

*Visits Japan as Guest of Japanese Government*

## **Orphan Accepts Japanese Apology**



AWONer Nancy Kragh, left, and Jan Thompson, right, pictured with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada.

by Nancy Kragh

In 2002, I wrote an article for *The Star* about my father, Maj. Clarence White, who died as a Japanese POW, and my trip to the Philippines for the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March (*Finding My Father*, Winter 2002, page 18).

In April 2002, I heard the Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines give an unofficial apology for Japan's conduct during World War II. Last September, I was honored to be invited to visit Japan as the guest of the Japanese government, along with six surviving POWs and one other descendant, as part of the first American delegation in the "Peace, Friendship and Exchange Initiative". We were invited in order to receive a formal apology from Japan for the treatment of its prisoners during World War II.

This historic experience came about as a result of my association with the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC), the organization formed in 1946 by surviving POWs.

In 2009, the ADBC disbanded due to the age and diminishing number of men able to attend meetings. I was asked to help form a descendants group to carry on their story and continue the annual conventions. This new group, the Descendants Group of the ADBC, held its first convention last year (dg-adbc.org).

*...continued on page 4*

**Inside:**

**Features**

Chasing Down a 'Mustang' .....	3
Lyons Donation .....	5
Memorial Day Events .....	7

**Departments**

National WWII Museum .....	2
New Members .....	5
AWON Connections .....	9
AWON Board News .....	13

...and much, much more!

## The National World War II Museum New Orleans



A report on AWON's campaign supporting the expansion of the National WWII Museum.

by **Chickie Shields Berry**



New members, and some current members, may not know that we have an opportunity to honor our fathers at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans by purchasing a brick in their honor.

For more than four years, AWON has been a significant supporter of the museum. To date, AWON members and friends have contributed more than \$12,000 towards the completion of the museum, putting AWON at the "four star" level in the museum's Patriot Circle of major donors.

Brick pavers can be purchased for \$200. You can include up to three lines of text, including your father's name; unit, ship or branch of service; dates; or even a spe-

cial short message like *In His Memory*.

Bricks purchased now will be installed in Summer 2011. Everyone who purchases a brick will receive a commemorative certificate. All museum donors also receive the museum's newsletter, *V-Mail*.

If you should wish to purchase a brick please contact me by email, phone or snail mail with your mailing address and I will send you an official form with AWON's code number (#GG001) on it. By including AWON's special code on your brick form AWON will get recognized for your gift.

You may contact me at: Chickie Shields Berry, P.O. Box 1136, Spirit Lake, ID 83869; 208-819-9863; or [chkeby@msn.com](mailto:chkeby@msn.com).

### Please Check Your Address Label

Due to a mailing company error, membership expiration dates have been missing from address labels in the last two issues. Hopefully with this issue, the information is there. PLEASE check your address label for the date. If your membership is due soon or overdue, please renew using the form on page 15. Also, please inform us of address or email changes any time at [dutiem@comcast.net](mailto:dutiem@comcast.net).



#### AWON FOUNDER

Ann Bennett Mix

#### AWON OFFICERS

##### President

Ed Peters

##### Vice President

Gerry Conway Morenski

##### Secretary

Judy Geis Hoffman

##### Treasurer

Norm Burkey

#### AWON DIRECTORS

Roger Connor

Norma Nicol Hamilton

Judy Hathaway

Kathy Le Comte

Jerry Pinkerton

#### AWON ADMINISTRATION

**Database Manager** Gerry Morenski

**Pub. Relations** vacant

**Bookstore Manager** Walt Linne

**The Star Editor** Kathy Le Comte

**Asst. Editor** vacant

**Webmaster** Rik Peirson

**ListServ Moderators** Judy Hathaway,  
Judy Hoffman

on the Web: [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org)

Email us at: [awon@aol.com](mailto:awon@aol.com)

*The Star* is a quarterly publication of the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON), a nonprofit 501 (c) 3, nonpolitical, public service organization, serving the children of U.S. servicemen killed in WWII. *The Star* is published and mailed from Springfield, Illinois. ISSN 1941-370X (print) 1941-3769 (online). Copyright 2011 by the American WWII Orphans Network. All rights reserved.

