

The



Star

Issue 81

"We Speak Their Names"

July 2016

Memorial Day 2016



JoAnne Rowman Morrissey visits her father, 2Lt. Theodore Rowman, at Epinal American Cemetery for the first time. Lt. Rowman served with the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Troop C, a mechanized cavalry unit serving ahead of other units to fix locations of the enemy. Lightly armed, the 106th fought through France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. Lt. Rowman was KIA October 15, 1944 from a shell fragment near Foret-de-Parroy, France, when JoAnne was three years old. In her Father Tribute on the AWON website JoAnne wrote, *I am not sure I can go to France to finally see his grave...* On Memorial Day, everyone at AWON was with JoAnne and her father.



President's Message

by Norm Burkey

Over the past few months, as publicized several times in *The Star*, the AWON Board of Directors has sought nominees to run for election to the AWON board for two-year terms, starting this fall.

A majority of the board - six of its nine members - have served multiple terms and have decided not to run for re-election.

We are disappointed to announce that only one nomination was received, and it came in past the deadline. Even if the nomination had been received on time an election still would not have been practical.

The good news is that the current board has agreed to

continue to serve for at least one more year. The first issue the board will deal with is the new reality in front of us - the downsizing of AWON. The board will announce more information in the next and subsequent issues of *The Star*. There will be an informational meeting, rather than a board meeting, during the 2016 AWON National Conference cruise in October aboard the cruise ship *Freedom*.

Until then, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at norman-burkey@verizon.net, and I will disseminate them to the board for a response.

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AWON wreath program resounding success

by Jerry Pinkerton,
AWON Treasurer

AWON just completed its annual Memorial Day Wreath Program activities, and despite facing new rules both inside and outside the organization, this year's observance was a success.

In years past, AWON wreath coordinators were responsible for contacting active AWON members whose fathers were memorialized in overseas cemeteries, collecting donations, arranging for the wreaths, paying for the wreaths and submitting any over-collections to AWON Wreath Program Coordinator Sharon Conner. Sharon aggregated the amounts received and sent the overages to the treasurer.

Net collections were reported in AWON's financial statements and for recent years totaled about \$1,000 per year.

With an updated process in place, approved by the board of Directors, the collection of donations has been simplified, as has wreath ordering by the coordinators.

Additionally, the board approved the use of a standard AWON Memorial Day wreath banner that honors ALL fathers and ensures

that AWON honors not only AWON fathers but also fathers whose orphans have yet to find AWON. (see *AWON enacts new Memorial Day wreath policy*, January 2016, *The Star*)

In 2016, under the new process, wreath donations total \$4,734 to date and reimbursements to coordinators

to the Wreath Fund to all AWONers.

Donation amounts to date appear in the gray box.

Based on the funds accumulated in prior and current years, the board has voted to waive wreath solicitations for 2017, while continuing to honor all fathers by placing AWON wreaths in the overseas cemeteries on Memorial Day.

Following is a list of AWON's wreath coordinators:

Ardennes, Belgium - Gail Eisenhower; Brittany, France - Brian Hope; Cambridge, England - Jeanne Rinehart; Epinal, France - Sharon Connor; Florence, Italy - Barbara Catteral; Henri-Chapelle, Belgium - Rik Peirson; Honolulu, Hawaii - Tatum Young; Lorraine, France - Paul Bremer; Luxembourg, Luxembourg - Roger Connor; Manila, Philippines - Patty Temte; Margraten, Netherlands - Gerry Conway Morenski; Normandy, France - Charlene Czajkowski; Rhone, France - Vic Muller; Sicily Rome, Italy - Bob Meek; Tunisia, North Africa - Bonnie Hellums.

Cemetery	Total
Ardennes	125
Brittany	249
Cambridge	170
Epinal	135
Florence	150
Hawaii	285
Henri-Chapelle	445
Lorraine	245
Luxembourg	350
Manila	550
Margraten	1,075
North Africa	165
Normandy	280
Rhone	75
Sicily	160
Non-Overseas	275
Grand Total	\$4,734

to date total about \$2,600, yielding an excess of over \$2,000 for future use. Notable is that \$275 in contributions were received from members whose fathers were returned to the United States as a result of opening up the ability to donate

The Star's 2016 Memorial Day coverage begins on page 10.

Commemoration of Mother's Day and VE Day

Mother recalled as hero at WWII Memorial

On May 8 - Mother's Day - a double celebration was held at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., to salute military moms and to mark the 71st anniversary of VE Day. Local veterans laid wreaths at the memorial's Freedom Wall - the wall of gold stars - in memory of the more than 400,000 Americans killed during the war and the 60 million overall who died in the deadliest war in history. The ceremony also honored late Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the "father" of the National WWII Memorial who also had an AWON connection (see sidebar).

For the Mother's Day portion of the observance the Friends of the National WWII Memorial asked AWON Board President Norm Burkey to talk about his mother. His delivered remarks follow:

ANNA FLORENCE MILLER BURKEY

Thank you to the sponsors of this event on behalf of my brother, David, my sister, Anne, and myself, for the privilege of speaking our mother's name in such an august location and occasion.

I must start with a brief side note. Being here today would not be possible without my dear friends at AWON - the American World War II Orphans Network. We all lost our fathers during World War II. Primarily, we give ourselves permission to talk about our dads and also about our moms. I would also add that AWON had some input into the final design of the World War II Memorial.

Anna and her future husband, Norman, were both born in 1919. Both were born into poor farming families living near Reading, Pennsylvania. My mother had 11 sisters and 1 brother who survived into adulthood plus several siblings who did not. They were poor, but from all appearances were a happy family. Not so much for my father's family, which we will come to in a minute. My father had two brothers.

