

The Star

Issue 51 "We Speak Their Names" December 2008

'Healing Ourselves' theme resonates with orphans and loved ones Tucson Conference Has Family Feel



Pictured above are AWON members attending a national conference for the first time, affectionately called *First Timers*. Seated in the front row, from left are: Pat Rathje, Kelley Geary, Nancy Lawson, Helen Vernon, Lynda Johns Dumas, and Carol Joan "Joie" Ticknor Heller. In the back row, from left are: Lois Klein, Jerry Pinkerton, Marie Lawrence Donley, Patrick Byrne, Norma Jean Bly, Diana Clark, Larry Dexter, Catherine Light, Duane Ticknor, Marvel Ruth Ticknor, and Barbara Cohen. Not pictured are Sharon Huston Clark, Kerry McLaughlin, Mary Beth Kustra and Sharon Estill Taylor.

Editor's note: In this article Sharon Crowley Connor and Penny Hopkins LeGrand, co-chairs of the 2008 AWON National Conference, separately share their reflections on the conference.

by Sharon Crowley Connor

For the first time, I have a father-in-law.

Those heartwarming words came from the husband of a first-timer who made his way to me immediately following the conference finale – the Banquet - to thank the conference for giving him what his friends always had -- a father-in-law. Healing Ourselves was happening! I could have gone home right then, knowing the Saguaro Sunset Conference had fulfilled its purpose.

It had certainly gone beyond our expectations. As the conference neared, Betty Volkan posted the reminder on the listserv that we had all been first-timers at one time, and that we should make sure they were welcomed as the special attendees they were. (There were 22 first-timers among the 95 registered members. One was a new grandchild member.) Here are some of their impressions following the conference:

I had a great time at the conference and want to thank everyone for taking such good care of me [a grandchild].

It was my first conference and I felt so warmly included.

Just wanted to add a thank you to all those who made a 'first timer' feel welcome. I've not shared that much about my feelings about my father with anyone. It has also caused

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President's Message

by Judy Geis Hoffman

All AWON Conferences are special, each in their own way. Thanks to Penny LeGrand and Sharon Connor, the Tucson conference's specialty was warm feelings toward each other and, really, what is more important than that, particularly at this time of year? We hope that the first-time attendees felt most welcome and included.

The atmosphere of the Western Look Resort facilitated closeness with places to hang out with each other on the patio, pool, hot tub, lobby, bar, grill and restaurant. Of course, the most frequented spot was the hospitality room and bookstore brilliantly manned, as usual, by Barb Kelly and Walt Linne who set up a warm and welcoming place complete with a wall right outside for the cigar smokers.

Darlene Mott's scrap books with photos of us as children were a huge hit and all the hours of work put into this project were greatly appreciated by everyone. Her book with our Fathers' dates of death was a moving tribute which will surely be displayed at future AWON events. Rik Peirson's frame which displayed our Fathers' photos was a wonderful surprise and all of us gathered around the frame and waited until our own Dad's picture scrolled by.

After welcoming everyone to the conference, we observed a moment of silence in tribute to the memory of the late Jack Forgy. The conference was dedicated to

Jack with a memorial page in the conference booklet and, at the banquet, his photo was placed on the missing man table. The spoken tributes from those who knew him well reminded all of us that his spirit was among us still.

Three stalwarts of AWON were missed at this conference by all who know them and have worked with them for many years. The first, of course, was our founder, Ann Bennett Mix, who was unable to attend due to health problems. This left a large, Ann-sized hole in this conference and her absence was disappointing for the first timers who had looked forward to meeting her. All of us missed you, Annie!

Doni Morrison Troglia, most recently the AWON Financial Officer, was unable to attend, also for health reasons, and she is always in our thoughts and prayers.

Rik Peirson did not attend this year due to business and family responsibilities. As all of you know, Rik is our tireless webmaster who, in spite of unbelievable time crunches from the rest of his life, still manages to keep our web site as one of the best on the Internet.

Doni and Rik will receive a plaque signed by Ann and me, including the tributes given to them at the conference.

I hope that if you did not attend this conference, that you will consider coming to one in the future. They are a true bonding experience for any WWII Orphan.



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'Happy Jack' changed orphans' lives with his knowledge, research

Forgy Remembered as 'Oracle'

Editor's note: AWON member Sam Tannenbaum wrote and presented the following tribute to Jack Forgy for the Tucson Conference.

by Sam Tannenbaum

Like Diogenes with his lantern, Jack-O-lantern sought the truth about our fathers.

As a soldier, Colonel Jack O. Forgy served for 32 years including two tours in Vietnam. We surely thank him for his service. As a researcher, Jack helped World War II war orphans focus on the kaleidoscope of daddy data. We thank and revere him for that service as well.

To me, Jack was a life transformer. In the year 2000 I asked him for help to locate a second lieutenant who had signed a Veterans Administration document in 1945. Jack suggested a website. I found "Uncle" Robby who later gave me three photographs of his "BFF" - best friend forever: my father, Private Henry Irving Tannenbaum, at age ten in a one piece bathing suit; at age 16 in knickers; and at age 27 at Robby and Muriel's wedding with a fedora and cane. These life cycle pictures helped me get to know and eventually love my dad. With apologies to the Mills Brothers, my father was no longer a paper dad but a real live guy. Jack changed the lives of over 350 war orphans.

"Happy Jack" - his email handle - had a great sense of humor. At Branson, Missouri, during my fifth AWON conference, Jack said, "Sam, by now you should

know how to find your father." When he told his tales of cats playing with his air hoses, and riding his tractor while tethered to his oxygen tank, we all laughed out loud while silently crying.

When asked why he did what he did, this gifted writer wrote,



Jack Forgy

"For the little boy who remembers his father and loved him without reservations, there will be questions. 'How did he die? Why couldn't they find him? Was he brave?' For the little girl born postmortem, her questions were, 'What was he like? Why did he leave me behind? Would he be proud of me now?'"