Issue #60 3.8M (03-11)

**Journey Takes Her to Alabama, Maryland and Hawaii**

# ***Daughter Spends Year Running After "Mustang"***

by Rosemary Foster

**I**n 2010, I had three adventures that offered opportunities for me to meet people who share a common bond with me as a child of a Navy crewmember, a child of a Pearl Harbor survivor, and as a war orphan. These travels and opportunities started a journey of discovery for me and I would like to share my experiences thus far.

My father, LTJG Ross B. Foster, was killed just three months before I was born. Both my sister and I went to college under the War Orphans' Educational Assistance Act. Although our mother had saved all of our dad's letters in a scrapbook for us, we knew very little about him and his Navy service.

When my sister and I were asked about our father, we were able to say only a few facts. We did know he was on the *USS California*, a battleship, when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and that he had three brothers who had joined the Navy at the same time after high school in Missouri. We also knew that later, after surviving the Pearl



*Alice and LTJG Ross B. Foster*

Harbor attack, he served as a gunnery officer on the *USS Morrison*. The *Morrison* was a destroyer that was attacked by Kamikaze planes off Okinawa on May 4, 1945. The ship was on radar "picket duty" with many other destroyers. The *Morrison* received four Kamikaze attacks that led to its sinking in a few minutes with 152 men lost - including my father.

In the early spring of 2010 I had a "senior moment" that piqued my interest to know more about my father and his Navy service. I first contacted a group called the Tin Can Sailors. This group consists of former Navy men who served on destroyers. I asked

specifically about a contact person for the *USS Morrison*. They had one name, Jack Simpson, who was the executive officer of the *Morrison*. After receiving permission, the group shared his number with me and I called him in Atlanta, Georgia. It was wonderful to talk to someone who knew my father. Most of our relatives that knew my father have passed away, so this was very meaningful.

Jack mentioned that the *Morrison* reunion was in May in Mobile, Alabama. I decided to attend as it was set on the anniversary of the ship's sinking and the loss of my father. This became the first of my three adventures meeting people related to his final ship.

At the reunion I met crewmembers of the *Morrison* family. I had made a notebook containing pictures of my mother and father and many letters from survivors explaining to my mother what had happened on the ship the day of the attack. On May 4, the memorial service for the *Morrison* was held on the *USS Alabama*. I was selected

...continued on page 8



For many years a group of former POWs tried to obtain official recognition of and apology for their inhumane treatment during the war. The Japanese government had offered a program of reconciliation for the POWs of other countries for a number of years, but never for Americans. The reasons for this are complicated and won't be part of this discussion. However, last year the government funded a one-week trip for six POWs and their wives or sons or daughters, and two descendants (representing the new organization) to Japan.

The trip began with a meeting with the American Ambassador to Japan at his residence. Ambassador John V. Roos was gracious, understood the POW history, and was very supportive of the trip.

We also met several members of the National Diet of Japan (Japan's legislature), other government officials. and Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, who gave a very sincere apology on behalf of the government for the treatment of the POWs during the war.

We had one overnight at a city of our choice. The other POW descendant, Jan Thompson (whose father survived the war), and I chose Moji because that was the port of entry for POWs coming in from the Philippines. They were off-loaded on the docks and taken by tunnel to the train station where they were sent to mines, steel factories and ports to serve as slave labor. We interviewed an 89-year-old woman who clearly remembered the POWs that worked in Moji and how, after Japan surrendered, they shared the food that was dropped by air until they could be reached and transported home.

We met with Japanese POW researchers – a small group that is working to make the truth known. We met a young woman journalist

who approached us in tears because she had recently discovered that her grandfather had been a prison camp commandant. The POWs talked to a college class, many of whom had little or no knowledge about what had happened to prisoners during the war.

One of the most memorable and emotional moments for me was the visit to Ryozen Kannon, a Buddhist shrine in Kyoto that has an old-fashioned library card catalog with a card for each Japanese POW that died. I was able to find my father's card, typed on a manual typewriter with his name and place and date of death.

Although my dad did not make it to Japan, I have always wanted to go there because that country played such a pivotal role in the way my life has unfolded. I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to participate in such an historic trip.

Although the trip received fairly good press coverage in Japan, unfortunately there was little coverage in the United States. An Associated Press article was printed in a few newspapers, and the hometown newspapers of the POWs printed articles, but I was unable to get anything into *The Seattle Times*. There are pictures of the trip at: <http://www.us-japandialogueonpows.org/>. Click on "POWs Trip to Japan" on the home page.



