

Thankful soldier's family is in his life

Teen tends grave chosen as toddler

by Youri Hanssen and Nicole Hanssen

Email from Nicole Hanssen: It is my pleasure to write an article for the next edition of The Star. My oldest son, Youri, wrote a letter to Paul D. Meyer on Memorial Day this year and posted it on his Facebook account. After I read it, I felt so proud of him and decided to use his letter as a concept for the article for The Star. I only used more words. Nicole Hanssen, a very proud mother.

Dear Paul,
On the weekend of Memorial Day 2002, when I was a little boy of nearly two years old, my parents took me to the American Cemetery in Margraten.

After walking there with them, I got out of the stroller and walked on my own along the endless rows of white marble crosses and David's stars. Then my father asked me to choose a grave and stand next to it so he could take a picture.

I chose your cross.

Several years later, in 2007, my parents read about the adoption program in the local newspaper. The Margraten Foundation of Adopting Graves had updated their database and was looking for new adoptants. My family decided to sign up for adopting a grave, preferably yours. In August 2007 the Hanssen family officially became the adoptants of your grave.

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Youri Hanssen, 17, stands behind the grave of 1st Lt. Paul D. Meyer at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial on Memorial Day.

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AWON mourns passing of members

Caroline Fuller Jackson, 79, passed away on May 26, 2017, in Fenton, Missouri. She was born May 6, 1938 in Los Angeles, the daughter of Signalman 2nd Class Orlan



Caroline Jackson

E. Fuller. She moved to Hawaii after high school where she met James Jackson. After a three-week courtship they had a 29-year marriage. They had three daughters, Donna, Elisha, and Abra, and adopted one son, Charlie. Caroline was an avid spokesperson for AWON, mentioning it whenever she could. She attended every conference since she found AWON, and in 2007 took the journey of a

lifetime with AWON to the Philippines.

Susan M. Friedhaber-Hard, 72, died June 10, 2017, in Buffalo, New York. She was born July 11, 1944 in Norfolk, Virginia, the daughter of Lt. John "Jack" Friedhaber and

Ann

Prusinsky.

After her

father's

death her

mother

remar-

ried to

John

Hard,

who

adopted

and

raised

Susan.

Susan was the

High School Library/Media

Specialist at Pioneer Central

School until her retirement

in 2011. She is survived by

her daughter, Rebecca (Col-

by) Helms; two granddaugh-

ters; and three half-sisters.



Susan
Friedhaber-Hard



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AWON to honor legacy in D.C.

by Kathy Le Comte

AWON members already have expressed a strong interest in the 2018 AWON Gala Gathering, "Honoring Their Legacy / Honoring Our Legacy."

The 2018 AWON celebration will be held Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Members and guests will arrive on Thursday and depart Sunday.

The hotel is the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C., for those who want to come before or stay after the gala gathering in order to visit the capital's many museums and historic sites. The Crystal Gateway Marriott also is very close to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and is just blocks from the Crystal City Metro station for easy public transportation.

As of the end of June approximately 125 members and guests have pre-registered for the gathering. If you haven't notified AWON of your intent to attend, with no commitment, please email Penny LeGrand to let her know (see box).

Following the announcement of the gathering in the March issue of *The Star* a number of members had questions about the event's location, purpose and whether it was the last gathering.

The location: Washington, D.C. was chosen because of its significance to AWON and because it is a major airport hub.

The first gathering of AWON's founding members took place in the nation's capital at the 1991 *No Greater Love* tree dedication for the children of war dead. It was the seminal event that led to AWON's creation. AWON returned to the capital in 2004 as a major participant in the four-day dedication and celebration of the National World War II Memorial. No other city holds as much meaning to AWON, and the capital is easy to get to, and offers many attractions.

The purpose: AWON Board Director and Gala Committee Co-chair Billie Meeks states, "We didn't want it to be the usual conference format but more like a class or family reunion. The Gala will be more time social-

izing and less time in meetings. What is normally covered in four days will be covered in two. Although we would love to have the Gala go on for the week, time and money for some is limited."

The last?: Due to the planned shut-down of AWON in late 2018 or shortly thereafter, this is the last national AWON gathering. But as Meeks also stated, "We hope regional gatherings will continue."

But there's plenty of time and plenty to look forward to before AWON wraps up.