Jack spent months arranging the AWON tour of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1998. He mentored us through of the process of obtaining of our fathers' medals. This scholar generously travelled hundreds of miles and spent thousands of hours at the National Archives. He was our source of wisdom: our Oracle of

Adelphi, Maryland. He taught us the difference between medical reports and clinical reports. Jack helped us obtain Morning and After Action Reports, Individual Deceased Personnel Files, Surgeon General Tapes, even some classified documents, and my personal favorite, Chaplain Reports. They showed that Chaplains quickly cared for our dad's remains with dignified ceremonies. Interestingly, Jack's cousin, Chaplain Howell Forgy, coined the phrase, "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," at Pearl Harbor.

Jack was a *Family Guy* quite unlike the TV character. He shared with us his grandmother's poem:

*There's a Gold Star in my Window
And an ache in my heart,
There's a lonely tender feeling
Making pent-up teardrops start
My brave son is in Normandy:
He rests beneath her soil:
He gave his life for his country:
For you, for me; for all.*

To his wife Crystal, his sons, John and Michael, and his sister Pamela: thank you for sharing Jack with us, his AWON family. Jack like his father, Lieutenant Colonel Percy O'Dell Forgy, has left a legacy not be forgotten.



Swanson Doesn't Give Up Completing Dad's Medals

by Patricia Ball Morrison

Akeley, Minnesota, is a long way from Biak Island in the Pacific, and the 64 years between 1944 and 2008 is a long time.

On Monday, May 26, 2008 - Memorial Day - at the VFW Hall in Akeley, U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) presented the Combat Medic Badge and the Bronze Star medal for Corporal Ed Newsom to AWON member Kathy Swanson, Ed's daughter, and to Kathy's mother, Ethel Johnson. Kathy's father was an Army medic who died after being wounded on Biak Island, August 17, 1944.

Kathy was born that same day.

Kathy knew nothing about her father until she was about 16 years old, when she attempted to get her birth certificate from the county courthouse. They could find nothing. When she told her mother, she was in for another surprise. Her mom asked what name she'd used. "What?" That's how

Kathy was first told that Cpl. Ed Newsom, and not her step-father whose name she'd used, was her father.

This ceremony culminated nine years of Kathy's persistence to receive the last of the medals her father earned. Kathy had been on this mission for a few years prior to September 11, 2001. She'd decided to let the government recover from the 9/11 attacks before continuing her demands.

Kathy had received the first medals at a highway rest stop meeting with an official who was on his way someplace else. But she wanted the remaining medals.

Kathy's bureaucratic merry-go-round ride continued until Coleman's office intervened. When Kathy received the envelope from Coleman, she thought, "Oh no, here we go again." But this time it was different. Coleman saw this through and, moreover, insisted on a presentation ceremony. He proudly celebrated with Kathy, Mrs. Johnson, and the entire family at the Akeley VFW.

Kathy attributes her persistence in getting



U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, left, assists Ethel Johnson after she received CPL Ed Newsom's medals. Johnson and Newsom's daughter, AWONer Kathy Swanson, is at right.

these medals to her AWON membership. The Akeley VFW hosted the event and displayed the AWON banner on the side of the building for all to see from the highway. Minnesota AWON Regional Coordinator, Pat Morrison, and husband Jerry, drove their motor home north for a long weekend to be with Kathy, family, and friends at this presentation. Kathy displayed AWON materials inside the VFW, along with her father's memorabilia. She also spoke of how AWON inspired her in her search to learn about her father, and how important AWON is to her.

Kathy is a life member

of the VFW Auxiliary and active in the color guard. Another strange fact, Kathy became a nurse before she knew that her father had been a medic.

For years Kathy was alienated from her mother. She thought her mother hated her father. Why else would she never speak about him? We in AWON know it's a common story. Many of our mothers did not speak; they buried their grief deep inside and moved on in life the best way they could.

On this dreary, cold grey Memorial Day, the sun shined on Kathy and the medals. Cpl. Ed Newsom's honor had been fully recognized at last.



"Bill of PA" Only Clue to Father's Identity

To the right is a photo of AWON member Lynda Johns Dumas' parents. Her mother is Mary Henrietta Johns, but all she knows about the soldier standing next to her is that he is "Private Bill from Pennsylvania," and that he may be her father. The picture was taken around April 1944 at Camp Wheeler in Macon, Georgia.

Henrietta worked at the naval ordnance plant in Macon and lived in a boarding house there while pregnant. Lynda was adopted at birth

from John Archibold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Ga., on January 13, 1945. Her adoptive parents, Captain W. Clark Wright, were stationed at Flnney General Hosptial in Thomasville, Ga., in June 1943.

"I only located Henrietta's surviving family



in 1997 by opening my adoption records and found she had passed away in 1989," Lynda says. "There are no other pictures of my birth mother or soldiers from the war era."

When Henrietta returned home to Pellham, Ga., she told her

sister she was in love with a boy, but after Normandy, she never heard from him again.

"I have not pursued Private Bill's identity before this time for lack of a full name and lack of proof that this is indeed my birth father," Lynda explains. "However, on the slight chance that he is... I offer for your identification the only photo I possess of Henrietta with a soldier."