Nancy, holding her father's index card.

## Welcome New Members

Jean Miller Harvell, AR, dau of PVT Robert G. Miller, AAF  
Lavonna Weldon Woolstenhulme, CA, dau of PFC Alvin A. Weldon, Army  
Gary Young, CA, son of CAPT Harold E. Young, Army  
Doris E. Davis, CA, dau of TSGT Leonard J. Schneider, associate  
Wilson Allen Heefner, CA, associate  
Sharon Lee Vinum, CA, dau of 2LT Henry L. Vinum, AAF  
Marie Montante Hall, GA, dau of PFC Anthony T. Montante, Army  
Louis J. Kunz, IL, son of PFC Louis R. Kunz, Army  
Dexter W. Garman, IN, son of CPL Darold I. Garman, Army  
Ben Weber, MO, cousin of 2LT Zean G. Gassmann Jr., AAF  
Roger Ward Hirsch, NE, son of 1LT Ward L. Neff, AAF  
Virginia Marion Kostisin, NJ, dau of CPL Harold L. Garvey, AAF  
Sally Patten Stratton, OH, dau of PFC Ory S. Patten, Army Airborne  
Marcia Lee Walker Vickers, OK, dau of TSGT Fay E. Walker, AAF  
Ann Cook Calhoun, TN, dau of SGT Arthur H. Cook, Army  
Claudia Ennis, TX, niece of 1LT Andrew Loog, AAF  
Donna Lou Colbert Davis, WV, dau of PVT Otto W. Colbert, Army  
Warren D. McNulty, KS, son of PVT William D. McNulty, Army  
George "Gary" Kinley, PA, son of PVT Fred Kinley, Army

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

## Author Donates Part of Book Proceeds

An AWON associate member and author has donated \$645 to date to AWON from sales of his book.

Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons, USA (Ret.) is the author of *If These Stones Could Talk*. Released in August 2010, the 255-page book tells the stories of World War II servicemen buried or memorialized in American overseas cemeteries, many of them AWON fathers.

Lyons attended the 2010 AWON National Conference in Annapolis with his wife, Helen, where he was a conference speaker and auto-

graphed his book.

"I had promised (immediate past AWON board president) Judy Hoffman, who wrote the chapter in the book about AWON, that I would contribute one dollar to AWON for each book sold," Lyons explains. "I also told the conference organizers that I would additionally contribute five dollars for each book sold at the conference."

True to his word, to date Lyons has donated \$300 to AWON for the first 300 books sold, \$195 for 39 books sold and autographed at the conference, and \$150 for the lat-

est books sold, for a total of \$645.

Additionally, Lyons donates one dollar for each book sold to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), or \$450 to date. Included in each copy is a CD of patriotic music, provided by the PVA.

"My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Annapolis meeting and meet some of the AWON members who contributed so much to the content of my book."

The book is available in the AWON Bookstore.



## Attention Orphans, Veterans, Family, Friends and Anyone Interested in

VI Corps; Seventh Army; 6th Army Group; 3rd, 36th, and 45th Infantry Divisions;  
1st Allied Airborne Task Force; 1st Special Service Force (1944–45)

Reunion/Tour of Southern France commemorates the landing of VI Corps on the French Riviera during Operations Anvil and Dragoon on August 15, 1944.

Tour includes the landing beaches, the route VI Corps took northward through the Rhône Valley to the Vosges Mountains, and the Rhône and Épinal American Military Cemeteries.

September 13–24, 2011

Organized by MilSpec Tours of Flourtown, PA

Contact AWON Associate Member Col. Wilson A. Heefner, M.D., USA (Ret.)

7205 Park Woods Drive

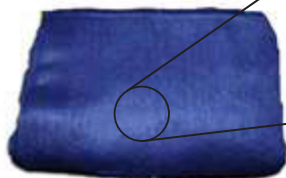
Stockton, CA 95207–1409

(209) 951–4748

w.heefner@comcast.net

## New AWON Logo Product!

Wrap your dad around you any time with this new cotton/polyester fleece-backed blanket. The 50 x 60 inch royal blue blanket features gold-stamped (not embroidered) lettering with *American WWII Orphans Network* and *In Their Memory*, centered above a stamped gold star. Add your father's name and rank above the text. The approximate half-inch lettering and gold star will be centered on the edge of the short side of the blanket.



