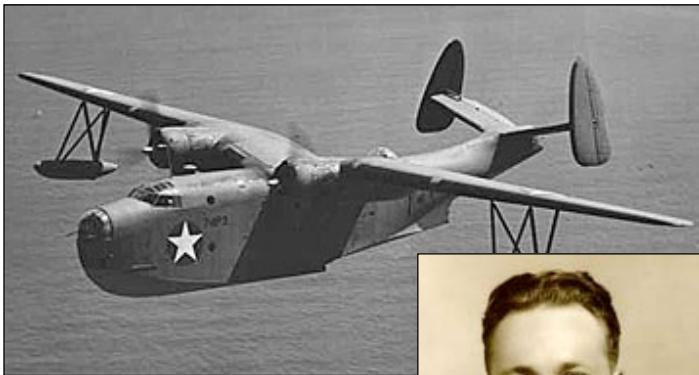


*Victim of Cold War tensions?***Pilot's loss suspicious: family***by Richard C. Adams*

Top: a Martin PBM patrol bomber in flight. Right: Lt. Claude W. Adams Jr., pilot of a PBM lost over Mindoro, the Philippines, in 1946. Martin produced 1,366 PBMs but only one complete aircraft still exists today. It is on display at the Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson.



Three weeks ago, my sister told me what really happened to my father. It's long in the past now, but I just found out what actually happened and why he had to die. It is quite disturbing.

July 28, 1946 is my earliest memory. On that day I was 18 months old and we were in line to board an airplane at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. We were going to fly to the Philippines to join my father, who was stationed there, doing air rescue with his Martin PBM Mariner patrol bomber flying boat.

Why would an 18-month old remember that? I remember the look of the tail of the aircraft as it taxied away without us. That tail shape I later learned was on a DC-3 (military designation C-47). The thing that seared it into my memory was that everyone around me was crying and screaming, as we had received a telegram - the telegram - at the air strip, telling us not to come, because my father had been killed.

The reason why he died goes back to an incident in 1945. Three weeks after the end of World War II, my father, Lt. Claude W. Adams Jr., USN, was flying his PBM flying boat on his normal patrol, northeast of Japan, when three Soviet fighters started trying to shoot him down. His crew asked if

*...continued on page 14***Inside:****Features**

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# AWON: Down(sizing) But Not Out

Change is difficult. Even change for the good can be stressful. But as our waistlines can attest, nothing stays the same. Even AWON.

As announced in the January newsletter, AWON is undergoing some changes. With fewer volunteers to help keep a national grassroots organization running, AWON is looking at ways to do things more simply. And, yes, it had to be said that AWON must be prepared to

close down - at some point. But as you'll read on page six, nothing is set in stone, and AWON is still open for business. Newsletters are still going out, several projects are going on, and before you know it Memorial Day wreaths will need to be ordered. So don't give up. Please send in your dues for 2018, consider writing an article for *The Star* and, if possible, plan to attend the 2018 Gala Gathering in Washington, D.C.

## REMINDERS

- Tell us when you head to your winter home
- Tell us when you move or change your email
- Make all checks payable to AWON
- Print clearly

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Ann Bennett Mix

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Issue #86 1M (11-17)

# **AWON panel enlightens teachers**

*by Kathy Le Comte*

In the words of Holly Rontoni, executive director of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, AWON made "quite the impact" at the second annual Teachers Network and Conference, hosted by the Friends last July in Washington, D.C.

Four AWONers participated in a panel discussion about World War II orphans: Walter Carter, Arthur Chotin, Nancy Kragh and Bob Meek. They shared their thoughts and experiences on being World War II orphans with educators ranging from middle school to college level.

The five-day conference featured panels on 12 war topics. AWON's panel was one of the most talked-about. Here are a few of the comments educators made about AWON's panel:

*"Very moving testimonials! Again, could have spent more time hearing their responses and stories."*

*"I never knew there was such an organization! Loved the stories and personal anecdotes."*

*"Very touching."*

*"I was not aware that this organization existed. Seeing these people so emotional made me realize that I can use per-*



*From left, AWONers Arthur Chotin, Walter Carter, Nancy Kragh and Bob Meek, tell their stories and answer questions.*

*sonal stories in my classroom to appeal to."*

*"Again, moved to tears; never had considered this side of the story and took away a lot."*

*"Great to hear their perspective on war."*

*"I liked how we learned the stories of the family."*

*"Wow - Deep and thoughtful, this topic can relate to my students who have suffered a loss."*

*"Wonderful; please include again."*

The conference's goal was to introduce teachers to a broad spectrum of World War II history resources to help them understand the traits of the "everyday" men and women who won the war and as a result, reshaped America. Panel topics included

the Filipino-American experience, military and naval leaders of the war, FDR's leadership, the Tuskegee airmen, U-Boats off the mid-Atlantic coast, veterans, orphans, understanding sacrifice, and the National Park Service.

While the AWON presentation had a positive influence on the audience, it also was a good experience for AWON.

"As always, it is very interesting to hear the stories of my fellow/sister AWONers. While we are all World War II orphans, we still have very different stories to tell," noted Bob Meek. "Nancy's poem was extremely special to me and I thank her for reading it. Sometimes it is extremely hard to share our

*...continued on page 4*

...Panel, from page 3

deepest feelings about the situation we find ourselves in."

Nancy Kragh had two stories to tell. One was that of an orphan, and the other was about her father being a Japanese POW, surviving the Bataan Death March, surviving the U.S. bombing of the Japanese "hell ship" he was aboard, then dying of his wounds from an attack on the second hell ship he was placed on. Nancy felt that the audience was intrigued by their stories and eager to learn.

"After our panel finished, I stayed for the last session where each teacher spoke about his/her personal connection to World War II. It was clear that they are highly motivated to include the human aspects of the war in their classes," she noted. "As orphans the four of us have much in common, yet we each also have had unique experiences and perspectives which I think were communicated well and added depth to the discussion."

Walter Carter, an author and former college-level instructor himself, was heartened that educators at the conference were interested in what AWON could teach them.

