



Father's Death March Discovered in Another Book **Brokaw Book Ends Years of Grief**

by Sondra Braddy Davis



S/Sgt. Lester L. Braddy standing on the wing of his aircraft during his training days.

My dad, S/Sgt. Lester L. Braddy, was from Byron, Illinois, and enlisted in the Army Air Forces on October 5, 1938, at Rantoul, Illinois. He studied airplane mechanics and instrument work and completed an advanced course at Sperry Aeronautics School in Brooklyn, New York. When he met my mother he was stationed at Hunter Field at Savannah, Georgia, with the 48th Materiel Squadron, Air Force Combat Command. He was 22 years old and my mother was 26 years old. Mother was divorced with a three-year-old son, Doug. My dad had never been married.

Mother met my dad when he visited her hometown - Morton, Mississippi - in December 1940. He came with a friend from Morton who also was stationed in Savannah. Mother said it was love at first sight, and on their second date, May 1, 1941, they were married. They returned to Savannah uncertain of what their future together would hold.

In a letter to his parents postmarked October 21, 1941, my dad wrote:

I was figuring on coming North this Fall to see my beloved folks. But Uncle Sam threw a monkey wrench into the machinery and I won't be able to make it. We have received orders to depart from Savannah the 16th of Oct. for some tropical island

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Ninth National Conference in November AWON Sets Sail to Annapolis

The Chesapeake Bay and all things naval await AWON members at the 2010 National Conference, November 12-14, in Annapolis, Maryland.

This year's theme is the Joy of AWON, in which we will celebrate our fathers instead of mourn them. The theme also reflects the special bonds that WWII orphans have with each other, and how AWON has made it possible for many members to discover their fathers. The three-day conference will be held at the Doubletree Inn in the historic and seaside capital city of Annapolis. The hotel is within walking distance or a short taxi ride to the old city where there is abundant shopping, eating and sightseeing opportunities.

Conference co-chairs Bob Meek and Millie McConnell Cavanaugh have tried to make this a relaxing conference. "This will be an informal easy-going conference, with plenty of time for AWONers to interact, enjoy Annapolis including some great food, and just sort of have a mini-vacation," explains Meek.



courtesy U.S. Naval Academy

"For those of you who have never been to Annapolis, it is a truly beautiful seaside town, with lots of sailboats, seafood and for our Navy members, the United States Naval Academy."

The conference begins Friday evening with an ice breaker. There will be music from the 1940s to the 1960's. With hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar it's the perfect time to unwind from a day of travel and re-

connect with friends and meet new people. Dinner is on your own.

Breakfast Saturday morning is on your own, followed by Sharing Circles. In Sharing Circles, members are divided into small groups with similar interests (navy, infantry, Pacific Theater, for example). A facilitator gets the conversation started and helps to keep it focused. Members share what they want to share about themselves, their fathers, and orphan-related issues. This event is very popular, allowing individuals to speak more openly, but in a small setting, about whatever they want.

Lunch is on your own, followed by a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy, including Bancroft Hall where several

members' fathers are memorialized. After the Naval Academy the group will go to the Annapolis National Cemetery for a memorial service. Saturday evening and night are open for dinner, shopping and more sightseeing.

Sunday morning breakfast is on your own,

First Timers Eligible for Conference Assistance

This year, members who have never attended an AWON national conference can apply for financial assistance.

The Mama Jo Memorial Fund is in memory of Josephine C. "Mama Jo" Stanek, widow of PFC Aloysius A. Stanek.

"She was a huge supporter of AWON and of me in my search for my father," explains her son, Dave Stanek. "Mom attended four or five conferences starting in 1996 and was known as 'Mama Jo' to many members. The war orphans were like all of her own children and she spoke of them often. All the residents of her nursing home knew about AWON and Jo's kids."

After her passing in January 2009, Stanek established the memorial fund to help members attend their first

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...Mama Jo, from page 3

AWON conference. The 2010 Annapolis Conference is the first conference for which funds are available.

Funds will be awarded based on the size of the fund, the number of applications, and recommendations by the fund committee. The committee consists of Sam Tannenbaum, Gerry Morenski and Diane Baczynski, with Stanek as chair.

Applicants should submit the following information by e-mail or snail mail, preferably e-mail, to Stanek at davestanek@att.net, or at 918 E. Winfield Pl., Appleton, WI 54911-1526. Please put "Mama Jo Awards" on the subject line, and include:

- Name, address, email, and phone number
- How long a member of AWON
- Reasons for never attending a conference
- Why you want to search for your father
- A description of your search so far, why you want this award, and what you hope to accomplish

Applications are due by August 1. The committee will review all applications and make a recommendation to Stanek.

...conference, from page 3

followed by the AWON general meeting and installation of the new Board of Directors. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon there will be several speakers.

The culmination of the conference will be the banquet Sunday evening, which will include the missing man table, awards, and the first presentation of the Jack Forgy Distinguished Service Award. Departure is Monday.

When not out on the town members are encouraged to hang out in the AWON Hospitality Room where there will be plenty of snacks and

drinks, the AWON Bookstore for perusing and purchasing AWON merchandise, member memorabilia, AWON's Fathers Albums, and much more.

Rooms are \$109 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy. To make reservations call the Doubletree Inn at Annapolis at (800) 266-7631 or (410) 224-3150. Mention the AWON conference to get this rate.

The closest airport is Baltimore Washington International (BWI). The conference co-chairs are working on arranging shuttle service from the airport to the hotel.

The conference registration form is on page 2.

Dog Tags Returned to Reuter Family

The March 2010 issue of *The Star* featured an article about Nancy Fraker's quest to identify the remains of her uncle, S/Sgt. Raymond "Carlyle" Blanton (*Niece Close to ID'ing Uncle's Remains*).

Within that story was another story of how Nancy discovered a monument on the spot where another soldier's dog tags were found in 2004 in the Huertgen Forest. Pvt. Walter H. Reuter belonged to the same company as Blanton, and both are listed as missing on the same Morning Report.



Fraker wondered if Reuter's family knew about the monument and the dog tags.

"I found Reuter's son on the Internet, who had little to no information about his father," Fraker states. Fraker sent Walt Reuter III information about his father, and pictures of the monument and dog tags.

