

# The



# Star



Issue 91

"We Speak Their Names"

January 2019

## *Pilot's descendants present during Italian excavation* **Crash dig turns up more than metal**



*Gretchen Wronka, center, with family and archaeologists around her, inspects some of the pieces of her father's plane after they are excavated in July 2016 in Italy.*

*by Gretchen Hintz Wronka  
and Loren Martin Hintz*

It started with a simple post on a P-47 web page: "Anyone out there serve with Lt. Loren Hintz, 86<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, KIA. Italy, April 21, 1945?" This query floated around the Internet for more than a decade before being picked up by a team of amateur Italian archeologists searching for World War II crash sites. The story behind the research that ultimately led to the July 2016 excavation of Lt. Hintz's plane, some of his personal effects and additional remains, intrigued Jason Dawsey, Ph.D., Special Projects Historian at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans (*Editor's note: see inside for the link to Dawsey's article*). This article for *The Star* is a more personal reflection by us, Gretchen Hintz Wronka and Loren Martin Hintz, Lt. Hintz's children.

Our dad wasn't really lost, at least in the metaphysical sense. For as far back as Mart and I could remember, we knew when and where the P-47 fighter plane he was piloting had been shot down on his 64<sup>th</sup> mission over northern Italy. We knew that, according to a letter our mother received, his grave contained a "few small bones assumed to be human" retrieved after the war from the crash site. These were buried under a ubiquitous

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# President's Message

by Walt Linne

First, I want to thank Gerry Morenski, AWON Database Manager; Sharon Connor, AWON Memorial Day Wreath Project Coordinator; and Patty Temte, AWON First Inquiry Coordinator; for their many years of service to AWON. These active AWONers are retiring from their volunteer AWON duties. We will miss their call to duty. Job well done, siblings.

Secondly, I want to reiterate that the new board's intent at this stage - 27 years after AWON was founded - is to keep the doors or as one of our siblings recently said, "Our Very Safe Home", open so that we can continue reaching out to our siblings, to help them in their search for their father, to educate the world of our experience and to keep our father's sacrifice alive. AWON is run by an all-volunteer staff of orphans and we need your support both operationally and financially to keep our doors open.

It was very heartening that we had 19, yes, 19 First Timers at our wonderful 2018 AWON Gala Gathering in Washington, D.C. this past September. And, if you notice in almost every *STAR* newsletter (thanks to our special granddaughter Editor Kathy Le Comte) there is always a list of 5-6 new members in every issue. This issue is no

exception. Our work is not done!

Next, the new board is carrying forward projects from the old board, plus incorporating some new ones. Once we get settled in our role more information will be forthcoming. Help us by sending in your ideas via the Voice survey that can be found in the October *STAR* newsletter. And, of course, please, please renew your membership and reach out to other orphans that you know are still seeking information of their dad.

I want to introduce Lorin McCleary as our new Database Coordinator. He has devised a plan to decentralize the structure of the database program for data entry, maintenance and reporting that is better suited to the client-server architecture of the Filemaker Pro software. His team consists of Barbara Kelly, data entry; Barry Barr-Finch, Regional Coordinator; and Ann Mix, First Inquirer Coordinator. In addition, the cost of our database software and process has been reduced by approximately 40 percent. A good adjustment.

And, finally and sadly, we lost our beloved sibling, Lynne Lecrone, on November 28. Lynne was very active in AWON, attending every na-

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Ann Bennett Mix

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Gloria Layne

### Secretary

Lorin McCleary

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Rik Peirson

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**Dues** Barb Kelly, Paul Bremer

**Bookstore Manager** Walt Linne

**The Star Editor** Kathy Le Comte

**Webmaster** Rik Peirson

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# **AWON wreath program to expand**

by Rik Peirson

**T**he AWON Memorial Day Wreath program is entering its 18<sup>th</sup> year in remembering AWON Fathers and others who died in the cause of freedom. The program sends wreaths to 16 cemeteries around the world cared for with dignity by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The program began in 2003 with AWON Overseas Friends Régine and Bernard Achten of Belgium, and AWONers Sharon Connor and Rik Peirson, at Henri-Chapelle National Cemetery and Memorial. It now sends wreaths every Memorial Day to all 16 American overseas cemeteries that hold or remember World War II dead. Connor coordinated the program for many years and has stepped down. New program leaders are AWON Direc-



tors Jeanne Rhinehart and Rik Peirson. They sincerely thank Sharon for her many years of devoted service in

building this program to its geographical potential. More

*...continued on page 9*

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*...President, from page 2*

tional conference including the recent 2018 AWON Gala Gathering, volunteering as a Regional Coordinator and hosting numerous gatherings in York, Pennsylvania. She is now with her father and mother and step-father. She will be dearly missed. Rest in peace, sister.



Click for more  
on Lynne.

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...Crash, from front page

marble cross in the American Military Cemetery and Memorial outside Florence. Every night, we prayed for "Daddy Loren." A formal photo of this handsome man in uniform graced our living room, just part of the furniture. A footlocker in the attic held his dress uniform, his writings and poems. The box with his Purple Heart medal was in a bookcase. Several photo albums filled with snapshots showed a laughing guy in various stages of young adulthood, obviously relishing life with family, friends and the girl he married, our resilient mother: Gertrude Russell Hintz, his forever beloved Gertie.

This incredible woman raised us - Martin, born six weeks after dad was killed, and Gretchen, nine months old when he went overseas - to be proud of our father. She never remarried, emphasizing that no man could ever measure up to Loren, a published poet, a dancer, a lover of nature, art, music and literature. During her 35-year career as the beloved secretary to the principal of a small-town high school, Gert Hintz influenced the lives of several generations of students, playing the role of listener, friend, guidance counselor, ad-

vocate, college and military recruiter. We wonder now what she would think about the adventure that has become "Finding Loren."

Despite our family's fifteen-year-plus research mission to identify the crash site and plan for its excavation, nothing was enough to prepare us for this experience. The search

culminated on a farm field near Bagnarola, a village not far from Bologna, a city liberated on the same day dad was killed. From the minute we stepped off the plane those long ago days in July 2016, we were caught up in a dazzling whirlwind of activity, leaving little time to absorb emotions or for introspection. It's taken more than two years for us to come to some level of awareness of the importance of our discovery, at least in family terms.