Their formative years were spent during the "Roaring Twenties" and their teen-aged years during the Great Depression. As we of a certain age will recall, the Depression that began in 1930 did not really end until the advent of World War II. Needless to say, these were difficult years, I think particularly for teen-agers.

They met in grade school. My father was able to go on to high school, but my mother's education stopped at tenth grade, primarily

because a free high school was not available.

Because he was a high school graduate our father was able to gain employment and they began their married life in 1940. They started their married life living in one half of a small farm house shared with my father's parents, plus his younger brother and his wife - in other words, her mother-in-law, who we would say today, certainly had her issues.

I was born in 1940, my brother in 1941 and my sister in 1943. Due to my father's employment, they were able to purchase a house in a nearby small town in 1943. By the way, it did have an inside bathroom, but also, just in case, an outhouse.

Despite the fact that he had three children and was employed in a defense plant, my father was drafted in 1944, was sent to Italy in January 1945 with the 10th Mountain Division, and was killed instantly by an artillery shell on March 12, 1945.

So there was our mom, devastated by her husband's death, with three small children, a tenth grade education, and all of a sudden she is the permanent head of the household. I can only guess how difficult it was to deal with all of the bureaucracy surrounding her husband's death.

I do need to be clear that we would have had an extremely difficult time surviving without the help of the extended family, but there was no doubt she was our primary care giver.

She had to become the financial manager, the keeper of the coal furnace, the grass

American WWII Orphans Network

mower, the maintenance person. The laundry done with a ringer washer had to be hung outside in all weather, and ironed – we certainly couldn't go out of the house looking unkempt. My brother just advised me that she also had a fear that the authorities would take her children away from her.

I'll pause briefly to read a portion from one of our most prized possessions - a letter my mom wrote in response to a letter of condolence she received from one of our dad's war buddies:

Norman and I were very close. We all miss him terribly. No one knows the heartache Norman's death caused myself and the children. They never got used to the idea of him being away from home. There's one thing I intend to do, raise the children as Norman would want them. A year can be so long without the one you want most.

She certainly did all she promised. She brought us through those difficult teen-aged years - particularly me - and all three of us were able to attend college under the GI Bill and all three of us had successful careers.

This meant her life got easier. Until her death, she lived with my brother in the house she and our dad bought in 1943. I must make special mention of my brother and sister. My brother lived with her, but my sister lived close enough to also provide special support. Her life got easier because of the great care

she received from them. I was the son who moved away, but my wife and I contributed two granddaughters who my mom absolutely adored. My mom's "vacations" were the two weeks our daughters spent with her each summer.

I'll conclude by describing a bit of her personal traits. She was a simple woman who lived a simple life. She never dated or worked outside the house. But that doesn't mean she didn't have a personality.

She thought hiring a babysitter bordered on irresponsibility and giving your child a pacifier bordered on abuse. She would not hear a bad word about her daughter-in-law (my wife) and absolutely hated it when her sister insisted on telling her the latest off-color joke.

She was a very wise woman. My father, at the insistence of his parents, was brought home from Italy in the late 1940s. Until her mother-in-law died, our mom allowed her to tend to our father's grave on Memorial Day.

She was a strong woman. The day she was diagnosed with cancer, she quit smoking cold turkey after a 30-plus year habit.

Most of all she, like many others in her position, was a war hero. But, most importantly, she was my hero, my family's hero, and we were blessed to be raised by such an awesome woman. Thank you Anna Florence Miller Burkey.

I thank you for the opportunity to share a bit about her life.

AWON National Advisor dies at 96

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, who spearheaded the design process of the National WWII Memorial, passed away in April at age 96. He also was an AWON national advisor.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Williams to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Later he was named chairman of the ABMC's National WWII Memorial Committee with the primary responsibility for the site and design of the memorial.

In 2007, Williams led the effort to establish the Friends of the National WWII Memorial, and remained its chairman until his retirement in 2009.

From 1941-42, Williams served on Midway Island with Pacific naval air base contractors building runways, seaplane, and a submarine base. On December 7, 1941, he was engaged in a touch football game with friends when the first bombardment of Midway occurred, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After the bombing he was commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was discharged from active duty in 1946 as a Lieutenant j.g.

From 1971-1976, Williams served as ambassador for Micronesia and the Mariana Islands.

All booking/registration deadlines August 1

Welcome aboard conference cruise

by Sam Tannenbaum,
AWON Conference Co-chair

Please join us in Florida on Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Freedom of the Seas* for AWON's twelfth national conference - *Cruisin' in Freedom, Honoring Our Fathers* - Oct. 30 - Nov. 4, 2016.

There is very little time left to "get on board." If you'd like to relax and cruise in comfort while enjoying the fellowship of fellow orphans and a few fun AWON activities, please follow these steps immediately:

To book a stateroom call Paula Podradchik at 561-498-5461. Full cruise payment is due Aug. 1. Using your booking number, you can make airline reservations thru RCI at www.royalcaribbean.com or 844-278-9745. RCI also can arrange for shuttle service from Orlando International Airport (MCO) to *Freedom of the Seas* on Oct. 30 and back on Nov. 4. Please note that All Aboard is precisely at 3 p.m.

If you need hotel accommodations before or after the cruise you can book a room at the Radisson Resort at the Port at 321-868-6573.

Mention AWON and ask for the cruise package for a discounted rate. The hotel will provide complimentary shuttle service to and from the port as well as complimentary parking. Please note that if you ask for an AARP or retired government/military rate, the hotel will discount your room but not include free parking or shuttle service. There is a new AWON



rate of \$142 per room pre- and post-cruise. The previous rate of \$155 has been credited accordingly. Like the cruise itself, full payment for the hotel is due Aug. 1.

