

## No Greater Love

### AWON Father's Ultimate Self-Sacrifice



**Above: SSG Harry R. Vandercar, father of Lois Vandercar Ciccone and Elaine Vandercar Broderick, KIA November 10, 1944, Germany**

by Lois Vandercar Ciccone

*10 November 1944, two kilometers west of the village of Hürtgen, Germany.*

As vanguard of the 4th Infantry Division, the 12th Infantry was committed to relieve the 109th Infantry of the 28th Infantry Division, which had been mauled after a week's fighting in the Hürtgen Forest as it attempted to pierce the Siegfried Line, the fortifications along Germany's western border.

In C Company, Sergeant Russell 'Pete' Holcomb was knocked off his feet by machine-gun fire, tearing through his right arm and into his chest. A medic rendered first aid and Staff Sergeant Harry Vandercar helped carry him off the line to a road where stretcher barriers could evacuate him.

Within minutes artillery shells began falling around them. Knowing Pete Holcomb was helpless, Harry Vandercar threw himself atop Holcomb, shielding him with his own body. Two rounds nearest them were duds, but a third detonated, throwing Vandercar about 30 feet away, killing him.

Severely wounded again by the same round, Holcomb was eventually evacuated and never returned to the unit, and as the only survivor of that action, he was unable to report the circumstances of Vandercar's death to C Company. Likewise, as the only person present, he would provide details about how Vandercar was killed to his mother in 1947, information his widow and children would not learn until nearly 50 years later.

Given the nature of the battle, Vandercar was listed as MIA on 12 November and finally declared Killed in Action a year later.

His body was eventually recovered, identified, and interred in a temporary U.S. cemetery in Germany, and subsequently

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# President's Message

by Walt Linne

Hopefully by now everyone has gotten the word that we have postponed the 2020 "Honor and Remember" AWON Conference in New Orleans. Upon learning that the National WWII Museum was cancelling many events, certain travel restrictions had been imposed and the risk of the Coronavirus itself expanding, our AWON Board of Directors prudently decided to reschedule the conference for next year. We will celebrate AWON's 30th anniversary year, 2021, next May 4th - 8th in New Orleans at the Higgins Hotel and the National WWII Museum. More information to follow.

I personally want to thank our Conference Co-chairs Penny LeGrand and Barbara Kelly for all the time and effort they have put into planning and organizing the conference. We are all so sorry for any inconvenience caused by this rescheduling of our national event. See you in New Orleans next year.

Regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) it is here, and it is real. Because most of us are 75+ years of age, let's take every precaution warranted and stay home and watch old Ozzie and Harriet reruns. Please be safe! We all want to enjoy each other's company and remember our fathers for years to come.

A sure sign of age is how fast the time passes. This current Board is already entering into its second term year and the Board reelection process is beginning. Where has the time gone!? We are an organization run totally by volunteers and if you want to be more active and have a specific skill set that would benefit AWON please, please consider running for a Board position. You can find information about the election on page 7.

This past year AWON has been actively involved in connecting with several programs, such as the Gold Star Families, Wreaths Across America (WAA), and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to honor and remember our fallen heroes. It is greatly appreciated that so many orphans continue to support the organization through the years. Your membership enables AWON to continue to reach out to other like-minded organizations who remember and honor our Fathers, the fathers of other war orphans, and all fallen Veterans. Thank you all very, very much for your continuing support!



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moved to the Lorraine American Cemetery in St Avold, France. His remains were repatriated in 1949 and interred in Jersey City, New Jersey at the request of his mother and sisters.

A 28-year-old railroad car inspector from Jersey City, Harry R. Vandercar had joined the Army National Guard in 1938, serving in the 113th Infantry Regiment. When the unit was federalized in 1941, it was assigned to the Eastern Defense Command, protecting the northeast and mid-Atlantic coast from potential enemy action.

As the threat to our coasts diminished, soldiers were made available as individual replacements for the theaters of war. Sergeants Vandercar and Holcomb met upon entering Normandy two weeks after D-Day when they were assigned to C Company of the 12th, becoming fast friends. They fought through France, Belgium, and into Germany until the action described above. Evacuated from the theater after his wounding, Holcomb would spend 15 months in hospitals until his discharge in 1946.

Meanwhile in New Jersey, Vandercar's wife Ida and her infant daughters received the bad news. Ida would subsequently marry a good man named Dovey Ziegler who would raise the girls as his own, along with step-brothers Roy and Kenny who would come along later. Although they had no personal memory of him, Elaine and Lois grew up knowing that their biological father died in his Nation's service.

In 1947 Pete Holcomb had written Harry's mother to let her know that he had been with Harry at the time of his death, but it wasn't until 1995 that the letter containing the circumstances surfaced and the now-grown daughters learned that someone had been with their father on that fateful day.

That knowledge started a dogged search by elder daughter Elaine Vandercar Broderick to find Pete Holcomb, ultimately locating him in Alabama. In 1996 Ida and Dovey Ziegler visited the Holcombs, and Ida learned the details of Harry's death from the man whose life he had saved at the cost of his own.

With the help of a local VFW Post, Ida initiated a request for the awards and decorations to which Harry was entitled, and petitioned her Congressman to ask

the Army if his sacrifice warranted a more significant recognition.

The Congressional inquiry went to the Department of the Army, but unfortunately Ida died in 1999 before the Army responded...in the negative.

Jump forward two decades - because of an intense interest in learning more about their biological father, Harry Vandercar's younger daughter Lois Vandercar Ciccone traveled to western Germany with her own daughter in April, 2018 to visit the now-peaceful lands on which Harry Vandercar, Pete Holcomb, and the 12th Infantry had fought so many decades before. Their guide was a most knowledgeable WWII historian and retired German Army soldier named Volker Lossner who took them to that battlefield west of Hürtgen, undoubtedly an emotional journey for Lois.

That trip led to a question: Could Harry Vandercar's remains be transferred to Arlington National Cemetery to repose among his brothers and sisters in arms? Lossner later contacted several U.S. Army veterans from New Jersey, and asked if they could assist the Vandercar daughters in that quest, a task they were happy to take on. And in May, 2019, the family received news they had been hoping for; Staff Sergeant Vandercar's burial has been approved.

At 1 p.m. on October 11th, SSG Harry R. Vandercar of the 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division completed his 75 year journey when his remains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



*Above: The remains of New Jersey native and American hero SSG Harry R. Vandercar were interred at Arlington National Cemetery, October 11, 2019*

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# The Trip of a Lifetime

by Nancy Sue Johnson



I don't remember what age I was when I learned about my Dad, PVT John Riley Brown, KIA March 9, 1945, in Antipolo, Luzon, Manila, The Philippines. I was not born until September 28, 1945. I am guessing it was before I was three years old; I clearly remember an upsetting incident when I was three and recall wishing I could tell my real Daddy so he could protect me.