(actual example)

\$30 plus postage and handling  
Use Bookstore order form on page 12

# Doughboy Laid to Rest after 92 years

The remains of an American World War I serviceman who had been missing in action since 1918 have been identified.

The remains of 28-year-old Army Pvt. Henry A. Weikel, of Mt. Carmel, Penn., were buried with full military honors by his family at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Anville, Penn., in December.

According to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, on September 16, 1918, Weikel's unit, the 60th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, encountered heavy enemy artillery barrage and machine gun fire near Jaulny, France, in a wooded area known as Bois de Bonvaux. The engagement was known as the Battle of Saint-Mihiel.

Weikel was killed during the battle and his remains were buried with two other soldiers in a wooded area between Bois de Bonvaux and Bois de Grand Fontaine. The grave was marked at the time, but the marker was destroyed by subsequent fighting. Attempts to locate Weikel's remains by U.S. Army Graves Registration personnel following the war were unsuccessful.

But in September 2006, two French nationals hunting for metal in the area found human remains and World War I artifacts. A Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team, op-

erating near the location, was notified of the discovery and recovered human remains, as well as military gear, metal, and a partially eroded identification tag, upon excavating the site.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the JPAC laboratory also used dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

The remains of the two soldiers buried with Weikel have

already been identified.

Weikel is only the fifth serviceman from World War I to have been identified by JPAC.

There is no database of World War I MIAs. Approximately 78,000 are still missing from World War II.

For more 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 703-699-1169.

---

## ***Spirit of '45* Memorial Day Events Announced**

Once again, AWON will participate with *Spirit of '45* in the Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C.

*Spirit of '45* is the nationwide grassroots effort to commemorate the end of World War II. AWON has been a partner since 2010.

On Memorial Day AWONers are invited to carry poster-size photos of AWON fathers in the parade and at a wreath-laying ceremony before the parade at the National WWII Memorial. This year, organizers hope to have 400 posters - each one representing 1,000 Americans killed in the war. *Spirit of '45* volunteers will help carry posters.

This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning

of World War II. In respect of the anniversary, organizers especially would like to have posters of fathers who were at Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony at the National WWII Memorial will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 30. The parade begins at 2 p.m.

*Spirit of '45* also will participate with "Buglers Across America" at national cemeteries across the country on Memorial Day. AWON volunteers are needed at those events also.

For more information about participating in these Memorial Day activities, contact Chickie Shields Berry at [chkeberry@aol.com](mailto:chkeberry@aol.com), and visit [www.spiritof45.org](http://www.spiritof45.org).



...Trek, from page 3

to throw the memorial wreath off the ship honoring the lost crewmembers of the *USS Morrison*.

Before the reunion, I had requested my father's service records and learned about his journey from an enlisted man to an officer. Jack told me that my father was a Mustang. Being a Mustang meant that he worked his way up from being an enlisted man to a Lieutenant (jg). He re-enlisted each time with the intent to attend another school for advancement.

I soon learned of another group called the American WWII Orphans Network. AWON was going to have their national conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in November. I decided to go and to take my niece, Rosemary Anne, with me. As a child, she had lost her father in Vietnam in 1963.

We flew to Washington, D.C. first to see the sights and further my interest in naval history, before we went on to Annapolis for the conference. We climbed around the *USS Barry* at the Washington Navy Yard. We also toured the National Museum of the U.S. Navy, the White House, and the Smithsonian buildings showing World War II exhibits. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and touching the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall where my niece's father's name is listed, impressed us so much. At Arlington National Cemetery, we found her father's grave and then walked in an even line a few hundred feet to the memorial marker for my father.

Annapolis was wonderful! We were there on Veteran's Day. The U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen had the day off, so many

of them were in town. It was so impressive to see future Navy and Marine officers. We walked around the waterfront, ate wonderful seafood, shopped, and my niece even found a quilt store.

At the conference, we had Sharing Circles, toured the academy, and held a memorial candlelight service at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery for our lost family members. Most of the group wore small pictures of their fathers on their lapels. We soon found that we had a special bond with others from all parts of the country - some knowing his or her father for only a short time, or some like myself, not at all.