And this May, Reuter's son received the dog tags from the German citizen who found them.

"Even though remains have not been found, (Walt) and his siblings... have their father's dog tag after 66 years," Fraker says. "I'm proud to have played a small role in the return of Pvt. Reuter's tag, and over the last two years have found a wonderful friend in Walt Reuter III."

Chance Meeting Leads to Memorial Marker, More

Business Flight Alters Course for McTolf Son

by Kathy Le Comte

Rarely does business travel change one's future.

I was flying home to Springfield, Illinois, from the 2006 National AWON Conference in San Antonio, Texas. On my flight to St. Louis, Missouri, I sat next to a quiet gentleman. During most of the flight we kept to ourselves, reading and otherwise minding the passage of time.

I don't remember how or why, but about 30 minutes before landing the man and I started talking. He was returning home to Hannibal, Missouri, following a business trip. I said I was heading home, too, from a conference for World War II orphans. I explained my grandfather was killed in World War II.

You would have thought time stopped.

As I remember it, John simply said, "My father was killed in World War II, also."

I talked about AWON and my family's World War II story. John listened and told me a little about his story. By the time we were walking down the jetway, he was emotional. The Reservoir of Sadness - the term AWONer Roger Connor has coined for a "lake" of melancholy just below his consciousness - finally overflowed. I felt bad, but I hoped



2LT John C. McTolf

it would lead to something good. And it did.

John is John McTolf, and he joined AWON. After several years of reading letters by and requesting documents about his father, 2Lt. John C. McTolf, this past March John had a Veterans Administration memorial marker installed for his father at the family's Arkansas cemetery.

"I have never forgotten you and will never forget the comfort and solace you provided me at our chance meeting," John, who now lives in Texas, wrote to me in a recent email. "Since then, a whole new world has opened up for me. The information that I've requested and received regarding my dad's military service could fill up a file cabinet."

McTolf was born in Kentucky on March 10, 1923. After graduating high school in

1940 he joined the Army Air Corps and began training as a pilot.

John's research uncovered at least two interesting facts. One was about his father's date of birth.

"I thought it was just a typographical error," John said about the birth discrepancy. "However, his sister clarified to me that he had 'lied' about his age so he could join the Army Air Corps. When the Army found out about the false entry on his enlistment papers, and since he had already received his wings, they said to just 'forget it' and didn't boot him out."

The other inconsistency was about his father's date of death. He was killed in a crash just after take-off on a mission from North Africa to France to deliver cargo. He had been in Africa for only a few days. One of the accident reports stated that McTolf died March 14-15.

"Now, how can a person die two different days?," John wondered.

The B-26 took off at 11:30 p.m. The flight lasted less than five minutes.

"Because of the location of the crash, and the fact that the ambulance was coming from Casablanca, the crew

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At Overseas & Spirit of '45 Events ***AWON Marks Largest Memorial Day Ever***

AWON has participated in Memorial Day activities for many years, but this year may be the biggest one yet.

Almost 50 AWONers and 60 guests traveled to Europe for the Memorial Day holiday to lay wreaths and honor their fathers who are buried at the American cemeteries at Margraten, Henri-Chapelle and Ardennes. The trip started with a gift from the Margraten Adoption Committee, and expanded to the other cemeteries. More on this AWON history-making trip will appear in the September issue of *The Star*, as well as coverage of AWON's wreath layings at other overseas and national cemeteries.

And AWON was busy on the homefront as well, joining *Spirit of '45* in Memorial Day weekend activities in the nation's capital.

Spirit of '45 is a nation-wide effort to commemorate the end of World War II, to preserve our nation's memories of the end of the war, and to inspire national service. AWON is one of their national partners.

The Memorial Day weekend began with "A National Salute to the Gold Stars of WWII" on Friday at the National World War II Memorial, with remarks by AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix. Members of *Bugles Across America* then played Taps in more than 100 cities across the country in tribute to the 400,000 men and women who gave their lives during WWII, and to honor the sacrifices of their families.

On Monday, AWON members again gathered at the war memorial for a *Spirit of '45* rally to gather support for its push for a Na-

tional Day of Remembrance to commemorate the end of the war, and to place flowers in wreaths in honor of our fathers.

And later Monday, AWON and *Spirit of '45* marched in the Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C., carrying photos of AWON fathers. The roughly two-foot-by-four-foot photos are the same photos that have been displayed at national AWON conferences since 2004. Mix rode down Constitution Avenue before 300,000 expected spectators with *Spirit of '45* spokesmen, WWII Marine and actor Hugh O'Brian, and WWII icon Edith Shain (the nurse in the famous "Times Square Kiss" photograph).

These Washington, D.C., events were coordinated by AWONers Phyllis Louis and Ed Peters, with the assistance of Rondy Elliott, Bob Meek and many others.

But now that Memorial Day has passed, attention once again will turn towards *Spirit of '45*'s major initiative to designate the second Sunday in August a National Day of Remembrance of the end of World

War II. This year is the 65th anniversary of the end of the war (August 14).

AWON members are asked to write or email their Congressman to ask them to co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 226. You can read the language of the bill, see a sample letter, and find your Congressman's contact information by following this link: <http://www.spiritof45.org/bill>

You also can see who the current co-sponsors are. If your Congress representative isn't listed, please consider writing or emailing



To get involved, contact
Barry Barr-Finch at:
barrfinch@clearwire.net.

WWII Vet to Read Unopened Letter to Brother at Margraten

One of the more than 100 travelers heading to Europe on Memorial Day as part of the AWON delegation is World War II veteran Walter Steinsiek. He will visit the grave of his brother, Pfc. Henry Steinsiek, at Margraten for the first time. He also will read to his brother an unopened letter from their mother.

"While I was looking for the photo of my brother, Henry, through a box of stuff my mother saved, I discovered a letter to my brother from our mother dated April 16, 1945, that was returned to her with the word "DECEASED" and unopened," Walter explained in an email to Gerry Morsenski, who is coordinating the trip. "My mom saved it among lots of opened letters

from Henry and (me) who at the time was serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Emotional as it will be, I plan to open and read the unopened letter to Henry at his gravesite on Memorial Day.