"AWON's collection of compelling personal stories provides a good means of introducing young students to a lifetime of learning the lessons of World War II, which was a complex geopolitical episode as well as a human horror story," Carter explained. "I was pleased to help bring our experience to the attention of this audience."

Friends hopes conference participants will return to their schools and communities with new knowledge and renewed excitement to empower students with a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, personal responsibility, and the spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of the country during the war years.

Arthur Chotin agrees that students need a better understanding about war and leadership.

"(The conference) should be replicated for classes all over the country, not just as part of history but as part of learning about the decision-making process," he said. "Decisions made by leaders, both political and military, have consequences and our panel brought to life the consequences not just on those ordered into battle but on those they left behind."

And Chotin is proud of what the AWON panel accomplished.

"Nancy, Walter and Bob's stories and reflections were meaningful and heartfelt, and I believe that the teachers attending learned more than they expected because of that. Hopefully, that can be translated into lessons their students can absorb as well," he concluded.

Conference participants received credit for 26 continuing education hours, and are expected to lead their students in a community service project.

Panel discussions can be viewed at the Friends website: <http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/resources/2017-teachers-conference>, or on C-SPAN's cable channel and website.

#### **AWONer Comments about Panel Video**

*Nancy, I applaud you for speaking up. I think those teachers will be so much better informed and able to help all children suffering from grief who think they are the only ones who feel it. Thank you, Susan Chadd*

*I watched the whole presentation. It was wonderful. Spoken from the heart. Congratulations, AWON Four. Marilyn Jensen*

*I enjoyed the panel. It is always OK to share your own story. So many have never heard of that part of the war. Thank you for your presentations. Rosalie Francisco*

*It was absolutely terrific! Hope everyone has had a chance to see it as it is pretty darned special. Arthur, Walter, Nancy, and Bob: excellent presentations and general discussion by each one of you with the audience. The video is a bit over one hour and worth every minute to see. In Their Memory, Diane Lassiter*





# **AWON influential in Memorial design**

*edited by Kathy Le Comte*

The National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. would not look the way it does without the influence of AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix. Let's start at the beginning.

In 1987, World War II veteran Roger Durbin approached Ohio Rep. Marcy Kaptur, to ask if a World War II memorial could be constructed. Kaptur introduced the World War II Memorial Act in the House of Representatives in late 1987, but the bill wasn't voted on. It wasn't until 1993 and the fourth reintroduction of Kaptur's bill before it was approved by Congress and signed by Pres. Bill Clinton.

A Memorial Advisory Board (MAB) was created in 1994 to advise the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) in selecting a site, designing the memorial, and raising money. The federal government provided about \$16 million while \$197 million was raised through individuals, veterans groups and corporations.

The first meeting of the ABMC and the MAB was held in 1995, chaired by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams. A nationwide design competition was held and drew 400 submissions from architects around the country. Friedrich St. Florian's initial design was selected in 1997. Over the next four years, St. Florian's design was altered during the review and approval process required of proposed memorials in Washington, D.C.

Enter Mix and AWON.

In order to have an influence on the design of the memorial, in 1999 Mix relocated from Washington State to Virginia in order to attend and testify at memorial planning meetings. In 2001 her efforts started to pay off, with an invitation for Mix and then AWON Board President Patricia Gaffney-Ansel (now Gaffney-Kindig) to the White House to wit-

ness the signing by Pres. George W. Bush of the bill to expedite the construction of the National World War II Memorial.

After the signing ceremony, Mix had an opportunity to talk to St. Florian. Wanting more recognition of those who died, she suggested including the names of the missing and the dead, or an audio loop of the names. At this time St. Florian's design featured a cenotaph, or empty tomb, to represent the dead. The cenotaph concept had its detractors, including Mix. As an alternative, she suggested a wall of gold stars, as gold stars were symbolic during the war, and afterward, of a person who died in the war. St. Florian liked the idea and in 2002, the cenotaph was replaced with the Freedom Wall. Each of the 4,048 gold stars on the Freedom Wall represents 100 Americans who died in the war.

With the design "set in stone" AWON then turned to fundraising. Through the stewardship of Chickie Shields Berry, AWON raised nearly \$50,000 for the Memorial through member donations.

AWON's significant efforts and contributions towards the National World War II Memorial resulted in an invitation to the dedication ceremony Veterans Day weekend 2004, with AWON members seated in a special section reserved for veterans. Mix was seated on the dais with VIPs Kaptur, Clinton, Bush, St. Florian, newscaster Tom Brokaw, actor Tom Hanks, and other dignitaries who had a role in making the memorial possible.

AWON held its 2004 National Conference in Washington, D.C., co-chaired by Walt Linne and Penny LeGrand, concurrent with the dedication. It was the largest attended conference in AWON's history. Special guest speakers included Sen. Bob Dole, national chairman of the Memorial campaign.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AWON series will conclude in the January issue of *The Star*.

## ***AWON Board addresses questions, comments***

# **Membership takes note of 'downsizing'**

Editor's note: In the January issue of *The Star* the AWON Board of Directors announced that due to lack of volunteers the organization was going to begin "downsizing." Understandably, many members had comments and concerns about this news on the AWON ListServ. The Board posted a reply to those comments, which appears below.

*Dear AWON Members,*

*Several AWON members have had questions and comments about the planned downsizing of AWON. The AWON Board of Directors would like to address those concerns.*

*First, the Board was heartened by the questions and comments. They show how much AWON means to all of us. We know it is shocking and upsetting to discuss downsizing or shutting down. The Board has weighed this decision for many years and very carefully. It is not made quickly or lightly. We are orphans, too, and love AWON as much as everyone else. It's not a money issue, thankfully. The simple fact is there are not enough volunteers to run AWON. Board directors have served on the board for a long time and can no longer keep doing it. The volunteer issue has been publicized for a long time, especially during AWON nomination and election time.*

*There was a question about the possibility of restructuring (downsizing) the Board. How much smaller than zero can the Board get? The downsizing of AWON has been discussed for several years in newsletter articles and in the Board minutes. The First Founders and Founder Ann Mix were all informed about the decision to downsize AWON and they understand the situation.*

*Second, the AWON by-laws provide that ultimate authority and responsibility for AWON is vested in the Board. The by-laws do not provide for a membership vote on*

