

# The



# Star



Issue 92

"We Speak Their Names"

April 2019

*English woman uncovers hidden story*

## Daughter & father: no longer secrets



*Lt. Thomas H. Sears, and his gravemarker at Ardennes National Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.*

*Edited by Kathy Le Comte, Editor*

**D**iana Sears Vuillemin has been an American World War II orphan for ten years. That's right - ten years.

English born, she was mostly rejected by both her mother's and her father's families. She spent her early years just trying to be accepted by anyone, then another 33 years searching for her father and his family. Her last goal was to obtain American citizenship, which she accomplished after yet another kind of rejection in late 2008.

To tell this story Diana, who lives in Switzerland, mailed to *The Star* photocopies from *If These Stones Could Talk*, by Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons (USA-ret.), a former AWON associate member, and a detailed email. Her father's story appears in the book, with handwritten notes in the margin by Diana, while Diana described her life story in a follow-up email. More about the book appears on page 10. These two sources are the basis for this retelling.

Diana's early life was marked with hardships and complications:

*I only knew about my birth when I was 18, although I knew younger that I was "a special person" to those who cared for me. Everyone, "family" or people in the street,*

*...continued on page 8*

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# President's Message

by Walt Linne

First, I want to thank the new Board for continuing the traditions of AWON with the intent of reaching out to more orphans and helping them as so many of us have since the founding of AWON in 1991 by Ann Bennett Mix. And, to thank our many members who have renewed their membership in AWON. To date we also have had 10 new members join the ranks. Job well done.

Second, our next AWON Conference is scheduled for May 2020 in New Orleans at the Higgins Hotel a part of the National WWII Museum. The museum is a wonderful place to explore. And, I suspect the hotel was named after the WWII landing craft, the Higgins Boat, developed in New Orleans by Andrew Jackson Higgins. Specific details on the national conference will be posted in the next *STAR* newsletter.

Third, I want to thank everyone for the beautiful tributes and monetary contributions to the Lynne Lechrone Memorial. Lynne passed away on November 28, 2018. Every year she would send out her Christmas letter and this year was no exception. This year's Christmas letter was crafted by family members, but was so Lynne. Please note every year Lynne would host a Gathering in York, PA,

and this year Jean Rhinehart and Janice Buterbaugh will carry the tradition on. If you would like to make a donation in honor of Lynne please send to AWON Headquarters, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216.

Fourth, currently, the *STAR* newsletter is delivered by land mail and email. Now that postage has gone up and the continued cost of printing and labeling we are gently asking members that have computers to opt to receive the *STAR* electronically starting by January of 2020. For those of you that received the *STAR* via land mail and chose to go electronically please make sure we have a valid email address by October 2019 to assure uninterrupted delivery of the *STAR* newsletter. Please send your email address to [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org) or contact AWON Headquarters, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216.

Last, but not least I must sadly report that *STAR* Editor, Kathy Le Comte, has tendered her resignation. She cites, "new editing and research opportunities have come my way, and I'd like to focus on some personal projects as well. Therefore, I have decided not to con-

...continued on page 4



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***Served with regiment with 'AAA' designation***

# **Hedge row fighter sees 'bloodiest day'**

*by Rich Basile*

**O**n July 25, 1944, PFC Vincent Basile of Elizabeth, New Jersey, serial number 32918664, was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 9<sup>th</sup> Division landed in Normandy, France on June 10, 1944 - D-Day Plus 4 - and almost immediately ran into the toughest fighting it had yet encountered. Swinging west, the 9<sup>th</sup> cut off the Cotentin Peninsula and then battled north, up the peninsula, through difficult hedge-row country and strong German opposition in a spirited assault. After intense street fighting, the port of Cherbourg was captured in late June 1944. On June 29, 1944, the 9<sup>th</sup> attacked Cap de la Hague peninsula and secured it quickly.

On July 9, 1944, the 9<sup>th</sup> arrived in the Taute sector of Normandy to take part in the costly fighting southward toward St. Lo. The division was soon hit by an attack of the crack Panzerlehr Division which penetrated its lines in the Le Desert area on July 11. However, this attack was soon contained. (Basile's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for action at Le Desert, France,



**PFC Vincent J. Basile**

for operations on July 11 and 12, 1944.)

After a short rest, the 9<sup>th</sup> took part in the major American breakthrough west of St. Lo. Records indicate that the

9<sup>th</sup> was a quarter mile west of La Cature on July 23, a half mile west La Capture on July 24, and a mile northeast of La Chapelle-en-Juger on July 25. This was the long-awaited offensive to "break out" of the Normandy peninsula.

Following a massive air bombardment, 140,000 troops concentrated within the narrow breakthrough zone advanced. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> Division's bloodiest day of combat during the war. It lost more than 170 men killed in action.