On that hot, overcast mid-summer day, we wandered around the excavation site, a rectangle of dried pasture in view of a cornfield across the road. It was a fitting resting

spot for an Iowa farm kid. Nearby was a rebuilt farm compound, heavily damaged by exploding fuel and munitions from dad's plane. An elderly farmer was killed as a result of the ensuing fire. His grandchildren were on hand with us to bear witness to our "hands across the sea" communion of spirit



*Hans Wronka, above foreground, witnessing the excavation of his grandfather's plane engine. Below, members of the Italian military fold and present the American flag to the Wronka/ Hintz families as a bugler prepares to play Taps. Credit: air-corpsaviation.com*





that day. Of course, there were many hugs and tears about an event occurring more than seven decades prior.

We listened as a muscular backhoe chugged away, immediately bringing up chunks of metal, a corroded machine gun, shrapnel and other bits and pieces of that long-lost airplane. The crowd of onlookers grew as numerous Italian volunteers from the Archeologi dell'Aria recovery team tackled the ever-enlarging pit by hand, their hard hats, shovels bobbing in and out from behind the growing mountains of clay being removed.

A roar swelled as a huge chunk of dirt-encrusted metal appeared. The strong smell of oil permeated the air. It was the engine! As the excitement mounted, the two of us wandered around the field almost in a daze, interviewed by Italian TV

correspondents. Mart and I were stopped over and over by onlookers, most of whom weren't even born until long after the war. They greeted us with an outpouring of sincere gratitude. Over and over they said to the effect, "We came to thank your family for your sacrifice and for the families of all the Allies who came to save us from Fascism."

Then the digging stopped. Our family was ushered to the middle of the field as three Italian parachutists solemnly marched toward us, presenting the folded American

colors. As the bugler played Taps we held hands, surely a first since early childhood and stood proudly with our children and grandchildren, Loren's legacy.

The digging continued more slowly as the archeologists dug perilously close to the cockpit. With upmost delicacy, these men and women gently shifted every shovelful of rescued dirt. A grandchild rushed to pull us to a kneeling worker, gently washing something in a bucket of water. Without a word, she held out her hand, cradling a blackened,

bent dog tag, clearly reading "Loren E. Hintz." Chills ran down our spines as we touched this almost living thing. And still, neither of us cried. It was too surreal. Time stood still, the crowd edged closer to the hole, almost breathless as the work progressed. No more backhoe, just humans dig-

ging with trowels. Each scoop was scrutinized. Someone held up something. Not a piece of airplane - a human femur.

We were led to a tiny canopy enveloping a small table on which rested a rectangular metal box. As we watched, more bone fragments were respectfully laid in this little coffin. The local priest, a modern day St. Francis in jeans and sandals, arrived to recite the Catholic prayers for the dead over the little trove of bones. The crowd hushed.



*Before and after: Left, the crash site the day before excavation. Right, a day after the hole was closed, Gretchen and Mart stand at the spot where it all began. The impromptu marker made by the archaeologists of the group, Archeologi dell'Aria (Archaeologists of the Air), includes brick fragments (from the destroyed farmhouse that the farmer used as fill when he covered up the plane), a wilted red rose and a small cross made of twigs and twine.*

...continued on page 6

...Crash, from page 5

It began to drizzle. Fearing that the walls of the hole would collapse, the dig was called off. People slowly drifted away. The carabinieri, the Italian military police, stepped up respectfully to take possession of the bones. The day was over, but the drama continued.

Dad's remains stayed in Italy until February 2017, when they were transferred to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. In April that year, as the "Primary Next of Kin," I received a call from U.S. Armed Forces identification personnel, saying that DNA tests would have to be conducted. Subsequently Mart and I both provided samples, as did a "long-lost" daughter of our dad's sister whom we'd never met. Several more months passed.

Finally, in early Summer 2017, we were notified that the bones had been identified



Left: Lt. Loren E. Hintz; below, Hintz' bent dogtags found at the crash site in July 2016.



as those of Loren Hintz. Late that summer, the dog tag was returned along with forms to complete regarding burial plans. Our mother and Dad's three brothers - George, a ball turret gunner on a B-17; Robin, flight

## Italians: *We can and must remember their sacrifice*

At one point during the excavation week, the Hintz/Wronka families were whisked to a mountaintop peace memorial in the ruins of a bombed-out Renaissance chapel, its frescoes still visible after hundreds of years. Wartime craters scarred the landscape and bullet holes were evident on the sacred walls, providing mute testimony to the violent battles that raged back and forth there 70 years ago. A little shrine memorializing Lt. Hintz was set up inside the ruins, consisting of his photo and a laurel wreath atop a cross. The wreath harkened back to those given to Roman heroes; to have our dad remembered like that was amazing. There, on Monte Calderaro, in the province of Emilia Romagna, we stood alongside members of the National Association of Italian Partisans, other Italian friends and family. Our hearts pounded as we were made honorary members of A.N.P.I. A short speech by chapter president David Cere still resonates, not just for us but also for you, like us, war orphans - no matter where our fathers died:

(Translated from the Italian)

*October 1944, during World War II, this place, these mountains were conquered by the U.S. Army to the Nazis (sic) and for long months were the theater of war, in what history has remembered as the Gothic Line. This hill and these ruins have witnessed many battles, and we can still see the signs of the ugliness of war. Here many young people, of many nationalities were killed here. (sic)*

*Today we remember Loren Hintz, falling with his plane a few kilometers from here just the last few hours before the end of the war in this area. And we want also remember (sic) symbolically all those American boys for our freedom have given their lives. And we, that are children of that Freedom paid with the blood of those young people, we can and must remember their sacrifice. We can and must do, every day that we live in Peace, two things:*