If anyone can help Lynda, you can email her at dylan1135@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Members

Thomas Brandino, TX, son of 1LT Thomas F. Brandino, Army
Joseph Chichelo, NJ, son of PVT Generoso Chichelo, Army
Richard White Debick, MT, son of 2LT Lester R. White, AAF
Lynda Johns Dumas, OR, dau of PVT Bill (unknown), Marines
Wilson Enfinger, FL, son of PVT Wilbur W. Enfinger, Army
Frans Eyberse Jr., FL, son of CAPT Frans M. Eyberse, Army
Judith Blakenship Frappier, ME, dau of ENS Archie L. Blakenship, Navy
Susan Strock Fusco, OH, dau of RTECH 1C Arthur D. Strock, Navy Reserves
Billie Beaudoin Geaudreane, ID, dau of PFC William C. Beaudoin, Army
Linda Gibson Gribuski, NY, dau of CPL Samuel W. Gibson, Army
Ruby McDowell Heady, KY, dau of PVT Roy E. McDowell, Army
Mary Holleman, TX, niece of SSGT Patrick J. Sculley, Marines
Marvel "Ruth" Ticknor Joyce, PA, dau of CEM George O. Ticknor, Navy
Raymond Santerfeit Jr., FL, son of PVT Raymond D. Santerfeit, Army
Nancy Sawicki Schneble, WA, dau of PFC Boleslaus P. Sawicki, Army
Dorothy Thomas South, TX, dau of PVT Russell J. Thomas, Army
Nellie Turman-Vass, WV, dau of PFC John M. Turman, Army
Penny Demsey Yazzie, NV, dau of SSGT Harvey J. Demsey, AAF
(new members since the June issue of *The Star*)

Family Loves G.I. Dad It Barely Knows

by Jill Baker

December 18, 1944 was a difficult month for many families. Jeanne (Radtke) Skilling was no exception to the rule when she heard those three letters strung in a line... MIA.

Her husband, Ellsworth J. Radtke, would go unidentified for another eight months. Radtke's tank was hit by an enemy bazooka on December 18th. Radtke only had one daughter, Shirley Radtke Robinson, my mother. She married and had one son, Scott, and two daughters, Jill and Kim.

My mother and I traveled over land and sea to visit my grandfather's gravesite at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in November of 2007. There are almost 9,000 soldiers buried in the cemetery, including 37 sets of brothers, 33 of whom lay side by side. The cemetery butts up against a farmer's field. It is well maintained by Dwight Anderson and the nine full time staff that work there.

There are many, including Dwight Anderson, the keeper of the cemetery, who are still waiting to hear if their loved ones' bodies will be found. While Baker and Robinson were lucky to see the grave site, many still mourn and wait, for they have nowhere to go and grieve and hug and discuss what could have been.

Ellsworth J. Radtke only saw his daughter twice in his life: when she was six months old and 13 months old. One of these pictures is the only one my mother has of her family. Mom was 22 months old when her father was Killed in Action with the 9th Armored Di-



Jeanne and Ellsworth Radtke with daughter, Shirley

vision at the age of 22. This story is probably too familiar to the widows and children who are still around today, and for many of the wives, mothers, brothers and sisters of our American men serving in Iraq today.

When my grandmother, Jeanne Radtke Skilling, found out about the trip to Europe many memories were sparked for her. She talked about the time my grandfather missed his train back to the war after he was on leave. She hugged him as tight as she could as she said good-bye to her husband and father of her only child. She held on so long that he missed his train!

My grandfather was drafted into the war. It was a very difficult time for many. When I asked my grandmother if they ever had plans to have more children, she said, "Well, we never discussed it because he was so sad to have been drafted."

All my mother has of her father is the above picture taken in

March of 1944, and a newspaper article about his death. There are no letters with his handwriting or any other information about him. Even though there is very little information about Radtke, he is still loved by his daughter and grandchildren. The Radtke-Robinson family is honored and proud that he served his country.

My mother was 65 years old when she saw her father's grave for the first time. The trip was bittersweet, for both of us. We were able to see Europe for the first time, and see the grave site of a well loved and missed "Daddy" and grandfather.

Election Results

Here are the results from the 2008 AWON election:

Barr-Finch - 99
Hoffman - 98
Le Comte - 97
Hellums - 97
Morenski - 94
Burkey - 90
Hamilton - 78
Peters - 77
Meek - 76
Morrison - 72

Total ballots cast was 102, with one invalid ballot not counted. The first nine candidates were elected. Finch, Hoffman, Le Comte, Hellums and Meek will serve for two years; and Morenski, Burkey, Hamilton and Peters for four years.



Reaching Out...

AWON Public Relations
by Patricia Gaffney-Kindig
President Emerita, AWON Board of Directors

We've lost our Jack. Jack Forgy was a friend, a mentor and valued resource for the years I served on the board of directors.

During my last conversation with him, he was riding his lawn tractor, tethered to an oxygen tank. We both laughed at his indomitable spirit, but we both knew what it would ultimately mean. He was a treasure, a gentleman, an original member of AWON who will be remembered for the help he gave to so many because he understood the need to know. He was one of us.

On October 6th, I spoke to Pat Sullivan, a reporter for *The Washington Post*, who was writing a feature about Jack. I tracked down the photo that appeared with his column in *The Star*. Look for the article in the *Post* archives, "Son of Fallen Father Helped Others Find Peace", from October 19.

JPAC and AWON...

In June, I asked Dr. Bob Mann of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) to write his personal story of separation from his birth family and recent reunion with them. It appeared in the August issue of *The Star*. I also liaised between Bob and the conference planners for him to attend and present at the conference in Tucson which is pos-

sible through the continuing generosity of Johnie Webb, Deputy to the Commander for Public Relations and Legislative Affairs of JPAC. This marks the fourth conference Bob has attended. He's become one of us too.

WWII Educ. Seminar...

I was honored to be one of 35 people invited to attend a seminar in August titled, *Spirit of '45*, held on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, to discuss leadership in the education of WWII. The seminar was sponsored by Ryan Hegg, executive director of The Digital Clubhouse Network (DCN) and program director of its *Stories of Service*, and his father, Warren Hegg, national program supervisor.

The focus was to find ways to reach young people using the Internet, e.g. YouTube etc. The event was attended by representatives of The National WWII Museum in New Orleans and *The History Channel* as well as representatives of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Also at the seminar I had the pleasure of meeting Stephen Watson, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The National World War II Museum. He has since invited me to speak at the museum on Memorial Day

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Navy Brother Passes Away

AWON associate member Joyce (Jody) Aldrich reports that her brother, Robert L. Aldrich, has passed away. Joyce has found a treasure trove of pictures and memorabilia from her brother's WWII service and would be happy to share pictures and information with members who



have a connection to his ships or service.