My last adventure for 2010 was to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in December. After joining AWON, I learned about the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. Membership in this group is for those whose father had been in a three-mile radius of Pearl Harbor at the exact time of the attack, as my father had been. In addition, I needed to provide proof that my father was in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I had a paper from the Navy showing the

list of clothes my father lost on that day. I also needed to provide a birth certificate.

The Sons and Daughters met with the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association for the dedication of the new \$58 million Pearl Harbor Visitors Center and Museum that replaces the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center shore side facility. The dedication, on December 7, 2010, was very emotional and moving, and the new museum was very interesting.

During the convention the Pearl Harbor Survivors discussed whether to continue as a group, due to the declining number of



*Rosemary Foster with Jack Simpson at the USS Morrison memorial service in Alabama in May, 2010.*

...continued on next page

American WWII Orphans Network



# AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members  
Gathering Around the Country



## Penn. AWONers to Hold Annual Lunch in April

AWONers in Pennsylvania and surrounding states will hold their annual gathering in York, Penn., on Saturday, April 9. They will meet at the usual place - Hoss's Family Steak and Sea House on White Street at about 11:30 a.m.

"It is a time to socialize with our orphan friends, talk about our fathers, and enjoy our lunch," explains organizer and Pennsylvania Regional Coordinator Lynne Lecrone. "We would really like to have you join us."

Last year 14 orphans and eight spouses attended the lunch meeting from six states, some as far away as Oklahoma.

If you aren't on Lynne's email list, send her an email and she will send you directions, motels that are close by, plans for the day, and more.

You may contact Lynne by email at [lynnelec@aol.com](mailto:lynnelec@aol.com); or by phone at 717-757-9424 or 717-487-8677 (cell).

Southwest Florida is the place to be, says AWONer Dave Colinan. He invites snowbirds and anyone wanting to escape the cold and snow to join him and other orphans at their monthly luncheons in the Sarasota area. Pictured above is the group at the January meeting. From left are: Reda Reynolds, Ellen and Dave Colinan, Pete and Barbara Pleche, and Ellen and Hanford Swatek. "It's a great group – open to all AWONers, friends and families and especially migrating snowbirds," says Dave. "We know you are here and would like to meet you." Upcoming meeting dates are March 12 and April 9. For more information on dates and locations, call Dave at 401-290-8687. *Dave*

---

*...Trek, from previous page*

members. The survivors voted to meet again in 2012 in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Howie Snell, who was a cook on the *Morrison*, also attended the convention in Hawaii. I met Howie at the *Morrison* reunion in Mobile in May. Howie introduced me to many of the Pearl Harbor Survivors he knew and helped me find men who knew my father.

While in Hawaii I also visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, where my father's name is listed on the tablets in the Courts of

the Missing.

My quest continues and I will pursue this journey with the same passion my father did as he worked so hard to defend our country. Maybe that is the reason he always told my mother, in his letters, that he thought I was going to be a boy - a junior to follow in his footsteps, so to speak. I look forward to meeting more of the *USS Morrison* crew and family members this coming May when they hold their next reunion in Branson, Missouri.

Thanks for reading about my journey of a lifetime - finally getting to know my father.

**Pulitzer Prize-Winning AWON Author**

# Truth Found in Life, Death of War Correspondent Father

John Darnton's long list of life accomplishments includes a loving family and a successful career. But like all AWONers his list has an enormous hole. Darnton attempts to fill that gap in his new memoir, *Almost a Family*.

Darnton is a journalist with *The New York Times*. He won the Pulitzer Prize and two George Polk awards for his reporting on civil wars in Africa and Europe. He also is a best-selling novelist, having penned the best sellers *Nedderthal* and *The Experiment*, and three other novels.

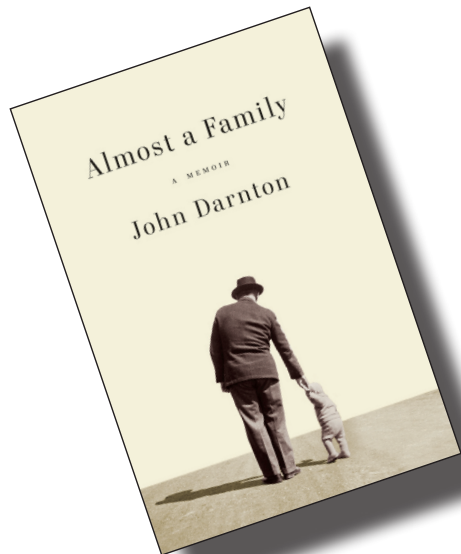
His father wasn't ordinary either. Byron "Barney" Darnton also was a reporter for the *Times*. Too old to enlist, he was the paper's war correspondent in the Southwest Pacific. He was considered the dean of correspondents in that theater of the war, much like Ernie Pyle was in Europe.