*any matters other than the election of directors. The AWON Board follows the AWON by-laws and procedures for non-profits and was organized in and is registered in Washington State.*

*Third, AWON funds are not being "blown" on the gala. A committee of the Board and AWON members are planning the Gala and expects that it will be substantially self-funding by registration fees like all conferences in the past. The board is investigating a proposal to permanently memorialize AWON and will solicit donations from members and others if this proposal materializes. The Board plans to continue the AWON Memorial Day Wreath Program with the funds reserved for it. When the time comes, AWON will be dissolved in accordance with the processes set out by Washington State and the IRS. As required by AWON's Articles of Incorporation, any remaining funds are to be given to a tax-exempt veteran's organization.*

*Entities do not end at a point in time, although their mission may have been accomplished. At some point they must cease to do what they were established to do.*

*AWON is an aging organization. Our members still have a passion for AWON, but as stated previously, the volunteers are not available to continue doing what AWON has done in the past. As General Douglas MacArthur stated in his farewell speech at West Point in 1965, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." After the September 2018 Gala Celebration in Washington, D.C., AWON will begin to fade away. As AWON's membership diminishes due to health or personal reasons, there will be fewer volunteers to continue to day-to-day work necessary to operate AWON. No longer will AWON hold a biannual conference, but Regional Gatherings are encouraged and will continue if members will undertake to organize them as*

*...continued on page 7*

## Welcome New Members

Cindy Bridges Naismith, FL, grandau of PVT James D. Duke, Army  
John R. Lane, MI, son of I/SGT Richard L. Ekiss, Army Air Force  
Michele Chapman, TX, granddau of PFC Albert L. Meyer, Army  
Mark K. Mulder, TX, son of 2LT John T. Mulder, Army  
Hilary Nguyen, WA, grandson of PFC Albert L. Meyer, Army

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

## Interest high in 2018 Gala Gathering in D.C.

Nearly 180 people have "pre-registered" for the 2018 AWON Gala Gathering, "Honoring Their Legacy / Honoring Our Legacy."

The celebration will be held Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

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*...Membership, from page 6*

*they do now. Likewise, The Star and AWON ListServ can continue for another year or more as long as there is financial support for these functions.*

*Nothing is set in stone, and not every issue has been addressed, but this is the course that AWON is on. Our friendships can continue on Facebook and personal emails. We can continue to meet in Regional Gatherings. We know this decision affects AWON's new members in a difficult way, as they haven't had the opportunity yet to share their fathers' story and build the many close friendships AWON has created, and that's why Facebook, Regional Gatherings, and emails need to continue. There is still much to discuss and much to decide.*

*As always, the Board welcomes comments and suggestions. We are glad you care and have expressed what the dissolution of AWON would mean to you. If AWON went away quietly that would be disappointing. You can find Board directors' email addresses on page 2 of this issue of The Star.*

Members and guests will arrive on Thursday and depart Sunday.

Co-chairs Billie Meeks and Diane Pollard work every day on details. The preliminary program includes afternoon registration on Thursday, September 27, with a casual reception in the 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, will be three off-site activities: the laying of a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery at the tree and marker that was dedicated by *No Greater Love* in 1991 and was the event that started AWON; attending the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington; then a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in memory of AWON fathers. Saturday evening will be a cash bar reception 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 or to spend more time with their AWON friends.

The conference will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. A registration form and an ad form for the program book will be in the January issue of *The Star*.

## **“Beginning” theme 2017 Margraten concert**

*by Joost Claasens*

**T**he Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is usually a place of silence. Mounting the steps from the Court of Honor to the burial ground is always a breathtaking moment. It is that moment that visiting school classes fall silent, when they see the white sea of crosses and Stars of David. People who have adopted a grave of a soldier will find their way without hesitation, others will wander over the grounds, reading the names, wondering about these soldiers, about their lives, their voices silent forever, only being heard in the minds of their relatives.

Sometimes the silence is broken.

On Memorial Day there are speeches, prayers, a Dutch and an American Army band playing, and the thunderous roar of a flight of F-16s performing the Missing Man fly-by. There's Veterans Day, and the Faces of Margraten project, which next May will



*The music of liberation wafts over those who paid the price of freedom.*

have more than 5,000 pictures giving a face to the soldiers. Or the “All Names” project in 2004, when all the names of the soldiers, recorded by children and adopters of all ages, were mixed into a “soundscape” and played over as many speakers as there are

*...continued on page 9*

### ***Grave adoption program called culturally significant***

MARGRATEN - One year after applying, the Foundation for Adopting Graves American Cemetery Margraten has succeeded in being recognized on the National Inventory of Immaterial Cultural Inheritance.

“For us this means an acknowledgement for and a tribute to all 9,000 adopting families that adopted since World War II,” stated Foundation Chairman Ton Hermes. “It also means that we have a mission. Our mission is to keep the adoption program going for future generations.

“The adoption of U.S. war graves, and the U.S. cemetery itself, makes people think of the enormous sacrifice that has been made for our freedom: the lives of

ten thousands of young Americans. Adoption also connects with American next-of-kin and families and often leads to long standing ties of friendship,” Hermes added.

In selecting the grave adoption program for the inventory, the Dutch National Centre for Immaterial Inheritance recognizes that the adoption of American war graves in Margraten not only is a cultural inheritance, but raises awareness of the vulnerabilities in society.

The Dutch National Inventory is a result of the UNESCO Treaty to protect Immaterial Cultural Inheritance signed by the Dutch government in 2012.



...Beginning, from page 8

plots on the cemetery. It added a reality to the cemetery, where you may easily forget that there are actually coffins underneath the grass that you walk on.

Maybe this soundscape triggered the idea in 2005 to perform a requiem at the cemetery as another way to remember, to honor and to realize how valuable life is. The Sunday near September 17 was chosen, as the area was liberated on that date in 1944. It quickly became a tradition, attended each year by many thousands of people. I have been lucky to attend most of the concerts, taking pictures whenever possible.

