

# The Star



Issue 52 "We Speak Their Names" March 2009

## Agrees to meet French, German WWII orphans Baker Breaks Ice With Euro War Orphans



AWONer Paula Evans Baker, center, shares a hug with French war orphan Charlotte Fass-Goldberg, left, and German war orphan Elmar Diez, at a ceremony near Flavigny, France in 2008.

by Paula Evans Baker

In the summer of 2008, I made my fifth trip to France in the past ten years. Each pilgrimage has advanced me in my 64-year quest to restore my father's presence in my life by taking positive steps in his memory. The latest pilgrimage was also a milestone in my corollary effort of making people aware of war's effects on civilians, particularly children.

The catalyst for this trip was the opportunity to bestow the National Infantry Association's Medal of St. Maurice (civilian) on my French penpal, Jerome Leclerc. You have read his name many times in my posts, and can see his photos from Epinal ceremonies and other events on the AWON web site. As soon as I received the Medal of St. Maurice for my work with the 35th Division Association, I sought a medal for Jerome. We work as a team "in their memory."

The ceremony was planned and carried out by our friends in the association of l'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-45. It was a beautiful ceremony at the 35th Division memorial at Flavigny Bridge, south of Nancy. It was wonderful to see all the people who were delighted to see Jerome become the first French civilian named to the Order of St. Maurice. They were very proud that he was recognized with an American military medal because they still remember and love the Liberators. Jerome researched and wrote a booklet about the battle at the bridge, *The Night of Hell, Sept. 10-11, 1944*, which was the genesis of the "Espace de Memoire" association. His involvement in this association led to our acquaintance.

After the ceremony, Jerome had a surprise for those assembled. First he read my father's last letter, sharing that Pvt. Dick Evans was tired and dirty, with sore hands and hot food in his belly on the night of Sept. 30, 1944. Leclerc shared what I had eventually learned:

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# Board Messages

by Gerry Conway Morenski

*Editor's note: Starting with this issue, this column will rotate among the board of directors, writing about AWON activities they lead. We start with Gerry Morenski, updating us on several Margraten issues she's working on for AWON.*

Happy 2009 to all of you,

## Margraten Gift

As you know, AWON received a monetary award from the Adoption Committee at Margraten to be used to assist Margraten 'kids' who have never visited their father's grave at Margraten because of financial restrictions. This money is now in the AWON budget and can only be used for the purpose stipulated by the Adoption Committee.

Since the receipt of this award, I formed a sub-committee to help with the details of determining the recipients of this stipend, and as to assist with the planning of another trip. We created and sent out a questionnaire and received a number of responses. I made a personal telephone call to those 'kids' who my committee agreed should be the recipients of this award. This stipend will not pay for their entire trip to Margraten, but it will certainly help.

Over the past few months, I have received a few inquiries from some of you (bless you!) requesting information about adding to this gift. One kid said,

"I have never donated to AWON – but if I can help another Margraten kid visit their father, I want to do that." I discussed this idea with the AWON Board of Directors and those Margraten kids who were at our conference in Tucson. Everyone agreed that it would be wonderful if we could add to what the Dutch have so generously given to us to help other Margraten orphans.

So, if any of you want to donate – please do so. Send a check made out to AWON – Margraten Gift, and mail it to our new Treasurer, Norm Burkey, 308 Colgate Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050.

I realize that all of us are experiencing the pain of today's economy, but even just a few dollars from many will go a long way to build up our fund. And to inspire you, one of our Margraten siblings has donated \$300!

## Margraten Trip 2010

There will be another AWON trip to Margraten for the Memorial Day Weekend of 2010 and is open to all active Margraten members. The recipients of the Margraten gift will be included on this trip. Details are not firm yet, but I will be working on them over the next few months. Please contact me if you are thinking of coming along. Those of us who traveled in 2005 are still talking about it and many have asked when we would be returning.

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# Four Receive Luxembourg Medals

by Marilyn Bowers Jensen

During U.S. Veterans Friends - Luxembourg Friendship Week, June 17-23, 2008, Victoria Ramirez Adams, Jim Copeland, Maggie Stein Fenstermacher, and Marilyn Bowers Jensen, AWON members and orphans of the 35th Division Association, were presented the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award and the Medal of Honor USVF-L.