*...continued on page 4*

## **Farewell message from the editor**

*After almost 12 years and 47 issues I have decided not to continue as editor of The Star. This is my last issue. My three-year agreement with AWON expired on December 31, 2018. Every issue has been my favorite - until I started the next one. The best part of my job was discovering the detail that made each orphan story unique, and virtually flipping through your photo albums. I deeply appreciate all the praise I have received for The Star over the years but as I always said, what makes The Star a great publication is your personal stories, not my editing. You were in charge of content, I made it look pretty. Thank you for supporting me for the 12 years I was an AWON Board director (2002 to 2014), and for 12 years as editor (2007 to 2019). Twelve must be my lucky number. Please stay in touch; I'm only an email away. Kathy Le Comte, editor, The Star, [johnkath5@comcast.net](mailto:johnkath5@comcast.net)*

...Basile, from page 3

On July 25, Pvt. Basile was killed by a sniper - probably a member of the Panzerlehr Division - at approximately 11 a.m. along the St. Lo - Periers Road. He was shot in the head or neck while walking point for his unit. He did not reach a medical installation prior to his death. The German sniper probably was taken prisoner the following day as a great number of prisoners were captured. His platoon leader, Second Lieutenant Roger E. Reeves, serial number O-1306145, had joined the company the previous day. The company first sergeant was Joe Graveno of Macedon, New York, who witnessed this action. The company morning report of July 26, 1944, indicates that

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...President, from page 2

tinue as editor of the *STAR*". Kathy will be sorely missed. As a granddaughter she has been both a Board Director and Newsletter Editor. At the 2018 Gala she was awarded the Colonel Jack Forgy Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contributions to AWON. In addition, a mother of three teenage daughters and marking an age milestone she heads into her next phase of life that many of us have experienced. God speed and good luck Kathy...Love you Granddaughter...from the Orphans of WWII.

### **39<sup>th</sup> Regiment: Triple A - Bar Nothing**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment were a bunch of tough birds, according to a unit history online. Already tested and proven in the North Africa campaigns early in the war, the "Fighting Falcons" were put through more training before participating in the Normandy Invasion. On D-Day + 4, the regiment landed at Utah Beach and began a series of battles which resulted in the race to the sea and the eventual sealing off of the Cherbourg Peninsula. The battle for the Cotentin Peninsula was next, followed by the "Battle of the Hedgerows." For 25 days the Fighting Falcons "fought, bled and died in one of the bloodiest battles of all time." After the St. Lo breakthrough, the 39<sup>th</sup> raced across France, tangling with the retreating Germans at every town and crossroads where the Germans choose to stand and fight. The regiment had a slogan, "Triple A Bar None" - "Anything, Anytime, Anywhere Bar Nothing." The letters "-A-A-A-O-" often were painted on the helmets of regiment soldiers as a tribute to their doing what was needed, anywhere, anytime, bar none.

Paul J. Schultz and Cecil C. Husfelt also were killed in action that day. It showed the unit at La Meanil-Eury and it was signed by First Lt. Jack A. Dunlap.

PFC Basile is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery at St. Laurent, France,

in Plot J, Row 7, Grave 6. PFC Basile was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European Campaign Medal with bronze star, the World War II Victory Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

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# AWON Moments

by Walt Linne

**M**any of us have experienced moments during our lifetime that have touched our hearts - whether it was a family or life experience. This will be a new column for the *STAR* newsletter that will cover the history of the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON) and present *AWON Moments* that members have experienced because of AWON. I will start this first column with my *AWON Moment*.

From *American W.W. II Orphans Network Newsletter*, Vol. I, the announcement read, "ORPHANS INVITED TO ARLINGTON CEMETERY. A tree-dedication ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, December 7, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. All who lost a parent in WWII are invited. This sounds like a great event and great opportunity for many of us to get together."

I accepted the invitation and met our founder, Ann Bennett Mix, and many other orphans for the first time. Actually, the first orphan I met, other than my brother, was Joan Marlowe. We met the night before at the Washington Hotel and talked into the wee hours of the morning, sort of lost in time talking about our fathers.

The next morning at the tree dedication, for the first time as an adult, I thanked my dad for his sacrifice. It was an *AWON Moment*. I always had my dad up on a shelf in my mind, but at that *AWON Moment* I brought him down off that shelf and brought him back into my life and kept him there until recently when I knew it was time to let him go to be with his buddies.

On the drive back to Indianapolis from Washington, D.C., I said to myself, "If AWON

helped bring my dad back into my life then this was an organization worth supporting." God bless Ann Bennett Mix and all my siblings.

Please send your *AWON Moment* to AWON *STAR*, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216, so we can share in the joy of knowing your father.