"I have no idea what my mom has written in this well-sealed letter to him."

Three days after writing her letter to Henry, the Steinsiek brothers' mother received a telegram on April 19 that Henry was killed in action on April 8.

"I can't believe that letter was in my mother's box of pictures and other letters that were opened and read," Walter continues. "She probably did not believe that he was deceased and saved it, hoping it was a mistake and he would be coming home."

them to support HCR 226.

AWON also has been very active at other *Spirit of '45* rallies across the country and attending performances by *In the Mood*, another national partner, to share stories about themselves and their fathers.

AWONers Roger Connor and Sharon Crowley Connor have taken charge of such activities in southern California, including Memorial Day activities in San Diego. And Chickie Shields Berry and Mix attended an *In the Mood* performance in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, this spring and spoke about AWON and their fathers. More events are planned around the country this summer.

More information about upcoming *In the Mood* performances, supporting HCR 226,

and pictures and information about AWON's role in *Spirit of '45*, can be found on the AWON website at: <http://www.west-point.org/family/awon/spirit/>

Members speaking at a *Spirit of '45* event can request an

AWON Packet containing two AWON buttons to wear and 50 bookmarks & 25 brochures to hand out

Contact Walt Linne at wlinne@iupui.edu

Sign Up for Navy Log E-newsletter

Those who are interested in all things Navy will want to sign up for the Navy Log.

The Navy Log is a series of free e-newsletters for anyone interested in the U.S. Navy, whether it be aviation, submarines, surface ships, or other Navy commands and groups. Subscribers can choose what communities to join for articles, website links, reunion dates and more.

For details, see <http://navylogcommunity.org/Home/SubscribetoaNavyLogCommunityNewsletter/tabid/84/Default.aspx>

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



Members from South Carolina met at The Sea Captain's Restaurant in Myrtle Beach in April. "The food was good and lots of yapping going on," noted Judith Underwood. "The restaurant is right on the ocean and this was one gorgeous day. The sea was as smooth as a mill pond." No one brought a camera, but we are happy to mention that in addition to Underwood those present included Jim Copeland and wife, Merrilee, and his mother-in-law; Jo Connor and husband, Ralph; and Joan Miller and husband, Bob. *Judith*

There were two gatherings held in York, Pennsylvania, this past April. On April 10, coordinator Lynne Lecrone met with Connie and Phil Yucka. Connie's father is buried in Margraten, and she and her husband will travel to Margraten with an AWON group on Memorial Day to visit her father's grave for the first time. "It was a delightful afternoon getting to know another orphan and her husband," Lynne says.

A week later, 14 orphans and eight spouses from Oklahoma, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania met for the annual AWON gathering. Andrea Gilbert Shreves is a new member, who found out about AWON at the Reading, Pennsylvania World War II Weekend last year. "It was a delightful afternoon of eating and sharing stories about our fathers and AWON, and all too soon it was time to say our good-byes with the hope of another gathering before too long," stated Lynne. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Carla Sue Holcomb, Caroline Jackson, Andrea Shreves, Maggie Fenstermacher, Donna Allen, and Jeanne Rhinehart. In the back row are Janice Buterbaugh, Rusty Lerch, Lynne Lecrone, Donna Pressley, Doris Portley, Norm Burkey, Ken Sills, and Ed Peters. Spouses attending were Dick Allen, Mary Burkey, Tom Holcomb, Sandy Lerch, Pat Peters, Ed Portley, Ronald Shreves, and DeLores Sills. *Lynne*

Krul Tells Father's Story in Michigan

AWONer Bill Krul gave a one-hour PowerPoint presentation on the family and military history of his father, S/Sgt. William J. Krul, titled, "A Son's Story: A Father's Military History," to the Macomb County (Michigan) Genealogical Group in Mt. Clemens in February.

S/Sgt. Krul was with the 103rd Infantry Division, 409th Infantry, Regt. K, and was KIA on December 19, 1944.

"The program went over extremely well," Bill reports. "(I) got lots of great feedback from the attendees."

One of those in attendance was fel-



Bill Krul and Kathy Becker

low AWONer Kathy Becker Light of East China Township, Michigan, and her husband, Jim.

"Oddly enough, Jim remembers me when I worked in St. Clair County," Bill adds. "I was a commander in the Sheriff's Department. I retired in April of last year. He was on the township board when I gave a presentation to them."



In February the SoCal Regional Group held its sixth get-together in Lake Elsinore, California, near San Diego, at the Lone Star Steakhouse. Nine members and guests attended, two for the first time. Each orphan shared briefly about his or her dad. The two first-timers expressed pleasure at the informal setting for talking about their dads. Sadly, we were without Anne Shaules, who passed away since our last get-together. Pictured left to right are Bob and Linda Porter, Patrick Byrne, Ann Pogue, Sharon Connor, Rita Blair, Ann's guest Molly McKiechan, and Barbara and Dick Swenson. *Sharon*



In early May members from Washington State got together at the home of Barry Barr-Finch for a Sunday lunch. It was a small group because several members were traveling to Europe early for Memorial Day. Pictured from left are Shirley Santini, Mary Kenny, Barry Barr-Finch, Judi Kramer, and Kathey Ames. Kathey brought along her high school annual. She and Barry are both pictured in it, but they didn't know each other. *Barry*

AWON Bookstore Special Offer!



AWON Button
\$3 - p/h included

AWON Pin
\$10 - p/h included



Gold Star pin
*\$5 - p/h included

not actual size

**Or Purchase All Three
For Just \$15 - P/H Included!**

* Note: The Gold Star lapel pin is furnished by the U.S. Government, without cost, to the widow, parents, children and siblings of a member of the Armed Forces who died while in active military service. Instructions for receiving your Gold Star lapel pin can be found in *Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights & Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties*, by Ann Bennett Mix. However, if you wish to purchase this Special Offer and you have not received a Gold Star pin from the government, the first Gold Star pin will be free. Additional Gold Star pins are \$5 each. Please indicate total number of pins on the AWON Bookstore order form on page 14. These Gold Star pins were donated by AWONer Kathey Ames. Quantities are limited.

...Davis, from front page

and I am just plain heartsick but can't do anything about it...