The Legion of Honor Award was established shortly after President Harry S. Truman dedicated The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in 1951, "to publicly recognize people who have made exceptional, exemplary, and lasting contributions to humanity and their communities." The award was inspired by the courageous acts of the four



Pictured left to right are Denise Thill, Luxembourg, AWON Associate Member; Maggie Fenstermacher; Marilyn Jensen; Jim Copeland and Victoria Adams.

Army chaplains aboard the USAT Dorchester when it was hit by enemy fire and sank in the North Atlantic in 1943.

With the presentation of Jensen's award, the following words were read: "She came to Luxembourg to honor and support her father who died

in the fight for freedom for the people of Luxembourg."

The Medal of Honor USVF-L was presented to the four in recognition of their "dedicated services to promote Remembrance, Gratitude and Friendship for the American Liberators of World War II."

The awards were given by Constant Goergen, President of the U.S. Veterans Friends, in the Chapel of the Foundation Pescatore Building in Luxembourg where General Patton had his headquarters from December 1944 through March 1945.

We were proud to accept these honors in memory of our fathers who were killed in action in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg: Maximiliano Ramirez, Company L, 320th Infantry Regiment; and James Copeland, Russell Stein and Rex Bowers, all from Company C, 134th Infantry Regiment.

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## Message, from page 2

The Adoption Committee and the Margraten Mayor's Office are just a few of the Dutch who have asked me, "When is AWON coming again?"

## Margraten Memorial Center

As of this date, this project has not been finalized. I traveled to Washington, D.C., last July to support the Margraten delegation as they presented this project to members of Congress and the American Battle Monuments

Commission. The delegation was warmly received, but no decision was reached. Of course, we were in the middle of an election year, and I think there will be no decision forthcoming until the new administration is in place. The Dutch are looking for a partnership with the ABMC to build this center. As soon as I hear any positive news that this project is moving along, I'll let you know.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to call me (978)225-8367 or email: dutiem@comcast.net.

Gerry Conway Morenski  
AWON BOD, Margraten Liaison

# AWON Archives Looking For Your Newsclips, Manuscripts

by Ann Whelan O'Connor

**D**id you know that AWON has an archives? Whether you did or not, here's the details:

The intent and purpose of the AWON Archives is to collect and preserve newspaper and magazine articles about our fathers or grandfathers. These articles also serve to chronicle the impact on the lives of children left fatherless as a result of the Second World War.

This collection is primarily intended as an historical, archival record about our fathers' service and sacrifice, presented in newspaper and

magazine articles. The goal is the preservation of those in-print accounts for future generations. Members' personal accounts may be submitted also.

The strong preference is that articles be submitted in original form. Articles should be cited correctly with the name of the publication, date and page number. When original clippings cannot be produced, the second best submission is a photocopy. Least desirable

is an online printout.

If you have, or will have an article appearing in the news media, please consider sending a copy, most preferably an original copy, to the AWON Archives. You may mail materials to: Ann Whelan O'Connor, 5712 Sunset Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46228. For more information about what the AWON Archives preserves or how to submit material, my email always is on the back cover of *The Star*: awolaojr@earthlink.net.

To those of you who have made submissions of your newspaper or magazine articles, thank you again on behalf of the AWON Archives.



## 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 406/721-6775.

**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.



# List Tips & Topics

News, stories and information found on the AWON ListServ by Rosalie Francisco



## *Battle of Tarawa Remains Found*

Patty Temte sent this link for an article about the discovery of remains for 139 marines and sailors who were lost in the 1943 Battle at Tarawa: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/war/article916251.ece>.

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## *National Infantry Museum to Open*

Janice Ott Buterbaugh reports a new National Infantry Museum is being built at Ft. Benning, Georgia. "It will be fantastic. The building will be 190,000 sq. ft. and will have an IMAX theater, cafe, gift shops, etc. The grounds will be called Patriot Park with a Walk of Honor. They expect many military units to move their monuments to the new site." The museum is expected to open in March 2009. The website is: <http://www.nationalinfantryfoundation.org>. Click on Infantry Museum on the left.