The preliminary Gala Gathering itinerary has afternoon registration on Thursday, September 27, with a casual reception in the

...continued on page 16

2018 Gala Gathering

No-commitment Pre-registration

For planning purposes, AWON would like to know those who plan to attend the 2018 Gala Gathering, Sept. 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C. **There is no commitment.** Please send the following information to Penny LeGrand by **September 1:**

- Name
- Number of guests
- Wheelchair needs (for buses)

Email or mail Penny LeGrand at penylg11@gmail.com or 11231 N. Platte Dr., Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Welcome New Members

Marie Quattrucci, RI, dau of GM3C Alfred A. Ricci, Navy

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

Inspired by great-grandfather's service

Chichelo wins WWII Museum award for activism

In June Joseph Chichelo, grandson of AWONer Joe Chichelo, was the winner of the National WWII Museum's first Billy Michal Student Leadership Award for the state of New Jersey.

Starting this year the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award, part of the museum's American Spirit Awards, is given annually to one 8th to 12th grade student from each state and the District of Columbia who demonstrates the American spirit in their community through volunteerism and school and community activism. During World War II, six-year-old Billy Michal of Louisiana helped his one-room school win a statewide scrap-metal collection contest. Through the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award, the museum hopes to promote the values of leadership, teamwork, tolerance, creativity, and perseverance to students nationwide.

Joseph, 17, and a parent earned an all-expense paid trip to New

Orleans to accept his award at the National WWII Museum during a ceremony at the American Spirit Awards. Besides the award, Joseph and other students also had the opportunity to meet American Spirit Award recipients, to participate in leadership activities,



Joseph Chichelo, left, and his great-grandfather, Pvt. Generoso Chichelo, right.

and to explore New Orleans and the museum's exhibits and collections behind-the-scenes.

Speaking to the *Daily Record* newspaper, Joseph said that his interest in history was inspired by his great-grandfather, Pvt. Generoso Chichelo, who was KIA in 1944 and is buried at Britany American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

His middle school teacher noticed Joseph's interest in history and encouraged him to form a club. Joseph started that club, and another one in high school that he named the World War II Military History Club.

"We watch movies, study strategies, watch documentaries, read books, talk to as many veterans as we can and go on field trips to talk to veterans," Joseph said to the *Record*.

In 2009 his family visited France to retrace his great-grandfather's footsteps.

"My dad doesn't know for a fact but they talked to an old lady who lives in a farmhouse there and she said she remembered someone laying around the area where my great-grandfather could have died," Joseph said.

"Obviously, she doesn't know if it could have been him or not but it could have been for all we know. So that's what I want to do someday whenever I can get over there."

Joseph explained that history gives him a better understanding of the world today.

...continued on page 16

'New' orphan found at WWII Weekend

by Norm Burkey

We had the usual crowd - Rusty Lerch, Kevin Lerch and Norm Burkey - to man the AWON table at the 27th annual Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's World War II Weekend in Reading, Pennsylvania.

As usual, Rusty's two grandsons were in attendance and they are now full-fledged reenactors. The difference is that they, unlike their compatriots, have the option of sleeping at Grandma's house. This year, Grandma also provided some ready cash for them. Over the years, Grandpa Rusty has provided the funds for much of their equipment, but this year he declined the invitation to accompany them to the flea market section of the show.

We three were trying to remember our first year at the show. We couldn't remember the year, but it has been more than ten.

As he usually does Rusty made arrangements for our table inside the hangar. This year was unusual in at least two aspects. First, the weather was beautiful. Usually it is very hot or very rainy, but this year the temperatures were ideal and the rain held off until almost three in the afternoon on Sunday. Second, Rusty found a war orphan even before the event began.

Gordon and Jill Bateman from Lancaster, Pennsylvania had a table immediately behind us. Gordon's father was F/O Gordon M. Bateman who was lost over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Brazil in 1943. I'm sure they will join AWON, and in addition



Rusty Lerch, Gordon Bateman, and Norm Burkey

to asking Janice Buterbaugh to send them a prospect packet, we invited them to the annual York, Pennsylvania gathering next April.

The Batemans were there to sell a book written by Jill Bateman titled, *Flying Forts and Tall Dutch Tulips: A Year at War*. In a nutshell, her dad was shot down over Holland. He was discovered by a Dutch family and sheltered in the house along with a Jewish family. The really unusual part is that the Germans occupied the first two floors of the house. The Batemans have traveled to Holland many times and have met both the Dutch and Jewish families. I will encourage Jill to write an expanded article for *The Star*.

As to the World War II show itself, a new group of reenactors arrived last year and returned this year. They represent the Chinese Army. Also interesting is that they are all in their 30s and 40s. We also had a death this past year. Many individual re-enactors such as former presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy appear each year. They also had the comedy team Abbott and Costello for many years, but Costello died last winter. They had a special presentation and named one of their stages after the duo.