We are leaving this evening at 6:05 by troop train for San Francisco, Calif. and from there we go by boat to the Philippine Islands, as far as I can find out. I have been dreading to write you all as I just hated to think that I was going and tried every way possible to get out of it but just "no soap".

My mother and brother moved back to Morton to live with my maternal grandparents.

I was born April 7, 1942. My father never knew of my birth; all of my mother's telegrams and letters were returned due to the Fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

On a telegram dated December 29, 1942 my mother and grandparents were informed that my dad was a prisoner of war. Then almost a year later, on September 12, 1943, we received another telegram that my dad had died on September 7, 1943. This information was obtained from the Japanese government through the American Red Cross. However, this date was later changed by the Department of the Army to August 1, 1942. For approximately a year no one knew that he had died. According to the report he died of malaria.

During the next ten years I remember very few instances of anyone talking about the war or my dad. Occasionally Mother would talk about how much she missed him but never anything about the war and how he died. We continued to live with my grandparents in Morton while Mother worked at a cafe, a dime store, and later a bank. Mother never remarried.

In January 1952, after ten years of persistent communications with the U.S. government and Army, my mother and grandparents

were informed that my dad's body would be transported to Morton for an official military burial service.

I can remember vividly the service at a small cemetery in Morton, a soldier playing Taps, the military gun salute, and the presentation to my mother and me of the American flag that draped the casket.

Now it is the year 2000. I was in California with my husband who was attending a professional meeting when at dinner one night a friend asked if we had read any of Tom Brokaw's books. He had just read *The Greatest Generation Speaks: Letters and Reflections*.

By now he had heard my story about my dad, and because I was very emotional and frustrated over my feelings about the war and his death he offered to send me a copy.

Brokaw's book changed my life forever. It contained letters and reflections from other people to whom I could finally relate. These sons, daughters, sweethearts, spouses and parents shared their real-life experiences and, suddenly, I knew why I had buried my feelings all these years. All my life, I had never known another child or family that had a similar experience. It was painful to read, and it took several months to



Lester and Erma Braddy

finish.

Then later that year, the librarian at the public library in Morton called me. She said that several months before a man from Renfrew, Pennsylvania, donated a book he had written, *Oh God, Where Are You?*, to the library in memory of my dad. Abie Abraham's autobiography about his war experiences includes the Fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942, his time as a POW, and his rescue in 1945. Abraham was on the death march with my dad, and was with him when he died.

The book relates many graphic and painful memories of the Death March and Abraham's life in prison camps. Amazingly, he was able to keep precise records of people's names,

ranks and units; where they were from; family names; and in many cases, the exact date, time and place they died. It was very difficult to read. However, late one night I read on page 98 the following:

Lester Braddy was the lookout man. As Father Talbot was praying, Lester would glance at the holy man for a few seconds, then he would gaze out the window. It's a wonder that he didn't get a stiff neck.

And another meaningful quote:

Lester Braddy, who was sitting with us, said, "I sure miss my beloved Erma, and can't wait to get back to her and the rest of the family."

With tears of excitement and joy I now knew someone who was with my dad and who experienced the same loneliness, despair, and unbelievable hopelessness my dad must have felt. How very special Abie Abraham is to me. I just wish I had known him 50 years ago. How different my life could have been.

Finally, I have been able to read the complete file my grandmother shared with me shortly before her death in 1972. When my grandmother first gave me these papers it was so traumatic for me to read that I just filed them away without ever reading them completely. However in these documents was a letter that was written by T/Sgt. F.D. Lane, dated April 10, 1949, from Las Vegas Air Force Base, who was in prison with my dad:

Your son Lester and I were in the same organization from October 1940 until the Fall of Bataan April 9, 1942. He was thoughts lots of as he was a good worker and could always be depended on. We were in the same platoon during the months we fought as infantry in the Philippine Islands.

After the Fall of Bataan I did not see him again until after we had survived the death march to Camp O'Donnell. Therefore we were weakened and starving at the time of surrender; so the death march was just

about the finish for all who were on it.

The Japs moved us to Cabanatuan June 1942. The death rate was terrible so Lester was taken sick about July 4, 1942 and died July 10. I talked with him the day before he passed away, he had no fear of death, but of course he hated to leave his wife and parents.

He was buried at Cabanatuan Cemetery in a group, the graves had markers last time I saw them July 4, 1944.

Remember that God took him out of his suffering, and those of us who survived are affected in more than one way.

*Sincerely yours,
Duwitt*

His letter gave some crucial names of the prison camps my dad was in and the exact date of his death. However this date is not the same as the one given by Abie Abraham, nor the one the U.S. government provided us. And I wonder if my grandparents ever replied to Lane.

Along with this file, one of the most significant possessions I have is my father's letters to my mother. He wrote about the baby she was carrying and the love he had for my mother and me. I was never able to completely read all the letters and telegrams until I read the books.

And fortunately, I do have happy memories of my childhood that directly relate to my dad. I have vivid memories of riding the train from Jackson, Mississippi, to Chicago every summer to visit my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Also, my dad told Mother before he was deployed that if he did not make it back that she should buy me a piano on my sixth birthday and give me lessons. He came from a family who played many different musical instruments and loved to sing and play together. Mother fulfilled this request in 1948 when she purchased my piano. I took lessons until I graduated from high school in 1960.

Still, I cannot imagine the many months my mother and grandparents went to sleep wor-

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Book on Those Buried Overseas Due in June

Several years ago Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons, USA (Ret.), asked AWON members to contribute their stories for a book about World War II veterans buried or listed on the Walls of the Missing overseas. The AWON response was excellent. Col. Lyons worked with more than 25 families, and now he is about to publish *If These Stones Could Talk*.

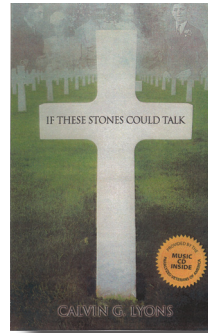
During more than five years of research Col. Lyons visited all World War II American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries except for the ones in Great Britain, North Africa, and the Philippines.

The 255-page book with many photographs has received positive comments by several distinguished military officers, including Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr., USMC (Ret.), a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1991 to 1995.