Victor Muller adds, "The existing museum is a very interesting place with lots of material and artifacts. Outside there are many WWII Army division, regiment and smaller units that have installed monuments, like my brother's 80th Infantry Division. All of the veterans are excited about the new museum. When completed it will be a very impressive complex."

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## *Camp Fannin Newsletter Available*

Tom Feltz has a copy of the January 14, 1944, *Fannin the Breeze* newsletter from Camp Fannin, Texas. He is willing to email a pdf to anyone whose dads went through or were stationed there at that time.

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## *HBO TV Series on The Pacific in WWII*

Nick Mott found this website about HBO's *The Pacific*, a WWII television drama minise-

ries under development: <http://www.pararesearchteam.com/ThePacific/ThePacific-Set.html>.

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## *Depression-era Photographs on the Web*

Janice Ott Buterbaugh recommends a collection of photography from the Depression Era: <http://WWW.openmyeyeslord.net:80/ALookBackInHistory.htm>.

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## *WWII Research on the Web*

Nick Mott recommends <http://footnote.com> for its collection of WWII documents and 50,000 pictures. It includes nine million "hero pages" and a way for veterans and their families to add their stories.

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## *Book Recommendation*

Nick Mott recommends the book *Stalag XVIIIB Diary*, which is composed of notebooks written from 1943-1945 and contains Freddie Ward's story of his time in POW camps in Germany.

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## *Mid-Ohio Valley Museum Honoring Veterans*

Beth Marshall Miller says the Mid-Ohio Valley Veteran's Museum in Parkersburg, West Virginia, is sponsoring a veteran's walk in the city park to honor local veterans. They are selling bricks with the veteran's information on them, to be installed along the park walkway. She says anyone with local ties might be able to get an article published in the local newspaper. The museum's website is: <http://www.veteransmuseumofmidohiovalley.com>.

# **WWII Remains Found in Papua New Guinea, Huertgen Forest**

The remains of three U.S. servicemen, one Marine Corps and two Army, missing in action from World War II, were identified recently by the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO).

On January 20, 1944, MAJ Marion R. McCown Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, of Charleston, South Carolina, was the pilot of an F-4U

Corsair aircraft that failed to return from a combat mission over Rabaul, New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

In 1991, a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) team excavated an F-4U crash site in Rabaul and recovered human remains and McCown's identification tag. However, forensic science at that time precluded an identification.

In 2006, a JPAC team surveyed the crash site in preparation for a recovery. While at the site, a villager living in the area turned over to the team human remains that he claimed to have recovered from the site. In 2008, another JPAC team excavated the site and recovered additional human remains.

McCown was buried in January in Charles-

ton with full military honors.

In November 1944, the 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, was attacking east through the Hürtgen Forest in an attempt to capture the German towns of Vossenack and Schmidt. On November 4, the Germans counterattacked in what would become

...continued on page 7

## **Welcome New Members**

Richard "Dick" Albani, NM, nephew of SIC August Albani, Navy  
Ann Benham, CA, niece of PVT William R. Giles, Army  
Sandra Bonilla, CO, dau of PFC Nicholas L. Bonilla, Army  
Mary Dalrymple Brown, CA, dau of PVT Auston A. Dalrymple, Marines  
Gwenyth Williams Callahan, NV, dau of ISGT Harry B. Williams, Marines  
Pat Rowe Cook, AR, dau of SSGT Carl E. Rowe, Army  
Jacquelyn Emmett, VA, niece of PVT Charles O. Frinks, Army  
Joyce Scully Fitzgerald, IL, dau of CAPT Joseph B. Scully, Army  
Laurence Gionet, FL, son of PFC Lawrence J. Gionet, Army  
Karen Hammerlof, NY, dau of SGT Berto E. Hammerlof, Army  
Charlotte McClure Lowrey, NM, dau of LT Robert F. McClure, AAF  
Richard Medina, TX, son of ILT Joe B. Medina, AAF  
Bobby Wheeler Odom, TX, son of SGT Hubert D. Wheeler, AAF  
Stacy Morris Roberts, FL, dau of LTCOL Morris C. Crossen, AAF  
Alfred Caravito Stokes, NC, son of SSGT Alfred Caravito, Marines  
Paul Miller Trudeau, OR, son of TSGT Paul R. Miller, Army  
William Van Cleaf, MN, son of ILT William L. Van Cleaf, Army  
(new members since the December issue of *The Star*)