If you are driving to Port Canaveral, call Park N Cruise at 321-454-2500 and mention AWON for a discounted rate of about \$32 plus tax for the duration of the cruise. The parking lot is about two miles from the port and provides complimentary shuttle

service to and from the port. Parking at the port near Terminal 10 is \$120 plus tax.

After you have made your travel arrangements, please complete the conference registration form on page 8. Registration is due Aug. 1.

If you wish to place a memorial ad in the conference program book for your father or a departed AWON member, see page 9. The deadline is Aug. 1. You can, of course, place a memorial ad even if you are not able to join us.

Finally, the tentative conference schedule is on page 7. The conference committee still needs the following volunteers and equipment: Hospitality HQ (three-hour blocks, opening and closing the AWON hang-out); event assistants to be assigned once we are all on-board; photographer to take and share pictures on the AWON website; a laptop to show PowerPoint presentation, *Honor Roll of Fathers*; and a Blu-ray disc-player for a special movie.

Please contact Sam Tannenbaum at samtan7713@gmail.com to volunteer time and or equipment. We look forward to seeing you and honoring our fathers on the high seas!

For more cruise information go to
<http://www.west-point.org/family/awon/floridaconference>

AWON 2016 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

On the Freedom of the Seas

Day 1 Sunday October 30, 2016 – Port Canaveral, FL

Noon - 2:00 PM	Boarding	Departure at 4:00 PM
2 :00 PM – 4:00 PM	Registration	Conference Center, Deck 2
5:30 PM	Dinner in the AWON area	Romeo & Juliet, Deck 3 *
Nighttime	Entertainment	Arcadia Theatre, Decks 3 & 4

Day 2 Monday October 31, 2016 – Coco Bay, Bahamas

7:00 AM	Arrival in Coco Bay	Departure at 5:00 PM
5:30 PM	Dinner in the AWON area	Romeo & Juliet, Deck 3 *
After Dinner	Captain's Welcome Aboard Party	Royal Promenade, Deck 5
Nighttime	Entertainment	Arcadia Theatre, Decks 3 & 4

Day 3 Tuesday November 1, 2016 – at Sea

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	War Orphans Sharing Session	Conference Center, Deck 2 Room A
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Family Sharing Session	Conference Center, Deck 2 Room B
Lunch on your own		
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	The Siblings of AWON Panel	Conference Center, Deck 2
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	History of Florida in World War II	Conference Center, Deck 2
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Surprise Movie Premiere	Conference Center, Deck 2
5:30 PM	Dinner in the AWON area	Romeo & Juliet, Deck 3 *
Nighttime	Entertainment	Arcadia Theatre, Decks 3 & 4

Day 4 Wednesday November 2, 2016 – Cozumel, Mexico

7:00 AM	Arrival in Cozumel	Departure at 4:00 PM
5:30 PM	Dinner in the AWON area	Romeo & Juliet, Deck 3 *
Nighttime	Entertainment	Arcadia Theatre, Decks 3 & 4

Day 5 Thursday November 3, 2016 – at Sea

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	AWON Memorial Service	Conference Center, Deck 2
Lunch on your own		
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	AWON Business Meeting	Conference Center, Deck 2
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Awards Ceremony, Missing Man Ceremony and Cocktail Party	On Air Club, Deck 3
5:30 PM	Dinner in the AWON area	Romeo & Juliet, Deck 3 *
Nighttime	Entertainment	Arcadia Theatre, Decks 3 & 4

Day 6 Friday November 4, 2016 – Port Canaveral, Florida

6:00 AM	Arrival at Port Canaveral
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* Subject to Change

2016 AWON National Conference Registration Form
Cruisin' in Freedom, Honoring Our Fathers
Florida Cruise • October 30 - November 4, 2016
Freedom of the Seas departs Port Canaveral, Florida at 4 p.m., October 30, 2016
and returns 6 a.m., November 4, 2016

Please return registration by August 1, 2016

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

Registration Fee

(Please select fee, t-shirt style and size, included with fee.

Note: women's sizes only up to 3XL.)

Active Member ☐ \$75 T-shirt Style: M or W Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

First Guest ☐ \$50 T-shirt Style: M or W Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Second Guest ☐ \$50 T-shirt Style: M or W Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Third Guest ☐ \$50 T-shirt Style: M or W Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Fourth Guest ☐ \$50 T-shirt Style: M or W Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Total registration fee enclosed: \$ _____

Name Tag Information (please print clearly)

Name (include maiden name) and state of residence: _____

Relationship to serviceman (son, daughter, nephew, etc.) _____

Name of spouse/partner 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 _____ Place KIA/MIA _____

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

2016 AWON National Conference
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Smelser attends DPAA Family Update in WA

AWONer Larry Smelser was among approximately 200 other family members who attended the Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) regional Family Member Update in Washington in May.

DPAA holds Family Updates about ten times a year around the country to keep family members informed of the U.S. government's worldwide mission to account for those still missing, and to discuss in detail the latest information available about their specific cases.

"I went on behalf of my father, Maj. Harold C. Smelser and the crew of *Pandora's Box* from the 91st Bomb Group, 324th Bombardment Squadron, which was last seen mortally wounded 30 miles west/northwest of St. Nazaire, France, on November 23, 1942," Smelser explained. He said at least two other AWONers also were present, including Kathie Schuler Hobbs who was there for her father, PHM2 Alfred Schuler, who was a medic with the 2nd Marines.

"The meeting was very well organized. Recoveries are still occurring each year. (I) met with an assigned case manager to see if discovery/recovery efforts can still be scheduled for *Pandora's Box*. As there are thousands of water losses, it is not quite so simple as getting in line," Smelser stated.