Robert LeRoy Aldrich, 82, passed away August 29, 2008, at his home in Denton, Texas. He was born in Hendley, Nebraska, on August 13, 1926. In July 1944, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

He was spared seeing battle in World War II because he was among the sailors chosen to assist with the NATO conference in San Francisco, carrying the

...continued on page 17

Peters Announces '09 Normandy Tour

AWONer Ed Peters and his wife, Pat, are participating in a tour of Normandy next May. The tour will be led by someone very knowledgeable about the Normandy Campaign, especially the actions of the 101st Airborne Division. If anyone wants details they can contact Ed at edpeters2@comcast.net.

Conference,
from front page

me to renew my search for information on him and to read the letters he had sent my mother. Hearing his name read was very moving. Thanks to everyone. It is the most caring, sensitive group of people I've ever been associated with.

I felt at ease and not at all on the "outside." It seemed everyone at this conference felt welcome. Your hard work paid off and I thank you.

I brought home such positive feelings for the group that I am considering joining the listserv for the first time, and I have been a member since the beginning of AWON.

Also, I have to tell you that I have always been a bit of a loner. At the conference, I have never felt so loved and appreciated by so many people in my whole life - ever, ever! Thanks to all of you for giving me that priceless gift of gratitude, affection and love.

A first-timer rushed to tell me when the grandchild read Sgt. William Edward Crowley, she said to herself, "That's Sharon's dad!" She had "connected" with another orphan in a real way.



Beyond our expectations.

As Wilma Scott Waxler, mother of Penelope and Carmeda, was being

wheeled out of Hangar #3 at the PIMA Air and Space Museum (PASM), I thought she might not have met Peggy Hopkins, mother of Penny LeGrand.

So, as Wilma approached Peggy's table, I said something like, "Wilma, meet Peggy." What happened next almost defies verbal description. Wilma gripped Peggy's forearm and they were intertwined. They stared right into each other's eyes. If they spoke, I don't know because I made a dash to find someone with a camera. Minutes later when I returned, they had not moved from their embrace. They understood as wives with lost loves what we orphans couldn't begin to understand.

Later, my husband Roger told me that he had complimented Wilma on her pretty red and white blouse. As they chatted, Wilma told him she made the blouse and that she also embroiders greeting cards for

special occasions and said she would send him one. She sent two, one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. He plans to take one to



an injured military member at the nearby Naval Hospital here in San Diego, and he will keep one as a memento of his meeting with this great lady.

Beyond our expectations.

Several grandchildren told me about their new understanding of their parents as orphans.

They said their grandfathers came to life for them.

Julia was very pleased to read her grandfather's name during the Memorial Ceremony and spoke up loud and clear-- as if trying to make my mother hear "Pvt. Richard Harlan Evans." During my last conversation with my mother before her death, my mother spoke of her regret that my daughters never knew their grandfather, who would have loved them so much. I think the AWON conference helped my daughter know him better and understand me more.

Beyond our expecta-

tions.

On banquet night, people lined up at the Missing Man Table to take a photo of their dads as they turned up next on Rik Peirson's Honor Roll digital photo-frame. Our very own Missing Men appeared, one after another, right before our eyes.

Another big thank you goes to our Rik Peirson for the beautiful "moving picture frame" of Our Fathers. Just when we thought they wouldn't be there for us to see, they were. What a wonderful surprise



and giant hugs to Rik for all the thought, love and time he put into it for us. We know they are with us at the conferences, but Rik made sure we knew.

Beyond our expectations.

Did you hear that Nick's stepdad served in her [speaker Sharon Estill Taylor] Father's Unit, 474th Fighter Group - 428th squadron? Nick called his stepdad, who said he remembered Estill and remembers how upset they were when he was killed! He also said he has a picture of Sharon - when she attended one of his unit's reunions!

And have I said beyond our expectations?

In the coziness of the hospitality-bookstore area, around tables of

the restaurants or ballroom, on the patios or in the hot-tub, in the sharing circles, we talked about our dads, who we had been reminded are in us. We took sanctuary in the company and comfort of our fellow orphans. We were beginning to heal.

And something of great significance happened for me at the PASM Memorial Service during the grandchild reading of the fathers' names. I knew our men this time - all of them. I had written their names while processing registration and while listing them in the program and proof-reading the attendee roster. For the first time, I truly understood why we write *We Speak Their Names*. So many times I have said I feel all the dads are my dads. Now they really are.

WAY beyond my expectations.

*Sharon, daughter of
SGT William E. Crowley*

*by Penny Hopkins
LeGrand*

After a year-and-a-half of planning, it seems impossible for the Saguaro Sunset Conference to now be a memory. And what a great memory it is. I am wallowing in the afterglow of so many highlights of these four days.

I asked for perfect weather. We almost had it.

I asked for a perfect venue. We almost had it.

I asked for a warm, congenial group who would find healing. And we made it.

From "newbies" to "oldbies," the excitement was riveting.

Extra special care was taken

by our board members to reach out and surround the first timers with loving care. After hearing words like "feel so welcome," "kinship," "welcoming," "light-hearted and uplifting," we knew we had done our job.

After reading the positive affirmations that followed the conference, I would like to include two of my own personal healing experiences. I realize that to have my mother Peggy Hopkins, age 91, still with me is a gift, and for her to share the experience with me of the Memorial Service and the Banquet was so special, I can't even put it into words. When she and Wilma (the other mother present) grasped hands, I

felt overwhelmed with affection and love.

Also, to have my son Rick participate in the reading of grandfathers' names during the Honor Roll was very precious to me. And very exciting was that he came to the Westward Look Resort and joined in the fun at the Hospitality Room, smoking cigars with Walt and Vamik and

sharing with the other grandchildren. I felt like a proud parent watching her child at play. Silly I guess, but it was a healing experience for me.

The Hospitality Room, although small, was full of goodies, was hopping with fun, football games, and even hosted a birthday party. We are ever so grateful to Barb Kelly, always at her post in The Bookstore with Walt at her side, offering good conversation and companionship.