## The National World War II Museum New Orleans



A report on AWON's campaign supporting the expansion of the National WWII Museum, formerly the D-Day Museum

by **Chickie Shields Berry**



**T**hank you, fellow AWON members and friends, for your continued support of the National WWII Museum.

According to Terri Burton, Director of Membership and the Patriots Circle for the museum, we have raised a total of \$9,825, including \$2,400 in new brick purchases.

Bricks purchased to date will be laid in the first phase this spring near the new Stage Door Canteen and Theater. The deadline to be included in this first phase was extended to the end of February, so if you purchased a brick recently, it might be installed soon.

Purchasing a brick for the "Road to Victory" is a wonderful way to honor your dad and others who helped win the war. The "Road to Victory" will expand as each

new facility is completed. We realize the bricks are expensive, but I know that many of you will find a way to save a little each week to make your purchase possible. Your purchase is 100% tax deductible.

If you are considering purchasing a brick to honor your dad, please contact me and I will send you a form complete with AWON's official code number, GG001. Please let me know if you want extras to give to friends and family members. I also have membership forms if you are considering becoming a Charter Member of the museum.

Before the end of the year, Bob and I purchased a second brick to honor his Uncle Earl. Uncle Earl is a very quiet, private and unassuming man. He lived with Bob's family a short time after the war and was a wonder-

ful role model for Bobby and his two brothers. He has always been a favorite.

We took the framed confirmation certificate to him last week and he was so pleased and surprised that we would honor his service in this way. He said, "May I help pay for it?" to which I replied, "Uncle Earl, you bought and paid for this a long time ago." It was then that his 90-year-old lip started to quiver and he teared up...and so did I.

Earl's reaction to the certificate and our appreciations of his service made me realize how important it is to recognize not only our fathers for their service, but all the men who served and came home to help re-build America after the war.

Chickie Shields Berry; P.O. Box 1136, Spirit Lake, ID 83869; 208-819-9863; chke-bry@msn.com.

*WWII remains, from page 6*

one of the longest running battles in U.S. history. PFC Julian H. Rogers, of Bloomington, Indiana, and PVT Henry E. Marquez, of Kansas City, Kansas, both members of G Company, 112th Infantry Regiment, were reported killed in action near Vossenack on November 4. Their bodies were not recovered.

In 2007, a German citizen searching for wartime relics in the Hürtgen Forest uncovered human remains and military identification tags for Rogers and Marquez. He notified U.S. officials and a JPAC team excavated the site later that year, recovering human remains and non-biological material.

Rogers will be buried this spring in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and Marquez will be buried in May in Kansas City, Mo.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

# Loss of Mother Gives Daughter Idea to Honor MIA Father and AWON

by Peggy McKain Lockwood

On September 4, 2008, I honored the life of my mother, Lucille M. McKain, and also honored the memory of my father, 2LT Harry N. McKain Jr.

My mother was left a widow after my father, a B-24 Liberator co-pilot, went missing in action on September 28, 1943. She never remarried or gave up hope that he would be found. I was born six months after his plane was lost. My mother lived a very busy, happy life, yet she never had any closure or real answer to what had happened to my father.

I am one of many AWON members who do not have a connection with anyone who has ever served with their father. I have never been able to connect with a reunion group as my father was moved around so much in his rapid training that he never was associated with a group.

Nor do I have a gravesite to visit. My father's plane was one of nine on a ferry mission that left Goose Bay, Labrador, and did not make its final destination in Prestwick, Scotland. As

an MIA, his remains could be in the North Atlantic, in the mountains of Goose Bay, Labrador, or along some refueling route to Prestwick, Scotland. We may

never know.