*Never forget*

*And only one word: Thanks.*

## Hintz engine, parts on display in Minnesota

The engine and some other parts from Lt. Loren E. Hintz' Republic P-47D Thunderbolt that was buried 16 feet below an Italian farmfield is now on display at the Commemorative Air Force Minnesota Wing museum. Hintz crashed on 21 April 1945 during the Battle of Po River Valley. The crash also killed an elderly farmer. Visit the museum at 310 Airport Rd, South St Paul, Minnesota, or online at [cafmn.org](http://cafmn.org).



crew on the planes that flew the Hump; and oldest brother, Harold, who stayed on the farm - had agreed that those first few bones should be buried in the newly-created Florence cemetery. We remain firm in honoring that decision. The Florence cemetery has been closed to burials since it was completed in 1947, however, Florence Superintendent Angel Matos, a retired Coast Guard officer, supported our wishes. After extended discussions, the American Battle Monuments Commission, responsible for U.S. Armed Forces cemeteries worldwide, agreed this past summer to burying our dad's additional remains in the original grave. However, an extensive re-leveling project in the cemetery this year has complicated these plans. Cemetery improvements are due to be completed in 2019, and we subsequently got the go-head for November 16, 2019, as the date

for a memorial observance. It will be held in the cemetery chapel, involving Lt. Hintz' children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other family and friends. Mart will deliver the eulogy and Superintendent Matos is arranging for an honor guard from a nearby U.S. Air Force base.

Mart and I are both so fortunate to have had this amazing experience, initially not knowing where it would lead us. How wonderful that we have been able to work with friends both in the States and Italy to arrive at this point and able to plan this memorial. Throughout this long, long process

of discovery, Loren, the father and man, is emerging more clearly for us and his descendants. We wish you all could be so fortunate. We are Gretchen Hintz Wronka and Loren Martin Hintz, *I bambini del pilota (the children of the pilot)*.

### ***The Backstory***

*Before the first lump of soil was turned in Italy an astonishing series of events took place, online and in the United States, to lead family and researchers to the Hintz crash site. For more information about how the excavation came to be, and other details, read the fascinating backstory written by the National World War II Museum: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/art-perseverance-story-search-first-lieutenant-loren-hintz>.*



# In the News

*Local, national and even international news media recently carried stories featuring two AWON members. One story was about Nancy Kragh's efforts for a memorial (below, left), and another was about Carol Donahue connecting with the person who tends her father's grave (below, right). Editor*

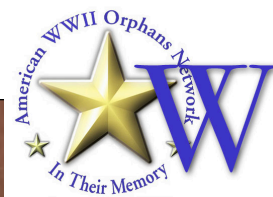


*The Japan Times: A sailor plays Taps at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (AP)*

## **Memorial dedicated to US POWs on hellship**

AWONer Nancy Kragh has been working on this project for almost two years. Her father, Maj. Clarence White, was a prisoner of war aboard the unmarked Japanese "hellship" *Enoura Maru*, when it was bombed by American aircraft from the *USS Hornet* on January 9, 1945. In August 2018, Kragh attended the dedication of a new memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii for the 400 POWs killed on the *Enoura Maru*. Kragh's father is buried as an unknown in one of 20 graves at the cemetery. Kragh discovered this fact only 15 years ago. The dedication ceremony, she says, finally ends her search and gives some closure. For more about the memorial. Kragh's father, and conditions on a Japanese hellship, see: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/08/16/world/wwii-pows-killed-at-attack-japanese-ship-buried-unknowns-will-get-memorial-marker-hawaii/#.XAaw3mhKjIX>

Click for more



*Cardin and Donahue (Asbury Park Press)*

## **French woman visits grave of AWON father**

This past Veterans Day, AWONer Carol Donahue shared with her local newspaper, *The Asbury Park (NJ) Press*, the story of a French woman who visits Donahue's father's grave at the American National Cemetery in Normandy. Valerie Gautier Cardin is the co-founder of an organization that helps veterans revisiting the places they served in World War II. Cardin also arranges meetings between local students and visiting American World War II veterans. Thanks to Facebook, Cardin and Donahue connected about three years ago and met recently in the United States. Now, Cardin regularly visits Donahue's father's grave, and she likes being able to tell students about the serviceman buried under the cross marker. For more about their connection, and how Donahue found AWON, see: <https://www.app.com/story/news/military/veterans/2018/11/09/veterans-day-world-war-ii/1907583002/>



## **AWON Wishes to Thank These Members Who Renewed Their Membership in October and November:**

Neva Rountree, GA  
Alexandra Prejean, HI  
Roberta Roddy, IA  
MaryLee Obert, CT  
Michael Park, OR  
Monte Monzingo, TX  
Anthony Pierantozzi, DE  
Kathleen Mayerski, CA

Roger Connor, CA  
Stewart (Rusty) Lerch, PA  
Alice Irving, FL  
Sharon Connor, CA  
John Linne, IN  
Helen Vernon, VA  
Donna Umbro, ME

*...Wreath, from page 3*

than 250 treatments of Memorial Day services from the past 16 years can be found at <http://www.awon.org/new/memorials.html>.

Current Stateside Coordinators include Gail Eisenhauer (Ardennes, 15 years), Brian Hope (Brittany, 13 years), Jeanne Rhinehart (Cambridge, 13 years), Barbara Croke Catterall (Florence, 2 years), Rik Peirson (Henri-Chapelle, 16 years), Paul Bremer (Lorraine, 7 years), Roger Connor (Luxembourg, 7 years), Patty Temte (Manila, 15 years), Tatum Young (Honolulu / Cemetery of the Pacific, 1 year), Charlene Czajkowski (Normandy, 6 years), Bonnie Hellums (North Africa, 1 year), Victor Muller (Rhone, 10 years), Bob Meek (Sicily-Rome, 15 years) and Sharon Connor (Suresnes, 13 years).

We can thank Sharon again for coordinating the AWON wreath for Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial for the past three years, and we're seeking a new stateside coordinator for Epinal starting next Memorial Day. We also want to thank AWONer Gerry Morenski for coordinating AWON's wreath

at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial (Margraten) since 2004, or the past 15 years, so we're also seeking a new stateside coordinator for Margraten starting next Memorial Day. With thanks to so many of our coordinators over the years who have helped remember our fathers overseas.