And let's not forget Rick's digital frame of the dads' pictures. He is so creative and puts love into everything he does

for his AWON family. He came up with the perfect solution after the disappointment of not having the Dad Honor Wall. Thank you, Rik.

I fondly remember Father Mike, the wonderful chaplain, who understood us and touched our hearts as children remembering our fathers and their sacrifice, and the mourning that we are still experiencing.

As always, we are so thankful to have Judy, Bonnie and Walt, stepping to the front of the class as moderators to lead the way. The speakers and those who shared their dads' stories were all very special, and they are the reason we are who we are as an organization and family.

Thanks go out to all of the volunteers who helped in putting this conference together. We couldn't have done it without you.

The great staff at the Westward Look Resort asked that I thank US for being so much fun, gracious, and energetic. They so enjoyed the wonderful stories of our dads. THEY are still talking about US!

*Penny, daughter of
1LT Charles E. Hopkins Jr.*



Gives Thanks

N Conference experience changed the way she views father she lost at only three

been searching for a way er having known him, but t on her own. We've been D.C. and the WWII Memo- helpful, but I do not think r to resolution. The AWON hand, made her see that his country who have the s that she does, and that it you never even knew.

e very best she could, but her didn't pay the bills or er aging parents. She had ngs that would make a dif- was not until much later in re some things about him. om than my grandmother

now that you and the other have made a positive im- healing. Every time we talk, she remembers and can't e commented first on the it of the "veteran" orphans rs themselves.

ences will be a permanent Their ultimate goal is to go e memorial to the Tulabee out where my grandfather he felt like she was given w was out there. It is now , instead of just something

welcoming my parents and r supportive community. It on't have to carry this sor-

r Horan
l George Oran Ticknor
Marvel Ruth Ticknor Joyce
Carol Joan "Joie" Ticknor Heller

otos are at www.awon.org



Penny LeGrand with Jan of Westward Look, Darlene & Nick Mott, Judy Hoffman



Margraten Kids



Sing-Along with Bonnie Oates, Maggie Malone & Walter Carter



134 Regt 35 ID Kids

AWON Memorial Service at PASM



Sharon Connor



Some of the Conference Speakers



9 ID Kids

Conference events help man imagine parents together for first time

Visual Breakthrough Made in Tucson

by Tom Morris

I volunteered to facilitate one of the Sharing Circles at the Saguaro Sunset Conference in Tucson for two reasons. The Sharing Circles in past AWON conferences have been very meaningful to me, and I have had similar experience with facilitating small group discussions. However,

Sailor Lost in Philippines ID'd

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has announced the recovery and identification of the first Navy officer to be lost in defense of the Philippines in WWII.

Ensign Robert G. Tills of Wisconsin, was the only crewmember not to escape a PB4Y-4 Catalina Flying Boat after it was strafed and sunk by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 8, 1941, while moored in Malalag Bay.

In late 2007, U.S. and Philippine teams surveyed a site in Malalag Bay where aircraft wreckage had been discovered and recovered human remains.

Tills will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in March.

Monday's Sharing Circles became a prelude to an amazing experience for me.

My Saturday Sharing Circle included about eight or nine of us. I knew or recognized almost everyone. All went very smoothly with everyone having plenty of time to share more than once. The three "First-Timers" seemed to feel very comfortable for their initial sharing at a conference.

Dutch Eyeing 7ATD Memorial

AWON Margraten Liaison Gerry Morenski reports that AWON Dutch friends, including Hans Van Toer, are planning a monument to the 7th Armored Tank Division which took part in the Battle of Overloon, one of the greatest tank battles during WWII in the Netherlands.

Van Toer would like to correspond with any children or grandchildren of soldiers who were members of the 7th Armored Tank Division. Contact Gerry at dutiem@comcast.net for more information.

On Monday, since there was a choice between three separate and great scheduled events, there were only two Sharing Circles. Now, I am a person that does not believe in coincidences. I believe that Susan, Barbara, Judy and I were put together for a purpose. After a round of surface sharing, we went a layer or two deeper. All of a sudden we began sharing about our mothers and how they affected our young growing-up years.

My mother did not want me to be around water or learn how to swim. I grew up in Southern California right on the coast. My father was in the Army and was transported

on LST 577 in a convoy sailing from Hollandia, New Guinea, to the Philippine Islands. On 11 February 1945, Tokyo Rose broadcast that the LST in the convoy's left front position was carrying radar equipment. It was, and just as it pulled out to re-position itself somewhere in the middle of the convoy, LST 577 received two direct hits amidships from the Japanese submarine RO-50. The explosion broke the vessel in half and the entire stern section sank in a period of seconds. You see, my father had died in the water.

Similar experiences were brought up in the

...continued on page 14

Man Offers To Do Research on 10th Armored Division

A Pennsylvania man is willing to help orphans with an interest in the 10th Armored Division.

According to AWON First Inquiry Coordinator Norm Burkey, Howard Liddic of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, sent an email to AWON offering research assistance, especially regarding those who were Killed in Action in the 21st Tank Battalion.

Liddic can be reached at tigersnwolves@comcast.net; or write to him at 533 Lexington Road, Lancaster, PA 17603

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



Seven AWONERS got together in Manhattan in July to welcome Hope Maloney of Connecticut to active membership in AWON. They met at the Bryant Park Grill which is in the park just behind the big public library on Fifth Avenue. Everyone in the photo, including Betsy Harris, who is not pictured due to having to leave the gathering early, plan to attend the Tucson Conference, with the exception of Millie Cavanaugh who will be missing her first conference ever. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Hope Maloney, Pat Rathje, and Gail Eisenhauer. In the back row from left are Joan Marlow, Maggie Malone, Monica Maron, and Millie Cavanaugh. *Maggie*

to right are new member Billie Geaudreau; John Olsen and wife, member Mary Lou Olsen; Linda Glass; Chickie Shields Berry; and her husband, Bob Berry. Mary Lou and John traveled from Kalispell, Montana, to attend. Billie, Chickie and Bob, and Linda are all local to the area. Linda has since moved to Canada. The luncheon gathering was spent reminiscing about our lives without Daddy and sharing pictures and mementos. *Chickie*