**AWON 25th Anniversary
series will resume in
the October issue of
*The Star***

Fate of lost bomber discovered in discarded book

Lassie Come Home - the ghost bomber

Editor's note: This article, and how it came to The Star, both involve a chain of people and events. The article's chain will be clear upon reading. As for The Star, AWONer Ann O'Connor came into possession of several Collie Club of America Bulletins. She found this article (originally published in ShowSight Magazine in October 1993) and passed it on. The Star needed permission to reprint, so Ann contacted the CCA director who gave her the author's contact information and then passed it on to me. Linda not only gave permission to reprint but found her original image files. Linda wrote this article from her father's hospital room shortly before he passed away in 1993. Her father was serving with the Navy Seabees in World War II when she was born in Atlanta at the Naval Air Base Hospital.

by Linda Ayers Turner Knorr

Harry Jensen was a first lieutenant and bombardier in the 8th Air Force and flew out of England during World War II in a B-17 bomber named *Lassie Come Home*.

On May 13, 1944 he was shot down on his 19th mission. It was to have been the longest raid of the war, from England to Posen, Poland. The formation was attacked by over one hundred Luftwaffe fighters in the area of Stettin, Germany. The plane was hit, and a fire developed in the left wing. The wing of a B-17 contains 2,700 gallons of highly flammable gasoline so you can't stay around too long!

The entire crew parachuted out and a frightened young Harry Jensen was captured when he hit the ground near Ginst at Ruggen. Lt. Jensen spent a year as a POW at Stalag Luft III. The camp was located at Sagan, 90 miles southeast of Berlin, and was the principle German camp for allied Air Force officer prisoners of war. The movie, *The Great Escape*, was based on the drama that unfolded in March 1944 when 50 of 76 escaped Stalag Luft III prisoners were executed by the German Gestapo. They had gained brief freedom by tunneling under the barbed wire fence. Harry Jensen was a survivor of both infamous forced marches from Sagan to Nuremburg, and later from Nuremburg to Moosburg.

There are other interesting stories, and one is the story of how the plane got the name,

Lassie Come Home. Also, Harry's experience on his first weekend pass, and its coincidental relationship with June Lockhart, the star of the TV series, *Lassie*, as well as other TV series and films. Here is a letter Harry wrote to Lockhart in August 1989:

Dear Ms. June Lockhart,

Last Monday morning I saw your guest appearance on the CBS Good Morning show and was happy to learn that a new Lassie series is going to begin. It brought back some memories that I would like to share with you. In 1943 I was an aviator cadet stationed at Santa Ana, California. I received a weekend pass and, along with another cadet, went to Los Angeles. We were standing on Hollywood Boulevard waiting for a bus when a large limousine pulled up, the window rolled down, and a distinguished gentleman asked if he could give us a lift. It was your movie star father, Gene Lockhart. We accepted and, in the course of the conversation, he asked us where we were going. We told him that we were invited to a dance that evening. He also inquired as to if we had hotel accommodations. He then graciously offered us a card with his address on it and told us he would be glad to put us up for the night, and not to worry what time we arrived, he would still be up.

After the dance we took a cab to your house and your father answered the door. He invited us in, showed us downstairs

to the family room where two cots were made up. He brought us each a cold beer and we talked awhile. He said good night after telling us he would have breakfast about 10 a.m. the next morning.

I remember having breakfast in a room with large windows overlooking a beautiful landscaped yard. And now is where you come in. You entered the room and poured us our coffee and I recall you were wearing a beautiful negligee. Well, our eyes popped out, and in later years, whenever I saw you on TV or in the movies, I would always re-

mind my wife, "Vi, she once served me coffee in a beautiful negligee." In those days there was a popular one-hour program on Sunday radio. Your father arranged to get us studio tickets for the broadcast. it was a memorable weekend, one which I have never forgotten.

The story doesn't end there. I went on to receive my wings and commission and was assigned to B-17s. We were assigned to Langley Field, Virginia, for final training before going overseas. One night some of the officers of our crew and I went to the post theater and saw the movie Lassie Come Home. After the show I said to them, "If our bomber will try as hard to come home from a mission as that dog

did to get home, we ought to be a cinch to finish our 25 missions. Let's name our plane Lassie Come Home.

For 18 missions Lassie did come home, sometimes shot full of holes with an engine (or paw) missing. But on the 19th mission we were shot down by the Luftwaffe over Germany, and I wound up in Stalag Luft III - the same prison camp that was featured in the movie The Great Escape featuring Steve McQueen. None of us blamed Lassie. There were just too many German fighters and we were set on fire. Lassie

stayed up long enough for all of the crew to bail out safely.