Walter Linne  
brother of John Linne  
sons of Walter J. Linne  
KIA March 24, 1945  
Germersheim-on-the-Rhine, Germany

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## ABMC Clarification on Arlington memorial markers

In the January 2019 issue of *The Star* it was reported that all servicemen killed in action could have a memorial marker placed at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) received many requests from AWONers for more information and wishes to clarify that the serviceman must be in an unmarked grave.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death: <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/>. This includes those individuals who are honored on our Walls of the Missing and whose remains have never been recovered and identified," states Sarah Herrmann, ABMC Digital Communications Manager. "To our knowledge, there is no provision that allows for a family member to make this request when their loved one is buried in a known grave, whether the burial is overseas or in the United States. If a service member is buried in a known grave, they are not eligible for a memorial marker."

Join the discussion  
on Facebook



# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members  
Gathering Around the Country



The So-Cal Lunch Bunch had its semi-annual meeting at the Point Loma Café in San Diego February 9. Nine signed up but only four could make it. Pictured left to right are Ann Pogue, Roger Connor, Sharon Crowley Connor and Barbara Smith. We gave summaries of our research into our fathers' fate and wondered aloud if we will do any more. We discussed the proliferation of electric scooters and bicycles throughout the county, especially in downtown San Diego. Barbara said she will reserve seats for AWON for the Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Rosecrans, as she always does. We were together for two hours and, as always, the discussion goes off on myriad tangents. *Roger*

## **TX, OK, AR lunch April 27**

AWONers living in or visiting Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas are invited to attend a regional luncheon in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The exact time and place were not yet determined as of presstime, but let co-organizers Patty Temte and Jerry Pinkerton know that you are interested and they will get back to you. Contact them at [patriciatemte@gmail.com](mailto:patriciatemte@gmail.com) or [jwp7693@gmail.com](mailto:jwp7693@gmail.com).



*Alix Bonnyman Prejean placing the bronze rosette after her father's name on the Wall of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.*

## **Bonnyman receives rosette**

Last November, AWONer Alix Bonnyman Prejean got to do what children of World War II MIA's long for - place a bronze rosette at their father's name on a Wall of the Missing. In 2015 First Lt. Alexander Bonnyman's remains were discovered on Betio Island in the Gilbert Islands of the South Pacific. Bonnyman was killed in action on November 23, 1943, during the Battle of Tarawa. He was buried in an unmarked grave, and his name was placed on the Wall of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. After identification by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Bonnyman's remains were buried in Knoxville, Tennessee. When a MIA has been accounted for, a bronze rosette is placed next to his name on the Walls of the Missing. Bonnyman's recovery is featured in the January 2016 (Issue 79) issue of *The Star*. For more information, see this article at the American Battle Monuments Commission's website: <http://tinyurl.com/y65lwxe3>

# York gathering continues in Lecrone's memory

Jean Rhinehart reports that she and Janice Buterbaugh, both close friends of the late Lynne Lecrone, will continue the annual York Gathering that Lynne started. They have renamed it The Lynne Lecrone Annual York Gathering.

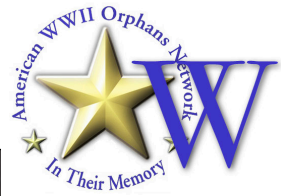
"It is with a sense of sadness and a spirit of hope that Janice and I wish to carry on Lynne's amazing gatherings," Jean says. "We wish to honor her and continue her dedication to honor our fathers."

Before Lynne passed away last November, she already had made arrangements for this year's get-together for 11 a.m., Saturday,

April 6, 2019. As it always has, the group will meet at Hoss' Steak and Sea House in York at their west side location.

"Please feel to join us and bring photos and any other items that you might wish to share," Jean adds. "Janice and I hope to see you all then."

For more information contact Jean at 717-697-9608.



*Editor's note: Lynne organized the York gatherings for 13 years. She explained in 2015: "The first gathering was held in York on April 23, 2005. That was exactly 60 years to the day that my father was*

*KIA in Germany. That day we had a memorial in the square in the center of the city. There were nine orphans. We had a short program and each orphan spoke about their fathers. We put a carnation at the World War II memorial at the square in memory of each father." The York gatherings were always large. One year there were 23 in attendance, but a dozen or so was the norm - from as many as eight states at one gathering. I could count on hearing from Lynne like clockwork. Early in the year, right about now, she'd contact me to place an announcement in The Star, and then again post-gathering with a photo and details. What was amusing was that she would email me that the photo and write-up were coming by mail because she couldn't figure out attachments. Technology was her weakness; friendship and humor her strengths. Living in Illinois I couldn't attend her gatherings, but last December - barely a month after Lynne had passed - while driving home from a family trip to New York City we got off the turnpike for a sidetrip and drove right past a Hoss' restaurant. Coincidence? A final wink through something she and I shared for so many years? I will miss Lynne's emails and notes but most of all, her friendship through email. May the York gatherings long continue.*



