man? The story reveals the truth of who he was, and now is, in the mind of his son.

\$10 Available through the AWON Bookstore. All proceeds go to AWON.

AWON Board Business 17 May 2015

2016 AWON National Conference: Conference co-chair **Paul Bremer** presented the conference committee report. Presently there are 27 reserved cabins with 52 people including two singles. Late reservations continue but there is no cabin guarantee. The AWON Bookstore will not be available at the conference. The committee is working on a budget, final schedule of events, meeting spaces, cocktail party, memorial service, room availability at Radisson near the port, and transportation from Orlando airport. The committee meets next on June 26.

AWON Wreath Fund: AWON Wreath Project Coordinator **Sharon Connor** and the board held an informative discussion on possibilities in the future of purchasing wreaths for fathers' graves in consideration of the American Battle Monuments decision to no longer take floral orders. After discussion the board agreed to restore the restricted wreath fund amount of \$9,700 to the unrestricted general fund. **Gerry Morenski** volunteered to work with Sharon to construct a document concerning the action of the wreath fund and a list of florists compiled by the ABMC.

Financial Report: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** reported that through April the AWON treasury has received 49% of budgeted operating income and spent 46% of budgeted operating expenses. Cash balance stands at \$83,570.70. At the end of May there will be no more restricted funds.

AOL: **Diane Pollard** volunteered to research AWON's long-standing AOL account after it was decided at the last board meeting to cancel the account.

Action items: All action items were discussed and those not completed are to be continued.

Round Table Results: A consensus of the results from the 2014 Seattle conference round table discussion about the future of AWON, discussed at the March board meeting, will need to be ready to publish in the next three editions of *The Star*. Gerry Morenski agreed to write the first one to go in *The Star* after July's edition.

New Meeting Time: The board now will meet at 7 p.m. Eastern on the third Tuesday, instead of 9 p.m. Eastern on the third Sunday. The meetings will continue to be e-Star • October 2015

bimonthly using Free Conference USA.

Combining War Orphans Groups: AWON attempted to contact **Tony Cordero** of *Sons and Daughters in Touch*, and the Korean War orphan group, to explore the possibility of blending our orphan organizations, with no response from either. They both will be contacted one more time.

AWON Archives: AWON will continue to contact HistoryIT competitors as AWON continues to explore a future home for AWON's holdings.

AWON Facebook: The board discussed the set-up of a new AWON Facebook page.

Hardships: After much discussion of hardship membership cases, the board decided that the AWON database manager should include any hardships in future database reports.

Commendation: The AWON Board of Directors commends Gerry Conway Morenski for her unfailing devotion to the mission of honoring Margraten fathers and gathering the "Margraten Kids." She did an outstanding job networking internationally on AWON's behalf, and a remarkable job keeping the board and AWONers informed during this year's AWON trip to Margraten.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is in July.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

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

AWON Board Business 21 July 2015

2016 AWON National Conference: Conference co-chair **Sam Tannenbaum** gave a report on the October 2016 Florida cruise conference. There are 68 people booked in 36 cabins and \$1,600 in donations. Three will be no banquet but possibly a cocktail hour for awards, etc. Dr. Vamik

...continued on page 22

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
1004 Williams Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 787-6512
johnkath5@comcast.net

**Deadline for the
January Issue
is December 1**

...Minutes, from page 21

Volkan will lead a panel discussion on sibling relationships, and Walter Carter will talk about the history of Florida during World War II. There will be no AWON Bookstore or hospitality room. Conference co-chair **Paul Bremer** said there will be more details later about the program book and conference t-shirts.

Financial Report: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** reported that as of June 30 there was \$78,800 cash including a \$425 refund of Margraten meals. AWON has received 68% of budgeted operating income and incurred 63% of budgeted operating expenses. Pinkerton said the AWON Database Father Tribute project is \$920 over budget.

Action Items: All action items were discussed and those not completed are to be continued.

Quarterly Email: The board discussed the suggestion of a quarterly e-mail to members between newsletter issues. No action was taken.

Lapsed Members: The board discussed sending a letter to lapsed members in September.

Combining War Orphans Groups: Discussion will continue with Sons and Daughters in Touch on forming a broadbased Gold Star Families organization.

Facebook: The new AWON Facebook page is in progress.

AWON Wreath Project: The board discussed the AWON Memorial Day Wreath Project.

Round Table Results: The board continues to work on a summary of the results from the round table discussion about the future of AWON at the 2014 Seattle conference for the September board meeting.

Father Tributes: **Ed Peters** will prepare a demonstration of the new Father Tribute portion of the AWON database for the board at its September meeting.

Other Matters: The board discussed publicity, resources for World War II records, and cemetery issues.

Will Trust: The board discussed locating the person who several years ago had put a trust in his will for AWON.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is in September.

Bonnie Oates, 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 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ (home, work, cell)

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 information, leave it blank and we may be able to find it. Do not delay mailing 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 or service: (rank, medals, etc. Add additional sheet, if necessary.)

Home Town and State _____

Wife's Maiden Name _____

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: \$ _____

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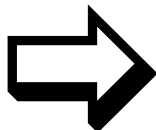
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AWON Mission

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.

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