I hope you find this interesting and wish you success in your new series. As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories."

Sincerely,
Harry D. Jensen



Left: Harry Jensen, in 1943 next to Lassie Come Home moments before take-off on her last mission, and right, in 1993 on Mackinac Island, MI.



ed with the story. She denies the negligee, saying she was only 17 and probably had on a robe. Harry told her that he knew the difference. June and Harry now correspond. However, now comes the most amazing story involving a series of events which truly proves that truth is stranger than fiction! Here is the story as Harry told it to me this summer at Mackinac Island:

...continued on page 8

...Lassie, from page 7

The pilot, Robert M. Dunn Jr., and I were the last to leave the plane. Before bailing out he set the plane on automatic pilot and we jumped out through the open bomb bay doors. The last I saw of the plane from my parachute, it was on fire and flying straight and level. I assumed that it would soon explode. Now, over 46 years later, I have found out what finally happened to Lassie.

Last Christmas, our tailgunner, Sgt. James Miller who lives in Bremerton, Washington, sent along with his card a picture story of the German occupation of Denmark. Working for Miller were two employees, one a Latino and the other a Dane. They knew of Miller's war experience, and he had told them he was in the 379th Bomb Group which was identified by the marking, a large triangle K on the tail of the plane, being from Kimbolton, England. The Latino, while visiting a paper recycling center in Bremerton, found the book and brought it back for his co-worker, the Dane. He, in turn, looking through the book, saw a picture of a B-17 that had crashed in Denmark. He showed it to Miller who identified it as a bomber from our group. This was five to six years ago. Miller made copies of the picture and filed them away. He and I are members of the 379th Bomb Group WWII Association. They recently released to its members information on the bombing raids by the group and other information that was previously classified as confidential.

We both received copies of the casualty report of our last raid on May 13, 1944. On it was listed the date of the mission, the target, the names of the crew, and the serial number of the plane, #2107082, which also was displayed on the tail of the plane. Miller compared this number with the one in the picture from the book, and was amazed to see they were the same. One plane, Lassie Come Home, flying on automatic pilot, without anyone in it, managed to fly from Stettin, Germany to Store

Heddinge, Denmark where it crashed. Through the Danish Consulate in Chicago and from a Scandinavian Airline official who lives in Denmark, I obtained additional information. Here is the official story as translated from a Danish report:

379th Bomb Group, 526th Squadron, 1st Division, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, England. Two hundred seventy-two B-17s from 1st Bomber Division flew into Stettin and Stralsund. Ten were lost. During the return flight the formations were attacked by German fighters and B-17 #42-107082 left the formation with left wing on fire and two feathered engines. At 15:30 the pilot, 1st Lt. Robert M. Dunn Jr., gave the order to leave the aircraft and all nine crew members jumped. All landed safely near Gingst at Ruggen and were shortly caught by the Germans who couldn't find the wreck.

After further research, the Germans concluded that the plane proceeded over the Baltic Sea, but all the way to Stevns, Denmark where you could hear noise from engines at 17:30. The aircraft was circling over the clouds and was heading directly at the town, Bjaelkerup, but it hit a power mast and changed direction. Then the aircraft hit some trees and, once again, changed direction and hit a supply house, which was smashed. The plane didn't stop, but proceeded through a garden until it collided with the hospital building at Store Heddinge. Six kids were evacuated as they were afraid of fire and explosion, but the only damage was a stairway in the building.

Yes, Lassie was just like her namesake. She tried to get back to her home in England, but crashed in Denmark. Maybe she knew I was a Dane, both my parents having been born in Denmark, and that someone there would help her. I'll never know, and I'll never forget her.

...continued on page 10

...Hanssen, from front page

The four of us - I got a baby brother in July 2003 - frequently visited the cemetery to bring flowers and express our gratitude for the offer you made. To my opinion that is the least we can do. We can never be thankful enough to you and your fellow countrymen. You all paid the highest price for freedom for your own country and especially for the freedom of so many foreign countries including The Netherlands, where I was born.

My family was able to find more information about you thanks to your IDPF (Individual Deceased Personnel File). We found out that you were born on March 1, 1920, in New Rochelle, New York, that you were killed in action in Boslar, Germany, just a few days before your 25th birthday, and that you and your wife, Elaine Mitchell Meyer, were living in Baltimore, Maryland.