Hoss' in Bedford, PA



Lt. Harryson Underwood and his F-15E Strike Eagle

## Underwood to be promoted captain

Lt. Harryson Underwood, son of Ken Underwood and grandson of Lt. Kenneth H. Underwood, will be promoted to the rank of captain in June. At age 25, he will be one of the youngest fighter pilots in the Middle East. "He is following his dream to be a fighter pilot, like his grandfather," states Ken. Lt. Underwood is stationed at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, North Carolina, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 335<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

*...Secrets, from front page*

*were forbidden to ever approach the subject as they did not want me to be shocked learning about it by anyone else, and only when I was capable of understanding. My saviour and love came from a lady who had lost a tiny baby girl, and when I came along she agreed to look after me until my mother could cope with the loss of my father and my birth.*

In 1944, 18-year-old Gladys Pease was serving in the British military, assigned to food services in Wales. She met First Lt. Thomas H. Sears, a B-24 pilot assigned to the 445<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in Norfolk. Even though they were stationed in different areas of the country the two fell in love and continued their romance through letters and infrequent meetings. When Gladys learned that she was pregnant, Tom told her that if anything should happen to him that she and their child should go to the United States to live with his parents.

Sears was reported missing on March 23, 1945. Gladys gave birth to Diana three weeks later. Gladys left the father's name off the birth certificate. She was discharged from the British military and her family disowned her. Faced with little ability to provide for herself and the baby, Gladys gave three-month-old Diana to the family that recently lost the baby girl. Diana's mother visited from time to time but then she moved away. Diana next saw her, with four of six half-siblings, when Diana was 47. The siblings were shocked to meet her, and they haven't maintained contact. Diana stays in touch with one half-brother, whom she knows only through email.

The secret of Diana affected her as well. People whispered around her, and used harsh words that she didn't understand but that have stuck with her. On school field trips, when a passport or identity card was needed, Diana was given a sealed envelope to hand to the group leader and told not to

open it, for fear of being "damaged" from seeing her birth certificate.

*The day I did learn I was not their child I did break down for a while. Everything seemed a lie, everyone was not to be trusted and I closed down. I was told kindly that I had to accept my situation and lose the chip on my shoulder, otherwise I was going to be angry and sad for the rest of my life. These were wise words spoken! I wondered who I was and where did I come from, where were the parents who had forgotten me and left me alone. So many questions asked in silence for a young heart and mind. I was afraid my parents were bad people, and (wondered) what I had done wrong to be thrown away like that.*

Diana knew she couldn't ask too many questions as it made her "dear angel" sad and cry, so she waited until she was 18 and about to move to Switzerland.

*The day came and she told me, and I was so shocked but proud of my father. She believed (that) he had gone missing in his plane. I told her I want to find them and she helped me to do so.*

For more than three decades Diana struggled to find information about her parents, especially her father. She met her mother and step-siblings, as described earlier, but finding her father's family was more challenging. Diana wrote more than 50 letters to Sears families in the United States - and almost gave up - until she found the right one. She learned that her paternal grandparents didn't share the fact that Tom had fathered a child before he was killed. But Diana's cousin, her father's brother's son, told her that when their grandmother was close to death she suddenly blurted out, "I have a grandchild someplace in Europe - GB!" The cousin thought the grandmother was talking nonsense as it had been more than 30 years since Tom was killed.



The Lyons book chronicles Sears' life and final mission. Tom Sears was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 16, 1924 - the third of four sons. All four were active in the Boy Scouts. Tom entered the service on February 27, 1943, and was assigned to the 445<sup>th</sup> BG. On March 23, 1945, his B-24 bomber was shot down near Munster, Germany.

In 1998 Max Schuette, a friend of Sears, received a letter from Horst Munter. Munter was a German citizen whose hobby was searching for American aircraft crash sites with a metal detector. Munter wrote Schuette that he had found the Sears plane after talking to a farmer who remembered the crash vividly because it occurred on his land. According to the farmer, seven men fell out of the plane and only three survived. After the crash, Russian POWs recovered the burned aircrew and buried them.

Munter and Diana had hoped to meet, but he passed away before that could happen. Diana said Munter was looking for American aircraft as a way to "repair the damage" his father, who was a Nazi, had done.

After the war Sears' remains were disinterred, identified, and reburied at Ardenne National Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. He was identified by the Purdue University signet ring still on his finger. Two crewmates are buried at Margraten and another, the Jewish co-pilot, is listed on Margraten's Wall of the Missing. Diana presumes that because his dogtags indicated his faith his remains were desecrated by those who found them first.