My father was originally buried in the Manila American Cemetery and was reinterred at Ft. Snelling March 7, 1949. I'd always wanted to go to his grave site at Ft. Snelling in Minneapolis for as long as I can remember. Fast forward to age 73, at which point I finally made some great connections with newfound friends on Facebook who lived near Ft. Snelling. They offered to have me stay with them so I could visit my Dad's grave for the anniversary of his 100th Birthday on August 24, 2019.

I cannot thank Rebecca White Becker, whose Uncle Charles White was KIA in WWII, and her husband Robert for all they did to make this first visit to my Dad's grave possible and so very special.

This visit also made it possible for me to meet Lisa Bobyak and her fiancé Michael Keller and have them join us for the Birthday Celebration. Lisa is the granddaughter of Russell Stein, whose daughter Maggie Fenstermacher is an AWON member.

I had met Maggie at the AWON Conference in San Diego in 2000. When she found out my Dad was buried at Ft. Snelling, she said she had a daughter that lived in nearby Minneapolis. Lisa and her daughters visited my Dad with flowers and sent me pictures several years ago. Now because of connecting with Rebecca and Robert through Facebook, they had also visited with flowers and sent pictures.

It turns out that they all had some mutual friends and by the time I arrived in Minneapolis there was a great Birthday Celebration planned for the 100th Anniversary of my Dad's Birthday.

I didn't at any time during my visits to my Dad's grave have a feeling of sadness. I was so happy to be there and with such special, special friends.

I went to the cemetery as often as I wanted to and am forever grateful to Rebecca and Robert Becker, Lisa Bobyak, Michael Keller and the friends that made it possible for me to make this joyous and special trip.

Even months later I am excited and happy to tell others about my visit to my Dad for the first time.



Above: A toast to PVT John Riley Brown on what would have been his 100th birthday, August 24, 2019



Left: Nancy Johnson at her father's gravestone, a trip that took a lifetime and the help of many good friends to make a reality!





...Vandercar, continued from page 3



*Above: Lois Vandercar Ciccone with her father's urn at Arlington Center L-R: Captain Volker Lossner, Lois Vandercar Ciccone, Elaine Vandercar Broderick, Colonel Robert Leicht (ret.) attend the interment of SSG Vandercar's remains*



*Below: Lois Vandercar Ciccone and Captain Volker Lossner, who accompanied Lois to the Hürtgen Battlefield where her father fell Below Right: The memorial Lois created in the Hurtgen forest in memory of her father, Harry Vandercar killed saving the life of his friend SSG Russell "Pete" Holcolmb, November 10, 1944*



Vandercar's urn was brought to the gravesite, where an Army Chaplain offered remarks and a prayer, after which a 21 gun salute and playing of Taps preceded the folding of a U.S. Flag over his urn; it was presented to SSG Vandercar's eldest daughter, Ms Elaine Vandercar Broderick of Waldwick, NJ. A second folded flag was presented to his younger daughter, Lois Vandercar Ciccone of Lavallette, NJ. Elaine and Lois' brother, U.S. Army veteran Kenneth Ziegler was also in attendance. At the conclusion of the service, an Arlington Lady offered the condolences of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

Numerous family members, friends, and Army veterans were in attendance. Three people who assisted the family in having SSG Vandercar's remains re- located to Arlington also attended; the German Army officer mentioned above, Captain Volker Lossner, who today lives on the Hürtgen battlefield on which Vandercar fell, and is an expert on the fighting; U.S. Army veteran Tom McArdle of Summit, NJ, another expert in small unit actions in the European Theater; and retired U.S. Army Colonel Bob Leicht of Delaware. Lastly, four members of a living history group from Pennsylvania named the 'Furious Fourth' attended in period uniforms to represent that earlier generation of soldiers, and to bridge the gap between 1944 and 2019.

So Harry Vandercar's voyage is at an end, and he will now rest in peace for all time in the company of heroes.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:1)



# **AWON 2020 Conference POSTPONED**

## **Coronavirus Spread Leads to Hard Choices**

It is with great regret that *The Star* must report the postponement of the 2020 "Honor and Remember" AWON Conference, which was to be held May 11-15, 2020, at the National WWII Museum in cooperation with the Higgins Hotel, in New Orleans, LA.

At this point in time, it appears that safety must come first. Even though the risk is small, given most AWON members' ages, the fact that widespread quarantines are entirely possible, and the reality that flights and other forms of public transportation may be cancelled or shut down at any time, traveling across country at this time seems like too great a risk for AWON members to take.

The Board of Directors and Conference Chairs Barb Kelly, Walter Linne, and Penny LeGrand have concluded that it's best for the 2020 conference to be postponed for now, until we have more information, or the coronavirus is no longer actively circulating through the population.

The good news is that this is merely a temporary delay. We plan to postpone the "Honor and Remember" Conference by a year, and celebrate AWON's 30th anniversary in style, returning to the Higgins Hotel and National WWII Museum May 4-8 2021, having conquered this nasty virus, ready to celebrate 30 years of sharing our fathers' memories.

The Higgins Hotel has allowed us to put our cancellation fee towards booking our event in 2021, so that money is not even lost.

However, the Higgins Hotel is unable to do blanket cancellations for all AWON members simultaneously, so you'll need to cancel your room individually (or not, if you prefer to head to New Orleans anyway!) and they have assured us they will still honor the special room rate given to AWON members if you keep your booking. You will also, of course, need to cancel your own flights with the air carriers you have made arrangements with.

We will hold the 2021 Conference May 4-8 of 2021. As for making reservations or planning your flight, please stay tuned. More information will be made available as quickly as we have it.

Conference registration fees have been refunded. If you have sent in money for an ad in the conference program, we have returned that to you along with any personal materials we received. Your checks and personal materials have already been returned. Watch the mail if you haven't received them yet!

Everyone involved with the planning and execution of the "Honor and Remember" Conference greatly regrets having to postpone. We are all so sorry for any inconvenience suffered by any AWON member caused by this cancellation. Your safety and security is our primary motivation. Thank you for understanding.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2021!



*Declare by May 15 2020, bios and ballots appear in Summer 2020 issue of **The Star***

## Candidates Sought for AWON Board

It's election time again!

All nine seats on the AWON Board of Directors are up for election in 2020. AWON is an organization run entirely by volunteers and we need your help and participation. If you want to be more active or have a specific skill set such as accounting, computer technology, writing skills or can contribute in other ways, please consider running for the Board of Directors. All active Orphan, Family and Supporting members of AWON are encouraged to consider standing for election to the Board.

Directors set and follow policy, adopt an annual budget and operating plan, oversee AWON's activities, and plan for the future. In the past, directors met at bi-monthly (every other month) board meetings by phone or online, but at times monthly meetings are necessary. The board is required to hold an in-person meeting in the year an election is not held. Seats are held for two years.

If you're interested in running for the AWON Board of Directors contact AWON Nomination Committee Chair and Secretary Lorin McCleary by May 15, 2020. He can be reached by email at [ldmccleary@gmail.com](mailto:ldmccleary@gmail.com). Please contact him with questions about the election process or to express your interest in standing for election.