Shortly before Memorial Day 2013 we received a message from your daughter, Nancy, who found out that the graves in Margraten were still adopted, and wanted to get in touch with us. Then we started a very frequent and warm correspondance. She told us everything she knew about you and your family. We told her about ours. Your wife, Elaine, had kept everything about you and we were lucky Nancy shared it with us. When we visited your grave that year, you almost felt like a member of our family resting there. It was so special!

For the 70th Memorial Day in May 2015 Nancy and her good friend, Jan, planned to come to Margraten with AWON. We first met them at Zaventem airport in Belgium when they arrived in Europe, and a week later we spent several days together. We had the most pleasant time and enjoyed ev-

ery minute of it. They were able to meet our whole family and we went to several special places we thought the two of them would like to see. For instance, the American Cemetery in Henri-Chapelle and the Siegfried-line in Germany.

In November 2016 we were able to meet Nancy and Jan again, now accompanied by another friend, Alice. The three of them did a Viking tour from Basel to Amsterdam. When they arrived in Amsterdam, we were there, too, to spend the weekend together. We once more had a very special time then, showing them other parts of our country like Harlem and The Hague.

Last month, April 2017, we were so lucky to be able to make the trip from Europe to the United States you always must have dreamt of making yourself when the war would be over... getting back home to your wife and little girl and to your family and friends and maybe trying to make a career as a singer as you always wanted to. So sad fate decided differently.

During our stay in the United States we visited New York, the state you were born in, accompanied by Nancy. There, we were able to meet Nancy's family. We spent several days at Nancy's new

apartment in Maryland, where your family lived and Nancy grew up. Nancy and Jan guided us through Washington, D.C., the capital of your country. Nearly at the end of our wonderful trip they took us further south to Virginia and North Carolina where we spent time at Jan's place. During our stay in the U.S. both Nancy and Jan took so good care of us and did everything possible so we could get a good impression of your country.

Since you are resting so far from home, I'll promise you that we will keep visiting



Youri Hanssen in 2002, when he chose Lt. Meyer's grave.

...continued on page 10

...Lassie, from page 8



Lassie Come Home "in the hospital" in Store Hendinge, Denmark.

As *Lassie* the movie star celebrates her 50th birthday this year, Harry Jensen returned to Denmark on May 13 (1993) to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the fate of his ghost bomber. There he met, for the first time, six of the people who were at the site of the crash - including the 90-year-old nurse in whose room *Lassie* intruded.

Harry and Vi Jensen own Kimbolton Kennels in Western Springs, Illinois, and have bred and shown English Springer Spaniels for many years. Currently they are ringside

collecting Best in Show ribbons from the Great Pyrenees, Ch. Tim'N Chip's Foolish Pleasure, a dog they co-own with Judith C. Cooper.

This story has been written from the hospital room of my father, Roy Ayers, who even more courageously than *Lassie* is fighting to come home.



Linda Ayers Turner Knorr

...Hanssen, from page 9



From left: Nicole and Youri Hanssen, Nancy Meyer, Robert and Quinn Hanssen, in 2015.

your grave and keep bringing you flowers. Thank you so much for giving my country back its freedom, and thank you for the amazing story we share. For it is because of our story, that we had the opportunity to meet your beautiful country, family and friends. We are so lucky that you all came into our lives.

I'll always carry you, your family and our story with me in my heart.

Youri Hanssen
Memorial Day, May 29, 2017

Join the discussion on Facebook

Keep up with your fellow AWONers by joining the AWON Facebook page. To join, just search for "AWON" and then click the "join" button.



Memorial Day 2017 • Stateside



Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery San Diego, California

AWONer Barbara Torrey Smith continued the tradition of presenting a Memorial Day floral arrangement at Ft. Rosecrans with her grandsons, Christopher and Joseph Gentile. A reporter from the *Times of San Diego* noticed Barbara and wrote an article that can be found at this link: <http://timesofsandiego.com/military/2017/05/29/devotion-to-dad-she-never-knew-fort-rosecrans-ritual/>

National World War II Memorial Washington, D.C.



AWONer Susan Hunckler Holmes and her husband attended the Memorial Day observance at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Susan said the ceremony was a beautiful tribute both to the survivors and the fallen. "I have always wanted to go Hawaii where my father is buried, but this one made me so proud to be there and to listen to the stories and to meet some of the heroes of World War II." This year AWON did not participate in the wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. There was no White House breakfast.



Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument New York City

From left; AWONers Betsy Harris (NYC), Nancy Morrell (Pennsylvania), Robert J. Harding Jr. (NYC), Carol and August Alegi (Maryland), and Maggie Malone (NYC), at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument during New York City's annual Memorial Day program. Inset: Harding and Alegi presented the AWON wreath.