A couple years earlier, one of the surviving crew members - radio operator Frank Morgan - wrote to Diana about her father and the mission:

*He was a personable, tall, lanky kind of person. ... Tom looked too young to be commander of such a large aircraft. On March 23, 1945, we were on a very short mission to Munster, Germany. ... Just as we released the bomb load an anti-aircraft shell exploded near the plane. I saw the red center. The co-pilot was flying formation. When he yelled that the left rear rud-*



*Lt. Thomas Sears, standing on right, and his crew. Sears was 6-foot-7, tall for a bomber pilot. Radio operator Frank Morgan is in front row, third from left.*

*der of the twin tail was hit, Tom called to the crew to prepare to bail out. The plane went out of control. He ordered us to bail out. By then the aircraft was rolling over. For a moment I was unable to move because of the centrifugal force. Suddenly I found myself falling into space and pulled the ripcord of my parachute. I never saw the plane again.*

Morgan landed safely and eventually was reunited with the other two survivors in a prison cell. Up to the Munster mission the crew had completed 28.5 missions, and Sears 29.5. After 30 missions bomber crews could go home. Morgan then finished his letter:

*One final word - perhaps the best. Tom Sears was my friend, my senior officer, and one who cared for his fellow crew members. He was an excellent pilot and I had*

*...continued on page 10*

...Secrets, from page 9

*complete confidence in him. He brought us safely home many, many times. I have always believed that Tom fought to regain control of the plane and may have made it possible for me to overcome the forces and to exit. ... He never included us in his personal life; he never talked about his family; nor your impending birth. Surely, he must have been struggling under enormous pressure to survive and return home. But he kept it all to himself. Maybe all of us did.*

Diana had her maiden name changed to Sears. She finally obtained her U.S. citizenship after a DNA test confirmed with 99.9 percent probability her biological relationship to two of Tom's brothers. Diana has visited Ardennes three times - twice serendipitously, before she knew her father was buried there, and the third time to visit his grave.

"The day I was able to take hold of the cold, white cross in the American cemetery, was incredible," she writes.

Diana also has written a poem that describes how she and her father, while never together, always will be connected:

**Thomas**

*One spring day in '45 a "Freedom Bird"  
flew high to the skies.  
I slumbered, still, in my nest so warm,  
awaiting the long journey to be born.  
My cry of life joined yours of pain, our  
breaths as one, in this great shame  
called.... war.  
The light of day called out my name as  
midnight felled your flame.  
Since, peace has reigned 50 years and  
one, but in my heart, loss and tears  
have been my everlasting spears.  
To you, for always and forever after,  
This a tribute, to my hero,  
My dearest father.*

Diana Sears, 1997

***If These Stones Could Talk***

by Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons (USA-ret.)

In writing *If These Stones Could Talk*, Calvin Lyons had two goals: "To acquaint readers with the overseas cemeteries and memorials ... and to introduce readers to a very limited few of the thousands of young men and women buried in World War II Cemeteries."

In a 2010 *Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel* article, Lyons explained that after retiring from Army service and vice president of finance at The Citadel he wanted to pursue his long-time interest in American overseas cemeteries.

"Looking out at the 9,000 crosses and Stars of David, I thought, 'I've got to do something to help people remember,'" Lyons said. "What stories could these stones tell?"

Initially Lyons planned to take random pictures of gravestones and research them later. Instead, at the second cemetery he visited, the site superintendent suggested he contact AWON. Lyons received replies from 30 AWONers, and 19 provided enough information to be featured in the book - including Diana Sears. There are 35 profiles in total, including famous World War II heroes like Ernie Pyle.

During the project, Lyons visited all but three of the World War II cemeteries administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

*If These Stones Could Talk*, published in 2010 by Warwick House Publishers in Lynchburg, Virginia, 283 pages, is now out of print. It is available through Amazon as a used book, at a high price, and perhaps can be found in libraries and on used book shelves.

# *Father pays visit from beyond* **'He's standing right behind you'**

by Sandra MacDuffee

**M**y daughter, Michelle, has been gifted with a sixth sense of sorts, a psychic ability. She's a very spiritual person, believes in angels, and always has felt connected to the spiritual world.

Michelle has been studying and honing her psychic skills and has become a life coach. I, too, am very open to the spiritual world around me and have had several occurrences that defy explanation. You need to know this to better understand the following story.