It's always a very special experience when at 3 p.m. the focus shifts from the crosses, left and right of the audience, to the musicians in front, and the familiar first tones of Mozart, Verdi, Fauré or Brahms' *Requiem* sound over the quiet place. The surroundings have a noticeable effect on the performers; solo singers always let their gaze go over their silent audience, over the soldiers' graves. Many of these graves are familiar to me, as they are the graves of AWON fathers, several at every plot. Two of them, right in the first plots, keep watch over the concert: David Conway, Gerry Morenski's dad at the left, and Patricia Rathje-Griffith's dad, Patrick Mazzie, to the right side of the audience.

Over the last years the focus of the concert has evolved from a requiem to a thematic concert. In 2015 the theme was "Personal Stories." American composer Richard Danielpour used letters written by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles von Stade to write *Elegies*. He did this at the request of Charles' daughter, the mezzo-soprano Fredrica von Stade. Charles was killed a month before the end of the war and rests at Margraten. The concluding line of *Elegies* is, "And I will sing to you in paradise."

After "Homesickness, Rest and Peace" in 2016 this year's theme was "The Beginning" with Olivier Messiaen's *Chant des Déportés*, the search for a new identity for France after the devastating war; Antonín Dvořák's

*Symphony No. 9, From the New World*, which marked a milestone in American music history in Carnegie Hall in 1893.

The most poignant and moving piece came last: *Chichester Psalms*, by Leonard Bernstein, an amalgamation of the Hebrew and Jewish choir traditions, sung by the choir and a wonderful boy soprano, his clear voice reaching as far as plot M, where another AWON dad, Gilbert Bush, father of Angela Christian, rests. Very different musical concepts, they all touch the heart and soul, and make you think of the reason why this concert is here, at this place, in a free world.

*Chichester Psalms* end with the words, "Behold how good, And how pleasant it is, For brethren to dwell, Together in unity." Gam yahad, Together in unity. No better words to describe the bond this cemetery forms between so many people in the United States of America and the Netherlands.

## Stars of The Star

Volunteers Who Make AWON Work

**Barbara Kelly  
and  
Walt Linne**

**AWON Bookstore Managers**

**Thank you for stocking the Bookstore, fulfilling orders, and transporting and operating the Bookstore at every conference, all the while raising funds for AWON.**



***Visits airfield, grave and school children***

## **French show esteem to pilot's daughter**

*by Roberta Roddy*

**M**y father was Lt. Edward R. Ryan. He was KIA while strafing a German-occupied airfield near Orleans, France, on April 5, 1944. Prior to that he had flown bomber escort out of Boxted, England, and had credit for four kills and four damaged German aircraft.

This year, for Memorial Day, I finally was able to visit his grave at Epinal Cemetery in France. I was born after he left so we never saw each other, but he did have my name on his P-51 Mustang, and visiting his final resting place was so very special.

It's difficult to put into words the emotions I experienced as I visited the cemetery and my dad's grave site. The only way I can think of it is like the final chapter of a book many years in the making.

I spent many hours researching any information I could find about my dad, from family to military records. I was able to visit the air base - reclaimed from the Germans - where he was killed, and met several of the French military members stationed there now. It was another deep experience to think about the final moments of my dad's life and wonder what he would have gone on to do had he survived the war.

In the week between visiting the cemetery and the air base I was escorted, entertained, and fed by some wonderful



*Lt. Ryan in the cockpit of his P-51, Roberta.*

folks. I visited two schools for question-and-answer gatherings, which was very special, too.

The first was a group of young children who had prepared questions that I answered with the help of an interpreter. I was really impressed by their attentiveness and interest in learning about my father, about my life, and the war. I was presented a booklet containing many sweet hand-drawn and colored pictures of my dad and his plane with my name on it. I felt that even though generations have passed there is still a great appreciation passed on to French children for the United States' part in World War II.

I learned about many local experiences of the war in the area around Epinal. It was very heartwarming to feel that closeness and sharing. Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial is more than beautiful. It truly has the air of peace and safety that is the opposite and what we all want in place of war. I'm content to know my dad is resting in peace with this memorial in such a place.

My memory for names is very poor, but I do want to express my greatest appreciation to Joycelyne Papelard-Brescia,



*Lt. Edward R. Ryan, inset, and his daughter, Roberta Roddy, at his grave Memorial Day.*

*...continued on page 11*

...French, from page 10

president of the U.S. Memory Grand Est France Association; Benoît Howson and his family for all the transportation, entertainment and meals; and all the other members who sponsored my trip. Thanks also to retired and current members of the French military, and to many others who made my visit possible and so memorable. It is so great to know such caring people continue to honor and care for those who fought and died there for freedom.

## Memorial Day wreath presented at Brittany

Thank you, Brian and Jacky, for presenting a wreath at Brittany American Cemetery on Memorial Day. The photo came too late for publication in July.



### Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, France

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

## Join the discussion on Facebook

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



## Epinal Mem Day exhibit gives graves a face

This past Memorial Day, U.S. Memory Grand Est France, the group that manages the grave adoption program at Epinal American Cemetery, created the exhibit, *Faces of Epinal-Dinozé*.



During this special one-week exhibit visitors saw more than 1,200 photos of the fallen next to their gravesite or name on the Tablets of the Missing. With more than 5,600 Americans honored at the cemetery, the group hopes this will be an ongoing effort they can support in future years. This program echoes the concept of Faces of Margraten, which began a few years ago at Netherlands American Cemetery.





## ***AWON sponsor of two obelisks***

# **Bataan Death March plaques need replaced**

by Patricia Temte

**Y**ou may remember that back in 2007 I wrote you all regarding the maintenance of the Bataan Death March kilometer markers which had fallen into disrepair. The 138 white obelisks stand along the route that in April 1942 the Japanese Imperial Army forcibly marched nearly 75,000 Philippine and American soldiers after the Fall of Bataan. Nearly half the prisoners died along the route, victims of disease, severe physical maltreatment, and outright killing.

FAME, or Filipino American Memorial Endowment, an all-volunteer organization under the auspices of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, has maintained the markers over the years. With your contributions in 2007, AWON was able to sponsor two markers - KM 51 and KM 52. AWON is acknowledged on the two obelisks as the sponsor.