Upcoming Family Update Meetings

Aug. 11-12	Washington, D.C.
Sept. 10	Green Bay, WI
Nov. 19	Reno, NV
Jan. 28, 2017	Phoenix, AZ
Feb. 25, 2017	Charleston, SC

Visit <http://www.dpaa.mil/Home.aspx> for more information

2016 AWON National Conference Florida Cruise *Cruisin' in Freedom, Honoring Our Fathers* Conference Program Book Memorial Ad Form

If you would like to place a memorial ad in the conference program book, complete the form below and include a photo(s) or email an image. **Forms and payment are due by August 1. Please do not send originals.** Identify the subject of the photo on the back. If you email a photo, please send a high-resolution jpg.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Select one: (8½ x 11 page)

\$100 ____ full page

\$50 ____ 1/2 page \$25 ____ 1/4 page

\$10 ____ "Lest We Forget" line (100 character limit)

(example: *Barry & Tom in memory of Brenda Scalf-Burchfield, daughter of PFC Andrew Scalf KIA 2/27/45*)

**Everyone placing an ad
will receive a program book,
whether or not they
attend the conference.**

Message (enclose separate sheet if necessary):

Make check payable to **AWON**
and mail form, photos and payment to:
Kathy Le Comte
1004 Williams Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
email: johnkath5@comcast.net

VIPs express genuine interest in father stories

WH honors AWON on Memorial Day

by Ken Underwood

I was thrilled when AWON Board President Norman Burkey e-mailed that one person had cancelled and I was in line to fill that position to attend the White House Memorial Day breakfast. In the past, I have met fellow AWONers and helped present a wreath at Arlington, but this was going to be different: breakfast at the White House!

When we met to enter the White House we had a chance to meet and share stories of our fathers. A man named Phil Springer, who was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, met a lady at a reunion of his fighter group who was a member of AWON. He immediately thought of me and told me how to contact her as I had not heard of AWON. Phil and I are from a tiny town in Kansas. When I began to receive the AWON *Star*, it was an amazing event in my life. Up to that point, I had never met someone who also lost their father in World War II. And to see how many was an eye opener.

As we entered the White House the experience of being with our group and to see how many other organizations were there representing our fallen soldiers, sailors, and airmen really hit home as to what we were about to see and do. The



President Barack Obama greets Ken Underwood, Sondra Sarles, Roberta Nolan, Penny Bernstein and J. Lee Mathis in the Blue Room during a Memorial Day breakfast reception at the White House honoring military service organizations, Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Wives, veterans service organizations, and senior military leadership, May 30, 2016. (Official White House Photo By Chuck Kennedy)

White House staff was always so accommodating as we waited for the breakfast room to be ready. To say that there was a Secret Service agent around every corner is no exaggeration!

As we entered the room I asked our steward if he could place us near a corner window, which he did. We were joined by some active duty men and their wives, including a four-star general. As I looked at the young men, I thought of my father being only 22 when he died. I grieve for every military person we lose and am always in awe of these young Americans who volunteer to place

themselves in harm's way.

I asked our steward if he would pass along my compliments to the chef. When he told me she was behind a door at the other side of the room, I asked if I might give her my compliments in person. It was easy to see that no one had ever asked him that request before. He left our table and returned later and said, "Follow me." As we crossed the room I felt as though everyone was looking at me and thinking, "That guy must be getting kicked out!" Well, the steward had to get Secret Service permission for me to do this. As we entered the kitchen there

were a number of men in suits giving me the evil eye! The head chef and I met and had our picture taken.

When leaving the breakfast room we had our photo taken with the president. I knew he was tall, but not THAT tall! We then were placed aboard a van and escorted to Arlington. It was pretty amazing to see the police block off traffic so we could move freely all the way to the cemetery.

My thought was that all these poor people in traffic jams must think that we are important!

When we arrived it was a bit hectic as there was no

one to assist in where to sit. Several of us sat together in the amphitheatre and enjoyed hearing the Marine Band



play and the marching in of the colors. Military bands can't be beaten.

I went to the Tomb of the Unknowns to watch President Obama place a wreath.

Watching these members of the Old Guard protect the tomb never fails to move me. I think of my father who never had a 21-gun salute, or even *Taps* played for him. He was interred in a temporary grave and then brought to the American Military Cemetery in England. I think of all those graves and know there is a story behind each one. Stories that do not get told... and my fellow AWON-ers who have no grave to visit because their fathers were never found.

After the president presented the wreath he went

...continued on page 12

Call for Tributes!

Add a Tribute to the AWON Website! This could be one of the most long-lasting and satisfying ways to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, or Uncle. Just be a current AWON Member!

Here's How: 1. Have a look at our website's **TRIBUTE** section at www.awon.org (click "Our Fathers") to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on "How to prepare a Father Tribute" – (at www.awon.org/check5.html); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko's scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . janceysue@gmail.com. If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/721-6775.

Don't let another day go by. AWON is honored to help you honor your Father or loved one! . . . a Tribute page is yours for the asking.



...White House, from page 11

directly to the amphitheater to give his speech. I had lost track of my three friends and did not know where to sit. I went to a tall, distinguished man and told him he looked important and could, possibly, know where we guests were to sit. He did not, but insisted that I take his seat next to his (gorgeous) wife. I protested but, he insisted, so sit I did.

After saying hello to his wife I asked her what her husband does around the White House. "Oh, she replied, "he



is President Obama's chief-of-staff." (ed. note: *Denis McDonough*) I said, "Well, guess I asked the right person where to sit!"

She was very interested in the "why" of why I was there. I showed her some pictures of my father's grave and of my son in his pilot uniform at Vance AFB. Told her the

background of AWON. When the ceremony was over and we were exiting she gave me a big hug. I could tell she was taken by the "why" of why were there.