AWONer Lyndall Kellogg and his wife, Susan, undertook the trip of a lifetime this October by visiting the British Isles. He celebrated his 64th birthday in County Derry, Ireland, the home of his ancestors. Also on this trip the Kelloggs visited with British AWONer Angela Christian and her family in Derbyshire. Pictured from left are Lyndall and Susan Kellogg, and Angela and Roy Christian. The Kelloggs began their journey from their home in New Jersey. They spent a few days in London before heading north to meet Angela. Angela was nervous but explains, "I needn't have worried. As soon as they stepped off the train it was like meeting up with long lost family, everything was just so natural, and to think after corresponding for a few years my AWON brother Lynn stood there waiting to give me a good old Yankee hug." Angela showed them the local sights and even introduced them to the classic English dish, fish and chips. After two days it was time for the Kelloggs to continue on to Ireland. "I think they enjoyed it here with my family, and I know for me, it was a fabulous experience that I'm thrilled took place." *Angela*



A group of Inland Northwest AWONers met at Bunkers Restaurant at Twin Lakes Village Golf Course in Rathdrum, Idaho, this fall. Pictured left

Kindig, from page 7

2009 as part of their lecture series that includes Tom Brokaw. And, he agreed to buy 30 copies of the Turner books about AWON for the museum store.

The group was surprised to learn about the nearly 200,000 American war orphans. I stressed that we represent the men who did not come home; that we have their stories as well as our own. At the banquet, we were treated to a film from the National Archives about *Rosie the Riveter* that described the history of Long Beach that was a center of production during the war. Another seminar will be planned in the future.

New AWON Advisors...

I'm pleased to announce that JPAC's Johnie Webb has agreed to serve as one of two new national advisors to AWON. As noted above, Johnie has been a long-time supporter of AWON

and he joined us in Washington, D.C., in 2004. AWON is fortunate to be associated with JPAC and CILHI, the world-renowned forensic laboratory. For more information on their mission, go to: www.jpac.pacom.mil

DCN's Ryan Hegg has also agreed to serve as an AWON advisor. I was pleased to make the announcement at the seminar on the Queen Mary. Ryan has looked out for AWON in many ways, including our involvement in the annual Veterans Day parade in New York City and the invitation for several of us to attend an event at Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the mayor of New York City. In addition, Ryan made it possible for AWON members to participate in the exhibit in Bastogne commemorating the 60th anniversary of the battle. For more information, go to: www.stories-of-service.org

In August, AWON Founder Ann Mix and I teleconferenced with

former Ambassador F. Hayden Williams, another national advisor to AWON, in a continuing effort to keep him abreast of activities and efforts that will ensure the future of the organization. He receives *The Star* and stated that he was most impressed by the trip to Margraten by a group of members. I sent him a packet of information about discussions by the AWON Board of Directors and issues that are important to the future of AWON, the cost of conferences, funding trips to cemeteries for members, and the high cost of placing ads in print; and the seminar I was to attend later. He was pleased to know AWON is represented at such events. I sent him another packet from the *Spirit of '45* seminar. We spoke again on December 2nd and he said, "I still have you (AWON) in my trust. Hopefully, there will be something left for you if the market doesn't take it all." A packet of conference materials is being sent to him. We send him our best as he said he hasn't been feeling well lately.

Breakthrough, from page 12

Sharing Circle. We had some very emotional and healing sharing. We are all in it together. That is what this is all about. Those on the AWON list server will probably remember many similar messages shared about a year or two ago.

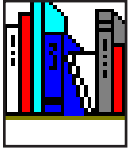
Fast forward to the Banquet that night. Roger Conner gave a presentation about the Missing Man Table. I had been thinking about this table for a few days. I had learned about my "inner child" before, but something clicked while hearing Sharon Estill Taylor's talk: what about

visualizing my father at the table? Then, appearing with him would be my mother and sisters. Then I would appear at the age of four, when he was KIA. Then I would also show up at my present age. Interesting concept? However, during the minute of silence at the end of Roger's presentation, I forgot. No, I did not forget. Remember, I do not believe in coincidences. The only thing that came to my mind's eye during this time, was seeing my mother and father at the table. I immediately realized that this was the first time in my life that I had visualized the two of them together.

Public Relations...

During the summer, I made presentations to two local Kiwanis clubs about AWON and the Gaffney and Kindig recoveries, and again, Stephen Watson of the National WWII Museum has invited me to speak there on Memorial Day 2009.

I was unable to attend an AWON National Conference for the first time since 1998, and I hear I missed a good one! However, I prepared a news release that Rik Peirson posted on our website for members to download and send to their local media outlets.



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List and Order Form



BOOKS

(Authors in **bold** are orphan or family members)