Memorial

This marks the 15th consecutive year AWON has cemeteries and memorials, stateside and overseas. From the previous page and the following two pages, the flowers were ordered through generous AWON member donations. An overseas Friend presented the flowers during the off-site project a success every year. Go to <http://www.>



Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, Belgium

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Gail Eisenhower • AWON Overseas Coordinators – Bernard and Regine Achten, in attendance • Presenter – AWONer Andy Mannering. Also present Andy's cousin, Claudia.



Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Brian Hope • AWON Overseas Coordinator – Jack Emery • Presenter – Staff



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, England

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Jeanne Rhinehart • Presenter – Staff



Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Philippines

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Patty Temte • Presenters - The Lim family, including, from front row left, Susan Del Rosario-Lim, Susana Lim-Yap, Maricor Akol, Victoria Lim-Ortega, AWONers Vicente Lim III and Vicente Lim IV, and Kimberly Moreno.

Day 2017

s presented floral tributes at American military
seas, for Memorial Day. Pictured here and on
s are arrangements AWON wreath coordinators
tions. In many cases an AWON member or Over-
ficial ceremonies. Thank you to all who make this
awon.org/new/memorials.html for more photos.



Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, Italy

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Barbara Catterall • Presenter – Representatives of the Boy Scouts of America



Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Paul Bremer • Presenter – Pascal Moretti, Chief of Police for Matzervisse, France



Honolulu Memorial National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Honolulu, Hawaii

AWON Stateside Coordinator and Presenter – AWONer Alix Prejean



Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Sharon Crowley Connor • Presenter – AWONer Roberta Roddy



Memorial Day 2017



Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Sharon Crowley Connor • Presenter - Girl Scouts and Assistant Superintendent Matthew P. Brown. Suresnes is a WWI cemetery with 24 WWII unknowns. AWON honors their unknown children for them.



Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, Luxembourg

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Roger Connor • Presenter – AWON Overseas Friend Constant Goergen. Also present AWONer Montie Monzingo (see Netherlands).



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 • Presenter – AWONer Audrey Greene and husband Sandy. Also present were the Achtens and their daughter, Marie.



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Vic Muller • Presenter - Alison Libersa, Assistant Superintendent

Memorial Day 2017



Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial, Italy

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bob Meek • Presenter – Site Superintendent



Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, France

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Charlene Czajkowski • AWON Overseas Coordinator and presenter – AWON Normandy Ambassador Jean-Marc Lesueur, center, with Joel Guyard of U.S. Memory Grand Ouest, and JeanMarc Bonnet, vice president of Association Normande du Souvenir Ae'rien 1939-1945 Orne-Maine (ANSA).



Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, Netherlands

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Gerry Morenski • Presenter – AWONer Montie Monzingo. Also present AWON Overseas Friend Joost Claassens.



North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial, Tunisia

AWON Stateside Coordinator – Bonnie Hellums • Presenter – Staff

Preserve your father's voice digitally

by Gerry Morenski

During the fall of 1944, many soldiers who were still stateside had the opportunity to record messages home. These "letters on a record" were produced by the USO. The wax and paper records were made in recording booths similar to the ones we used back in the day to take strips of photos at amusement parks or arcades. The sitter talked while the machine recorded their voice onto the record. They were sent home to loved ones. It's estimated 350,000 recordings were made. But they weren't meant to last. Over the years these little records have deteriorated and no longer may be able to be played. However, one of our AWON grandchildren, Mark La Pointe, has offered to help anyone who still has one of these records. In my own case, he managed to capture about 30 precious words and move them to an audio disc that can be played on a computer. You all certainly understand the tears that flowed when I heard Dad's voice. If you have one of these precious records, please contact me at dutiem@comcast.net or 978-502-8876 (cell), and I will put you and Mark together.

...Legacy, from page 3

evening. A board meeting will be held in the afternoon on Friday, September 28, with a semi-formal reception in the evening.

On Saturday, September 29, attendees will board buses for three off-site activities.

First, the group will travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the tree and marker that was dedicated by *No Greater Love* in 1991. Everyone then will re-board buses to travel to the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington, to witness the changing of the guard ceremony. Afterward, the group will return to the hotel for lunch on their own.

After lunch the group will return to the buses and head to the National World War II Memorial on the Mall for the third event -

a ceremony in remembrance of our fathers.

Saturday evening will begin with a cash bar on the hotel terrace, followed by a banquet. The evening will be capped off with a nightcap reception.