Michelle and I went to lunch on my birthday, and she gave me the best birthday gift I could have ever asked for. We started with the usual chit-chat: what's new, how is your life going, etc., and then we got serious, as we sometimes do, with the conversation turning to my dad and my deep feelings of loss. Just that morning I had posted the following on Facebook:

*What if one split second sent your life in two different directions? Seventy-six years ago I was born, 75 years ago January 28th my dad was killed during World War II. He was 32. I am so grateful for every day; they are each a beau-*

*tiful gift. I often think about how my life would have been different had my dad returned home from the war. We were living in New Jersey at the time of his death so I probably would not be living in New York State, certainly wouldn't be married to my wonderful husband. Too many thoughts to share on Facebook but my AWON family and anyone who has lost a parent at a young age knows how I feel.*

Our conversation turned to my feelings of abandonment that directly relate to losing my dad, and I recalled a vision about an incident that

had occurred when I was just 2 to 2-½ years old, sitting on a blanket in a park and looking around and not seeing anyone. I felt so alone and scared that I started to cry; just then my mom picked me up and I felt safe again. Years later, when I told my mom this story, she said that I couldn't possibly remember that incident because I was too young, but when I explained all the visuals she knew that I had indeed remembered.

I then started telling Michelle about my strong emotional reaction to a place in Luxembourg where my husband and I were standing and looking out over the field

*...continued on page 12*

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...MacDuffee, from page 11

where my dad was killed. So much emotion came out of me that had been buried for so, so long. I knew my dad was close. I have asked my dad several times to send me a sign or to let me feel his energy, but nothing had happened. At least nothing that I recognized. Michelle said there may have been signs but I had not recognized them.

She suddenly got very quiet. She was staring just past me when she said, "your dad is standing right behind you, over your right shoulder." I had all I could do to

not turn around, just hoping that I could see him, too. Dad was in uniform, standing at attention, holding his rifle and showing Michelle a pink rose. My mom's favorite flowers were roses but I don't know if her favorites were pink. I looked up the spiritual meaning of roses and discovered that a pink rose means gratitude and peace. I took that to mean that Dad was at peace and perhaps he was grateful about how I have honored him throughout my life.

He then showed Michelle the color yellow and he was singing, "You Are My Sunshine," a family favorite. She

saw a campfire and he said that he liked it when we had campfires in the backyard in the summer, and he liked roasting marshmallows. Our camp fires will never be the same. Dad then showed scrambled eggs and bacon. Michelle and I at the same time said that perhaps that was his favorite breakfast. My mom showed up and was quiet, which was very unusual for her, but it was apparently Dad's time to come through. They started to walk away but they turned around to look one more time and Dad said, "Don't deny yourself!" I still don't know what that means but hopefully one day it will make sense.

As you can imagine, by this time I was a mess, tears rolling down my face, unable to speak. So much emotion. I was so happy to know that he is with me and hopefully he will come to me again.

I'm sure there are some or many of you who don't believe, but I wanted to share this incredible experience with my AWON family.

### Remaining 2019 DPAA Family Update Briefings

April 27	Salt Lake City, UT
May 18	Omaha, NE
June 19-22	Washington, D.C.
August 1-2	Washington, D.C.
September 07	Dayton, OH
November 16	San Juan, PR

You must register to attend. For more information go to <https://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

## AWON POSITION OPENING

Editor – AWON STAR Newsletter



The AWON STAR newsletter is published quarterly by the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON). It is for all members and friends and is a major outreach resource. The newsletter provides information for members and contains stories of our Fathers, bookstore merchandise, Board minutes, interaction with other agencies and research sources for seeking information about our Fathers and WWII. The Editor is a voluntary position and interacts with the Board (members) and members from all over the country to obtain stories and articles for the newsletter. AWON uses InDesign for newsletter production and will provide training. Experience working with InDesign or other newsletter publishing software is desired. AWON will provide assistance in publishing, labeling and mailing of the newsletter. If you have experience or interested in the position, please contact us at [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org) or contact AWON Headquarters, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216.



# Board Briefs

by Rik Peirson



## ***Archivist!***

Since AWON is all about HISTORY, we need a Volunteer Archivist . . . to gather, package, and advocate for the careful, historical storage, organization, scanning, and eventual distribution of our physical AND digital AWON Archives! With many thanks to AWONer Norma Nicol Hamilton for her work on our behalf since 2012! For a job description, please Raise a Hand – see the “Connected” story below.

## ***Volunteers!***

Your New Board has been busy, as some of the bits and pieces you’ll see in this issue and the next will suggest.

We started with no fewer than 38 projects and ideas (!) unearthed in early discussions of “Membership” alone – with thanks to AWON V.P. Gloria Layne and literally MOST of the new AWON Board.

In response to your responses to the “Voice” Survey – (see story on Page 17) . . . we’ve planned advancements you’ll soon see on the AWON Star, on the AWON Website, on the AWON Tributes, on the AWON Honor Roll (and on the eventual direction of the Honor Roll) – on continuing to encourage the Voice of the Membership – and in several other initiatives that will materially affect (and hopefully INCREASE) both Awareness of and Membership in AWON, as well as the success of many of our ongoing MISSIONS!