Look for two new remembrance programs that AWON will be starting in 2019: a U.S. national cemetery version of the overseas program for Memorial Day, and an organized approach for AWON to support Wreaths Across America, to culminate in early December.

We're seeking volunteers now for the two new wreath programs. For the U.S. national cemetery program for Memorial Day, please contact AWON Secretary Lorin McCleary at [secretary@awon.org](mailto:secretary@awon.org). For the Wreaths Across America program, contact AWON Vice President Gloria Layne at [vicepresident@awon.org](mailto:vicepresident@awon.org). If you have interest in coordinating either Epinal or Margraten, please contact Jeanne Rhinehart at [hart1003@comcast.net](mailto:hart1003@comcast.net) or Rik Peirson at [Rik@dayone.com](mailto:Rik@dayone.com).

## AWON Wishes to Welcome These New Members

R. Keith George, PA, grandson of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Jennifer Sorenson, CT, granddau of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Karen Lynch, PA, granddau of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Becky Lukas, OH, granddau of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Debra Lannon, PA, granddau of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Randy George, TX, grandson of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army  
Marsha Claspy, PA, granddau of CPT Malcolm L. George, Army

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

## Remains cannot be moved, but benefit exists

At the 2018 AWON Gala Gathering AWONer Miriam Quinlan Towey was asked a question about moving remains.

Towey volunteers at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) as an Arlington Lady. An Arlington Lady is in attendance at every gravesite service, with about 30 funerals on any given weekday (see April 2018, Issue 88, of *The Star*). Towey spoke about the Arlington Ladies at the Gala Gathering in September.

AWONer Betty Nester asked Towey if Nester's father's remains could be moved from the American Cemetery at Manila to Arlington. Towey said she'd look into it and share the answer with AWON.

"Any military person killed in action and interred in an overseas American military cemetery cannot be disinterred. However, in the late 1960s, the Secretary of the Army (who has jurisdiction over ANC) authorized entitlement to a memorial marker at Arlington, as well as a military service, with full honor, for all killed in action, or, if the family prefers, a "standard" honor. Full honor includes caisson, band, etc.

"Meanwhile, I would suggest that interested families also contact the American Battle Monuments Commission, which is headquartered here in Arlington, Virginia; they have legal jurisdiction over all the overseas cemeteries. They have a very active website that offers (all) kinds of useful information."

Towey also mentioned the Wreaths Across America program as it's carried out at Arlington.

"A gentleman from Maine, back in the 1990s, decided to bring fir wreaths and place (them) on graves at a pre-arranged section of ANC each year at Christmas time. I have volunteered with this awesome activity that was also sponsored by the Maine State Society. Volunteers have increased, wreaths have increased and now the entire cemetery is covered - each and every grave - with thousands of volunteers participating for

about five hours on a Saturday morning before Christmas. It is particularly awesome when snow is on the ground. ... At the end of January the wreaths are removed by soldiers from the Old Guard who are assigned to the cemetery." (Editor: see article, page 3.)



*Towey's brother's remains went down with the USS Juneau. Pictured is his memorial marker at Arlington, with a wreath from Wreaths Across America.*



## ***Contact or become an 'LRC'***

# **Time to meet members in your area**

*by Barry Barr-Finch*

**N**ow that we have determined that AWON will go on, I wanted to let all members know that one of the ways we can share with one another between conferences is by gathering in local groups.

We have about 50 local regional coordinators who work to fulfill this goal. A Local Regional Coordinator (LRC) has two jobs. One is to be the go-to person locally to contact a new member and welcome them to AWON. The LRC at that point can ask the new member if they wish to be contacted further for gatherings. As director of LRCs, I am the person who sends the request to the LRC for this welcome. The AWON database manager sends me a list of new members around once a month. Hopefully, all new members have been contacted in this way. We do not have LRCs in all areas, and sometimes they have to cover large areas geographically.

The other, more difficult, job of the LRC is to try to organize a local gathering. These gatherings can take place in a private home, restaurant or other venue, like an air show or a museum. AWON Secretary Lorin McCleary suggests having a wreath presentation at a lo-



*Barry Barr-Finch, front row center, and other AWONers at a Washington State gathering.*

cal national cemetery on Memorial Day or Veterans Day. There could be a local gathering at such an occasion. There are any number of ways that people can get together. We are only limited by our imagination.

When there is a local gathering and the LRC requests it, I can send list of members from the AWON database. Each LRC is cautioned that we try to keep each member's personal information confidential and the information is only to be used to contact members for that purpose only.

Sometimes distance can be an issue for people to get together. I know that in some states that are really large

it is just too far to travel for one group. We need to get more people who are willing to organize gatherings. I am sure that in the last couple of years, people were in "shut-down" mode and very few people thought about gatherings, but now we need to be more charged up than ever, to try and reach our goal of finding other orphans.

If you would be interested in helping as an LRC or want to know if you have one in your area, contact me by phone or email. My information is on the back of the newsletter.

**Join  
the  
Discussion**



## **Mortuary Affairs Records, Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) Updated 12/2018**

*by Ann Mix*

This is a separate record from the Deceased's Personnel Jacket and includes different information. These records were created by the Mortuary Services, which dealt with a war casualty's body and sending personal effects to the next of kin. They can be graphic so be prepared. They are especially useful if the personnel records were burned. If no body was recovered, there will be a report of the investigation.

All the mortuary records for World War II are being scanned and moved from the National Archives in Suitland, MD to the National Archives in St Louis, MO. This is ongoing so your record may be at either place. If you request a file it may take awhile to get it depending on what stage of the process it is in. The records are currently "under the control" of the HRC, FOIA office and require you asking for copies under the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. The file will not be redacted except for new information, possibly another request with a name and address.

First you must fill out a S180 with all the information you have. You will find a S180 in this *Star* or online. This can be downloaded and printed. If you are emailing a request you can add to an email as attachment.