Candidates will be expected to answer a short questionnaire about themselves and their goals for AWON, submit a recent photograph, and sign conflict of interest forms. It is expected that candidate biographies and the election ballot will appear in the Summer 2020 issue of *The Star*.

Members in good standing (dues paid for 2020) will have the opportunity to vote. Ballots must be cut out or photocopied from *The Star*, or printed off if you receive *The eStar*.

Mail your ballot with a postmark no later than August 31, 2020 to the address marked on your ballot.

To submit a valid ballot, the AWON member's name and address must appear on the outside of the mailing envelope, in order to be crosschecked with a list of members in good standing. After verification, the ballot will be removed and the envelope discarded, maintaining the secrecy of your ballot. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS ON YOUR BALLOT!**

Instructions on where to mail the ballot will appear on the ballot. The results of the election will be announced by September 30, 2020 and the results will appear in the Fall issue of *The Star*.

The newly-elected board will be sworn in and hold its first meeting in October, 2020.

AWON needs your help and support. Please consider running for the Board of Directors, or volunteering for AWON in other ways if you don't want to stand for election. Thank you!

### ***AWON Wishes to Thank Our New and Renewing Members from January, February, March***

Sandra Walker  
Charles Farris  
Lucy Spence  
Maryalyce Lupher  
Cliff Marks  
Jim Gregory  
Miriam Towhey  
Robert Lombardo  
Janice Harewii  
Ed Sanders  
Mark Mulder  
Lavada Hancock  
Patricia Rutledge  
Alexandra Prejean  
John Phelan  
Carroll Kiene  
Susan Schwartz  
Sharon Taylor

Philip Greene  
Bob Holliday  
Doris Miller  
Mary Anne Otte  
Tommy Morris  
Rozzana Wedel  
Mary Klimow  
William Blake  
Rolla Harding  
Sharon Harville  
Rosemary Foster  
Judy Hoffman  
Maxine Olson  
Evelyn Ritchie  
Beverly Goodwin  
Everett Roberts  
Pamela Wachutka

Joe Lippi  
Nancy Johnson  
Phyllis Solangi  
Judy Woodbury  
Gail Brown  
Norm Burkey  
Wm. Sergeant  
Anne Wile  
Larry Smelser  
Peggy Lockwood  
Joseph Giordano  
Sandra MacDuffee  
Larry Graber  
Robert Russo  
Andrea Shreves  
Sharon Sullivan  
Anthony Pierantozzi  
Chickie Berry

Hey! Don't share those noodles with a friend!  
Practice Social Distancing!!!!



We here at The Star want to remind all our readers to be sure and practice social distancing. While it's hard to be away from family and friends, it is imperative for the health and safety of vulnerable individuals for folks to stay home right now. We care about you and we don't want to lose you! Stay safe, stay healthy, STAY HOME!!

## Support AWON when you Shop!



When you shop through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of the purchase price on all eligible products to AWON, at no extra cost! Just enter "AWON" as the organization you support.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## 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.





# A Place of Remembrance

by Walt Linne

2LT George Riley Francis, affectionately called Bob by his friends and comrades, enlisted in the US Army Mar 20, 1941. He served in the Airborne Infantry before being accepted to Officer Candidate School. Upon graduation he was assigned to General Patton's 3rd Army in the 26th Division, 104th infantry.

During the first week in October, 1944, the 26th Division was ordered to the front in Lorraine. From there, these brave men fought onward towards Germany. One fateful day, the 17th of November, 1944, Francis, an anti-tank platoon leader, and his sergeant, set out from the Dordal Farm (now owned by the DeHand family, friends of AWON) to reconnoiter for a coming attack.

There they came under assault by enemy forces and dove towards a culvert under a train track. The sergeant realized Lieutenant Francis had been wounded.

He did not survive, and was buried at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold France.

Several years ago with the help of fellow orphan Colonel Jack Forgy, AWON Historian, Marcel Millet, Lorraine Military Cemetery staff member and Pierre Weiss, local French Mayor, Francis' daughter and AWON member Barbara Kelly was able to visit the spot where her Dad, 2LT George Riley Francis, was killed in action.

The spot was on the Dehand/Dordal Farm just west of Benestroff, France. The Dehand family has kindly hosted several visits for Barbara over the years including one memorable one with her mother, Margaret (Zehner) Francis Kenter, Lieutenant Francis' widow.

The most recent visit was this past Memorial Day. Barb was accompanied by her daughter Kristie. It was on this visit that Barbara and Kristie were able to see the memorial erected in tribute to 2LT George Riley Francis by the Dehand family.

Thanks to the gratitude of the French people, and the devotion of the DeHand family through the years, the sacrifice of 2LT George Riley "Bob" Francis has not been forgotten. In his memory.



*Above: Barb Kelly stands beside the memorial for her father 2LT George Riley Francis, KIA 11-17-41*

*Top right: The memorial in its bucolic setting on the Dordal Farm, now owned by the DeHand Family*

*Bottom right: The culvert where George Riley Francis and his sergeant took cover that fateful day.*



# AWON Moments

by AWON President Walter Linne

*The mission of Our AWON Moments series is to review AWON's history, celebrating special moments experienced by AWON's orphan members since Ann Bennett Mix founded the organization in 1991.*

We are approaching the 30th anniversary of the founding of the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON) next year, 2021. My how time flies since the year 1991 when I brought my Dad back into my life and was finally able to thank him for the first time as an adult. Being able to thank my father for his sacrifice for his family and country will always be one of the most special AWON moments to me.

**From *American WWII Orphans Network Newsletter, Vol 10, Winter/Spring 1997, AWON Adopts Bylaws* by Nick Etcheverry** - "Meeting at the Washington DC conference in November 1996 those members in attendance from AWON's Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the organization's first set of by-laws. Derived from several earlier drafts the resulting document serves to simplify and make clear AWON's organization structure."

**From Vol 13, Fall/Winter 1997, *AWON 1998 Conference Scheduled for St Louis***. "We will be visiting the National Personnel Records Center for a special tour sponsored by the NPRC. We will be having special AWON member speakers and workshops and a lot of sharing with each other."

**From Vol 15, Fall 1998:** "The National Personnel Record Center located in St. Louis, Missouri, stores military records in a 5-story structure which opened in 1955 and covers nearly 5 acres. There are separate information lines for the Air Force, Army and Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard. Also there is FAX and Internet access.

**Unforgettable AWON Moment:** Past AWON President Patricia Gaffney lost her Father, 2nd Lt George Philip Gaffney, Jr., on March 11, 1944. On that day, he had departed the airfield in his P-47 over New Guinea heading for his home base at Gusap and disappeared. Then, on a morning 50 years after his disappearance, one of those rare moments occurred that changes things forever. She heard that the wreck of a plane, missing for 50 years, had been recovered in New Guinea. Her Father's plane had been recovered and she began that long-delayed journey of the heart.

Please send your *AWON moment* to: AWON STAR, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216 or [president@awon.org](mailto:president@awon.org), so we can share in the joy of knowing your Father!