In addition, I was never able to get the Purple Heart for my mom because I can't prove my father was injured or wounded in a major war campaign. I will never understand how my father is not deserving of a Purple Heart, or how losing your life in the line of duty for your country does not deserve this honor. It is my wish that my father and all those who have lost a loved one in the ferry missions they called "Widow Makers" receive the Purple Heart someday. It is long overdue for us all.

While I was growing up everyone thought my mother was a widowed single mom, but they never realized she was once part of a loving couple. During her hospital stay and towards the end of her life my children and I decided that her visitation and funeral would honor them both. We as a family never had the chance to honor properly my father or say our goodbyes to him.

This was our chance to give him and us what was long overdue.

Also, we knew this would please my mother, and she would have been the first to suggest this.

They were going to be honored together as they should be for their reuniting in heaven.

We put together pictureboards showing them together. Many say they look like they were meant to be in magazines because they were so moving and captivating of the love they had



*Lucille and Harry*

for each other. The pictures of trips to Florida, fishing or posing for each other always show the smiles and love. The few photographs we have showed their love and fun personalities and are truly a gift left behind for all of us to cherish.

I decided to have the visitation memorial cards printed with a picture of each of them. This was going to be the closure for them both as well as for friends and family.

We also created memory tables for them - both full of personal items and favorite mementos. For my father I placed his military photo and his military hat below it. For my mother, who had a lifetime of favorite things, I placed her Cincinnati Reds mementos, a portion of her vast thimble collection and one of her many handmade afghans on display underneath a portrait of her.

Instead of all the donations going to local charities or groups I



*2LT Harry "Gabby"  
N. McKain Jr.*

decided to have AWON be one of the groups that would receive donations. I did this to give back to AWON for all of its support and for giving us orphans an outlet, giving us an extended family, and giving our fallen family members a voice. I hope that others will embrace this concept in efforts to keep our loved ones' memories alive by supporting AWON.

My daughter made a video from all the photos gathered by family members. The video opened with Billie Holiday singing *I'll Be Seeing You* while pictures of each of them, solo and as a couple in their younger years, were cascading by. It was a celebration of their lives.

It showed everyone that her life was once part of a happy couple and that after that loss she stood strong and became the backbone of our family. It showed the many happy years that my mother had with family and friends. It showed her love of family, her uniquely sarcastic wit and humor, and ability to make everyone smile.

All of the family was involved in this memorial and video creation. It became a project of love and unity. My ten-year-old granddaughter said it best when she said we couldn't have done it better and it was perfect.

The local veterans group was contacted about helping us to honor the memory of father and I was fortunate enough for them to perform a military burial service for him at my mother's gravesite. It was



Peggy McKain Lockwood with her mother Lucille M. McKain

a group of 24 veterans complete with a color guard, Taps, presentation of the flag and ten-gun salute, and ended with a bagpiper playing off into the distance.

My mother finally got the send-off for my father that she had deserved years earlier. Much more than the postcard she received to pick up a flag at the post office in honor of my father's service. It indeed was a perfect ceremony for their lives, one that would them both proud, and one that my family was proud to give them.

## Freedom As Art

AWON member Sandra Baker Cardens created *The Price of Freedom*, shown at right, about six years ago, using watercolor, acrylics, crayon, sand and photographs. It measures 14 inches x 19 inches.

"Many of my AWON brothers and sisters will understand the meaning in this very personal creation," she says. In the upper right corner is a photograph of Cardens with her mother and father, torn apart. Farther down on the right is a photograph of her at her father's gravesite when she was about 12 or 13.

"I've been interested all my life in art. My favorite gifts as a child were a set of paints, some paper or canvas and an easel!" she says.

Cardens continues to take classes, especially to learn about various mediums and to try new techniques.

"I do drawings, paintings and some photography and have sold many things over the years (but) I prefer to do it for myself without the pressure of doing it 'for a living.'"



I'd like to close this by adding that I took the verse that was printed on the back of one of the flyers from AWON's National Convention in Washington, D.C. in 2006. I changed it to represent both my father and mother and had it printed on the backside of their memorial cards. It goes as follows:

### *In Their Memory*

...and, when they shall die,  
take them and cut them  
out in little stars.  
And they will make the face  
of heaven so fine,  
that all the world  
will be in love with night.