The son followed in his father's footsteps, both of them covering the great wars of their time. But despite having this special connection, something still was lacking in Darnton's otherwise fulfilling life. There were too many questions, too many myths.

*Almost a Family* tells Barney's story from his early days in Michigan as a cub reporter

to his assignment in New Guinea where he was highly respected by other reporters and soldiers. Even the press-sensitive Gen. Douglas MacArthur took special note of Barney, which Darnton details extensively.

But the main story is what happened to Barney, and how his long shadow affected the lives of his widow and



two sons.

Darnton was eleven months old when his father was killed when an aircraft dropped a bomb near a landing craft he was riding in off the coast of New Guinea while doing his job.

Whose aircraft was it? Why did it bomb the ship? Who was at fault?

From the beginning Barney's family knew he died from friendly fire, but many questions remained. As former colleagues and informa-

tion turned up over the years Darnton decided it was time to turn the myth of Barney Darnton into reality.

One of the many discoveries Darnton recounts is finding a villager who witnessed the bombing. Through AWON, Darnton found a veteran who described how he wrapped Barney's body in a GI blanket and helped bring him ashore. There's also a critical diary entry, and even the notebook that contained the last words Barney wrote when he was on that fateful landing ship.

Barney was always a presence in Darnton's life, but in *Almost a Family*, Darnton learns the true significance of his father's life and profession, and in the end, maybe his own.

"A family recovers from death by giving it meaning, and in our family the article of faith was that he died as a newspaperman, seeking out the truth and giving voice to people fighting for their country half a world away," Darnton wrote in a 1996 Sunday *Times* column about his father.

*Almost A Family* gives meaning not only to Barney's death, but also to his son's path through life.

*Almost a Family* is published by Alfred A. Knopf and will be released March 17. It is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### BOOKS

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

<u>New! If These Stones Could Talk</u> by Col. Calvin G. "Jerry" Lyons, USA (Ret)	\$27.00	<u>Love, Honor and Cherish: The True World War II Story of a Screaming Eagle and a Courageous Woman</u> by <b>Sandra Bonilla Thompson</b>	\$23.00
<u>New! The Dad I Never Knew: A War Orphan's Search for Inner Healing</u> by <b>Bruce Brodowski</b>	\$14.99	<u>Soldier's Son</u> by <b>Ben McClelland</b>	\$28.00
<u>Farebersville 1944</u> by <b>Jeff Wignall</b>	\$18.95	<u>No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to Normandy</u> by <b>Walter Ford Carter</b>	\$24.95
<u>A Soldier's Daughter</u> by <b>Lois Brown Klein</b>	\$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 <b>Imogene Woods</b> 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 <b>Mary Lee Coe Fowler</b>	\$29.95	<u>Finding Billy</u> by <b>Diana Thompson Dale</b> , niece	\$16.95
<u>Now I Know - A War Orphan's Journey of Discovery</u> by <b>Thomas G. Ratliff</b>	\$17.95	<u>Father Found: Life and Death as a Prisoner of the Japanese in World War II</u> by <b>Duane Heisinger</b>	\$13.95
<u>Love Always, Ben</u> by <b>Huey Tyra</b> , nephew	Was \$19.95 \$10.00	<u>I Can Hear the Guns Now: A WWII Story of Love and Sacrifice</u> by <b>Thomas G. Ratliff</b>	\$20.95
<u>When Your Number's Up: Meritocracy Goes to War</u> by Raymond S. Ross, PhD.	\$10.00	<u>An 8th Air Force Combat Diary</u> by John A. Clark	\$49.95
<u>Sporty Course (bomber pilots)</u> by Col. Jack Swayze	\$10.00	<u>When I See a Forty and Eight... I Remember World War Two</u> by Jacques Adnet	\$12.00
<u>The Hotton Report (about The Battle for Hotton)</u> by Robert McDonald	\$13.95	<u>For Those Who Love, Time Is Not</u> by <b>Kay Brigham</b>	was \$30.00 <b>NOW \$16.00</b>
<u>World War II: A Legacy of Letters - One Soldier's Journey</u> by <b>Clinton Frederick</b>	\$26.95	<u>Lost in the Victory: Reflections of America's Orphans of WWII</u> by <b>Susan Johnson Hadler</b> and <b>Ann Bennett Mix</b>	\$32.50
<u>In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network</u> by Turner Publishing Company	Standard Book was \$49.95 <b>SPECIAL \$20.00</b> Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 <b>SPECIAL \$30.00</b>	<u>After the Liberators: A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey</u> by <b>William C. McGuire II</b>	\$16.95
<u>The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial</u> by William Downes	\$24.95	<u>Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific</u> by <b>Michael J. Goodwin</b>	\$19.95
<u>The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause</u> by Maj. Damon "Rocky" Gause, foreward by <b>Damon L. Gause</b>	\$21.95		