In September, I received an email from Bob Hudson, vice president of FAME. He is the son of a Bataan Death March survivor and

is dedicated to making sure those heroes are not forgotten. FAME is currently removing all the old tiles on each of the 138 markers. The tiles are almost completely eroded and barely readable. Some plaques have simply

that have the information baked into them and will last for decades. The cost for this process is about \$300 for each marker.

It seems appropriate for us as war orphans to once again be a part of this as individual donors. If you would like to help support this project, please send your check made payable to AWON to AWON Treasurer Jerry Pinkerton, 2848 Woodside St. Apt. 401, Dallas, TX 75204. Please put Death March Markers in the memo line on your check.

Thank you so much. Small donations add up quickly! If you have any questions, please contact me at [patriciatemte@gmail.com](mailto:patriciatemte@gmail.com).

For more information about the restoration of the markers,

disappeared. FAME is replacing all nine plaques on each marker with new ones

visit <http://filipino-americanmemorials.org/project/death-march-markers/>.



### **Coming up in January issue of *The Star***

**Man remembers serving with AWONer's father**

**AWONer meets family of pilot who shot down father**

**Man fulfills promise to find half-sister**

**By request! Military records and how to get them**



# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members  
Gathering Around the Country



The annual AWON York Gathering was held April 1, 2017, in York, Pennsylvania, at Hoss's Steak and Sea House Restaurant. Laurie Sims told us her story of tracing her father's steps in the Italian campaign. Laurie's story was in the January 2017 (Issue 83) of *The Star*. We also discussed the disbanding of AWON and the Gala Celebration that is planned for September 2018. Rusty Lerch and Norm Burkey told us about the World War II weekend in Reading, Pennsylvania. As always, we all enjoyed spending time with one another. Pictured are back row, from left: Burkey, Lerch, Jeanne Rhinehart, Janice Buterbaugh and Ken Sills; and front row: Lynne Lecrone, Jennie Sauer, Sims, Sondra Sarles and Maggie Fenstermacher. The next York Gathering will be April 21, 2018. *Lynne*



AWONer Patty Nash Wheeler, right, daughter of Sgt. Hubert D. Wheeler, moved from



North Carolina to the San Diego area in December 2016. She finally caught up with long-time resident Sharon Crowley Connor, left, when they enjoyed lunch together at Beach Grass Cafe in Solana Beach this summer with Patty's son, Stephen, daughter-in-law, Theresa, and their 18-month-old daughter, Sofia. AWONer Roger Connor was in Florida visiting his mother. The group had lots to talk about: the night before the get-together, Patty found a photo of her father on a previously-unseen website. *Sharon*

...Adams, from front page

they could fire back, since they still had the machine guns in the blisters in the waist. He reportedly replied, "No, do you want to start World War III?"

He flew his plane just above the waves, where the fighters couldn't go without going in, and they left. He got back and was court-martialed for 1) offending the Russians, 2) flying over foreign territory, and 3) endangering a seaplane by flying over land.

The Soviet Union had declared war on Japan nine days after Hiroshima and felt they were owed "war reparations." They took Sakhalin Island, but only one ambassador knew about that. Korean Air Lines Flight 007 (KAL 007) was shot down by Russian fighters over that same island on Sept. 1, 1983. But, in 1946, they didn't get my father and his crew of 13.

The lawyer the military provided (the Uniform Code of Military Justice didn't come into effect until June 1951) refused to take the case because he said there was no chance of winning. His superiors hadn't given him a briefing since it was his regular patrol. The Soviet press also was making a lot of noise about "invading holy Mother Russia" by flying over an island the U.S.S.R. took only one day earlier.

My father defended himself at the court martial and was acquitted. The military thought it better that he leave the area so they transferred him to air-rescue duty in the Philippines. The PBM was a good search plane since it had a 5,000-mile range, besides being able to set down on any body of water of a decent size.

On July 28, 1946, his plane exploded, but did not burn. The plane was not armed.

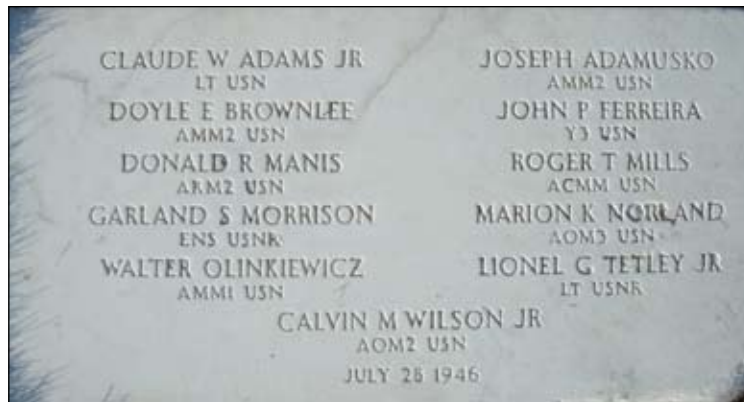
There were no explosives on board. The fuel didn't burn. The pieces of plane and crew were all very small. It sounds like sabotage. Just recently my older sister, who was three at the time, confirmed it was sabotage - but not by the Soviets.

The things my father saw on those flights over Sakhalin and other places northwest of Japan were military installations that weren't supposed to be there. He also saw other things he really shouldn't have seen, since in 1946 we were still supposed to be allies of the Soviets. His superiors thought they could diminish and invalidate his knowledge by the court-martial, but he won that. His acquittal left him in good standing and with a good reputation. His word would

be believed. However they couldn't afford what he knew to come to light if he were shot down and captured in Japan, or even in the Philippines, where there were some communist groups. So, the United States sabotaged his plane, killing him and the 13-man crew, to protect the knowl-

edge he had from getting out. The "downed Army flyers" he and his crew were looking for were already dead when he set out on the search. I don't know if they were "sacrificed," too.

My sister told me about the time when my father's cousin was on a lay-over near where my sister was living in Colorado. Cousin Eva stayed overnight and revealed something we had never known. She was the executive secretary for U.S. Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada. He was on several committees in the 1930s through 1940s. Eva went to those meetings, and took notes. One time, Eva talked about our father's last few months of life. My sister said it took a long



The marker at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis for Adams and his crew.