"Counter to the title, Colonel Lyons has given voices to the headstones of those heroes and ordinary soldiers about whom he writes," Mundy states. "The lives they might have had may never be known to us, but who they were and what they did comes alive through

the author's tireless research and moving accounts."

Admiral Stanley R. Arthur, USN (ret.), commander of Allied Naval Forces during Operation Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991, states simply, "A book that should be in every high school and public library."



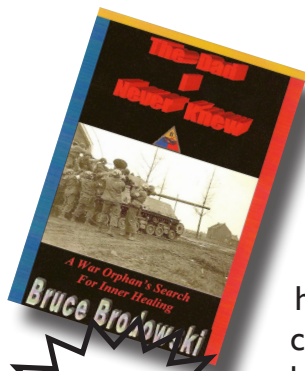
If These Stones Could Talk is expected to be published by mid-June with a projected price of \$28. Lyons will donate one dollar of every book sold to AWON and one dollar to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). PVA is donating a patriotic music CD for inclusion in each copy of the book. It will be available through the AWON Bookstore.

In 2008 Lyons took second place in the Military Order of the World Wars' Vice Admiral George C. Dyer Magazine Award for his article *Heroes Among Us*, published in the May 2008 issue of *Officer Review* magazine.

Lyons plans to attend the 2010 AWON National Conference in Annapolis and is looking forward to meeting some of the families who contributed their stories for *If These Stones Could Talk*.

The Dad I Never Knew: A War Orphan's Search for Inner Healing

by Bruce Brodowski



\$14.99

2Lt. Ed Brodowski was a tank commander in the 8th Armored Division. He was killed in action in March 1945 near the German town of Rocklinghausen.

Bruce Brodowski was born three months after his father's death. His mother died in 1955, after which he was raised by an aunt and uncle. *The Dad I Never Knew* explores the war through his father's service and his parents' love story. The book also includes stories about other 8AD men, their voyage to England, the battle at Roermond-Linne-Heide Woods, the crossing of the Rhine, and other 8AD events.

The Dad I Never Knew can be purchased through the AWON Bookstore and at angelfire.com, catawbapublishing.com, and now, amazon.com



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

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

<u>New! The Dad I Never Knew: A War Orphan's Search for Inner Healing</u> by Bruce Brodowski	\$14.99	<u>Touchstones: A Guide to Records, Rights & Resources for Families of American World War II Casualties, second edition</u> by Ann Bennett Mix	\$21.95
<u>New! Farebersville 1944</u> by Jeff Wignall	\$18.95	<u>No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy</u> by Walter Ford Carter	\$24.95
<u>A Soldier's Daughter</u> by Lois Brown Klein	\$17.00	<u>D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History</u> by Jerome J. McLaughlin	\$25.00
<u>The Ordinary Infantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again</u> by Imogene Woods and Twelve WWII Infantrymen	\$15.00	<u>They Also Served: Women's Stories from the World War II Era</u> by Jeanie Sutton Lambright	hardcover \$35.00 softcover \$24.00
<u>Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search</u> by Mary Lee Coe Fowler	\$29.95	<u>Finding Billy</u> by Diana Thompson Dale , niece	\$16.95
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<u>When Your Number's Up: Meritocracy Goes to War</u> by Raymond S. Ross, PhD. hardcover \$20.00 softcover \$10.00		<u>I Can Hear the Guns Now: A WWII Story of Love and Sacrifice</u> by Thomas G. Ratliff	\$20.95
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<u>In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network</u> by Turner Publishing Company Standard Book was \$49.95 SPECIAL \$20.00 Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 SPECIAL \$30.00		<u>For Those Who Love, Time Is Not</u> by Kay Brigham	was \$30.00 NOW \$16.00
<u>The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial</u> by William Downes	\$24.95	<u>Lost in the Victory: Reflections of America's Orphans of WWII</u> by Susan Johnson Hadler and Ann Bennett Mix	\$32.50
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For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html

McTolf, from page 5

was not pronounced dead until after midnight which would be the 15th," John explained.

John noted that his mother died on March 14, 1994, and he had open heart surgery on March 14, 1997.

John also learned that his father was in his second stint with the Air Corps when he died. He re-enlisted the day after his first stint was completed.

McTolf trained at several bases in the Midwest and South and graduated from Freeman Army Airfield in Indiana, in November 1943. He was assigned to the 335th Bombardment Group (Medium), stationed at Barksdale Field, Louisiana.

McTolf had married Thelma Holthoff in August 1943 after meeting at a USO dance in Stuttgart, Arkansas, in January. Their son, John, was born in June 1944.

In a letter written to his parents in March 1944, the day before his 21st birthday, McTolf wrote, "I will be a man tomorrow." Six days later, he was killed. He is buried at the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial in Tunisia.

John's goal is to visit his father's grave in Africa, and all the places he was stationed stateside. But in the meantime John has the new memorial marker outside Gould, Arkansas.

"The funeral director made all the arrangements through the Jacksonville Air Force

Base near Little Rock," John explained in a letter. "The person in charge said the Air Force would treat this service as if my dad was on active duty, therefore, a full military detail of 21 servicemen and women instead of the customary three made the 200-mile round trip."

The full military service, led by chaplain Capt. Jeffrey R. Scott, was held March 13 -



Above, part of the 21-member honor guard, with seven-member rifle party in the background. Below, the new McTolf memorial marker



in between McTolf's birthday and his date of death.

Scott told John this was the first service he had ever done without a casket. But Scott didn't need a casket to know the man they all were there to honor.

"In reference to my dad saying, "I will be a man tomorrow," Capt. Scott told everyone, "He was already a man," John wrote. "I think

everyone was touched by his statement."

About 30 friends and relatives attended the service. The only person present who had met John's father was John's aunt, his mother's baby sister, who was three years old when McTolf died.

"She met him only once before he went overseas but remembers that he was 'good looking,'" John said.

John is grateful for the turn of events that started on the flight to St. Louis.

"I don't remember being on any course when we met," John told me. His mother had saved all the letters that his father had written her since the first time they met. But John couldn't bring himself to read them until after our meeting. Since then he's also been able to share information with his family - details even his mother didn't know.