<https://www.archives.gov/files/sf180-request-pertaining-to-military-records-exp-april2018-1.pdf>

You may not be able to supply all the information but by now you should have the name and service number from writing to the VA, or asking the AWON database manager for help at [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org). Be sure to mention your relationship to the person who died and that you are requesting the records under the Freedom of Information

Act. Also say you want a copy of every item in the file. You cannot request records by phone. Mail to:

US Army HRC  
Casualty and Mortuary  
Affairs Operations Center  
Attn: Public Affairs (FOIA)  
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405

Or you can Email: [foia.hrc@conus.army.mil](mailto:foia.hrc@conus.army.mil)

Human Resources Command (HRC) administers the individual deceased personnel files (IDPFs) for all U.S. World War II dead, regardless of the branch of service in which the deceased was serving at the time of death.

It is also in charge of the records for the MIAs. The term MIA is no longer used. They are now called the "Unaccounted For." HRC is going through these files and compiling a summary about each person and what happened. Remains are still being found and these records are being updated. If you would like to see if a new summary has been added to your persons file you can contact the HRC.

To email a request or ask for information on an "Unaccounted For" you can email Greg Gardner, currently officer in charge, at [army.hrc.pastconflicts@mail.mil](mailto:army.hrc.pastconflicts@mail.mil). The fastest way to get an answer. Or you can call (800) 892-2490. This is the team line and during normal business hours someone should pick up and get you to the right person. Or write to:

U.S. ARMY HUMAN  
RESOURCES COMMAND  
ATTN: CMAOD/PCRB  
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE  
DEPT #450  
FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5405



## REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests from veterans or deceased veteran's next-of-kin may be submitted online by using eVetRecs at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

### SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much information as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)	2. SOCIAL SECURITY #	3. DATE OF BIRTH	4. PLACE OF BIRTH			
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)						
	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")
a. ACTIVE	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. RESERVE	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. STATE NATIONAL GUARD	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES - <i>MUST</i> provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased: _____						
7. DID THIS PERSON <u>RETIRE</u> FROM MILITARY SERVICE? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES						

### SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

#### 1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

☐ **DD Form 214 or equivalent.** Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran: \_\_\_\_\_  
This form contains information normally needed to verify military service. A copy may be sent to the veteran, the deceased veteran's next-of-kin, or other persons or organizations, if authorized in Section III, below. **An UNDELETED DD214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits.** If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost.  
*An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box:* ☐ I want a **DELETED** copy.

☐ **Medical Records** Includes Service Treatment Records, Health (outpatient) and Dental Records. *IF HOSPITALIZED (inpatient) the FACILITY NAME and DATE (month and year) for EACH admission MUST be provided:* \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Other (Specify):** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **PURPOSE:** (Providing information about the purpose of the request is **strictly voluntary**; however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)

☐ Benefits (explain) ☐ Employment ☐ VA Loan Programs ☐ Medical ☐ Genealogy ☐ Correction ☐ Personal ☐ Other (explain)  
Explain here: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

#### 1. REQUESTER NAME:

2. ☐ I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.  
☐ I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN (*MUST submit Proof of Death. See item 2a on instruction sheet.*)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Relationship to deceased veteran)

☐ I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN (*MUST submit copy of Court Appointment*) or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (*MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney*)  
☐ OTHER  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify type of Other)

#### 3. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO:

(Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

4. **AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE:** I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section III is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. (See items 2a or 3a on accompanying instruction sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request is for archival records.)

\* This form is available at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html> on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site. \*

Signature Required - Do not print \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

The various categories of military service records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. Please refer to the Instruction and Information Sheet accompanying this form as needed.

BRANCH	CURRENT STATUS OF SERVICE MEMBER	Personnel Record	Medical or Service Treatment Record
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 9/30/2004	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2004 – 12/31/2013	1	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	1	13
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay	1	
	Reserve, IRR, Retired Reserve in non-pay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in the Air Force, or National Guard released from active duty in the Air Force	2	
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the Air Force	2	13
COAST GUARD	Discharge, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1898	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1898 – 3/31/1998	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 4/1/1998 – 9/30/2006	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2006 – 9/30/2013	3	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/1/2013	3	14
	Active, Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve or TDRL	3	
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1895	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 – 4/30/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 12/31/1998	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1999 – 12/31/2013	4	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	4	8
	Individual Ready Reserve	5	
	Active, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, TDRL	4	
ARMY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 11/1/1912 (enlisted) or before 7/1/1917 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 11/1/1912 – 10/15/1992 (enlisted) or 7/1/1917 – 10/15/1992 (officer)	14	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/16/1992 – 9/30/2002	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) 10/1/2002 – 12/31/2013	7	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) on or after 1/1/2014	7	9
	Current Soldier (Active, Reserve (including Individual Ready Reserve) or National Guard)	7	
NAVY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1886 (enlisted) or before 1/1/1903 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1886 – 1/30/1994 (enlisted) or 1/1/1903 – 1/30/1994 (officer)	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/31/1994 – 12/31/1994	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1995 – 12/31/2013	10	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	10	8
	Active, Reserve, or TDRL	10	
PHS	Public Health Service - Commissioned Corps officers only	12	

**ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS AND SELF-SERVICE WEBSITES (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) – Where to write/send this form**

1	Air Force Personnel Center HQ AFPC/DPSIRP 550 C Street West, Suite 19 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4721	6	National Archives & Records Administration Research Services (RDT1R) 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20408-0001	11	Department of Veterans Affairs Records Management Center ATTN: Release of Information P.O. Box 5020 St. Louis, MO 63115-5020
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center Records Management Branch (DPTSC) 18420 E. Silver Creek Avenue Building 390 MS 68 Buckley AFB, CO 80011	7	US Army Human Resources Command's web page: <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Accessing%20or%20Requesting%20Your%20Official%20Military%20Personnel%20File%20Documents">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Accessing%20or%20Requesting%20Your%20Official%20Military%20Personnel%20File%20Documents</a> or 1-888-ARMYHRC (1-888-276-9472)	12	Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support ATTN: Records Officer 1101 Wootton Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100 Rockville, MD 20852
3	Commander, Personnel Service Center (BOPS-C-MR) MS7200 US Coast Guard 2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20593-7200 <a href="mailto:MR_CustomerService@uscg.mil">MR_CustomerService@uscg.mil</a>	8	Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA) BUMED Detachment St. Louis 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, Building 103 St. Louis, MO 63120	13	AF STR Processing Center ATTN: Release of Information 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217
4	Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Manpower Management Records & Performance (MMRP-10) 2008 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134-5030	9	AMEDD Record Processing Center 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138-1002  eVetRecs: <a href="http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/">http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/</a>
5	Marine Forces Reserve 2000 Opelousas Avenue New Orleans, LA 70146-5400	10	Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-3120		



## INSTRUCTION AND INFORMATION SHEET FOR SF 180, REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

**1. General Information.** The Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records (SF180) is used to request information from military records. Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please try to answer each item on the SF 180. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available". Include as much of the requested information as you can. Incomplete information may delay response time. To determine where to mail this request see Page 2 of the SF180 for record locations and facility addresses.