...continued on page 15



evening and several stiff drinks for the story to come out, but she finally told it.

We didn't find this out until 1990, just before Eva died, 44 years after the event and the "cover up." I'm sure nobody was supposed to ever find this out, certainly not the children of the people "sacrificed" to keep secrets safe. But the lives of 13 men ended on July 28, 1946.

I've searched the internet for incidents between Soviet and U.S. planes and the September 1945 event is not listed. I saw the transcript of the court-martial once in 1960. One listing of the July 1946 crash noted only tiny pieces left. The man who wrote that said I really didn't want to see any more detailed description of that crash site, where the remains had to be put in one common grave. The crash site is on Mt. Halcon, on Mindoro Island, Philippines. The trail to that place is closed to the public, due to the number of deaths of hikers in that rugged terrain.

Last year or so I got a letter from a man who said his wife's uncle had been on that plane, and it was only through the AWON website that he found a connection to me. I was able to send him more details and a photo of the group burial headstone at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

My father and his crew survived World War II but an incident three weeks later, at the onset of The Cold War, sealed his fate and that of the crew. They were "eliminated" by our own government to make relations with the Soviet Union better. I don't want to think that of my government, yet the evidence from a family member who was in a position to know details due to her connections tells me she found out what happened to her cousin, my father.

I am disturbed. It's one thing to say my father gave his life trying to save those downed Army flyers, but to find out that his and his crew's deaths were to smooth over relations with the Soviets just isn't right. This changes my view of how my father and his crew died.

## AWON remembers sons, widow



*Kellogg*

Lyndal W. Kellogg, 72, of Southampton, NJ, passed away July 21, 2017. He was the son of the late Robert and Harriett Caine and Warren and Beatrice Kellogg. Lyndal enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren

and was a fan of the Notre Dame football team. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters, Robin (Angelo) Garfole, Christine (Sean) Driscoll, and Lynette Shaef-fer; and grandchildren, Anthony Garfole, Danielle Garfole, Jennifer Garfole, Erica Garfole and Alexander Shaeffer. He was preceded by a brother, Kenneth R. "Bob" Caine.

Letha M. Waller, widow of Per Lee M. Kaufman Jr. and mother of AWONer David L. Kaufman, passed away September 23, 2017, in Canton, Ohio. Per Lee served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 13<sup>th</sup> Regt., and was killed in action on December 22, 1944 in Berg-



*Waller*

stein, Germany. Letha remarried in 1952 to William M. Waller, an Army Air Corps veteran. In addition to David, Letha is survived by two daughters, Joni (Ben) Hoskins and Susan L. Waller; four grandchildren, Christine (Maj. Shawn) Bennett, Eric (Lori) Kaufman, Benjamin (Emily) Hoskins and Joseph (Leah) Hoskins; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Jim "Jimmie Earl" McCollum, 82, of Florida, passed away in September. He is survived by his wife, fellow AWONer, Jamie Duke McCollum, children and grandchildren. His Dutch friends write, "Farewell, dear friend



*McCollum*

Jimmie, we miss you already now. Memorial Day at Margraten Cemetery will never be the same. Your sad friends, Henk Dideriks, Hans van Toer, and family.

**Survival complicated after Dutch, Jews, airman meet**

# Lives collide in YA novel *Flying Forts*

by Laura Smail Sims

Using the literary technique of free verse, Jill Bateman weaves a fascinating tale of four families caught in the last days of World War II in the Netherlands and Germany. The style of writing in *Flying Forts and Tall Dutch Tulips: A Year at War*, is so unique for a book that tells the story of grim warfare and fear; some passages are elegant poetry, while others are riveting prose.

The author's father, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald E. Butterfoss, was at the time a 22-year-old American pilot and captain of a B-17 bomber, a Flying Fortress nicknamed *The Saint*. He and his crew took off from Eighth Air Force Base 128 in southeastern England on 29 April 1944 on a mission to Berlin. Encountering enemy fighter planes high over the target city, the plane was severely damaged but the captain, "Butter," as he was known, was able to guide it back over the Dutch countryside before parachuting to safety.

On the ground, he encountered a young Dutch couple that took him to the home of the Bosman family that also secretly harbored a Jewish family in their attic rooms. Improbable as it seems, the bottom floors had been seized as a site for Ger-

man medical officers, and the families who lived in the floors above were in constant fear that their activities would be discovered. Safety was elusive, however, as the Dutch underground believed that the only viable option to insure Butter's survival and to protect the Jewish family was to surrender him to the SS commandant. Reunited with several members of his



crew, Butter was first incarcerated and interrogated in a German prison in Amsterdam, then transported to Stalag Luft III POW Camp in Sagan, Germany.

The story weaves between locations: the home in Ellercom, Netherlands, where residents live in constant fear of the German occupants and the Green Police (Dutch sympathizers with the Nazis), and the German camps where the American airmen were imprisoned.

As the Allied forces approached German territory to claim victory, the nearly-starved prisoners were released from Sagan and forced to march through freezing cold weather for six days, undertaking a 56-mile trek to a freight yard outside Spremberg, Germany. There, they were herded on to windowless boxcars and transported to another camp in Nuremberg.

From Nuremberg, the prisoners were forced to make a 100-mile, 10-day hike to yet another POW camp, Stalag VII-A in Moosburg. Nearing the final days of the war, Allied planes bombed the camp relentlessly, trading shots with hidden SS tanks. When the shooting stopped, the prisoners realized they were free, and celebrations began. "The Stars and Stripes rose triumphantly over Moosburg at 1240 hours on 29 April 1945, one year to the day that Butter and his crew bailed out of their flying fort." (p. 151)

The story acutely portrays the hardships that befell the Dutch couples in Ellecom, and the Jewish families moved concentration camp Kamp Westerbork, in the Netherlands. A final chapter describes how those individuals fared after the war. Their bravery and courage

*...continued on page 17*



...Lives, from page 16

are on display throughout the story.

The text brims with details that only extensive research could have uncovered and is enhanced by a number of supplemental items: historical photographs, a selected biography, a glossary, suggestions for further reading, copies of original documents, and hand-drawn maps so the reader can follow the story.