It will be no secret that planning, implementation, deployment & maintenance of these initiatives – not to mention their success – will depend on some committed AWON shoulders to the wheels. The more shoulders we have of committed AWON Members . . . the more wheels we can turn!

Some of you have come forward already . . . you know who you are – and Thanks! Some of your help has already resulted in changes and advancements in several of our key infrastructures.

*...continued on page 14*

# Help!

Help on anything AWON just got easier. Meaning we've just made it easier for you to connect – intuitively – with the help you may need – or with questions or even suggestions - by Function and by Subject!

We've established a simple set of E-Mail ADDRESSES – organized not by name – but by SUBJECT. So you won't need to do “lookups” of currently who's in charge of what on AWON – and what their latest E-Mail address might be.

All you need to do is write to a “subject” . . . @awon.org. Some of these addresses are already in place, as Walt and Rik and Patty have used [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org), [website@awon.org](mailto:website@awon.org), and [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org) for several years. Other addresses will be coming soon. But currently, try THESE – all of which are in place now, starting with our AWON Executive group:

- > [president@awon.org](mailto:president@awon.org)
  - > [vicepresident@awon.org](mailto:vicepresident@awon.org)
  - > [secretary@awon.org](mailto:secretary@awon.org)
  - > [treasurer@awon.org](mailto:treasurer@awon.org)

You can also write to those who are behind our INFRASTRUCTURES:

- > [info@awon.org](mailto:info@awon.org)
- > [membership@awon.org](mailto:membership@awon.org)
- > [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org)
  
- > [listserve@awon.org](mailto:listserve@awon.org)
- > [star@awon.org](mailto:star@awon.org)
- > [website@awon.org](mailto:website@awon.org)
- > [archives@awon.org](mailto:archives@awon.org)

You get the idea. Someone will always be “findable” at these addresses . . . and someone will always (ALWAYS) answer your questions and hear your suggestions!

Here's another thought. If you're curious about how something works, or who's in charge, or how to contact them, and you can't find them by their "function" on the list above . . . simply go to the "Help" page on our Website: [www.awon.org/help](http://www.awon.org/help). If you can't find the help you need at that address, then simply write to . . . [info@awon.org](mailto:info@awon.org). And if you suspect we need an address that's not yet assigned, write to [website@awon.org](mailto:website@awon.org).

## ***E-Star!***

We fully recommend the FULL-COLOR, Connected, Electronic Edition of The Star!

The physical issue (which is published in Black & White) is necessary for those of us who don't DO computers, but the costs involved – direct to AWON – of the PRINTING, BINDING, LABELLING, and MAILING necessary to support a subscription is substantial. And while the number of us who don't have a TABLET, an iPad or a SMARTphone is dwindling, we're hoping that most (or at least some) who are currently getting the printed, mailed version might consider a SWITCH . . . to a COLOR version you'll get instantly . . . and far more inexpensively!

Remember, you can always use the PDF to print physical copies of The Star on your end!

If you're ready to SWITCH . . . just write to [star@awon.org](mailto:star@awon.org).

## ***Connected!***

The stories behind our discoveries and connections are often complex and interrelated. When they're long, it's difficult to include all of the appropriate text, photos, and artifacts in the printed version of The Star. And there are simply times and stories (and opportunities) to deepen and extend certain stories in The Star . . . onto pages of

*...continued on page 16*

the AWON Website.

It happens in the coverage of every Memorial Day. The Star publishes a single picture of a Wreath – for each of 16 overseas American cemeteries (run by the ABMC – the American Battle Monuments Commission) around the world, and for several domestic cemeteries as well. The AWON Website (without the physical costs of reproduction or mailing) most often includes several pictures of every given wreath or service, sometimes in treatments that include programs, and even videos.

So in instances like this, where there are ADDITIONAL details, text, photos, or even sound or digital artifacts that may extend or deepen a Story in The Star, look for this symbol:



Click it . . . and in the presence of a BROWSER, the LINK will take you INSTANTLY to subject-specific additional content on the AWON Website.

In fact, you'll find the symbol above is already aboard the downloadable, E-Star editions of Issues 89, 90, and 91.

You can try it right from here – and you'll find that the LINK behind this graphic will take you to a WEB page on the advantages of a "Connected E-Star," including a new "handshake," and more literal, tandem coverage – from both Analog and Digital AWON publishing venues. This is actually the fourth issue in which subjects have been "extended" and "connected" in this way – (instantly and directly)



between the AWON E-Star and the AWON Website.



## ***Voice of the Membership!***

Thanks! . . . to all of you who submitted your answers and opinions, either at the conference, or since then!