Online requests may be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) by a veteran or deceased veteran's next-of-kin using eVetRecs at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

**2. Personnel Records/Military Human Resource Records/Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and Medical Records/Service Treatment Records (STR).** Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **LESS THAN 62 YEARS AGO** and medical records are in the legal custody of the military service department and are administered in accordance with rules issued by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, Coast Guard). STRs of persons on active duty are generally kept at the local servicing clinic. After the last day of active duty, STRs should be requested from the appropriate address on page 2 of the SF 180. (See item 3, Archival Records, if the military member was discharged, retired or died in service more than 62 years ago.)

a. Release of information: Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations, the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act of 1974. The service member (either past or present) or the member's legal guardian has access to almost any information contained in that member's own record. The authorization signature of the service member or the member's legal guardian is needed in Section III of the SF180. Others requesting information from military personnel records and/or STRs must have the release authorization in Section III of the SF 180 signed by the member or legal guardian. If the appropriate signature cannot be obtained, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, the surviving next-of-kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the general public. The next-of-kin may be any of the following: unmarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Requesters **MUST provide proof of death, such as a copy of a death certificate, newspaper article (obituary) or death notice, coroner's report of death, funeral director's signed statement of death, or verdict of coroner's jury.**

b. Fees for records: There is no charge for most services provided to service members or next-of-kin of deceased veterans. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances, service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee, you will receive an invoice with your records.

**3. Archival Records.** Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **62 OR MORE YEARS AGO** have been transferred to the legal custody of NARA and are referred to as "archival records".

a. Release of Information: Archival records are open to the public. The Privacy Act of 1974 does not apply to archival records, therefore, written authorization from the veteran or next-of-kin is not required. In order to protect the privacy of the veteran, his/her family, and third parties named in the records, the personal privacy exemption of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (6)) may still apply and may preclude the release of some information.

b. Fees for Archival Records: Access to archival records are granted by offering copies of the records for a fee (44 U.S.C. 2116 (c)). If a fee applies to the photocopies of documents in the requested record, you will receive an invoice. Photocopies will be sent after payment is made. For more information see <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/military-personnel-archival/ompf-archival-requests.html>.

**4. Where reply may be sent.** The reply may be sent to the service member or any other address designated by the service member or other authorized requester. If the designated address is NOT registered to the addressee by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), provide BOTH the addressee's name AND "in care of" (c/o) the name of the person to whom the address is registered on the NAME line in Section III, item 3, on page 1 of the SF 180. The COMPLETE address must be provided, INCLUDING any apartment/suite/unit/lot/space/etc. number.

**5. Definitions and abbreviations.** DISCHARGED -- the individual has no current military status; SERVICE TREATMENT RECORD (STR) -- The chronology of medical, mental health, and dental care received by service members during the course of their military career (does not include records of treatment while hospitalized); TDRL -- Temporary Disability Retired List.

**6. Service completed before World War I.** National Archives Trust Fund (NATF) forms must be used to request these records. Obtain the forms by e-mail from [inquire@nara.gov](mailto:inquire@nara.gov) or write to the Code 6 address on page 2 of the SF 180.

### PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

The following information is provided in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and applies to this form. Authority for collection of the information is 44 U.S.C. 2907, 3101, and 3103, and Public Law 104-134 (April 26, 1996), as amended in title 31, section 7701. Disclosure of the information is voluntary. If the requested information is not provided, it may delay servicing your inquiry because the facility servicing the service member's record may not have all of the information needed to locate it. The purpose of the information on this form is to assist the facility servicing the records (see the address list) in locating the correct military service record(s) or information to answer your inquiry. This form is then retained as a record of disclosure. The form may also be disclosed to Department of Defense components, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, U.S. Coast Guard), or the National Archives and Records Administration when the original custodian of the military health and personnel records transfers all or part of those records to that agency. If the service member was a member of the National Guard, the form may also be disclosed to the Adjutant General of the appropriate state, District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, where he or she served.

### PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be five minutes per request, including time for reviewing instructions and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to National Archives and Records Administration (ISSD), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. **DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS LISTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE SF 180.**

# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members  
Gathering Around the Country

## ***AWON mourns passing of York Gathering organizer***

Lynne C. Lecrone, 73, of York, Pennsylvania, passed away November 28, 2018, at home. She was born on May 9, 1945, the daughter of 1Lt. Kenneth E. Lecrone and Phyllis



*Lecrone*

(Shetter) Lecrone Quickel, and the step-daughter of the late Robert N. Quickel. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in elementary education, teaching second grade for 15 years and third grade for another 15 years, before retiring in 1997. She was a member of Daughters

of the American Revolution and the American WWII Orphans Network. Within AWON, Lynne was best known for organizing the annual "York Gathering," which drew up to 23 attendees from as many as eight states every year to her beloved hometown. She is survived by a step-brother, Robert N. (Jean) Quickel, Jr.; a niece and a nephew. Memorial contributions may be made to AWON in Lynne's memory.

AWON Director Jeanne Rhinehart, and AWONers Ken Sills and wife Dodie, Janice Buterbaugh and Donna Allen, Janice Buterbaugh, attended Lynne's funeral. Jeanne adds the York Gathering will continue, in Lynne's memory. Lynne already reserved the usual place, Hoss' Steakhouse, and set the date for April 6, 2019.