# 65<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Could Be Last for Veterans

This year marks the 65th anniversary of D-Day. With the youngest D-Day veterans turning 82 this year, organizers believe this could be the last major anniversary observed by D-Day veterans themselves.

With that in mind, The National D-Day Memorial will present a four-day conference and commemoration, *Overlord Echoes*, from June 4-7, 2009, in Bedford, Virginia. *Overlord Echoes* seeks to recognize D-Day veterans, to preserve their stories, and to share the lessons and legacy of their accomplishments.

Here are a few of the events being planned:

## ***Overlord Echoes*, June 4-5**

Activities start with a two-day conference at nearby Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, featuring authors, scholars and veteran speakers on various D-Day topics. Panels include the role of medics at D-Day; women and the war; African-American units in the invasion; journalists' experiences; the ground assault; sea forces: the Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Mariners; and D-Day from the air.

## **Outdoor Movie Night and Canteen, June 5**

The Bedford Welcome Center will host an outdoor movie night with D-Day theme.

The Canteen will offer period refreshments and entertainment.



## **65th Anniversary of D-Day Commemoration, June 6**

D-Day will be observed in a special ceremony at the National D-Day Memorial with honor guard, recognition of veterans, guest speakers, music and more.

## **Remembering D-Day: Nighttime Illumination of the Memorial, June 6**

The 4,400 Allied servicemen killed in action on D-Day will be honored with more than 4,000 luminaries placed around the memorial grounds, fully illuminating the nine-acre facility.

## **AWON Asked to Sponsor Luminaries**

Officials at the National D-Day Memorial have requested AWON's participation in the nighttime illumination of the memorial during the 65th Anniversary of D-Day.

Shannon Brooks, Associate for Research and Publications at the D-Day Museum, is asking AWON to spearhead a drive to place 500 luminaries at the memorial. Several other organizations have been approached as well.

Each luminary is \$20 and will include the name of one Allied serviceman as well as his unit, branch of service and nationality. Luminaries also can be purchased for units, branches of service and states.

Purchasers will receive a keepsake photo of the nighttime illumination on the night of the 65th Anniversary and a letter of thanks. Proceeds from the illumination benefit the 65th Anniversary Commemoration and other educational initiatives at the National D-Day Memorial.

Organizations will receive luminaries at significant savings. Brooks also points out that this is an opportunity for AWON to get publicity.

If you would like to head up this effort on behalf of AWON, please contact Ed Peters at [edpeters2@comcast.net](mailto:edpeters2@comcast.net). For more information about group sponsorships, call (540) 586-3329.

# 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 <b>Lois Brown Klein</b> \$17.00</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>The Ordinary Infrantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again</i> by <b>Imogene Woods</b> and Twelve WWII Infantrymen \$15.00</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search</i> by <b>Mary Lee Coe Fowler</b> \$29.95</p> <p><u>New!</u> <i>Now I Know - A War Orphan's Journey of Discovery</i> by <b>Thomas G. Ratliff</b> \$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 \$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 <b>Clinton Frederick</b> \$26.95</p> <p>____ <i>In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network</i> by Turner Publishing Company Standard Book was \$49.95 <b>SPECIAL \$20.00</b> Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 <b>SPECIAL \$30.00</b></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, forward by <b>Damon L. Gause</b> \$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 <b>Sandra Bonilla Thompson</b> \$23.00</p> <p>____ <i>Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights &amp; Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties</i>, second edition by <b>Ann Bennett Mix</b> \$21.95</p>	<p>____ <i>No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy</i> by <b>Walter Ford Carter</b> \$24.95</p> <p>____ <i>Soldier's Son</i> by <b>Ben McClelland</b> \$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 <b>Diana Thompson Dale</b>, niece \$16.95</p> <p>____ <i>Father Found</i> by <b>Duane Heisinger</b> \$13.95</p> <p>____ <i>I Can Hear the Guns Now: A WWII Story of Love and Sacrifice</i> by <b>Thomas G. Ratliff</b> \$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 <b>Huey Tyra</b>, nephew \$19.95</p> <p>____ <i>For Those Who Love, Time Is Not</i> by <b>Kay Brigham</b> \$30.00</p> <p>____ <i>Lost in the Victory: Reflections of America's Orphans of WWII</i> by <b>Susan Johnson Hadler</b> and <b>Ann Bennett Mix</b> \$32.50</p> <p>____ <i>After the Liberators: A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey</i> by <b>William C. McGuire II</b> \$16.95</p> <p>____ <i>Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific</i> by <b>Michael J. Goodwin</b> \$19.95</p>
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### 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>___ AWON 2004 Conference &amp; WWII Memorial Dedication Special \$15.00</p> <p>___ <i>We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers</i> produced by Patrick Tierney and <b>Terry Boettcher</b> was \$15.00 Special \$10.00</p>	<p>___ AWON 2000 Conference: <i>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 <b>Shawnee Brittan</b> \$30.00</p> <p>___ <i>The War in Europe</i> by <b>Shawnee Brittan</b> \$30.00</p>
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### AWON Logo Products