More AWON Merchandise and Order Form on Other Side





# AWON BOOKSTORE

## Price List / Order Form



### VIDEOS

____ AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication \$10.00*	____ AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$10.00*
____ We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers produced by Patrick Tierney and <b>Terry Boettcher</b> was \$15.00 \$10.00*	____ Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru by <b>Shawnee Brittan</b> \$30.00
	____ The War in Europe by <b>Shawnee Brittan</b> \$30.00

### AWON Logo Products

(Items in **bold** are new)

____ <b>Sweatshirt</b> (circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X) \$45.00	AWON Gold Star crystal pendant (no chain included):
____ Windbreaker (blue) (circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X) \$40.00	____ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00
____ Denim shirt ____ short sleeve ____ long sleeve (circle size: S M L XL 2X) \$40.00	____ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/2" (40mm) \$20.00
____ Golf shirt ____ white ____ blue (circle size: S M L XL 2X) \$35.00	____ *AWON lapel pin \$10.00
____ T-shirt (navy) (circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X) \$20.00	____ Gold Star earrings \$20.00
____ Hat \$15.00	____ *AWON button (2 1/4 inch) \$3.00
____ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00	____ *AWON lanyard and name tag/ticket holder (4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00
____ Tote bag (large) \$20.00	____ *AWON note cards w/envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00
	____ *AWON bookmarks (circle amount: 1/\$1.00, 5/\$3.00, 10/\$5.00)
	____ *AWON auto magnet \$6.00
	____ *AWON holiday ornament \$10.00
	____ AWON blanket (royal blue w/gold lettering) \$30.00 (send father's name & rank (if desired) with order)

### The Star NEWSLETTERS

- \_\_\_\_ \* Individual issues \$2.00 includes P&H
- \_\_\_\_ \* All archived issues: \$35.00 includes P&H
- \_\_\_\_ \* Special! Most recent five issues: \$7.50 includes P&H

### Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$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 Washington State residents add 7.8% sales tax.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order to:

**AWON Bookstore**  
5745 Lee Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
email: [bookstore@awon.org](mailto:bookstore@awon.org)

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

AWON Board Business  
19 September 2010

**Financial Report:** In his financial report Treasurer **Norm Burkey** explained that the overage from AWON's Memorial Day wreath laying program has reached about \$5,000 and is carried as a separate line item in the budget. **Gerry Morenski** explained that it was separated to save as designated funds for future wreath layings as AWON membership declines. The overage question may be referred to the wreath laying committee for discussion at a later date. No action taken.

**AWON Election:** **Kathy Le Comte** reported that the ballot for election of the board of directors should be in the mail by the end of the week. Included in the mailing is the ad purchase form for the Annapolis Conference program.

**Outreach Letter:** The board discussed the fall Outreach Letter that is mailed to lapsed members or those who never were members. **Judy Hoffman** will send a template of the previous year's letter to Gerry who volunteered to write this year's letter.

**AWON Database:** Gerry reported that she, as back-up database manager, will have a conference call with AWON Founder and Database Manager **Ann Mix** and board president **Ed Peters**.

**AWON Conference:** Conference co-chair **Millie McConnell Cavanaugh** updated the board about the conference. A special time was suggested for First Timers to meet the board members. Conference co-chair and board director **Bob Meek** reported that one speaker cancelled. **Judy Hathaway** agreed to organize the Sharing Circles. Departmental reports will be prepared for distribution to the membership at the open board meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors will be at the AWON National Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, on November 14, 2010.