I found Ed Peters with Sondra Sarles, Penny Bernstein and Roberta Nolan with our wreath and we were the last group to present. Putting

words to my own feelings while walking the wreath out to present is difficult. There are hundreds of people watching. If only they knew who we represented, if only they could hear stories of our fathers. But we five knew why we were there and I am quite certain our fathers were proud of their children.

Roberta Nolan's comments on WH breakfast, as expressed to Norm Burkey

I don't know how to properly thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend and participate in the Memorial Day events in DC! It was the experience I will never forget. I shall treasure it always!

I felt so honored and, more importantly, I felt my father was so honored. I also felt so humbled. I was in the presence of greatness. Not just the medals, brass stars, and dress uniforms. I was humbled by the greatness of my AWON companions with whom I formed an instant bond. I was touched by the stories I heard and by the genuine care with which my own story was received.

It was amazing to walk out to the amphitheater and see so many patriots gathered that day for the shared purpose of true hero worship. My heart swelled with patriotism as the Marine Band played so beautifully such selections as This is My Country. You betcha! I was deeply moved by the singing of The Greatest Measure of Devotion. I shed and shared tears with the widow of Joshua Wheeler with whom we were seated. We welcomed her baby son into our midst with pride and compassion.

Laying the AWON wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns was a moment of deep emotion. My brother categorized it as a "true Gold Star moment." Indeed.

Looking over the rolling hills of Arlington, I was struck by the enormity of the place. So very many graves!! I left taking a piece of it all in my heart.

Words fail to capture the experience adequately. No words could. But, to you, Norm, I say Thank You!!! You have made this War Orphan feel very special and truly thanked for the sacrifice and pain that is our common thread.

Memorial Day 2016 • Stateside



Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery San Diego, California

Four AWONers and four of their grandchildren together presented a floral arrangement during the Memorial Day ceremony at Ft. Rosecrans. Pictured, from left, are AWONer Roger Connor, granddaughter Kenley Edwards, AWONer Rita Niro Blair, grandson Saxon Edwards, AWONer Barbara Torrey Smith, and grandsons Christopher and Joseph Gentile. Not pictured is AWONer Sharon Crowley Connor.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument New York City

AWONers Maggie Malone and Robert J. Harding Jr. presented the AWON wreath at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument during New York City's annual Memorial Day program. Their fathers' names and where they died was announced from the podium as they presented the wreath.



Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia

From left, AWONers Sondra Sarles, Ed Peters, Ken Underwood, Penny Bernstein and Roberta Nolan presented the AWON wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. See story on page 10.

For the 14th straight year AWON presented floral tributes and memorials, both stateside and overseas, previous and the following two pages are the arrangements and the generous AWON member donations. In many cases arrangements during the official ceremonies attended by family members from around the world, and the general public. Thank you for your support.

Go to <http://www.awon.org/new/>



**Sicily-Rome American
Cemetery and Memorial, Italy**
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bob
Meek • Presenter – Staff



**Honolulu Memorial
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
Honolulu, Hawaii**
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Tatum Young •
presenter – AWONer Vanita Rae Smith and great-
nephew Solomon Alexander. Niece Jayme Alexan-
der also in attendance.



**Ardennes Amer
and Memori**
AWON Stateside Coor
hauer • AWON Overse
nard Achten, also in a



Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Philippines
 AWON Stateside Coordinator – Patty Temte • AWON Overseas Coordinator – Assistant Cemetery Superintendent Bert Caloud • Presenters - The Lim family, including AWONer Vicente Lim IV (great-grandson), far right, and AWONer Vicente Lim III (grandson), fourth from left.

Day 2016

outes on Memorial Day at 19 American military cem-
in memory of our fathers. Pictured here and on the
ements AWON wreath coordinators ordered through
an AWON member or Overseas Friend presented the
ed by U.S. and local officials, members of the military
you to all who make this project a success every year.
/memorials.html for more photos.



**American Cemetery
al, Belgium**
rdinator – Gail Eisen-
as Coordinator – Ber-
ttendance



**Florence American Cemetery
and Memorial, Italy**
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bar-
bara Catterall • Presenter – Staff.



**Normandy American Cemetery
and Memorial, France**
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Char-
lene Czajkowski • AWON Overseas
Coordinator and presenter – AWON
Normandy Ambassador Jean-Marc Le-
sueur



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



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, France
AWON Stateside Coordinator – Vic Muller • Presenter -
Capt. Edwin J. Grohe of the U.S. 6th Fleet and Maj. Ferrand
of the French Army. Ceremonies were held indoors due to
torrential rain, thunder and lightning.

Memorial Day 2016



Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, Luxembourg

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Roger Connor • Presenters – AWONer Marilyn Rustand Lieurance, AWON Overseas Friend Rene (Rini) Majerus, and Helen Patton, granddaughter of Gen. George S. Patton. Marilyn, who presented the wreath last year, was unexpectedly in Luxembourg again due to the discovery of wreckage from her father's plane nearby in Germany. Rini, who researches for information about KIA Americans, has adopted Roger's father's grave. Helen always is a part of Memorial Day activities.



Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Sharon Crowley Connor • Presenter - Staff • Suresnes is a WWI cemetery with 24 WWII unknowns. AWON honors their unknown children for them.



Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, Netherlands

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Gerry Morenski • Presenter – AWONer Antonetta Nero Bell. Also present AWON Overseas Friend Joost Claassens.



Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Paul Bremer • Presenter – Staff

Memorial Day 2016



Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Sharon Crowley Connor • Presenters – AWONers Jean Obert Kimbriel and JoAnne Rowman Morrissey



Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Brian Hope
• AWON Overseas Coordinator – Jack Emery • Presenter – Staff. Also present AWON Overseas Friends Jean-Marc Bonner and Jean-Marc Leseuer.



North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial, Tunisia

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bonnie Hellums • Presenter – Staff



Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, Belgium

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Rik Peirson • AWON Overseas Coordinators – AWON Belgian Ambassadors and project founders Bernard and Regine Achten • Presenters – Bernard Achten, AWONer Nancy Lawson and husband Sherman Lawson (above, left). Also present AWON Overseas Friends and adopters of Nancy's father's grave, Martijn and Cindy van Haren, pictured at left in right photo, and the Achten's daughter, Marie, front.



Unwed teen mom finds her voice

Unwed pregnant teenager in the 1960s. All while being a World War II orphan. These are the adversities detailed in AWONer Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor's new memoir, *Phantom Son: A Mother's Story of Surrender*.

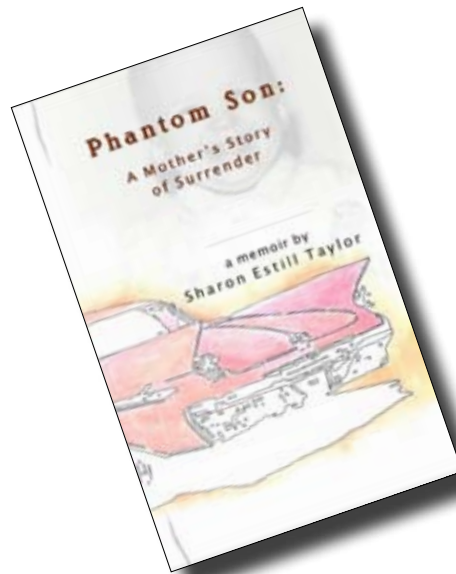
In her first memoir at age 70, Taylor recounts her struggle with the adoption system of that era with humor and honesty, and how she persevered in her search and ultimate reunion with her son.

"(*Phantom Son*) bridges a time when unwed women endured devastating discrimination and pressure to give up their parental rights, to a time when searching for and finding these children was more accepted and facilitated by society," states John Harvey, professor of psychology, emeritus, at the University of Iowa, and editor of the *Journal of Loss and Trauma*. "Beyond all, this is a story of grief, courage, and redemption."

While the reader experiences the author's journey from love-struck teenager to expectant mother to powerful advocate for other birthmothers there also are smaller sub-stories, including the loss of Taylor's father in World War II, and how that event affected her family over the decades. The sub-stories fascinate

and contribute to the gripping nature of this memoir.

An educator, speaker and writer, Taylor tells her story in the tradition of an Irish storyteller - with humor, self-deprecation, poignancy and triumph. It's highly readable despite it being a heavy and emotional topic. The author doesn't shy away from details, yet she tells them with grace and



eloquence. Her candor is courageous.

Taylor's honesty about her teen pregnancy also is a reminder of how far we have come as a society in terms of the acceptance of out-of-wedlock births. Instead of the rampant shaming and secrecy these pregnancies held post-war, today these "conditions" are now not only tolerated but celebrated. The shame Taylor felt - or was made to feel - hardly

exists today, which is why readers must remember *Phantom Son* is from a different era.

Deborah Stokes, PhD, director of the Better Brain Center in Washington, D.C., states that the impact of societal and religious silencing and shame heaped upon mothers like Taylor in the 1960s was nothing short of traumatic abuse.

"This is an important read for anyone, but I particularly recommend this book for those whose lives have been affected by the disenfranchised grief of coerced adoption," Stokes adds.

Phantom Son is available at Amazon.com.

And there's more to come from Taylor. This fall she will release *Phantom Father: A Daughter's Quests for Elegy*, recounting her search for her father, 1Lt. Shannon Estill, a P-38 fighter pilot and one of the last casualties of World War II, and the recovery of his remains. Visit myphantomfather.com or sharonestilltaylor.com for details.

Taylor is a retired professor from Saint Martin's University in Washington, and resides in Arizona. She will be speaking and signing books at the National WWII Museum's yearly international conference in New Orleans, Nov. 17-19, 2016.



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 WWII 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*
foreword 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*
(VHS) **REDUCED!** was \$5.00 \$ 3.00*

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

____ *AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers*
(VHS) 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
____ 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

____ 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

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



There was a Texas-sized gathering in the Dallas suburb of Richardson in April. Enjoying lunch and conversation were eight AWONers and their "plus ones," plus a member from the Vietnam War orphans group, Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT). Pictured in the back row, from left, are AWONer Ron Burrus, Ed Renner and AWONer Mary Alice Renner, AWONer Suzanne Parker, AWONer Patty Temte, AWONer Jerry Pinkerton and Judy Pinkerton. In the front row, from left, are Margaret Van Lienen from SDIT, AWONer Sandra Schmidt, AWONer Mary Nguyen, Jerry Temte, AWONer Bob Landrum, George Rator and Bill Parker. *Patty*



In Phoenix, Arizona, this April AWONer Barry Barr-Finch and Tom Brewer, left, met AWONer Diane and John Baczynski for lunch at Bobby Q's. The foursome had fun catching up. *Barry*



In June four Washington AWONers got together for food and sharing - and to admire Tom Brewer's garden. Pictured left to right are AWONers Judi Hollis Kramer, Barry Barr-Finch, Sandra Lane Walker and Bob Wasmer. Tom took the photo. *Barry*

Welcome New Members

Jack Kirksey, GA, son of TM/2c Andrew J. Kirksey, Navy
Gayle Moritz Rule, OH, dau of 2LT Milton A. Moritz, Army Air Force
Louise Higginbotham, MA, dau of SIs William F. Barry, Navy
Arthur Clark, NC, son of PFC Willard Francis, Army
Audrey Nadeau Greene, DE, dau of PVT Philip W. Nadeau, Army

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

Dutch man seeks Yankee Division families

A 24-year-old Dutch man is asking for AWON's help.