Walter Linne, Brother of John,  
Sons of Walter John Linne  
KIA March 24, 1945  
Germersheim-on-the-Rhine, Germany



## Calling All AWON Members!!!

All AWON Members in good standing are invited to participate on AWON's Facebook page. If you are not sure about your membership status, send an email to [awon@awon.org](mailto:awon@awon.org), with the subject line "Membership Status Check" and we'll let you know! To join AWON or renew lapsed membership visit: <http://www.awon.org/membership.html>

# Malaria - A Soldier's Smallest Enemy

By Kristin Holmes

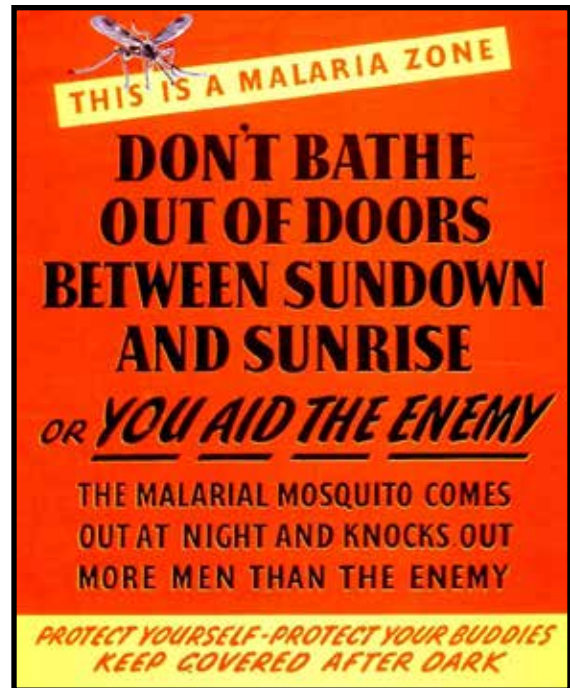
With microbes on our minds, it's time to talk about one of the gravest threats soldiers in WWII faced - the threat of disease.

Military leaders have long known that disease poses an even greater threat than the enemy. Men living in close quarters, traveling through lands with endemic illnesses they've never encountered, are sitting ducks for disease. Seeing the writing on the wall as war raged in Europe and Asia, the [US military, in partnership with titans of industry and the finest scientific minds](#), launched an all out offensive to prepare as many vaccines as they possibly could to protect troops in case the US was drawn into the war. Once America entered the fray, US troops went into battle protected against such scourges as smallpox and yellow fever, saving untold lives. This research led to the vaccines we use to this day - pneumococcus, influenza, rubella, among many others.

But one disease eluded them. One disease above all others tormented our brave fighting men - a disease that still sickens hundreds of millions and kills between 400-600,000 people every year - malaria. Malaria, that ancient foe, the disease that struck down historic figures like Alexander the Great and Lord Byron, preyed viciously upon US troops during World War II.

Malaria is spread when a mosquito carrying one of five different species of a parasite called *Plasmodium* bites a host. The *Plasmodium* parasite attacks the red blood cells and liver. While the form of malaria most GIs contracted in the Pacific Operating Theater was of a benign form, even mild malaria is debilitating, causing high temperatures, violent chills, severe body aches, and weakness that could linger for months. Others were not so lucky, contracting the malignant form of the disease much likelier to cause death. Worse still, malaria is not just a terrible, debilitating, potentially fatal illness, it also recurs, so even when a person recovers, it can flare up again at any time.

[The Pacific theater was practically tailor-made to enable the spread of malaria.](#) The humid environment allowed for lots of standing water for mosquitoes to breed in, and the presence of hundreds, even thousands of unwitting victims as troops moved from



island to island across the South Pacific, enabled the parasite to spread at will. While medicine did exist in the form of a concoction derived from tree bark called quinine, getting the men to take it was another matter entirely. Many men didn't think it necessary, and many others found their quinine supply too burdensome to carry and chucked it from their packs. Even worse, vast amounts of medical supplies including a large quantity of precious quinine, had to be abandoned when the Japanese captured the Philippines.

As the Japanese advanced, the Allied troops, beset by illness, were unable to stop them. During one campaign alone, there were 4000 cases of malaria amongst 1000 soldiers. That's not a typo - each man was down with malaria an average of four times. (Since malaria is caused by a parasite, it's possible to contract it repeatedly, and malaria can also recur even without reinfection if the parasite goes dormant).

*Plasmodium* infected an estimated quarter of all Allied troops in the Pacific, and each of those men became too sick to fight numerous times. Fevers were so common the rules were changed to make men stand guard even with fevers of 101 degrees! The Medical Department estimated that in 1941 and



1942 the casualties from malaria in the Pacific theater outweighed those from combat by seven to ten times.

Troops in Southern Europe were also afflicted. During the Sicily campaign, 21,000 troops were admitted to the hospital for malaria, and only 17,000 as casualties of war. Soldiers in North Africa also suffered from malaria, albeit less often thanks to the drier climate. By war's end, nearly a half-a-million American men had been infected with the disease.

The Army geared up for a full on assault against malaria in the South Pacific, assigning Col. Howard F. Smith as "theater malariologist". But unfortunately the Axis struck first. When the Germans captured The Netherlands in 1940, they seized control of the world's supply of harvested cinchona, the bark from which quinine is made. And not long afterwards, the Japanese took the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies, the only place on earth where cinchona was commercially grown at the time. (The Japanese also controlled the majority of the world's supply of pyrethrum, the flower from which the mosquito-killing insecticide pyrethrin was made.) The Allies were left with very little quinine, and began hunting for a replacement.

While scientists had come up with a synthetic version of quinine called chloroquine, due to safety concerns they shelved it till after the war - a pity because chloroquine is actually safe and effective in humans and is still in use to this day. The Germans were less discerning, giving their troops the untested chloroquine and an advantage over the Allies.

Eventually the US military settled on a preventative drug called quinacrine, at the time commonly called Atabrine. Unfortunately Atabrine had some major side effects like stomach upset, headaches, and worse, it turned the skins of those men who took it a shocking

shade of yellow. It could even cause psychosis in an unlucky few, heightening anxiety in others. Rumors flew, assisted by Japanese propaganda, that Atabrine made men infertile. It wasn't the case, but coupled with the other unpleasant side effects of Atabrine, it was enough for many to refuse their medication. The authorities had to station medics at chow lines to distribute the pills ensuring every soldier, sailor, pilot, and Marine took their required dose. Of course, when men were under fire, scrambling just to stay alive, this discipline fell apart and many men skipped doses either because they were too busy, or too suspicious to take them.