**Judith Hoffman**, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [www.awon.org](http://www.awon.org).

AWON Board Business  
24 October 2010  
Special Board Meeting

**AWON Conference:** Conference co-chair **Millie McConnell Cavanaugh** gave a status report on the conference to be held in less than a month. Millie and board president **Ed Peters** visited the conference site hotel to finalize details. A menu problem was discovered and fixed. Board director and Conference co-chair **Bob Meek** reported he is working on the conference program book and roster. Ninety hotel rooms have been booked for the conference which is more than the amount needed. More than 160 people are expected to attend the conference, including 20 newcomers.

**AWON PR Position:** **AWON President Emerita Patricia Gaffney-Kindig** has stepped down as AWON's public relations director. Ed discussed the public relations position with AWON's *Spirit of '45* Coordinator, **Lorin McCleary**. Lorin stated he has the interest and skills in being an AWON liaison but not in doing routine PR tasks. **Gerry Morenski** and others agreed that there also is a need for someone to help members with publicity. Publicity needs will be mentioned at the conference and in the newsletter. The board will begin working on a job description and goals for a public relations director. No further action taken.

***Spirit of '45* Policy:** Lorin drafted a policy of what and how AWON will participate in future *Spirit of '45* events. The board accepted and approved the policy.

**Fathers Posters:** There was discussion on the control and use of AWON's Fathers Poster Photos, including using them as a premium to encourage lapsed members to rejoin, in future *Spirit of '45* events, and the general use of them. No action taken.

**Conference Board Agenda:** The board agreed on the agenda for the board meeting at the conference.

**AWON Database:** Ed announced that AWON Founder and Database Manager **Ann Mix** has stepped down as database manager, effective immediately. Gerry has agreed to take over database responsibilities. Gerry plans to attend a seminar in Boston in November to learn

...continued on next page

## 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.

Kathy Le Comte, Editor  
869 S. Columbia Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62704-2342  
(217) 787-6512  
johnkath5@comcast.net

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

...Minutes, from page 13

about the latest version of the Filemaker software. Before the meeting the board e-voted and approved paying for her expenses. The board discussed what loose ends need to be tied up with transferring the database from Ann to Gerry.

**Job Descriptions:** Ed noted the need to update and revise job descriptions in the AWON Policy and Procedure Manual. Board members with a specific job will work on revising their job descriptions.

**Succession Planning:** tabled.

**Executive Director:** tabled.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors will be at the AWON National Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, on November 14, 2010.

**Kathy Le Comte**, Acting Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit [www.awon.org](http://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:

### Regional Coordinators

**Barry Barr-Finch**

barrfinch@clearwire.net

### Frequent Flyer Program

**Roger Connor**

rmcusa37@gmail.com

### Knit Your Bit Project

**Norma Nicol Hamilton**

rlhnnh@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**

chkebry@msn.com

### Reading Air Show

**Norm Burkey**

normanburkey@verizon.net

### Spirit of '45 Campaign

vacant



# 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

(please print clearly)

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

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 500

Address Service Requested

*Our 20th  
Year!*

## The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

**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

### Address Corrections

Gerry Morenski                      dutiem@comcast.net

### Archives

Ann Whelan O'Connor      awolaojr@earthlink.net

### Bookstore

Walt Linne                      bookstore@awon.org

### Dues

Norm Burkey                      normanburkey@verizon.net

### First Inquiry Coordinators

Patty Temte                      AWON@aol.com

Janice Ott Buterbaugh      janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com

### Headquarters

Ed Peters                      edpeters2@comcast.com

### ListServ Moderators

Judy Hathaway                      judy0305@yahoo.com

Judy Geis Hoffman                      jghoffman@satx.rr.com

### Regional Coordinators

Barry Barr-Finch                      barrfinch@clearwire.net

### The Star Editor

Kathy Le Comte                      johnkath5@comcast.net

### Washington, D.C. Events

Phyllis Epstein Louis                      pelouis@verizon.net

### Washington, D.C. Liaisons

Lee Mathis                      jlee123@verizon.net

Jeanine McKenzie Allen                      tritonmia@verizon.net

### Webmaster

Rik Peirson                      rikp@dayone.com