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>New!</u> <i>A Soldier's Daughter</i> by Lois Brown Klein \$17.00</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>The Ordinary Infrantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again</i> by Imogene Woods and Twelve WWII Infantrymen \$15.00</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search</i> by Mary Lee Coe Fowler \$29.95</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>Now I Know - A War Orphan's Journey of Discovery</i> by Thomas G. Ratliff \$17.95</p> <p>____ <i>When Your Number's Up: Meritocracy Goes to War</i> by Raymond S. Ross, PhD. hardcover \$20.00 softcover \$10.00</p> <p>____ <i>Sporty Course</i> (bomber pilots) by Col. Jack Swayze New price! \$10.00</p> <p>____ <i>The Hotton Report</i> (about The Battle for Hotton) by Robert McDonald \$13.95</p> <p>____ <i>World War II: A Legacy of Letters - One Soldier's Journey</i> by Clinton Frederick \$26.95</p> <p>____ <i>In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network</i> by Turner Publishing Company Standard Book was \$49.95 SPECIAL \$20.00 Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 SPECIAL \$30.00</p> <p>____ <i>The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial</i> by William Downes \$24.95</p> <p>____ <i>The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause</i> by Maj. Damon "Rocky" Gause, foreward by Damon L. Gause \$21.95</p> <p>____ <i>Love, Honor and Cherish: The True World War II Story of a Screaming Eagle and a Courageous Woman</i> by Sandra Bonilla Thompson \$23.00</p> <p>____ <i>Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights & Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties</i>, second edition by Ann Bennett Mix \$21.95</p> <p>____ <i>No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy</i> by Walter Ford Carter \$24.95</p> | <p>____ <i>Soldier's Son</i> by Ben McClelland \$28.00</p> <p>____ <i>D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History</i> by Jerome J. McLaughlin \$25.00</p> <p>____ <i>They Also Served: Women's Stories from the World War II Era</i> by Jeanie Sutton Lambright hardcover \$35.00 softcover \$24.00</p> <p>____ <i>Finding Billy</i> by Diana Thompson Dale, niece \$16.95</p> <p>____ <i>Father Found</i> by Duane Heisinger \$13.95</p> <p>____ <i>I Can Hear the Guns Now: A WWII Story of Love and Sacrifice</i> by Thomas G. Ratliff \$20.95</p> <p>____ <i>An 8th Air Force Combat Diary</i> by John A. Clark \$49.95</p> <p>____ <i>When I See a Forty and Eight... I Remember World War Two</i> by Jacques Adnet \$12.00</p> <p>____ <i>Love Always, Ben</i> by Huey Tyra, nephew \$19.95</p> <p>____ <i>For Those Who Love, Time Is Not</i> by Kay Brigham \$30.00</p> <p>____ <i>Lost in the Victory: Reflections of America's Orphans of WWII</i> by Susan Johnson Hadler and Ann Bennett Mix \$32.50</p> <p>____ <i>After the Liberators: A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey</i> by William C. McGuire II \$16.95</p> <p>____ <i>Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific</i> by Michael J. Goodwin \$19.95</p> <p>____ <i>Laughter and Tears: The Art of Captain George Rarey</i> by Damon Rarey (leather-bound) \$39.95</p> |
|--|---|

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

More AWON Merchandise and Order Form on Other Side



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List and Order Form



VIDEOS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>___ <i>AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication</i> Special \$15.00</p> <p>___ <i>We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers</i> produced by Patrick Tierney and Terry Boettcher was \$15.00 Special \$10.00</p> <p>___ <i>AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers</i> by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 Special \$10.00</p> | <p>___ <i>Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru</i> by Shawnee Brittan \$30.00</p> <p>___ <i>Fools and Heroes: A Film about Two Grandfathers, Both Artists, One a World War II Fighter Pilot, the Other a Conscientious Objector</i> by granddaughter Ondine Rarey and Luigi Falomi \$30.00</p> <p>___ <i>The War in Europe</i> by Shawnee Brittan \$30.00</p> |
|---|---|

AWON Logo Products

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>___ *AWON Note Cards with Envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00</p> <p>___ Windbreaker ___ white ___ blue \$40.00 (circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)</p> <p>___ Denim shirt ___ short sleeve ___ long sleeve \$40.00 (circle size: S M L XL 2X)</p> <p>___ Golf shirt ___ white ___ blue \$35.00 (circle size: S M L XL 2X)</p> <p>___ T-shirt (navy) \$20.00 (circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)</p> <p>___ Hat \$15.00</p> | <p>AWON Gold Star Crystal Pendant (no chain included):</p> <p>___ Gold Star Crystal Pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00</p> <p>___ Gold Star Crystal Pendant 1 1/2" (40mm) \$20.00</p> <p>___ * Lapel pin \$10.00</p> <p>___ *AWON auto magnet \$6.00</p> <p>___ * Magnetic WWII Memorial picture \$1.00</p> <p>___ * Magnetic AWON picture holder \$2.00</p> <p>___ * AWON holiday ornament \$10.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!</p> <p>___ *AWON Lanyard and Name Tag/Ticket Holder (4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00</p> |
|---|--|

Order Form

Postage and handling: \$5 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (*) include P&H. For multiple purchases: Up to \$40: \$9 P&H \$40-\$60: \$10 P&H Over \$60: \$12 P&H

Name on card: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Exp. Date: _____ Type: Visa M/C
 Washington State residents add 7.8% sales tax: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Or send check or money order to:

AWON Bookstore
 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216
 email: bookstore@awon.org

For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html

AWON Board Business - 21 September 2008

Finances: AWON Financial Officer **Doni Morrison Troglio** reported that year-to-date total deposits total \$73,135.07, including \$35,000 in CDs. Year-to-date expenses are \$16,307.47, and a current balance of \$21,827.60.

Memorial Day Wreaths: **Sharon Connor** submitted a financial report on the AWON Memorial Day Wreath Project. Starting balance from 2007 was \$1,135.65. Excess contributions for 2008 totaled \$1,899.53, for a grand total of \$3,035.18. After deducting AWON expenses of \$514.10, \$2,000 was transferred to the AWON general fund, and \$521.08 was left in the wreath account for 2009.

2008 AWON Conference: **Judy Hoffman** presented the conference report on behalf of conference co-chairs **Sharon Crowley Connor** and **Penny Hopkins LeGrand**. Judy also requested the board hold a Meet and Greet for members attending the conference for the first time. **Norma Nicol Hamilton** reported that 21 Father Tributes have been received to date.

AWON Founder Per Diem: The board discussed revising the conference per diem for AWON Founder **Ann Mix**. Judy will discuss the topic further with Ann

Navy, from page 7

bags of Molotov and Statinius. When he did sail into the war zone, it was as a Seaman First Class aboard the USS Eberle (DD 430) with the Charleston Group, 16th Fleet, from Charleston S.C., which landed on Okinawa the day the war ended. There was much rejoicing when his family received a telegram saying "Coming home on Foote," as he returned home aboard the USS Foote in 1945.