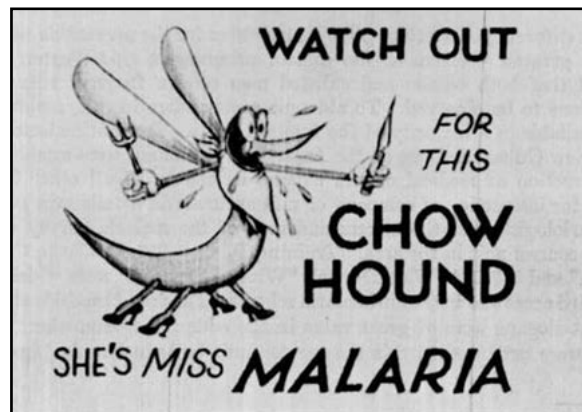
Atabrine was nowhere near perfect even when taken regularly, so the Army began to look for other options. With the pesticide pyrethrin unavailable, with most of the supply in the hands of the Japanese, they began to experiment with a new pesticide called DDT. While the compound DDT had been around since the 1800's, its ability to kill insects not only when first applied, but for quite some time afterwards, was not realized till the late 1930's. An American attache to Switzerland, where the discovery had been made, sent back DDT samples to the Army and the rest is history.

DDT was incredibly valuable to the land troops because it could be sprayed on tents and walls, and unlike most pesticides that needed constant reapplication, it stayed effective for up to six months. They also learned that when mixed with diesel oil or kerosene DDT could be sprayed onto bodies of water to kill mosquito larvae and eggs. By the end of the war, the Army had pioneered several mechanisms by which to deliver DDT - backpack sprayers, aerial spraying using planes - and while we know now that DDT does have a negative environmental impact, at the time DDT was an unqualified blessing for the brave men struggling to survive in terrible conditions.



Left: A grisly warning greeted troops who refused to take their malaria medication.

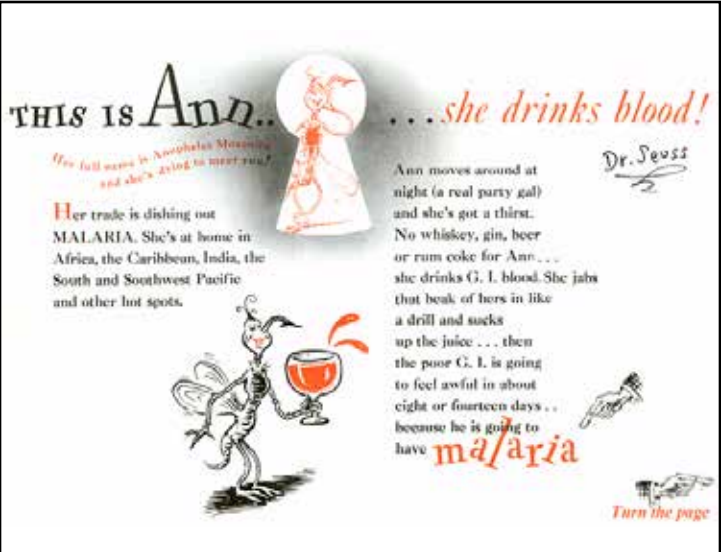
Right: Most soldiers responded better to humor than threats. Cartoons were an especially popular educational tactic.



With Atabrine and DDT in their arsenal, military authorities launched one final assault, to win the hearts, minds, and cooperation of the fighting men. Their weapon was propaganda. GIs were deluged with educational posters, inspirational slogans, medical lectures, and even cartoons. *Stars and Stripes* regularly featured "Malaria Moe", a character drawn by enlisted man Frank Mack, designed to educate troops about the risks of malaria. The Armed Forces Radio Service broadcast so many mosquito advisories that it was jokingly referred to as "The Mosquito Network." On Guadalcanal, the ASFR channel ran a program called "The Atabrine Cocktail Hour" featuring music allegedly being played in swanky, if imaginary places like "The Fungus Festooned Fern Room".

Perhaps unsurprisingly, these young men so far away from home responded best to propaganda in the form of entertainment. Future famous artists like the famed author-illustrator [Dr. Seuss](#) - who drew a booklet and a cartoon-festooned map for GIs, and [Frank Mack](#), who later went on to draw the *Ripley's Believe it or Not* comics for many years, took part in the program. In addition to his work drawing "Malaria Moe" for *Stars and Stripes*, Mack created ribald pinup calendars for 1944 and 1945 that the troops loved.

As the tide of war turned and the Japanese troops became increasingly cut off from their supply lines, they began to suffer rates of infection as high, if not even higher than the Allies. After the Battle of Buna, the 3d Portable Surgical Hospital reported every Japanese prisoner they received for treatment was suffering from malaria.



Above: A page from an anti-malarial WWII propaganda piece written by Theodore Geisel, aka children's author Dr. Seuss  
Below Left: A poster featuring "Malaria Moe, drawn by Frank Mack  
Below Right: One way to prevent malaria - covering up!

[It is estimated](#) that by war's end 90% of Japanese military units were rendered ineffective by malaria, dysentery, and other diseases. Our foe malaria became our friend. An influx of healthy American soldiers into the Pacific Theater, armed with Atabrine and DDT, allowed the Allies to win the day.

It is hard to believe that something as small as a microbe could serve as both mortal foe and eventually friend to our fathers and grandfathers who fought so bravely for all of us. We must never forget how they suffered so terribly, and sacrificed so greatly for the freedoms too many take for granted today.



For more malaria-themed artwork and memorabilia from WWII, please check out our Extended Star Article by clicking the Connected Star logo below!



### **The Star Guidelines for Submitting Material**

We want to tell your story and your family's story. We accept submissions both electronically and via US mail. If you have an article or picture and aren't sure how to submit it, that's ok. Message *The Star* and we will work with you.

Please keep text reasonable in length. 500-1000 words or 1 page is a good guideline, but we publish longer pieces too. Preference is given to material written by, for, and about AWON members and families.

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

**Kristin Holmes, Editor**  
**PO Box 242, Creston WA**  
**99117 (509) 279-5241**  
**atomicsagebrush@gmail.com**

### **ABMC To Close Cemeteries, AWON Wreaths Postponed**

As of March 16, 2020, the American Battle Monuments Commission has made the difficult decision to close all their sites at home and abroad. Arlington National Cemetery is open for funerals, but not visitors at this time.

At the time of publication, The Star had not been able to determine whether or not Memorial Day ceremonies at the overseas and national cemeteries would proceed. If ceremonies are held they will be closed to the public.

The AWON Wreath and Banner Committee has made the difficult decision to hold an online remembrance instead. For more, click the "W" logo below:



### **Annual York Gathering Cancelled**

Due to the threat of coronavirus, it's been decided that the annual York Gathering and Remembrance Luncheon for Lynne Lecrone scheduled for April 25, 2020 at Hoss's Steak and Sea Restaurant, will be postponed till 2021. The York Gathering, started by late AWON member Lynne Lacrone, had been and will continue to be an ongoing event for AWON members in the Pennsylvania area. Members Jeanne Rhinehart and Janice Buterbaugh plan to continue the gathering in Lynne's memory and still hope to continue the tradition in future. Please visit the [AWON Website](#) to learn more as plans are made for next year's get together.



For more information about the York Gathering as circumstances develop please click the "Connected W" to the left.

### **In Memoriam Ronald Burrus, Jr.**



AWON Member Ron Burrus Jr, 60, of Gainesville, Texas, passed away December 31, 2019 at Texoma Medical Center in Texas.