If you haven't DONE the survey yet – please download one (it's just a 3-Question Survey) from the web address below – and SEND IT IN! As in any final analysis, we want as many Members represented as possible, so we'll simply continue to gather the harvest – in what

*...continued on page 18*

should be an ongoing value to AWON Management & Governance.

We have a better idea now of where you want us to spend our time and attention – and over time – we’ll have an increasingly more accurate idea. Just go to the address below, download and print the 3-Question Survey, and send it back to Indy . . . to the address that you’ll find on the Survey.

With many thanks for your continued opinions, ideas, and suggestions. You can know that they’ll be seen and discussed, as you’ll be helping to guide the key directions of our Membership. If you want to WORK with us – as well as GUIDE us – just raise a hand by saying so on the SURVEY. There are MANY ways you might consider lending your time and expertise to AWON!

Please get a copy of the SURVEY here:

> <http://www.awon.org/voice1.html>



## ***Plaque Dedication!***

The National Cemetery Association (the NCA) is the Department of Veterans Affairs group that oversees all U.S. National Cemeteries.

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at Quantico Station, Virginia, the NCA dedicated a SIGNIFICANT plaque in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Significant in that the wording includes . . . “the families they left behind.”

The Quantico dedication will be just the FIRST of several upcoming dedications at National Cemeteries around the country . . . as the NCA does for our domestic, U.S. Cemeteries what is so ably done by the ABMC (the American Battle Monuments Commission) in remembering and honoring the men in our American cemeteries overseas.



We need to support the NCA in general . . . and the coming dedications in specific . . . so please see the LIST (on the web page shown below) – that will be continually UPDATED. So please GO . . . if you see that a dedication will be happening at a National Cemetery near you!

For more information about this dedication . . . along with a list of dates and locations for other dedications the NCA has planned . . . please see:

> <http://www.awon.org/dedication2>



**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, RTF, 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.

**AWON Headquarters  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216**

**Deadline for the  
July Issue  
is June 1**

## **ABMC, National WWII museum partnering to tell cost of war**

The American Battle Monuments Commission reports that ABMC and the National

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### **Johnston German crash site found**

AWONer Wayne Johnston reports that his father's crash site has been found.

"A German group who locates crash sites and battle sites for both World War I and World War II has located the crash site of my Dad's B-17, *The Mississippi Mission*. It is in an open field which is now a bird sanctuary near Gerlitz, Germany. They have dug up some of the parts of the plane and are shipping them to Tommy at the museum," he states. Tommy is Johnston's cousin who is the director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg. "When (the parts) arrive, Tommy and I are going to build an exhibit about *The Mississippi Mission*."

First Lt. Gerald W. Johnston was pilot of *The Mississippi Mission* when it was shot down by enemy aircraft on January 14, 1945. The plane was hit in the rear and mid-section and the bomb bay caught fire. Lt. Johnston controlled the aircraft for his crew to bail out. Five survived and were taken prisoner, the remaining five were killed in action.

WWII Museum in New Orleans are partnering to tell the story of the cost of war. In January, ABMC Commissioner Evans C. Spiceland and ABMC Deputy Secretary Robert J. Dalessandro met with the museum's President and Chief Executive Officer Stephen Watson to formalize the partnership. As part of a new gallery, ABMC will work with the museum to create an exhibit that explains the hard choice families had to make - have the remains of a loved one buried overseas in a permanent, American military cemetery or be returned to the United States for burial in a national or private cemetery. With more than 400,000 Americans who died in World War II, this decision affected millions of citizens, and ultimately, influenced how our nation coped with post-war life. Because all of ABMC's World War II cemeteries are located abroad, this partnership will help bring the ABMC mission to an American audience. ABMC hopes to expand its partnership with the museum in coming years to focus more on education, and connecting with students in American classrooms.

American WWII Orphans Network





# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### BOOKS

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 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 hard: \$20.00 soft \$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\*

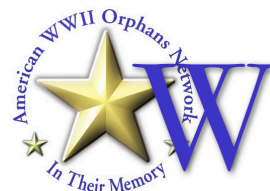
\_\_\_\_ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers* (VHS)  
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**  
**REDUCED!** was \$15.00 \$ 3.00\*

\_\_\_\_ *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:



\_\_\_\_ 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: \$9 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) include P&H. For multiple purchases:  
Up to \$40: \$11 P&H \$40-\$60: \$13 P&H Over \$60: \$16 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)

# American WWII Orphans Network

## Application, Registration & Renewal Form

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

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

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

### Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Information about WWII Serviceman

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

M.I.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

e-Star • April 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:**

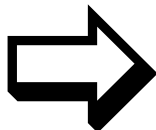
Paul Bremer  
AWON Treasurer  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216

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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)