"She would like nothing more than to have us all continue getting together and sharing stories about our fathers," Jeanne said. "May God bless you as you greet your father."

Jeanne was asked to deliver a few remarks at the service, where she shared Lynne's love for AWON, and for her many friends who shared the loss of a father:



In early November New Jersey's Millie McConnell Cavanaugh, Gloria Zuccarella B. Layne and new AWONer Carol Ann Coleman Donahue met for lunch. They shared how their AWON journeys have had a positive impact on their lives. AWONers Lois LaPointe Kiely and Fred Muntzer were not able to attend. *Gloria*

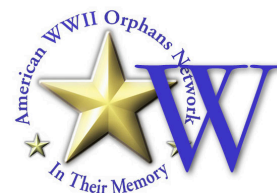
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*Lynn and I first met at Indiantown Gap when AWON held a regional gathering in Pennsylvania. From there the organization continued to grow across the United States. It didn't happen overnight but it was the beginning of wonderful friendships. These friendships were very meaningful and long lasting. Lynne was a retired school teacher and was a natural at organizing regional gatherings. For many years she held wonderful get-togethers in York that many would attend. She would often take us on a tour of certain historic places. She was available if people came to town a day before the gathering to meet the early arrivals for dinner. It won't be the same without her. She would want us to continue reaching out to the members, old and new. This is the promise we make to you. God bless our friend.*



# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### BOOKS

Click for more

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

\_\_\_\_ *A Daughter's Quest: Retracing My Father's Footsteps During World War II*  
by **Laura Smail Sims** **NEW!!** \$16.95

\_\_\_\_ *The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance*  
by Robert Fowler **NEW!!** \$15.99

\_\_\_\_ *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** \$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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

Click for more

\_\_\_\_ *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:

\_\_\_\_ Hat (**1 left!!**) \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_ Scarf (royal blue fleece - **only 3 left!!**) \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tote bag (small) **REDUCED!!** \*\$5.00  
\_\_\_\_ Tote bag (large) \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Flags (*without holder*) \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ AWON Gold Star crystal pendant 1½" (40mm)  
(chain not included - **only 3 left!!**) \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON lapel pin \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON button 2¼" \$3.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON lanyard with name tag/ticket holder  
(blue with white lettering, 4"x6" holder) \$6.00

\_\_\_\_ \*AWON note cards & envelopes (pkg. of 20)  
**(only 2 left!!)** \$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.

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](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)

***AWONers share their stories with students***

# French students give emotional tribute on USA trip

by Marilyn Lieurance

Christelle Zuccolotto, a teacher from France, brought 16 students to America to honor American World War II orphans.

AWON members Anne Snyder, August Alegi, Carol LaBounty, Marilyn Lieurance and Rondi Elliott met with the students on May 29 at Lafayette Square across from the White House. A few of us also met French Ambassador to the United States, Victor Obadia. Then as we looked down the walkway, we saw the group of students and rushed down to meet them. The young ambassadors had come to honor us as World War II Gold Star families.

They had written a story in honor of our fallen and took turns reading it to us. They



*French students prepare to give their presentations to AWON.*

had practiced reading with a strong voice but the emotion of meeting us and presenting the story resulted in soft, emotional and grateful voices that came all the way from France. At the end of their ceremony the

*...continued on page 21*

## Call for Tributes!

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

**Here's How:** 1. Have a look at our website's TRIBUTE section at [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org) (click "Our Fathers") to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on "How to prepare a Father Tribute" – (at [www.awon.org/check5.html](http://www.awon.org/check5.html)); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko's scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . [janceysue@gmail.com](mailto:janceysue@gmail.com). If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/529-2315.

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



Click for more

# The AWON tradition of the Missing Man table

The Missing Man Table has been an integral part of AWON national conferences since 2004, according to AWONer Roger Connor, who has presented the table for at least as long. Below are Connor's remarks from the 2018 AWON Gala Gathering in Arlington, Virginia/Washington, D.C., in September:

*Have your glass within reach, as you'll need it later. Please stand, if you are able. Let us now turn our attention to the table in front of the dais. The Missing Man Table represents all our fathers. We are here because of the Missing Men. AWON exists because of the Missing Men.*



*The items on the table are symbolic:*

- *The White Tablecloth calls to mind the purity of our fathers' call to duty;*
- *The Red Rose symbolizes our fathers' shed blood, and reminds us that Freedom is not Free;*
- *A Slice of Lemon recalls our fathers' bitter fate;*
- *A Pinch of Salt symbolizes our tears as we remember;*
- *The Candle represents our hope for for an end to war;*
- *An Inverted Glass means our fathers cannot toast with us this evening;*
- *An Empty Chair shows how our fathers are not here with us.*

*In a moment, we will observe one minute of silence while we reflect upon our Fathers' lives and their supreme sacrifice. That minute may seem like a long time. If so, think of the hours, the years, the decades that our fathers never had. And the long years*

*and lifetimes that we did not have them. And how our world would be different if they and their comrades had not stood in the breach when our nation was threatened.*

*They died that we might live in freedom. Many of us have lived more than three times as long as they did. Their lives were cut short, but their shadows are with us still.*

*Their lifeblood, shed in a thousand battles, runs in our veins even today.*

*The inverted glass and the empty chair suggest that our Fathers cannot be with us this evening; but they are with us in a very special sense. They and we are united in spirit -- across time and mountains and oceans we are bound*

*together in this place, at this moment. Even across that most mysterious of all boundaries between earthly life and death, all our fathers, and all of us, are together here tonight.*

*One minute of silence please. (Silence)*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

*We will remember them.*

*Let's raise our glasses now in a silent salute to our fathers. (All raise glasses, pause, with glasses still raised)*

*And finally, in gratitude for their lives, and in anticipation of our meeting them again, when there will be no more parting, let's toast each other, "In Their Memory!"*



...French, from page 19

compassionate young people sang *Danny Boy* and the French National Anthem, and I believe all eyes were flooded with emotion.

Regrouping out of the sun, the students sat on the grass for a school assignment. One by one each of us war orphans told the children about our fathers and the hardships growing up without them. The children were moved, asking lots of questions. They discovered that some wounds never heal. The children presented each of us with a neck scarf from their school stating, "From me to you." It was an emotional afternoon, and the children asked to take many photos with us.