Ron was the grandson of PVT William E. Adams, KIA in the Hurtgen Forest October 14, 1944. He had been a member of AWON since 2010 and was a very special person to many in AWON, quick with a word of encouragement, condolence, and support to his fellow AWON members.

Born June 29th, 1959, Ron was the son of Ronald Burrus Sr and Janice Moyers-Burrus. He served his country in the Army's 82nd Airborne, and later went on to work as a Kentucky Highway Patrolman. During his time in Kentucky he was awarded the title of "Kentucky Colonel", the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

After settling in Gainesville, Ron was a proud member of the United States Postal Service for nearly 3 decades. In addition to loving sports and outdoor activities, Ron was a passionate historian, studying his nation's history and recording the history of his family.

He is survived by his son Matthew Burrus, his sisters and brother, and mother Janice. His father, Ron Sr. preceded him in death.



# Memorial Day Thanks!

## To our Cemetery Coordinators for their many years of faithful service

Ardennes American • Gail Eisenhower    Manila American • Patty Temte  
Brittany American • Brian Hope    Netherlands American • Gloria Layne  
Cambridge American • Jeanne Rhinehart    Normandy American • Rondy Elliott  
Epinal American • Jeanne Rhinehart    North Africa American • Bonnie Hellums  
Florence American • Barbara Catterall    Rhone American • Vic Muller  
Henri-Chapelle American • Rik Peirson    Sicily-Rome American • Bob Meek  
Lorraine American • Paul Bremer    Suresnes American • Sharon Connor  
Luxembourg American • Sandy MacDuffee    Cemetery of the Pacific • Susan Chadd

## To our Originators

Bernard, Régine, and Marie Achten • Ans, Belgium  
whose vision of remembrance will never be forgotten

## To the ABMC

for their extraordinary care for the memory of so many thousands  
of American fallen who served around the world.

## To our Sons and Daughters

of AWON for their support of the Wreath and Banner program  
at our overseas cemeteries • who this year can visit our fathers below:

## To our Men • In Their Memory

[www.awon.org/memorialday](http://www.awon.org/memorialday)



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[www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org)



## A Fine Name for a Ship

by Kristin Holmes

*In 2005 the US began construction of the Ford-class aircraft carriers, to eventually replace the Nimitz-class carriers in production from 1975 to 2009. The Ford-class carriers are expected to launch 25% more sorties, generate triple the electric power, and provide the ship's crews with improved quality of life.*

What's in a name?

A parent names a child out of love, to honor the history of past generations, and with the hope that name will echo proudly into the future. And when the US Navy announced that their fourth Ford-class aircraft carrier the *USS Doris Miller* (CVN-81), they paid tribute to the spirit of love, of history, and honor.



Left: Cook Third Class Doris Miller, hero of Pearl Harbor and first black American to be awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry during combat

Doris Miller was born in Waco, Texas, the third of four boys. He enlisted in the Navy September 16, 1939, at the age of 20 and received training at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, and was promoted to Mess Attendant Third Class. He was assigned to the battleship *West Virginia*, and due to his athletic stature, quickly became the heavyweight boxing champion of the ship.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Miller served breakfast mess and was collecting the crew's laundry when the *West Virginia* was hit by the first of nine torpedoes that were to eventually hit the ship. After carrying his mortally wounded captain to a position of safety, Miller manned an anti-aircraft gun despite never having used one before, and with the assistance of his lieutenant, fired at the attacking Japanese until he ran out of ammunition. At great peril to himself, Miller then aided in the rescue of several injured sailors, helping

them to abandon ship, an act of heroism described in the official Naval report as "unquestionably saving the lives of a number of people who might otherwise have been lost."

After a public outcry for Doris Miller to be decorated for his heroism, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific fleet, presented Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller with the Navy Cross for gallantry during combat, at that time the third highest honor that could be bestowed upon a sailor. He was the first black American to be so awarded. Miller became an icon across America, inspiring many to join the service with his heroic deeds. He also did a tour selling war bonds and addressed the first graduating class of black sailors from Great Lakes Naval Training Station. He was advanced to Cook Third Class and was assigned duty aboard the escort carrier *Liscome Bay*. Doris Miller was lost at sea when the *Liscome Bay* sank November 24, 1943. But his sacrifice is not forgotten. The *USS Doris Miller* will sail proudly into the future as a testament to the bravery of CK3 Doris Miller, with a nation's love and appreciation.

### AWON Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paul Bremer 3/31/20

General Fund - \$17,150.52

Money Market Savings - \$48,245.23

Bookstore Account - \$315.35

Conference Account - \$3,379.50

### AWON Director Email Addresses

Barry Barr-Finch	barrfinch1@gmail.com
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Gloria Layne	glayne731@gmail.com
Walt Linne	wlinne@iupui.edu
Lorin McCleary	ldmcleary@gmail.com
Ann Mix	annmix@gmail.com
Rik Peirson	rik@dayone.com
Jean Rhinehart	hart1003@comcast.net

# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members Gathering Around the Country



The Southern California AWON Lunch Bunch met in San Diego on Leap Day, February 29, 2020.

There were 11 of us, the largest group in several years. We sat at a long table and there were several lively conversations going on at one time. About half of those present were intending to go to the AWON Conference in May in New Orleans. Some have traveled widely and they shared their stories of exotic places. There was some discussion of health issues, but that was not the focus of the conversation.

Above, L-R: Bob Porter, Linda Porter, Dale Roybal, Barbara Smith, Karen Wisner, Anne Pogue, Sharon Connor, Joe Lippi, Roger Connor, Leslie Brumley, Mike Brumley

Mostly it was a time for us to catch up on each other's doings during the past six months. We have established a good relationship with the Point Loma Café staff over the years, and they treat us very well.

Thanks to all who took part!

## Hey...these AWON Connections Look Fun!

Do you want to take part in an AWON meetup, but aren't sure where to start? The best way is by taking part in a local or regional group.

AWON has roughly 50 hardworking regional coordinators. A Local Regional Coordinator, or LRC, is a source of first contact for new members, reaching out to welcome them to AWON. They will also ask if new members wish to be further contacted for gatherings.

If you joined AWON thinking that maybe getting together with people wasn't your cup of tea but have since changed your mind, it's not too late! Just contact Barry Barr-Finch at [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with your LRC. And don't worry, your personal information is always kept confidential!

If you haven't ever been contacted by your LRC, it may be that your area is lacking one. That could be you!

AWON does not have LRCs in all areas, and in many of the larger states, distance is a factor. It's just too far for people to travel no matter how badly they would like to meet their AWON brothers and sisters. Having more people willing to organize gatherings and help keep our membership database current is of paramount importance to keeping AWON going into the future.

If you are interested in contacting your LRC or becoming a Local Regional Coordinator yourself, please contact Barry Barr-Finch at [barrfinch1@gmail.com](mailto:barrfinch1@gmail.com).