Silvano Theunissen of The Netherlands has been researching the 26th U.S. Infantry "Yankee" Division for several years. He would like to talk to both veterans and family members of those who belonged to the 26th ID. See his message to AWON below:

Hi Kathy,

It is my honor to keep the legacy alive of your fathers. Without them I might not live in freedom today.

For over ten years I have been interested in the Second World War. For about six years I have been especially interested in the U.S. 26th Infantry "Yankee" Division, who were active in Europe during both World Wars.

Besides collecting memorabilia of this unit, I also do research regarding the soldiers whom were killed in action or missing in action. Earlier in April I had finished my research regarding these

soldiers, trying to tell the story of the 2,124 men of the 26th Division who were killed or missing during the war. During the research I managed to find some photographs of these heroes and some information regarding their life, service and death.

Yet, sadly enough, this cannot be told with all. Therefore I need your help (and) the help of any relatives of Yankee Division men. I also would like to get in touch with still living 26th Division veterans if you know any in your surroundings.

I am forever emdebted to these men of the "Greatest Generation." This is my way to try and thank them and their families.

If you'd like to get in touch with me, please contact me thru either my website, www.yankee-division.com, or by my e-mail at s.theunissen1991@gmail.com.

com.

*With the kindest regards from overseas,
Silvano Theunissen*



Silvano Theunissen, left, with a Yankee Division veteran, in 2015 during a visit to the United States.

ABMC, relatives of comrades read The Star

Orphan stories noticed outside AWON

Recently, two articles published in *The Star* got special notice.

Veronica Stasio, an interpretive guide at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, contacted *The Star* after reading in the April 2016 issue about the passing of AWONer George Cropley.

Cropley's father, PFC Errol Hastey, is buried at Sicily-Rome. 1Lt. Peter Duston, USA (ret.), Cropley's long-time conservator, first wrote Cropley's heart-wrenching story in the July 2014 issue. Cropley passed away in November 2015.

"We read the article about the passing of AWON member George Cropley and learned about his moving story," Stasio wrote. "*The Star* is a great source of information for us and it is always very moving reading the stories of the American families who gave so much for our countries."

Stasio wished to get in touch with Duston.

"The reason being that, as part of our job, we collect material pertaining to the service members honored in our site. Through that we are able to tell their stories to our visitors and make sure they are never forgotten."

Duston and Stasio have been put in touch with each other. Stasio added that this was not the first time AWON or *The Star* has been a source of information for Sicily-Rome.

"... thanks to you and AWON members we learned about the stories of the men and women honored here and are so able to share them with visitors," she explained. "I think it would be nice for them to know that their fathers, grandfathers, uncles... memorialized in the ABMC sites around the world are not forgotten and we work hard every day to make sure they are honored as they deserve."

Then, in June, AWONer Maxine Olson notified *The Star* that the great-nephew of the

man who flew with her father - 2Lt. Max K. Graham - had contacted her and told her that his family might have some letters that mention her father.

"I just wanted to let you know that because of my article you published in the January issue of the AWON *Star*, I was contacted by a member of Lt. McInis's family. It is another miracle. Another circle is completed," Olson wrote.

There is a long chain of how the nephew found Olson, including an historian in England, a book, and the AWON website.

Olson and the nephew are planning to write a follow-up article for *The Star*.

See page 26 for guidelines for submitting an article for publication.

AWON member passes

Rosalyn (Foster) Fannin Meacham, 74, passed away April 6, 2016. The daughter of Lt. (jg) Ross B. Foster and Alice Foster, she was raised in Tacoma, Washington, where she taught elementary, junior high and high school. She was preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Clayton Harris; and first husband, Capt. Clayton A. Fannin, who was killed in Vietnam in 1963. She is survived by her husband



Meacham

of 33 years, Leonard (Buck) Meacham; daughter, Rosemary Anne Fannin; sister, AWONer Rosemary Foster; and one grandson.

AWON turns 25 in December

AWON will mark a milestone at the end of this year. This December is the 25th anniversary of AWON's founding.

AWON Founder Ann Mix registered the name *American WWII Orphans Network* with the state of Washington, and in December 1991, AWON was licensed as a nonprofit business corporation.

Across the country, on December 7, 1991 - 50 years to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor - the first AWON meeting was held in Washington, D.C.

Because a newsletter is not published in December, starting in January 2017 *The Star* will begin a series on AWON's early days, including photographs and comments from those who were there at the beginning.

Thanks for letting us know!

Our members are great at finding "new" WWII orphans. When you find a new orphan,



please let AWON know so we can send them an information packet or note them and their father in our database. An address, email or source of your information also would be helpful.

*Thanks for being an
AWON sleuth!*

AWON Board Business 15 March 2016

2016 Conference Report: Conference Co-chair **Sam Tannebaum** sent a brief update of the conference by email stating that to date 80 people are booked on the *Freedom of the Seas* and nine people have registered for the conference.

Financial Report: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** was not in attendance. There were no corrections to the financial report that was submitted.

Old Business: The board discussed each of the previous action items. Still on the agenda is a response from Tony Cordero of Sons and Daughters in Touch regarding a collaboration of Gold Star Families and also from representatives of the SDIT group. Facebook work is still in progress.

AWON Archives Project: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** gave a summary of the archives project status. She will email the board the web address for History InTouch which now has a new look with more information on their website. A more detailed discussion about the archives project will take place at the April board meeting. Board members were asked to be prepared with questions for a History IT representative.