No events are scheduled for Sunday, September 30, but it is hoped attendees will use the day to explore the nation's capital on their own, or to spend more time with their AWON friends.

The 2018 AWON Gala Gathering is a celebration of our fathers, ourselves and AWON's 25-year history. The long weekend will be a time to visit with friends, to make new friends, to dine with one another in small groups as well as a large family. There will be no presentations, no sessions and only a brief board meeting. It's the time to honor their legacy, and ours.

DPAF FY 2017 Statistics through April 2017:

Identifications:

WWII = 43

Korean War = 10

Cold War = 0

Vietnam War = 1

Total = 54

Accessions from disinterments:

World War II = 147

Korean War = 4

Total = 151

FY18-19 Operations Plan

DPAF's main effort remains field recovery operations on Vietnam War losses. However, the primary effort to achieve DPAF's goal of identifying the remains of 200 unaccounted-for personnel in FY18 and FY19 will be accomplished primarily through disinterment of service members buried as Unknowns.

...Chichelo, from page 4

"You look back then and you look in the future and at all the containment stuff that happened between us and the Russians and that's all because of World War II. And the technology advances really inspire me, all the different technology advances, the studies that were done." He will be a senior this fall.

For more information about the award, visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/american-spirit-awards/billy-michal-award.html>.

Credit: Leslie Ruse, staff reporter, *Daily Record*



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

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

____ *A Bit of Earth*
by **Wendy Crisp Lestina** **NEW!!** **\$13.95**

____ *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

AWONer story featured in Chicken Soup for military

Chicken Soup for the Soul for Military Families has published a story by AWON daughter Lois La Pointe Kiely about her dad who died in World War II.

The 384-page book in paperback form features 101 stories written by families to honor their loved ones who serve, or have served, in the military.

Lois' father, Pfc. Louis J. La Pointe, of the 85th Infantry Division, was killed in action in September 1944, in Italy. He left behind his wife and infant daughter. Her story in *Chicken Soup* is called, "My Father's Voice."

The story chronicles how her dad's buddies got together after the war and formed an organization to send her to college. They held fundraisers for 20 years to accomplish this goal.

Lois has been volunteering at fundraisers to sell the book and to support non-profit groups. A portion of sales automatically go to the USO. She has sold copies for the InfoAge Museum during Armed Forces Day, the Township of Ocean Historical Museum, and Empower the Children.

The book, published in May 2017, covers servicemen and women from Desert Storm, Vietnam, and other recent wars. It is available on Amazon.com or in book stores.

New 2017 Family Update Meeting Added, 2018 Schedule Released

Aug. 10-11	Washington, DC
Sept. 9	Detroit, MI
Nov. 4 - NEW	Boise, ID

Jan. 20, 2018	San Diego, CA
Feb. 24	Ft. Myers, FL

If your father is MIA, register for a one-on-one meeting with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to discuss your case at [//www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/](http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/)

AWON Board Business
Annual in-person board meeting
25 March 2017
Indianapolis, IN

Financial Report: The January 2017 financial report showed \$89,500 in cash, receipts of \$1,600 and expenses of \$500. The February 2017 financial report showed \$90,400 in cash, receipts of \$2,900 and expenses of \$900. Year-to-date receipts were \$2,600, interest income was \$91 and expenses YTD totaled \$500. Dues for the first two months of 2017 were \$2,600. The 2017 budget was amended to include an additional \$2,500 for the room deposit for the 2018 Gala. The board discussed a projected initial budget for 2018.

Membership: In October 2016 there were 568 active members. As of March 2017 there are 471 active members.

White House Memorial Day Breakfast: Norm Burkey reported there are 21 members interested in attending the breakfast but in years past only five invitations were extended to AWON. Norm has a list of those interested in attending, in the order they expressed their interest but there has been no information whether a breakfast will be held this year. Norm stated he is interested in someone else organizing the breakfast in 2018.

Reading WWII Show: Norm reported that the popular Reading, Pennsylvania event probably will not continue after 2018.

2018 Gala: Billie Meeks and Diane Pollard led a very lengthy and informative discussion about the gala celebration set for September 2018 in Washington, D.C. They discussed the hotel and accommodations for guests, a proposed itinerary, registration, banquet, expenses, and answered board questions. The board agreed to the gala theme "Honoring Their Legacy/Honoring Our Legacy." Billie and Diane will continue to work on details and will submit information for publication in *The Star*.