And if you're an LRC and haven't been in touch for a while, please reach out to Barry as well. Even if you'd prefer not to continue on in your coordinator role, AWON leadership would appreciate being updated on that decision so we can find another person to pick up the mantle.

Thank you!





# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form

### Books

Authors in **BOLD** are orphan or family members

Items marked with (\*) include P&H

\_\_\_\_\_ **NEW!** *Pieces of Us*

**By Janice Crandell Powers** **\$20.00\***

\_\_\_\_\_ *A Daughter's Quest: Retracing My Father's Footsteps During World War II*

**By Laura Smail Sims** \$16.95

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance*

**By Robert Fowler** \$15.99

\_\_\_\_\_ *Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found*

**By Reda Reynolds** \$9.00

\_\_\_\_\_ *Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse*

**By Joe Finnigan** \$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 Marilyn 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 8th Airforce Combat Diary*

**By John A. Clark** \$49.95

\_\_\_\_\_ *When I See a "Forty and Eight"... I Remember World War II*

**By Lt. Col. Jacques Adnet USAF (ret.)** Reduced! \$5.00!

\_\_\_\_\_ *In Their Memory: American WWII Orphan's Network*

**By Turner Publishing Company**  
Was 49.95 Reduced \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ *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*

**Forward 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. McLaughline** \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ *They Also Served: Women's Stories From the WWII 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 WWII*

**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 LaPoint**, grandson of Sgt. William G. Aubet featuring *Somewhere in Germany*, written and sung by Mark at AWON's 10th conference memorial service \$6.00

\_\_\_ *Letters of Love and War* (CD for Mac or PC)

By 1LT John and Betty Peirson \$19.44

\_\_\_ *AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication* (VHS)

Reduced!! Was \$5.00 \$3.00\*

\_\_\_ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers* (VHS)  
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**

Reduced! was \$15.00 now \$3.00

\_\_\_ *AWON 2000 Conference Journeys - Finding Our Fathers* (VHS)

by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$3.00\*

\_\_\_ *Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru*

by Shawnee Brittan Reduced! was \$30.00 \$20.00\*

## AWON Logo Products

*Closeout on the Following AWON merchandise*

\_\_\_ AWON Hat \$15.00

\_\_\_ Scarf (royal blue fleece - only 3 left!!) \$10.00

\_\_\_ 20th Anniversary Tote Bag (small)  
REDUCED! \$5.00

\_\_\_ Tote Bag (large) \$10.00

\_\_\_ 20th Anniversary Garden Flag (without holder) \$10.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON Holiday Ornament \$10.00

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

\_\_\_ \*AWON Button 2 1/4" \$3.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON Lanyard w/ nametag and ticket holder (blue with white lettering, 4"x6"holder) \$6.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON notecards & envelopes (pkg of 20) (Only 2 left!!) \$20.00

\_\_\_ \*AWON bookmarks

Circle amount: 1 for \$1.00 5 for \$3.00 10 for \$5.00

## The Star Newsletters

\_\_\_ \*Individual issues: \$4.00 - Includes P&H

\_\_\_ \*All archived issues: \$40.00 - Includes P&H

\_\_\_ \*Special!! Most recent five issues: \$15.00 Inc. P&H

## Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$8 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) include postage and handling.

For multiple purchases: Up to \$40 - \$10 P&H \$40-\$60 - \$12 P&H \$60 and up - \$15 P&H

Washington State residents please add 7.8% sales tax

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

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** (check/money order payable to AWON): \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order to:

AWON Bookstore

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN

46216

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

# AWON 2019 Financial Report

Here is AWON's summary comparison report for the past four calendar years (2016-2019) and the proposed budget for 2020. The summary report includes all income from all sources and expenses by category. The financial summary report is being published to provide financial information for the membership. AWON is a 501(c)3 organization, tax deductible. One income source greatly appreciated are donations in addition to annual dues. Following are some comments and explanations.

Please note the non-applicable (NA) items are financial categories that are no longer pertinent to the AWON budget e. g. cancellation of the new contracted Website, Death March Markers, Cromarty Margraten Fund and the Margraten Bench. Also noted are several new financial categories that have been added to the 2020 budget. The Wreath Fund continues to be a restricted fund dedicated only to providing wreaths to the overseas cemeteries and is noted on the financial summary as Designated Purpose Income/Expenses. There are no wreath expenses posted in the 2020 budget because the ABMC has closed the cemeteries until further notice.

For budget year 2019 membership dues income have remained steady because of returning members and expenses decreased including cost of publishing **The Star** news, reduction of database costs and cancelling the Website contract. Note the posted 2020 budget does not include national conference income for the postponed conference. Refunds have been sent to all conference registrants. The AWON conference has been rescheduled for May 4th - May 8th, 2021, the 30th anniversary of the founding of AWON by Founder Ann Bennett Mix. The 2021 National Conference will be held in New Orleans at the Higgins Hotel and National WWII Museum.

Walt Linne, AWON President

## 2019 AWON FINANCIAL REPORT

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>2019 AWON Financial Comparison Report</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>	<b>Actual 2019</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2020</b>
2						
3	<b>Budgeted Operating Income:</b>					
4	Membership Dues	14,406	8,393	13,194	10,316	12,000
5	Bookstore Income				192	200
6	Interest	567	527		727	800
7		14,973	8,920	13194	11235	13,000
8						
9	<b>Non-Budgeted Operating Income:</b>					
10	Conference Net Income	6,500		2,250		
11	Donations	1,026	782	1,093	978	1,000
12	Other (Amazon)					100
13	<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>22,499</b>	<b>9,702</b>	<b>16,537</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>14,100</b>
14						
15	<b>Designated Purpose Income:</b>					
16	Death March Markers		970		NA	NA
17	Margraten Bench/Choir	2,850		2,425	NA	NA
18	Wreath Income	4,889	917	2,613	3,286	2,500
19	<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED INCOME:</b>	<b>4,889</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>5038</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>2,500</b>
20						
21	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27,388</b>	<b>11,589</b>	<b>21,575</b>	<b>15,499</b>	<b>16,600</b>
22						
23	<b>Budgeted Expenses:</b>					
24	Newsletter Printing, etc.	4,561	4,094	4,200	4,200	4,200
25	Print/Mail					
26	Postage					
27	Newsletter Editor		3,600	3,600	3,000	3,900
28	American Online	66	96	100	NA	NA



# 2019 AWON FINANCIAL REPORT

	A	B	C	D	E	F
29	Insurance & State Fees	540	560	700	1,290	1,500
30	Regional AWON Coordinators			250		
31	Database Manager (Costs)	1,440	1,309	2,500		
32	Database Supplies	190		250		
33	Filemaker Pro 5 Seat License				1156	500
34	Triple8.net Database Hosting				15	500
35	Support Group				400	400
36	Domain Hosting - Impulse				700	1,200
37	Bank Fees				200	200
38	WP Listserv Donation	500	500	500	500	
39	Website	900	500	500	240	250
40	Conference Expenses (Founder)			5,000		
41	American Legion Donation	500	500	500	500	500
42	Arlington Wreath					200
43	Archive Expenses	85	88	100		
44	Membership Care & Outreach	411		200		25
45	Board Meeting		6,171			
46	Treasurer and Tax Preparation	565	526	600	250	250
47	Conference Advances	50	2,250		250	20,000
48	Postage and Supplies	0	0	0	29	200
49	Information Packets and Postage					100
50	Board Election					100
51	Secretary Expenses					
52	Awards					
53	Website Design	3,420				
54	Other			260		
55	<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES:</b>	<b>13,408</b>	<b>20,806</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>12,730</b>	<b>16,525</b>
56						
57	<b>Non-Budgeted Expenses:</b>					
58	Archives			2500		
59	Death March Markers		750	220	NA	NA