After returning to France Christelle sent her thanks, saying her "students learned first-hand about the sacrifices made by so many parents, wives and children during the war." She said history books don't mention the sacrifices made by the entire family. As I think about the interest these young students showed in our stories of war and our personal journeys, I realize these children are the bright lights of the future, and we can only hope they find the peace in the world that so many of us seek.



Summary of Minutes  
2018 AWON BOD Meeting  
October 28, 2018

Present: Walt Linne, Jeanne Reinhart, Rik Peirson, Gloria Layne, Judi Kramer, Paul Bremer, Barry Barr-Finch and Lorin McCleary.

Approved the minutes on the BOD meeting of 9/23/18 (corrected, ed.) as distributed.

Adopted Resolution 2018-01 authorizing the transfer of AWON funds from Bank of America accounts in Texas to the AWON account at Key Bank Southport Branch in Indianapolis.

Members discussed the Washington DC Gala event.

Walt Linne reported on his recent meeting with officials Karl Beveron and Jeremy Collins at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. There was agreement that the BOD should work to build as broad a relationship as possible with the Museum and put in place a formal plan as to the nature of that relationship. President Linne will be AWON's primary contact person with the WWII Museum with assistance from Gloria Layne and Lorin McCleary.

Paul Bremer, Treasurer, reviewed the income statement through October provided by outgoing Treasurer Jerry Pinkerton. No balance sheet was received but one will be prepared one once the funds transfers take place. He noted that while the budget for membership dues for 2018 was \$6000, to

...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**  
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johnkath5@comcast.net

**Deadline for the  
April Issue  
is March 1**

*...Minutes, from page 21*

date \$10945 has been received. Total income for 2018 is expected to be \$16559. Budgeted expenses for 2018 were \$18556 with the shortfall in revenue funded by the general account. Wreath Fund income for 2018 was \$2178. There was a discussion of the funding for the Margraten Choir. Walt Linne reviewed the financial results of the DC Gala, noting that conference revenue received was \$31,000 and conference expenses were \$36,000 with the \$5000 loss funded from the general account. He noted that the DC conference was the most expensive conference AWON has ever held. There was discussion about the need for the transfer of financial records, invoices and contracts from the outgoing board to the 2018 BOD.

The Membership Committee reported that a news release concerning Veterans Day has been developed which AWON members can use with their local media. The release will be posted and available on the AWON.org website and the AWON Facebook page and will be a posted on the AWON Listserver. The BOD members will be calling the First Timers at the AWON DC Gala to follow up on their participation in the event and answer any questions they may have about AWON.

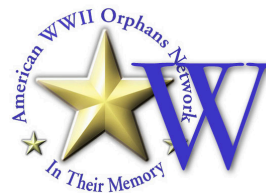
Rik Peirson, AWON Webmaster, reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Mike Carico (corrected, ed.) of Ablespark to discuss the AWON.us website.

It was reported that Gerry Morenski will end her service as AWON Database Manager on October 31st. Lorin McCleary will assume responsibilities for database coordination. He reported that AWON will adopt a more decentralized structure for data entry, maintenance and reporting that is better suited to the client/server architecture of the Filemaker Pro software.

The next teleconference meeting of the 2018 AWON Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

*This is a summary of the minutes provided to The Star. For the actual minutes contact the AWON Board of Directors.*

# American WWII Orphans Network Application, Registration & Renewal Form



Click Here to do  
an automatic  
E-Submission

- ☐ I would like to become a member  
☐ Register my father/family member and me only  
☐ Renew my membership

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

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

## Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home, work, cell)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N  
(Checking Y means you will not receive a copy in the mail. You will receive an email notification to read your copy online.)

### **Renewing members may skip to Dues Options**

Relationship to Serviceman \_\_\_\_\_

Your Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about AWON? \_\_\_\_\_

## Information about WWII Serviceman

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some information, leave it blank and we may be able to find it. Do not delay mailing application for lack of information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

M.I.

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_

Military Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

Additional details about serviceman's death or service: (rank, medals, etc. Add additional sheet, if necessary.)

Home Town and State \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-Star • January 2019

## 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	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:**

Paul Bremer  
AWON Treasurer  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216

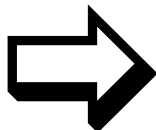


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## The Star

"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)  
[www.awon.us](http://www.awon.us)



### 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

OPEN POSITION

### Archives

OPEN POSITION

### Bookstore

Walt Linne [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org)

### Dues

Paul Bremer [bremergolf@aol.com](mailto:bremergolf@aol.com)

Barb Kelly [barb-Kelly@att.net](mailto:barb-Kelly@att.net)

### Facebook

Barry Barr-Finch [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com)

### First Inquiry Coordinators

Ann Mix [AWON@awon.org](mailto:AWON@awon.org)

Janice Ott Buterbaugh [janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com)

Judi Kramer [ladybug5@juno.com](mailto:ladybug5@juno.com)

### Friends of the National WWII Memorial Liaison

OPEN POSITION

### ListServ

Judy Hathaway [judy0305@yahoo.com](mailto:judy0305@yahoo.com)

Judy Geis Hoffman [jghoffman@satx.rr.com](mailto:jghoffman@satx.rr.com)

### Membership

Gloria Layne [glayne731@gmail.com](mailto:glayne731@gmail.com)

### Memorial Day White House Event

Marilynn Lieurance [mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com)

### Memorial Day Wreath Project

Jeanne Rhinehart [hart1003@comcast.net](mailto:hart1003@comcast.net)

Rik Peirson [rik@dayone.com](mailto:rik@dayone.com)

### Regional Gatherings Project

Barry Barr-Finch [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com)

### The Star

Kathy Le Comte [johnkath5@comcast.net](mailto:johnkath5@comcast.net)

### Washington, D.C. Liaison

Lee Mathis [jlee123@verizon.net](mailto:jlee123@verizon.net)

### Website

Rik Peirson [rik@dayone.com](mailto:rik@dayone.com)