<p>___ *AWON Note Cards with Envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00</p> <p>___ Windbreaker (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>___ Gold Star Crystal Pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00</p> <p>___ Gold Star Crystal Pendant 1 1/2" (40mm) \$20.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!</b></p> <p>___ Gold Star Earrings \$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;"><b>NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!</b></p> <p>___ *AWON Lanyard and Name Tag/Ticket Holder (4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00</p>
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AWON Gold Star Crystal Pendant (no chain included):

### 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](http://www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html)

*Baker, from front page*

"One hour later, he was dead." (How I found that out is a previously told story.) He reminded some 150 association members and friends that they must never forget the Americans who left their homes and families to liberate their country.

Then, Jerome looked to the future by introducing three World War II orphans: an American (me); a German, Elmar Diez; and a French woman, Charlotte Fass-Goldberg. We shook hands and embraced. This was a surprise to the crowd, but not to us. Jerome had already contacted each of us privately to ask if we were willing to meet in reconciliation. Also, he arranged a private dinner meeting between myself and Elmar and his wife the night before the ceremony. I felt a little shy about meeting Elmar, wondering what I would say to an orphan whose father had been killed by my father's division. Elmar admitted to some hesitation as well. He knew I had been close to my father and mourned an actual person. He was only one when his father was sent to France, and three when he died. "Father" was more of an abstract figure for him, imagined from his mother's conversation and letters. We both thought retracing our fathers' last days would bring them more into our lives.

After Jerome had "introduced" us over the Inter-

net, Elmar and I agreed that there were so many parallels in our lives that we should meet. Fortunately, my trip was already planned for a time when Elmar could visit Lorraine, although his twin brother and older brother were unavailable.

My father had been buried in Andilly Cemetery when it was an American provisional cemetery. Later, my father was reburied in his hometown of Oklahoma City. Andilly Cemetery then became the German cemetery where Elmar's father was reburied. Both of us had accompanied grieving mothers when they decorated their husbands' graves and wondered "what happened." We both had studied French with goals of using the language to research our fathers' deaths. As it turned out, I did not discover the circumstances of my father's death in France, but in the papers of the 134th Regiment in the Nebraska Historical Society Archives. However, Elmar learned about the battle in which his father died from a copy of Leclerc's book on the battle at Flavigny Bridge. French was our only common language, so we used it in our conversation. But it was also useful because of the neutrality it brought to our meeting.

The delicacy of our rapprochement was generated by the circumstances of our fathers' deaths. We knew that Elmar's father was killed by my father's regiment during the Fla-

vigny Bridge battle, The Germans killed so many members of Co. F of the 134th Regiment that a large infusion of replacement troops was needed the next day. My father was one of those replacement troops. I always wondered, "If he hadn't been in Co. F of the 134, what might have happened?"

I'm sure Elmar was as relieved as I was that our fathers' times in their respective units did not overlap. Still, our conversation was rather awkward during our first meeting. We spoke some of our orphan experiences and more of our families and our mutual interest in music.