	A	B	C	D	E	F
60	Website Creation & Maintenance			11,000	NA	NA
61	Cromarty Margraten Fund	425			NA	NA
62	Margraten Bench/Choir			2425	NA	NA
63	Wreath Expenses	2,852	2,477	2,477		
64	<b>TOTAL NON-BUDGETED EXPENSE</b>	<b>3,278</b>	<b>3,227</b>	<b>18,622</b>		
65						
66	<b>Designated Purpose Expenses:</b>					
67	Wreath Expenses				1,585	
68						
69	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,685</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>18,622</b>	<b>1,585</b>	
70						
71	TOTAL EXPENSES	16,685	24,033	38,572	14,315	16,525
72	TOTAL INCOME	27,388	11,589	21,575	15,499	16,600
73						
74	<b>NET INCOME (-)</b>	<b>10,703</b>	<b>-12,444</b>	<b>-16,997</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>75</b>

## AWON Board Of Directors Meeting Notes

AWON 2020 BOD  
Regular Tele-Meeting  
January 12, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm EST by President Walt Linne.

Present: Lorin McCleary (LM), Rik Peirson (RP), Walt Linne (WL), Jeanne Rhinehart (JR), Paul Bremer (PB),  
Excused: Gloria Layne (GL), Barry Barr-Finch (BF), Judi Kramer (JK) Ann Mix (AM),

### Conference Report-

Walt Linne gave a report on preparations for the 2020 AWON Conference. He indicated that registrations are being received and he has visited the hotel and museum complex. Wednesday will be the day to visit the WWII Museum and for the Memorial Service. Guest speakers are being lined up for the conference. Board members planning to attend the conference include Paul Bremer, Gloria Layne, Jeanne Reinhart, Judi Kramer, Rik Peirson, Walt Linne, Ann Mix and Lorin McCleary. The Board will hold a pre-conference meeting in New Orleans on Monday, May 11, 2020. Registration for the conference begins on Monday also.

### 2020 Budget

Barbara Kelly and Paul Bremer have been working on the AWON budget for 2020. The 2019 budget resulted in a \$1184.00 surplus and the proposed 2020 budget will be in the black. LM: What was the cost from American Legion to print the Summer and Fall issues? The budgeted amount for printing in 2020 is \$4200. Barbara Kelly can provide the detail on America Legion printing costs and WL will provide that detail for the Board. He has not yet received the invoice from American Legion for Issue 94. He will provide more detail but printing is now roughly 20% less expensive from the American Legion than from the previous Star printer.

WL Winter Star Deadline for articles and other information is January 15th. The Editor hopes to have the finished Winter issue to the American Legion for printing by the end of January. WL hopes that the winter issue will be in the mail by the middle of February. The deadline for materials for the Spring issue is April 3rd.

RP asked WL for a preliminary conference schedule which he can post to the AWON website. He asked

the Board send in their comments concerning the new AWON Beta website. LM asked if we should include an announcement about the Beta Website in the Winter issue of Star since people are surely wondering about that. RP indicated that he will give some thought to such an announcement. He requested that Directors to send him a photo for the new website.

WL asked if there was an update on the Wreaths Across America program? JR said she had talked with GL earlier in the day. She reported that there was a problem with delivery of wreaths for placement on specific graves in 2019 and GL will be talking with the WAA program managers concerning this. She wants to make sure that when an AWON member donates to buy 3 wreaths and requests that one be placed on the member's father's grave, that will be done.

WL reported that he had talked with the TAPS president recently and also has had recent contact with the Gold Star Families organization. These contacts resulted from a meeting which AWON directors attended in Washington DC. A resource committee was created and AWON is on the mailing list.

WL reminded BOD members to submit a photo to RP for the new AWON Website.

WL indicated that the next BOD meeting will be scheduled for February 9, 2020 to review the budget.

WL reminded the Directors that BOD positions are up for election by 2020. LM will be managing the election process for AWON for 2020.

RP said that the Membership Committee has completed two new membership packages for prospective members.

WL told Directors that the WWII Museum is building a new, multi-story building called the Freedom Tower and it will have one floor devoted to "the cost of war". He has indicated to the Museum personnel that AWON would like to participate and have input in the development of this exhibit and possibly have a alcove or niche for AWON. RP suggested using the honor roll of AWON member's fathers as a part of the Museum as that represents the cost of war.

The meeting was adjourned.

# Membership



This is a ☐ New Membership  
☐ Renewal  
☐ Family Membership  
☐ Database Registration Only

## About You:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobilephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you're renewing, skip to the Dues Section  
 Your Relationship to Serviceman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you hear about AWON \_\_\_\_\_

## About your WWII Service Member:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hometown & State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Military Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Burial Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wife's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional information on your WWII Service Member's  
 Military Service, Death, or Burial. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Please send your check:

Payable to AWON, include it with this form and send it to:

**AWON Treasurer**  
**5745 Lee Road**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana 46216**



## Membership Types:

☐ **Orphan Member:** Any son or daughter of a member of the US Armed Forces, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty, or who later died of wounds or injuries sustained during WWII.

☐ **Family Member:** Other relations who are not a son or daughter.

☐ **Supporting Member:** Other individuals with an interest in WWII, who wish to support us and participate in our outreach activities and programs.

## Membership Dues:

**Basic Orphan Member Dues** are \$25 a year – starting when we receive your check. This includes your AWON Membership Card, a Web Tribute for your father, a physical or E-version of our quarterly newsletter, **The Star**, a personal account on the AWON online List-serv, and an account on the AWON Facebook Page.

**Family Member Dues** are \$25 a year – including a printed Star – OR \$10 a year for Membership with an E-Star.

**Supporting Member Dues** are \$25 a year – including either version of **The Star**.

## Membership Dues Levels:

Please circle your Dues Level below:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Orphan	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (Printed Star Version)	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (E-Star Version)	\$10	\$20	\$30
Supporting	\$25	\$48	\$70
Gold Star (Increased Donation)	\$100	\$192	\$280

## Donation Considerations:

Memorial Day Wreath Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Operations & Outreach \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Dues & Donations Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Submittable  
 Online >>>





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JH Geiger Operations Center  
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Indianapolis, IN 46216

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Is it time  
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## The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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



### AWON Mission

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

# AWON Directory

#### Address Corrections

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#### Archives

OPEN POSITION

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OPEN POSITION

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