"Being able to share this information with my generation-younger cousins about the uncle they know nothing about is a good feeling. I know it had an effect on how they perceive their "Sissy" (my mother) and what she endeavored (and even myself) during those war-torn years.

"(And) Having a marker that I can visit gives me some solace."

I wasn't at the service, but as I explained to John in an email, in a way I was. Our chance meeting led to the memorial marker. I'm glad I was in the right place at the right time.

List Tips & Topics

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



Aircraft Carriers in Color

Jerry Pinkerton recommends these rare WWII color film clips of Aircraft Carriers in action in the Pacific: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dR3h2HdnBQ>

☆☆☆☆☆

gram for Survivors). It's available at newsstands and its website, <http://www.taps.org/>, is full of information and events for the current survivors as well as survivors of all who have served our country.

☆☆☆☆☆

WWII Gold Star Pins

For anyone wanting a World War II Gold Star pin, Kathy Ames discovered an overwhelming supply on e-Bay. In one auction she got five original Gold Star pins in the boxes for \$12. One seller says if you are entitled to wear one (like all orphans are), he will give you a pin! Go to <http://www.ebay.com/> and type in Gold Star pin. (Editor's Note: see ad on page nine to obtain one of these pins through AWON)

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D-Day Pictures

Larry Strother found D-Day pictures at <http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2009/06/05/the-65th-anniversary-of-d-day-on-the-normandy-beaches/>. Patricia Temte adds that at the end of the collection there is a link to photos of the Pacific Theater that may be of interest as well: http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/03/18/captured-blog-the-pacific-and-adjacent-theaters/?source=ARK_plo

☆☆☆☆☆

MIA Listing on Internet

Janice Ott Buterbaugh shares this link for a list of WWII MIAs: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/WWII_MIA/MIA_MAIN.HTM

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Glider Symposium

David Stanek says The 2nd WWII Glider Symposium will be held September 9-11, in Madison, Wisconsin. Veterans, authors, historians, and museum representatives will discuss the manufacture, uses, and restoration of World War II gliders. See: <http://www.2ndwwiiglidersymposium.org/>

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Wreaths Across America

Rosalie Miles Francisco has learned that American Gold Star Mothers (<http://www.goldstarmoms.com/>) and other national military groups and corporations support an organization called Wreaths Across America. WAA lays wreaths at the graves of servicemen at Arlington National Cemetery and at more than 300 locations nationally and 24 overseas. See <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

☆☆☆☆☆

Bill Mauldin Postage Stamp, Article

In March the U.S. Postal Service issued a postage stamp honoring Bill Mauldin, the famous cartoonist of G.I.s in World War II that appeared in *Stars and Stripes*. He passed away in 2003 and was admired and loved by many for depicting "Willie and Joe." Chickie Shields Berry says this article about Mauldin by Bob Greene is worth reading: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/03/07/greene.mauldin.stamp/index.html>

TAPS Magazine

Sharon Crowley Connor recommends the magazine *TAPS* (Tragedy Assistance Pro-

AWON Epinal Friend Autugelle Remembered

by Merrill Baker

I first met Daniel Autugelle in May 2005. We were introduced by Tom Cavaness, Superintendent of the American Cemetery in Epinal, France, where my uncle, Pfc. Norman Baker, rests. I had asked Tom if he knew of a guide who could arrange an excursion for me. One of Tom's co-workers knew of a retired English teacher who was familiar with 79th Infantry Division history. Daniel had illustrated John Sword's book, *Grumpy's Trials*, about Sword's experiences with the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Division, the same regiment to which my uncle was attached.

That year I arrived in France with Lil Holloway, AWON State-side Coordinator for Epinal, to place a wreath for AWON on Memorial Day. Lil's father, Pfc. William A. Reilly, also rests in Epinal. The day before, Daniel and his friend, Jean-Pierre Coquard, gave us a tour of the area around Luneville in Jean-Pierre's restored WWII Jeep, and to the place where my uncle was killed in action in 1944 in the Foret de Parroy.

At the end of the all-day excursion Daniel turned to us and said, "We owe you so much." Lil and I were so moved. Daniel and Jean-Pierre were just children when the Allies liberated France, but the passage of time did not lessen the impact the liberation had on their lives.

I replied that they didn't owe us anything, but we'd be very grateful if they kept the memory of the men alive so that their bravery and short lives were



AWON Friend Daniel Autugelle, with Merrill Baker.

not forgotten. The following year, Daniel became AWON's wreath-layer at Epinal.

When I returned to Epinal last year I met Daniel once again and we took another excursion into the Foret de Parroy with Jean-Pierre. What I didn't know at the time was that Daniel was experiencing a relapse of leukemia, which had been in remission for 13 years.

After I returned home, Daniel and I spoke often in the months that followed this diagnosis, and even more when Daniel was hospitalized while undergoing chemotherapy. Lil sent Daniel copies of *The Star* to read in the hospital.

Daniel did not survive long after the treatment, and my dear friend passed away in the early morning hours of Easter Sunday this year. Gone is a gentle spirit who adored his family, loved God's creatures, enjoyed his rose and vegetable gardens, and appreciated the simple things in life. Daniel was giving of himself and kind and considerate to others. He will be dearly missed.

...Davis, from page 11

rying about whether my dad was hungry, if he was sick, or if he was alive. I thank God every day for helping me to release the emotions I had buried for 50-plus years. I am excited about reading books now, and talking to veterans and former POWs. I finally have closure to the events leading up to the death of my dad. I only wish this had happened many years ago.

I have never doubted that my dad made a big impact on my life through the way my mother and grandparents raised me. It just took someone like Tom Brokaw and Abie Abraham, and even T/Sgt. Lane, to finally unlock the floodgates of grief, frustration and sadness. I now know just how much I miss my father and how I would have loved being his daughter.

Addendum

After writing this article Davis informed me that she met Tom Brokaw in April at the University of Mississippi where he was a guest lecturer.

"When he reached out to shake my hand and the absolute awesomeness of being in his presence (hit me), I lost it and began to cry," she explained. "He then hugged my neck. What a treasured moment for me." K.L.