He is survived by his sister, Joyce (Jody) Aldrich of Michigan; his two nieces, Kimberly Crecca of Illinois, and Shannon Gossett of Florida; his nephew, Kevin Latham of Kentucky, and a grand-niece, Amber Rich of California. He is interred at Fairlawn Cemetery in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Joyce Aldrich also has a WWII orphan story.

"My husband's father, his name was Mariannas Burgess, died in World War II before my husband's birth. We had hoped to get information about him, however, he was in the Netherlands Coast Guard. His ship was docked in California but we (have been) unsuccessful in finding out any information, since we (have) so little to go on."

and Penny LeGrand and report back to the board.

Turner Books: The board agreed on a 5-1 vote to purchase Turner Publishing's overstock of 110 standard copies and 20 leatherbound copies of its AWON History books for a total cost of \$750. **Walt Linne** has agreed to pick up the books in Kentucky instead of paying shipping. The standard and leatherbound books originally retailed for \$49.95 and \$79.95, respectively.

AWON Long-term Plan: Norma opened a discussion on long-term planning for AWON and the AWON Archives. Following discussion, the matter was tabled pending a report by **Kathy Le Comte** on how to select a repository for AWON's Archives.

AWON Election: Norma reported **Joe Lagomarsino** would assist **Dianne Wiegand Baczynski** in tallying election ballots, and described how the results would be reported. Norma also noted that voter participation was low to date.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is at the 2008 AWON Conference in Tucson, Arizona, on November 10, 2008.

Norma Nicol Hamilton, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit www.awon.org.

Valor Tours Sets '09 Itinerary

Valor Tours again is offering its *Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships Memorial* tour of the Philippines. The tour will be April 2-12, 2009. AWON members have taken this tour for several years.

Added for 2009 is a visit to the new WWII museum in Manila, and a special ceremony at Mt. Samat, Bataan, to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan. The tour also includes sites in Manila, Corregidor, Cabanatuan, and Subic Bay, where a wreath will be laid at the Hellships Memorial. The late AWON member Duane Heisinger was instrumental in its creation.

For more information about the tour, visit valortours.com or contact AWONer Patty Temte at ptemte@satx.rr.com.

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 pictures to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and pictures also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.
- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words), including pictures.
- Email short articles about resources, queries, book/movie recommendations, and general information for the List Tips column to the assistant editor.
- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.
- Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

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

Recommended Reading

Alice Betts recommends the book, *Conduct Under Fire*, by John A. Glusman. It is the story of four American doctors and their fight for life as prisoners of the Japanese from 1941 to 1945 in the Philippines and Japan. "It's a very interesting book about the life and times of these doctors during this black period of history, especially if one has traveled to the Philippines," Alice states.

Free Passport

Bob Meek reports that any immediate family member is entitled to a free passport to visit the grave or memorial site of a family member buried overseas.

First contact the American Battle Monuments Commission for a letter authorizing the passport. Keep a photocopy and submit the original to your main U. S. Post Office or to your County Clerk of Courts.

The post office application is free. Applications submitted through the County Clerk of Courts are \$10.

For more information go to: www.abmc.gov, or http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/nofee/nofee_836.html.

AWON Board Business 20 July 2008

Reports: Quarterly reports on the AWON mail, newsletter, budget, Memorial Day Wreath Project, 2008 AWON Conference, and AWON Listserv were submitted and approved.

Memorial Day Wreath Project: The board discussed adding a line item to the AWON budget for Memorial Day Wreath funds. Judy Hoffman said she would send a revised budget reflecting the addition of a Memorial Day Wreath Fund line item.

National WWII Museum: Chickie Shields Berry requested AWON purchase a brick at the museum for \$200 in memory of our fathers. Discussion followed.

AWON Survey: Bob Meek is developing a survey to send to all former members.

Rotation of Board Officers: Judy Hoffman encouraged the board to consider the positions they now hold and decide by September if they would like to continue in those positions or consider a different position when officer elections are held at the November board meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Ballot Committee: Norma Nicol Hamilton reported that Dianne Wiegand Baczynski has agreed to serve as Ballot Committee chair for the 2008 AWON Election. Dianne will select two or three members to assist in counting ballots.

AWON Election: All current board members are running for re-election in October. Those to be elected for a two-year term are Judy Hoffman, Bonnie Hellums, Bob Meek, Barry Barr-Finch and Kathy Le Comte. Those to be elected for a four-year term are Gerry Morenski, Norma Nicol Hamilton, Ed Peters and Norm Burkey. Patricia Morrison also is a candidate for election, for a four-year term.

Next Board Meeting: The next telephonic meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is September 21, 2008.

Norma Nicol Hamilton, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit www.awon.org.

American WWII Orphans Network

Application, Registration & Renewal Form

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

Information about You

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ (home, work, cell, other)
E-mail _____
Relationship to Serviceman _____
Your Date of Birth _____
Would you like to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N
Where did you hear about AWON? _____

Information about WWII Serviceman Who Died

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some of the information, leave it blank and we may be able to provide it to you. Do not delay mailing the 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 and/or service: (rank, medals, etc.)

Home Town and State _____
Wife's Maiden Name _____
Did widow remarry? Y N
Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:

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

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.

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 Payment Options

Basic annual membership dues are \$25. Members wishing to provide additional financial support to AWON and its activities are encouraged to join at one of the following supportive levels:

Check one: Basic: \$25 Sponsor: \$50
 Gold Star: \$100 Donor: \$150
 Patron: \$250 Founder: \$500
 Benefactor: \$1,000

Members at the Sponsor level and above may receive a free copy of the second edition of *Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights and Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties*, by AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix.

I am donating at the Sponsor level or above and would like my free copy of *Touchstones*: Yes No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I give permission to AWON to release my name, address, email address, phone number and relationship to and pertinent information about the serviceman to other members. I understand the list of members is confidential and will *never* be sold or given to any other organization or business. I hereby release AWON from any liability that may arise from the release of information.

Signature (optional) _____

Mail form and payment to:

Norm Burkey
AWON Treasurer
308 Colgate Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21050

AWON Headquarters
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
(540) 310-0750
awon@aol.com
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

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