2016 AWON Election: The board discussed options for board terms and elections due to lack of interest in the election.

AWON Gala: The board discussed the possibility of holding a gala in Washington, D.C., in 2018 or later.

Burkey speech: The board is happy to announce that board president **Norm Burkey** will be speaking about his mother on Mother's Day at the National WWII Memorial as part of an event on that special day.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is April 19, 2016.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

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

AWON Board Business 19 April 2016

2016 AWON Conference: Conference Co-chair **Sam Tannenbaum** notified the board that there have been eight cancellations, bringing the attendance total to 72, including 44 AWON members and 28 guests. A total of 12 conference registrations have been received and two memorial ads have been placed to date.

Financial Report: The board discussed ways to earn more interest as there is \$33,000 in the AWON checking account not earning interest. The board approved Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** opening a money market account after consulting with a government-insured institution. Year to date, AWON has received \$7,500 of operating income and incurred operating expenses of \$3,500. Year-to-date income exceeds budget by \$5,900.

Old Business: The board is still waiting for a response from Tony Cordero of Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT) regarding a collaboration of Gold Star Families and also representatives of the SDIT group. Work is progressing on a Facebook group.

AWON Scrapbooks: The board discussed the scrapbooks and records managed, maintained and cared for many years by **Ann O'Connor**. Ann said she would like to retire from this responsibility. The board discussed transferring the large volumes to AWON's Indianapolis office. **Norma Nicol Hamilton** will contact Ann to ask for an inventory of her records, which will be helpful to any future archival committee, as well as **Walt Linne** who manages the AWON office.

Archives Project: The board continued discussion about the archives project. Board members previously submitted questions to Norma Nicol Hamilton about the parameters of History IT's proposal to digitally convert and store AWON's archives. Norma will forward the questions to a History IT representative. Norma also will contact John Lupton, an historian and husband of *Star* editor **Kathy Le Comte**, about a competitor in Maryland, and **Norm Burkey** and **Ed Peters** will make an official visit. The board then discussed

what specific items potentially could be archived.

Father Posters: The board discussed AWON's large collection of poster-sized father photographs that were created for the 2004 AWON National Conference in Washington, D.C. The board decided that following the 2016 conference **Gerry Morenski** will contact Ed Peters and Holly Rotondi at the National WWII Memorial about their interest in the photographs.

SDIT: Jerry Pinkerton gave an update on the collaboration with SDIT. Jerry will be in contact and will possibly meet with a SDIT board member.

2016 AWON Election: No one has applied to run for the board election. The board discussed options in order to keep the board active. Each director was asked to reflect and then to email a statement whether or not they would be willing to serve another year on the board. An article will be placed in *The Star* asking for affirmation of the slate and a voting process placed in that article.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

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

AWON Board Business 17 May 2016

Prior Business: The following items were approved by board vote via email after the April board meeting: The board approved to pay through the AWON wreath account the balance of funds not raised by New York AWONers for the 2016 NYC Memorial Day parade. The board received email notification from all board directors agreeing to extend their term on the AWON Board of Directors for another year.

2016 AWON Conference: Conference Co-chair **Sam Tannenbaum** gave a report on the status of the up-

...continued on page 26

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
October Issue
is September 1**

...Minutes, from page 25

coming conference. There was discussion of re-negotiating the price with a hotel near the port. Currently there are two speakers scheduled, and the deadline for memorial ads in the program book has been extended to Aug. 1.

Financial Report: The treasurer's report was approved as submitted. On April 30 there is \$83,400 cash on hand, including \$14,500 that is restricted for wreaths. Year to date AWON has received \$9,000 of operating income (66% of budget). Reimbursements for wreaths purchased for seven cemeteries totals \$1,260. Dues receipts were \$8,600 (69% of budget).

Money Market Account: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** will continue working on establishing an AWON money market account.

SDIT: **Ed Peters** reported that Tony Cordero of Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT) requested to postpone until after Father's Day discussion of a collaboration of Gold Star Families. Jerry Pinkerton is working with Ed on this project.

AWON Facebook: The Facebook action item has been eliminated.

AWON Archives Project: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** gave a detailed report on the three digital archiving companies she has contacted: History Associates, SALT Institute and History IT. The board then discussed potential AWON items for archiving and agreed to review the list of potential archive items and to submit opinions within two weeks of what items should or should not be archived.

AWON Scrapbooks: Norma will teleconference with AWON Archivist **Ann O'Connor** and **Walt Linne** to discuss transferring the AWON scrapbooks and other materials to the AWON office in Indianapolis.

Mother Tributes: The board discussed the idea of adding Mother Tributes to the AWON database.

AWON Downsizing: The board discussed preparing a document addressing the issue of downsizing in the organization. The board approved creating a committee of **Norm Burkey**, **Gerry Morenski**, **Jerry Pinkerton** and **Kathy Le Comte** to work on the document, and taking the committee's recommendations under advisement.

Non-authorized Payment Requests: The board agreed to authorize Jerry Pinkerton to not pay any receipts or requests that have not been authorized or submitted through the Board of Directors.

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

Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:

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

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

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 _____

e-Star • July 2016

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 and Donation Options

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

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

Would you like to include a donation for:

AWON Memorial Day Wreath Fund? \$ _____

AWON General Fund? \$ _____

Total Dues and Donations 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.

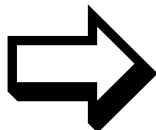
**Make check payable to AWON and
mail it and form to:**

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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Is it time
for you
to renew?



The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

AWON Headquarters
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
www.awon.org



AWON Mission

To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

AWON Directory

Address Corrections

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The Star

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