Welcome New Members

Rosalie Patten Welsh, WV, dau of PFC Ory Sturgis Patten, Army Airborne
Lela Cranfill Roberts, TX, dau of PVT M D Cranfill, Army
Terrance Scheffler, CA, son of PVT Norvin H. Scheffler, Marine Corps
Dean Knudsen, IA, nephew of ILT James H. Knudsen, Navy
Lee (Mayli-Anne) Dungey Waterbury, RI, dau of AMM/IC Kendall L Dungey, Navy
Nancy Crossen Boothe, PA, dau of LTC Morris C. Crossen, AAF
Todd Buckhouse, CO, grandson of ILT Robert H. Roseland, AAF
Cheryl Lirette Clark, NY, dau of 2LT Aubrey H. Lirette, Army
Apryl Burke Graham, WA, dau of PVT Edward J. Burke, Army
Connie Hynoski Yucha, PA, dau of SSGT Benjamin S. Hynoski, Army
Charles Rau, OR, son of 2LT Frederick Rau, Army
Donna L. Chaplin, ME, dau of PFC Dana L. Chaplin, Army
Rosemary B. Foster, WA, dau of LTJG Ross B. Foster, Navy
Susan Kelley Krall, OH, niece of ILT John C. Kelley, AAF
Lee Hillerson, PA, son of PVT Sayre Hillerson, Army

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

Bezjak to Bring Back Uncle's Cup from Luxembourg

At the end of June, AWONer Judy Bezjak will bring home the best souvenir she can think of receiving from a trip to Luxembourg.

Her uncle was Pvt. Tony Ruzich Jr., who died on Christmas morning 1944 with the 80th Infantry Division, 317th Infantry Regiment, Company L, when his unit was locked in a three-day attack on Kehmen, Luxembourg.

Terry Janes, webmaster and historian of the 80th I.D., has been in communication with Jean Muller, a Luxembourg archaeologist who is excavating the battlefields in the area of Kehmen.

In April, Janes contacted Bezjak and told her the archaeologist wanted to talk to

her. Muller wanted Bezjak's uncle's name, company and serial number. Muller has hundreds of battlefield artifacts cataloged, and many of the items either have a name and/or an Army serial number etched on them. Bezjak sent him the information and then received an email from Janes.

Dear Lady,

Please sit down. I have some news. Jean called me, and has found your uncle's canteen cup. It is yours, and Jean wants you to have it. Further, he now knows exactly where your uncle was killed, and how. ... There was pieces of gear from

many GIs in this spot, so your uncle most likely died in a group. The mortar impact crater was about a foot deep, and Jean says it is still visible today. Happy Easter dear friend.

Love, Terry

As it turns out, Bezjak already had planned a trip to Luxembourg in June, including a special tour with Jean to trace her uncle's last steps.

"I still can't believe it! Neither can my 92-year-old mother," Bezjak exclaimed. "She has mourned for her two brothers lost in the war for 65 years, so when I return from Luxembourg I will surely give the canteen cup to her."



Bob Meek, far left, tells the story about the second lieutenant bars that son Bob III and Nancy Meek are pinning on David Meek.

Fourth Meek Earns WWII 2nd Lt. Bars

On May 8, the fourth AWONer Col. Robert H. Meek Jr. (ret.), who had just sworn in David, explains the significance of the pinning to the audience.

The senior Robert Meek was pinned with the bars in August 1943, followed by his son in June 1967, and namesake grandson in May 2005.

David Meek was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

David is pictured above being pinned by his mother, Nancy, and older brother, Capt. Robert Meek III, U.S. Army JAG Corps, while his dad and

"I am very proud of my sons and think my dad would be proud of his grandsons," Bob Meek says.

David will be a Combat Systems Officer which Meek says combines about four jobs into one.

"Navigator is one of those jobs, so he will be a flyer and the bars (will) return to the air via the U.S. Air Force."

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Fatherless Daughters Features AWON Women

AWONer Sandra MacDuffee says a book about fatherless daughters that several members contributed to finally has been published.

"We had not heard anything about the book for quite a while, except that it was taking Pamela longer to write than she had expected," MacDuffee explained. "I recently Googled myself... and I saw my name listed along with information about the book."

MacDuffee quickly ordered the book.

Fatherless Daughters: Turning the Pain of Loss into the Power of Forgiveness, by Pamela Thomas, "Shows how a father's early death or abandonment affects a woman's emotional health and self-esteem, her body image, her sexual experiences, her marriage, her family life, and her career," according to the publisher's description. "Perhaps most important, Thomas offers compassionate advice for coming to terms with father loss, even late in life, from actively mourning, to healing, to starting fresh."

Thomas' story is a personal one, but she intertwines the stories of more than 100 women, some from AWON.

"AWON was prominently mentioned in several chapters, and several AWON members who were interviewed are quoted in the book," says MacDuffee, including Ann Mix, Gloria Layne, Betsey Johnson, and Maggie Malone. She adds, "I love the quote on the inside of the jacket: *People who lose their parents early in life are like fellow war veterans. As soon as they discover that they are talking to someone else who has lost a parent, they know they are speaking the same language without uttering a word.*"

The book is available through publisher Simon & Schuster at <http://books.simonandschuster.com/Fatherless-Daughters/Pamela-Thomas/9780743205573>, and at amazon.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
September Issue
is
August 1**

AWON Ballots Coming by Mail in Aug./Sept.

Watch your mailbox in August and September for your ballot to vote in the 2010 election for AWON's Board of Directors.

Members in good standing (dues paid) will receive a ballot packet containing an introductory letter, candidate biographies, ballot form, and return envelope to return their completed ballot by mail.

Ballots must be returned by the date that will be specified in the ballot packet. After the votes are tallied the results will be announced on the AWON Listserv, the AWON website, and in the next available issue of *The Star*.

The new board of directors will be seated at the national conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in November.

There are nine directors on the AWON board. Directors serve "staggered" four-year terms. Five positions are up for election this year. The next election will be in 2012.

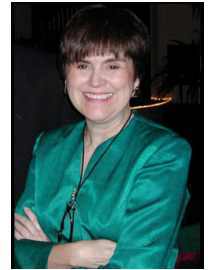
Two AWONers Join Fathers

AWON is sad to report the deaths of two members.