I have memories lurking in the back of my head. I recall the Pearl Harbor broadcast and how we were taught to hate "the Krauts and the Japs." During the dinner that followed the medal ceremony, one of the French Resistants wondered, "How COULD you shake his hand?" My protestations that Elmar was only three when his father died, and much more innocent than I of partaking in the war effort fell on deaf ears. If he had been old enough to have been a Hitler Youth, I would have had a much harder time giving him a handshake and a hug.

The third orphan could have had problems accepting us both. Charlotte is a French Jew who had lost most of her family in Auschwitz. She survived because she was hidden in

a French Catholic family during the war and forced to deny her heritage. She admits that she has not finished her mourning. She cannot bear to travel to Germany or study the language. But, she has made her pilgrimage to Auschwitz. She has also written several books. She has detailed her personal history in *La Guelph (The Wasp)*, published by La Dragonne ([www.edition-sladragonne.com](http://www.edition-sladragonne.com)). She also has written about Jewish emigration to Nancy in the years 1870-1945 and interviewed the Jews who survived their deportation from Nancy. Her late husband Barnard assisted her in her documentations. He was evacuated to the south of France during WWII. He spent some time in Israel before he returned to France and married his childhood friend, Charlotte. They created a welcoming home that served as a "little United Nations" of artists and students and looked to the future while documenting the past.

I was a little surprised when newspaper coverage included me in the message that, "We are all Europeans now, and must look to the future." I never feel anything but American when I go on a pilgrimage to retrace my father's steps. However, I certainly always look to the future, in hopes that some day there will be no need for war orphans' organizations.

I reflected a long time  
...continued on page 14

## 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  
June Issue is  
May 1**

## AWON Remembers Those Who Have Joined Fathers

*The Star* wishes to acknowledge the recent passing of several orphans, mothers, and an orphan spouse.

AWON member Tony Chiarello, 65, passed away December 5, 2008. He is survived by his wife, three children, a brother, and several grandchildren.

Karen Ann Playne Whitney passed away December 27, 2008, in New York. She is survived by a half-brother, a companion, and several friends. She was the daughter of PFC Everett Earl Playne.

Calvin Rorrer informed AWON of the sudden passing of his wife, Freeda, on January 10, 2009.

We also learned of the passing of member Judy Underwood's

mother on December 31, 2008, in South Carolina.

And many were saddened to hear of the January 4, 2009, passing of Josephine "Mama Jo" Stanek, mother of member Dave Stanek.

*Baker, from page 13*

before choosing symbolic gifts to take to the orphans' meeting. Finally, I selected pins depicting the Survivor Tree of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in my hometown has become a memorial focus for all the innocent victims of war, terrorism or hate crimes. Paraphrasing the memorial's statement of purpose, I believe three orphans were damaged and changed forever, but determined to go on.

I had hoped to continue my exchanges with my fellow orphans after returning to the United

States. However, I have received no responses to my messages. Charlotte's husband died in the fall, leaving her overwhelmed with grief. Perhaps Elmar has decided it is better not to dwell on being a WWII orphan. I cannot imagine he would have a happier life if he learned more about his father's activities while he was part of the German army in Lorraine.

We war orphans have much in common, but we have many differences. Sometimes, we who are actively involved in research must step back and accept that others will make different choices in dealing with their losses. I believe in always walking through the open door to learn of others' experiences.

During the memorial service at the Tucson conference, I wore my AWON pin, a pin Elmar gave me, and a pin I selected to represent Charlotte. I will always remember that wars create orphans in countries other than my own.

## AWON Gathering

**York, PA  
April 25**

**11:30-3:30  
Hoss' Steak & Sea**

**Details Contact  
Lynne Lecrone  
lynnelec@aol.com**

### AWON Board Business 8 November 2008

The minutes from the November meeting of the AWON Board of Directors were not ready in time for publication. They will be published in the June issue of *The Star*. *Editor*

# 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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 Check the address label below. If it says EXPIRED or INACTIVE you have received a FREE COPY of The Star. Renewal form is on the back of this page. If you change your address please let us know so that you won't miss a single issue or other AWON news.  
 Email: mixmoseslake@aol.com.

## The Star

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