AWON Archives: Ed Peters and Norm attended a meeting with History Associates in Maryland and gave

...continued on page 22

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



The So-Cal AWON Lunch Bunch met in June in San Diego. They had a good turnout of ten people, including first-timers Mike and Leslie Brumley. Mike's uncle was killed near the end of the war and is at final rest in Margraten, The Netherlands. He and Leslie told of their visit to Margraten in 2015, and they were full of praise for the Dutch grave adopters and for AWONer Gerry Morenski, who has arranged multiple AWON trips to Margraten over Memorial Day. Barbara Smith talked about her moving experience on Memorial Day when she and her grandsons presented the AWON wreath at Ft. Rosecrans. A local newspaper reporter saw her placing flowers by her father's tombstone and wrote an excellent article about Barbara's devotion to her father. Pictured from left: Leslie Brumley, Mike Brumley, Dale Roybal, Anne Pogue, Sharon Connor, Barbara Smith, Roger Connor, Vic Muller, Linda Porter and Bob Porter. *Roger*



Adrian Caldwell (left) was in Phoenix in April to visit her sister-in-law. They, Penny LeGrand (right) and Dianne Baczynski, (seated) met for lunch. Adrian loved her first visit to the desert, and they think she will come back. *Dianne*



A dozen AWON members, plus spouses and other family, from Texas and Oklahoma met at Outback Steakhouse in Dallas in April. Some drove more than 200 miles to be there. Back row, from left: Judy Pinkerton, wife of Jerry; AWONers Patty Temte and Suzanne Parker; Charlotte Betche, sister of Bill Parker; AWONer Jerry Pinkerton; and Vivian Monzingo, wife of Montie. Front row: AWONers Bob Landrum, Gail Brown, Montie Monzingo and Mary Nguyen; Jerry Temte, husband of Patty, and AWONer Bill Parker. *Jerry*



AWONer Barry Barr-Finch and Tom Brewer, seated, visited AWONers Sharon Crowley Connor and Roger Connor in San Diego in April, having lunch at a local bistro. *Roger*



The Washington State AWON group held its annual spring gathering in May with a potluck lunch at the home of David and AWONer Rosalie Miles Francisco. They enjoyed a very nice meal with lots of sharing on a beautiful sunny Pacific Northwest day. AWONers in attendance from left: Rosalie Miles Francisco, Sandra Lane Walker, Judi Hollis Kramer, Barry Barr-Finch, and Sue Isaacson, along with spouses. *Barry*

Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

- Topics considered for publication in *The Star* include, but are not limited to, unit reunions, visiting battle or crash sites, cemeteries, ceremonies, seeking or finding families and veterans, poetry, etc.
- Email copy-ready articles and photos to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTE, formats, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and photos also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.
- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words),
- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.
- Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

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johnkath5@comcast.net

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

...Minutes, from page 19

specifics of what we are looking for in a repository but have not received a response to date. They will continue to work with History IT. The board had a lengthy discussion about repositories and digitizing the AWON collection. **Jerry Pinkerton** will contact North Western Texas University about their repository. The board received a letter from Holly Rotondi, executive director of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, about her interest in sharing stories about AWON fathers and AWON itself with a national audience. Gerry Morenski will stay in touch with Holly. Norma Nicol Hamilton will contact the University of Florida about their repository. There was discussion about potential items for archiving, and identifying repositories and what they might want.

National WWII Museum: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** arranged and facilitated a very informative conference call with Kimberly Guise, assistant director at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Kimberly discussed the archival material they have, accept, use and seek. She said the museum does not have a research center but is planning for one in the near future. At the present their library holds only materials related to the war period. The museum is planning a new education and media institute center and plans to partner with high school and college students for travel education with World War II education being a part of this project. The AWON board expressed its interest in being a resource for future exhibit space that tells the story of the aftermath of war as it pertains to widows and children.

Legal Issues: The board discussed the legal issues of closing down AWON. The board will need help on these decisions, including the AWON license and 501(c)3 requirements. Norm will contact member **Bonnie Hellums** to see if she would be willing to be AWON's legal counsel and help with closing issues.

AWON Website: The board discussed the continued operation of the AWON website and payment to maintain the website's url address after AWON's closure, and preserving images of past conferences that are on the website. Ed Peters and Jerry Pinkerton will contact webmaster **Rik Peirson** concerning the website.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the board was tentatively set for May 16, 2017.

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

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 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	2 Year	3 Year
Basic	\$25	\$48	\$70
Sponsor	\$50	\$96	\$140
Gold Star	\$100	\$192	\$280

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:**

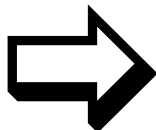
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The Star

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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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