Patricia Ann Wernert, daughter of Bernard Wernert, who was killed in a glider plane in September 1944, passed away on February 19, 2010, following a long battle with metastatic breast cancer that had gone to her brain twice. She was 67.

"She was a fighter, like her father," reports her sister, Mary Ann Smith. "She, like her father, served our country." Wernert served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines from 1964 to 1966.

AWON also regrets to report the passing of member Jackie "Dolly" Zitzman Costa, daughter of William Frederick Zitzman.



Patricia Wernert

AWON Bookmarks Now Available

These durable (14 mil poly) bookmarks have the AWON logo and contact info on the front, and the AWON mission statement on the reverse.

Pass them out, post them on bulletin boards, leave them at the library... even use them as bookmarks!

1 Bookmark - \$1
5 Bookmarks - \$3
10 bookmarks - \$5
postage and handling included

**Order through AWON Bookstore
on page 14**

AWON Board Business
7 November 2009

The Board of Directors met for its required biennial in-person meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. All Directors were present in person or via telephone except **Bob Meek**. Other members present were **Chickie Shields Berry, Stacey Roberts, Walt Linne, Barb Kelly, Gail Eisenhauer** and **Jerry Pinkerton**.

Reports: Quarterly reports were distributed and discussed in a Q&A period.

AWON Budget: The Budget for 2010 was distributed, discussed and approved.

Forgy Award: **Walt Linne** discussed the Jack Forgy Award and reported on his committee's progress.

Purple Heart: Walt would like to petition the federal government to add a gold star to the Purple Heart award for KIAs. The board approved giving its support to Linne's effort.

Nominating Committee: **Judy Hoffman** asked for suggestions to the nominating committee for next year's board elections.

AWON Archives: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** discussed the AWON Archives Project.

Officers: The slate for 2010 AWON Officers was presented and approved. The officers are: President, **Ed Peters**; Vice-President, **Gerry Morenski**; Secretary, **Judy Hoffman**; and Treasurer, **Norm Burkey**.

Next Meeting: The next teleconference board meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is January 17, 2010.

Bonnie Crane Blackford Hellums, Secretary

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

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www.awon.org

AWON Board Business
17 January 2010

Absent: **Norm Burkey** and **Kathy Le Comte** were absent from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: **Norm Burkey** submitted the monthly financial report before the meeting.

AWON Conference: **Bob Meek** reported on the 2010 National AWON Conference.

Nominating Committee: **Ed Peters** reported that he is searching for a chair for the nominating committee.

AWON Database: Ed and **Gerry Morenski** discussed database issues. Gerry and **Ann Mix** will develop a schedule where backups are sent to Gerry on a regular basis. Ann's computer backs up to a disc hourly.

Tax forms: **Judy Hoffman** will check with **Judi Kramer** and Norm (who was not in attendance) to be sure that tax letters were sent out for 2009 for contributions over \$250.

Policy and Procedure Manuals: **Barry Barr-Finch** suggested that the Policy and Procedure manuals may be out of date. Judy will send an updated table of contents to everyone. Each board member will check their book and if anything is missing Judy will email the missing documents.

U.S. Ambassadors: Gerry reported that she will send a letter to the new Ambassador to the Netherlands introducing AWON, and Barry will send a letter to the Philippines ambassador.

Spirit of '45: Ed discussed the Spirit of '45 campaign to make August 14 a holiday in remembrance of the end of WWII. Ed will send information about the project to board members.

Next Board Meeting: The next telephonic meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is March 21, 2010.

Judith Hoffman, Secretary

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

AWON Board Business
21 March 2010

Financial Report: Norm Burkey reported that he is transferring the AWON CD from the Bank of America branch in California to the one he currently uses in Maryland. He also will open another CD. He reported expenses of \$2,000 to seed the conference account and \$800 for the hotel deposit.

AWON Conference: Conference co-chairs Millie McConnell Cavanaugh and Bob Meek reported that they are considering the theme of "Joy in the AWON Family." Work continues on budget, schedule, registration fee, speakers and banquet menu. Millie has lined up volunteers for various areas and is working with the hotel. Dave Stanek chairs a committee to distribute funds to assist members in need to attend the conference. He requested a cost estimate for the weekend, which Bob will provide.

Jack Forgy Award: The first Jack Forgy Distinguished Service Award will be presented at the conference. Jack's son is creating a PowerPoint presentation, and other members of Jack's family will be in attendance.

Nominating Committee: Bill Chiodo will chair the 2010 Nominating Committee which will begin work after April 15.

Belgian 65th Anniversary Program: Ed Peters is looking for a volunteer liaison for this project. Gerry Morenski will send Ed some names.

Song: A non-member submitted a song about a soldier killed in WWII to the AWON mailbox. Ed will send a thank you note.

Spirit of '45: AWON is allowing Spirit of '45 to borrow some of AWON's large father photos for use in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Roger Connor is composing a letter of support that Spirit of '45 requested from AWON. Ed also is looking for someone in AWON to spearhead Spirit of '45 information for AWON.

Citizenship: The board approved Bob Meek's request of support for a bill in Congress to grant U.S. citizenship to a Polish Jew who served in the 26th Division, died in the war, and is buried at Margraten.

Next Board Meeting: The next telephonic meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is May 16, 2010.

Judith Hoffman, Secretary

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



AWON Project Leaders

Listed below are the names and contact information for AWON's on-going projects. Contact these people to volunteer, contribute, or learn more:

Frequent Flyer Program

Roger Connor

rmcusa37@gmail.com

Knit Your Bit Project

Norma Nicol Hamilton

rlhnh@comcast.net

Margraten Liaison/Fund

Gerry Conway Morenski

dutiem@comcast.net

Mama Jo Memorial Fund

Dave Stanek

davestanek@att.net

Memorial Day Wreath Project

Sharon Crowley Connor

sharonconnor@gmail.com

National WWII Museum Campaign

Chickie Shields Berry

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Reading Air Show

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Barry Barr-Finch

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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 _____
Spouse's 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.)

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 are entitled to 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 the second edition 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) _____

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.

Mail form and payment to:

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

Editor, The Star
869 S. Columbia Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704-2342

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Address Service Requested

The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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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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