The author, a former library teacher from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, begins the story by describing that as a child, "she asked Daddy what a war was." His response was that "she needed to grow some before he told her about war." The inquisitive child never forgot his answer. Bateman ends the story by saying that, "the little girl grew taller and taller, but Daddy would still not tell her about war. He never did." In school she learned about World War II in Europe and the Holocaust; finally, she was told her father's story by a great-aunt, years later.

The author, writing for the Young Adult audience but illuminating for all readers, does this compelling story justice. Not only will the reader be captivated by the tale, but will be exposed to a writing style that one would scarcely expect to encounter in an account about wartime activity.

*Flying Forts* is available at Amazon.com, Maple Avenue Press, and the U.S. Air Force museum.

## **AWON Bookstore Seeks Copies of Family-Authored Books**

42 books about AWON fathers have passed through the AWON Bookstore over the years. Authors include one brother, two nephews, one mother and 38 orphans. All of these books are in the AWON Archives, except the nine books and one film listed below. If you are an author listed below, or if you own a spare copy, please consider donating it to the AWON Archives. And thank you to all the orphan authors who have written about their fathers. Telling your story helped the rest of us to understand or to reflect on our own fathers' and mothers' experiences. These are the works AWON needs:

***Almost A Family* by John Darnton**

***Unmistakable Beams of Light* by Rony Elliot**

***See Naples and Die* by Robert B. Ellis**

***More Than A War Hero* by Virginia Hallman**

***When Is Daddy Coming Home*  
by Richard Carlson Haney**

***Freedom Reigns* by BJ Halverson Henry**

***Delayed Legacy* by Conrad J. Netting IV**

***Phantom Son: A Mother's Story of Surrender*  
by Sharon Estill Taylor**

***Phantom Father: A Daughter's Quest for Elegy*  
by Sharon Estill Taylor**

***Fools and Heroes* (film) by Ondine Rarey**

**Please contact Walt Linne, AWON Bookstore Manager at [wlinne@iupui.edu](mailto:wlinne@iupui.edu) or 317-697-4697 before sending your copy so that multiple copies aren't sent.**

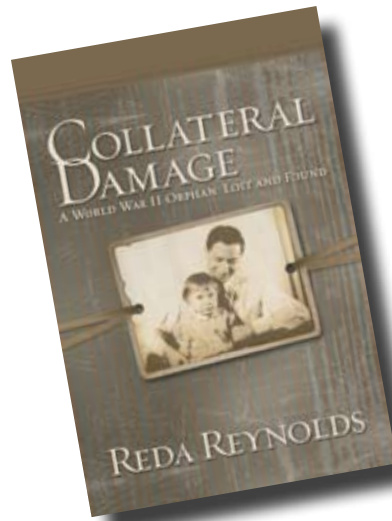
**In Their Memory**

# Finding comfort in *Collateral Damage*

AWONer Reda Reynolds lived an idyllic life on Manhattan's Upper West Side until her father was drafted in 1944. When news came that he was killed during the Battle of the Bulge, so began a long period of depression and anxiety, of being an orphan.

In *Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found*, Reynolds recounts her stressful life through early adulthood. Her mother remarried and the family moved to Connecticut, cutting Reynolds off from

her familiar Jewish community, from her father's fam-



ily, even from the mementoes she had of her father

in her bedroom. In time she sought treatment, started researching her father's military service, and eventually reunited with his family. She became close to an aunt who escaped Nazi-occupied France, and found her grandfather's memoir about life under the Nuremberg Laws and in a concentration camp. She finally could connect with her past.

*Collateral Damage* is available at a discount in the AWON Bookstore, or at Amazon.com and archwaypublishing.com.

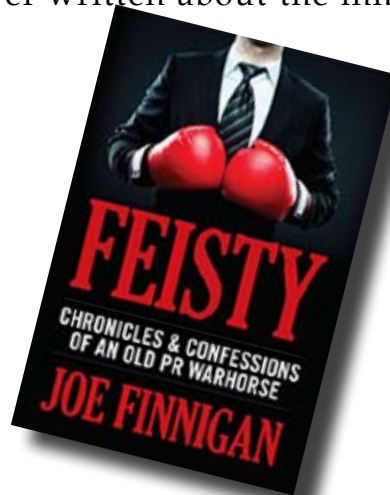
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## **Feisty reveals insides of PR career, life**

*Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse*, is a biting memoir by AWONer Joe Finnigan, a former executive vice president and senior partner at St. Louis Fleishman-Hillard, Inc., one of the world's leading public relations consultancies. Sound boring? How about I told you he was the guy who single-handedly started the Great Beer Wars in the 1970s?

In this tell-all memoir Finnigan reveals his role in the beer battle between client, Anheuser-Busch, and rivals Schlitz, Miller/Lowenbrau and Coors. He talks about lots of important, prominent people ranging from business adversaries to professional athletes to celebrities. Finnigan retired in 2000 and

waited to write this book so he'd have the freedom to be frank and honest. Because of that, his is one of the most insightful, authentic, witty and provocative books ever written about the inner



workings of a PR firm and corporate America.

And that's not all. The memoir goes deep into personal territory, too. Finnigan tells

the story of his father who died a month after the D-Day invasion and six weeks before Finnigan was born. For decades he couldn't bring himself to fully acknowledge his father. Eventually he visits Normandy and even the very spot in the hedgerows where his father fell to German artillery fire. The author explores his private triumphs and tribulations, especially his relationships and his battle with alcohol.

*Feisty* provides a rare and unvarnished glimpse into a storied PR agency and the man at the center of a PR storm.

Finnigan is donating 40% of *Feisty's* selling price to AWON. You can buy it through the AWON Bookstore, Amazon.com, CreatSpace.com, on Kindle, and at select booksellers.



# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### BOOKS

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

\_\_\_\_ *Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found*  
by **Reda Reynolds** **NEW!!** \$9.00

\_\_\_\_ *Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse*  
by **Joe Finnigan** **NEW!!** \$12.99

\_\_\_\_ *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** \$10.00\*  
All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON

\_\_\_\_ *The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found*  
by **Susan Johnson Hadler** \$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 10<sup>th</sup> 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  
\_\_\_\_ 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo T-shirt (navy) \$20.00  
only three left: blue 2XL

\_\_\_\_ Hat \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_ **AWON 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Totebag** **REDUCED!\*** \$5.00  
\* small, P&H included  
\_\_\_\_ Tote bag (large) \$20.00  
\_\_\_\_ **20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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Indianapolis, IN 46216

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

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



AWON Board Business  
23 May 2017

**Financial Report:** The March financial report lists \$90,500 cash, including \$14,100 restricted for Memorial Day wreaths. Year-to-date operating income is \$4,200, operating expenses is \$2,300, dues receipts are \$3,800, and interest income is \$135. Dues for the year to date 2017 are \$3,755. In 2016 year to date dues were \$7,200.

**Action Items:** **Norma Nicol Hamilton** has not contacted Florida State University about their archive repositories but plans to next week. **Norm Burkey** will try to contact other Gold Star organizations one more time. He noted no response from other organizations to date. Norm also reported to the board that no one has volunteered to take over organizing the White House Memorial Day Breakfast. Norm contacted **Bonnie Crane Hellums** about being a legal counsel and helping with closing issues. She responded that she would not be able to help due to a full schedule of events. Norm said there are a couple others who might possibly be able to help with legal counsel. Norm checked with History IT concerning the archive project and got no response. In an earlier email to the board **Jerry Pinkerton** commented that he contacted North Western Texas University about their repository. They are working to schedule a meeting. **Gerry Morenski** and newsletter editor **Kathy Le Comte** composed and sent a letter to the American Battle Monuments Commission requesting permission to place plaques as memorials to AWON fathers at each ABMC cemetery. Gerry will contact Holly Rotondi of the Friends of the National WWII Memorial after Memorial Day to discuss the AWON database. Gerry also will contact Kimberly Guise of the National World War II Museum about their interest in the AWON database. Gerry will follow up with a report. **Ed Peters** and Jerry will contact webmaster **Rik Peirson** about the AWON website. Ed and Norm will continue to work with HistoryIT.

**Gala Celebration:** Co-chairs **Billie Meeks** and **Diane Pollard** gave a progress report. Holly Rotondi has of-

e-Star • November 2017

fered to help with several items.

**AWON Archives:** The board discussed what AWON items are important to place in an archives. Norm suggested each director make a list based on importance and future value. The board will discuss the lists thoroughly at the next board meeting. Norm also suggested AWON approach HistoryIT again to inquire what they can do for a set amount of money. There was a long discussion concerning some of the archival objects. Norma plans to meet with two history professors and will ask their advice about archiving. Norma also will contact **Patricia Gaffney-Kindig** about archiving the AWON photo albums.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the board is set for July 25, 2017.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

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

AWON Board Business  
25 July 2017

**Financial Report:** As of June 30 AWON had \$81,300 cash, including \$12,800 restricted for Memorial Day wreaths. Year-to-date operating income is \$7,200, operating expenses total \$10,900, and interest income is \$271. Dues for the year to date total \$6,400. The board approved eliminating the multiple-year dues option, no dues will be collected after 2018. **Gerry Morenski** and **Jerry Pinkerton** will prepare a list of possible ongoing costs after 2018 that contributions might cover.

**Action Items:** Gerry spoke with Holly Rotondi of the Friends of the National WWII Memorial and will write a report. **Norma Nicol Hamilton** reported via a previous email that she will contact Florida State University when she returns from vacation. Norma contacted

*...continued on page 22*

## Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

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

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

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

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

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

**Kathy Le Comte, Editor**  
1004 Williams Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 414-1400 (cell)  
johnkath5@comcast.net

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

...Minutes, from page 19

**Patricia Gaffney-Kindig** about the AWON photo albums, and **Barbara Kelly** about member-authored books but has not had a response from either to date. **Norm Burkey** received no response from other Gold Star organizations and therefore will end any further efforts.

**Gala Celebration: Co-chairs Billie Meeks and Diane Pollard** reported that they have booked the Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel for the event, which is conveniently located. They are working on speakers, transportation and other details. The board approved to offer to pay for transportation, housing and food for AWON Founder **Ann Mix** and one companion, plus a motorized scooter.

**AWON Archives:** Norm contacted HistoryIT again with no response. After much discussion, Norm will contact some other AWON members to be on a task force with Norma to help wrap up this project.

**Reading WWII Show:** Norm sent an earlier report of the June 2-4 event via email. He explained the importance of AWON's continuing presence at the event.

**AWON Downsizing:** Much discussion was given concerning the downsizing of AWON. Much consideration was given to what it will take to keep some activities operating, such as *The Star*, the AWON Listserv, and Regional Gatherings, and how to accomplish this. Norm will talk to newsletter editor **Kathy Le Comte** about continuing *The Star*, and her interest in administering AWON at a later date, and her input for a response concerning previous emails.

**ABMC Plaques:** **Gerry Morenski** reported on her conversation with Mike Conley of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which approved AWON's proposal to place plaques at each ABMC cemetery. Conley will advise AWON as needed as it gathers more information about creating plaques and forming a committee for the project.

**Task Force:** **Jerry Pinkerton** volunteered to head a task force of regional meetings. He will contact members to ask for their assistance.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the board is set for September 19, 2017.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

*This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [awon.org](http://awon.org). Next scheduled meeting September 19, 2017*

# 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 and Gold Star memberships also are available. Circle your option and total below:

1 Year

Basic	\$25
Sponsor	\$50
Gold Star	\$100

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:**

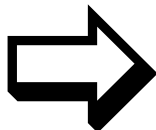
Jerry Pinkerton  
AWON Treasurer  
2848 Woodside St. #401  
Dallas, TX 75204

Editor, The Star  
1004 Williams Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62704-2832

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Is it time  
for you  
to renew?



## The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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**AWON Headquarters**  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
[www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org)



### AWON Mission

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

# AWON Directory

### Address Corrections

Gerry Morenski      [dbmanager@awondb.org](mailto:dbmanager@awondb.org)

### Archives

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### Dues

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