Remembered With Gratitude
Dutch Nationals Honor American Soldiers

by Lois Wohlers

It was the summer of 2005 when I finally visited the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Holland, where my dad was laid to rest in January 1945. I was only two years old when my father, William Wilson, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. My mother was left to raise three children by herself. As I grew older, I often wondered why my mother never brought my father home.

Upon visiting the cemetery in Margraten, I knew almost immediately my mother had made the right decision. As I looked across the endless rows of white marble crosses and Stars of David, I was in awe of the sheer beauty of this final resting place for American soldiers, men who sacrificed so much for both our freedom and that of the people of Europe.

It was particularly stirring to know my dad was laid to rest in such picturesque surroundings. My son Jeff traveled with me and since we were direct descendants of a soldier in the cemetery, we were allowed to climb a tower to overlook the rows of crosses and the beautiful countryside. To say it was an emotional moment, would be an understatement.

It was during this visit that I learned each and every grave site at Margraten had been adopted by a member of the local community. Thus began the search to find the person who had adopted my father’s grave. What I found has left me amazed and forever grateful.

I wish to share the story of one great lady whom I have never met, yet owe a boundless debt of gratitude. This lady is Bertha Bouwers, who adopted my father’s grave in 1945 when she was just twenty-four years of age.

...continued on page 3
President’s Message

by Walt Linne

Our 15th AWON National Conference from 5/11 to 5/15, 2020 will be hosted by the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, across the street from the National WWII Museum. The conference theme “Honor and Remember” will be centered around the mission of the National WWII Museum - to create and maintain a world-class museum through exhibits, multimedia experiences, and thousands of personal accounts to take us on a tour of every theater of WWII. Of special note, a crew from the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) will be at the conference if any member would wish to document their family stories.

The itinerary for the conference is as follows:
Monday, 5/11 - Registration and welcome hospitality room. Evening is open.
Tuesday, 5/12 - Registration; a welcome by Stephen Watson, President and CEO, National WWII Museum Executive Team and Sharon Estill Taylor, WWII orphan and Museum Board of Trustees Member; sharing circles with presentation by fellow orphan Gretchen Wronka; and an evening welcome reception.
Wednesday, 5/13 - Memorial service; tour of the National WWII Museum. Evening is open.
Thursday, 5/14 - Business meeting; an evening banquet with presenter George Lutz, “Honor and Remember” Founder.
Friday, 5/15 - Farewell hospitality day.

Please keep in mind that the Higgins Hotel has afforded us the same room rate, $149, three days prior to the conference and three days post to enjoy the WWII Museum and the local sites such as the French Quarter, Swamp Tours, Plantation Tours, Dinner Jazz Cruise and Walking Tours. All tours can be arranged by the hotel Concierge.

I was asked if it was OK to bring past conference name holders and lanyards...yes, good idea! We are looking for volunteers to help at the conference - registration table, hospitality room, sharing circles, raffle, memorial service, banquet, reception, photographer. Please send a note along with your registration form or email us at awon@awon.org if you can help out. Thanks! What a wonderful location to "Honor and Remember" our Fathers. Please see page 6-7 for conference registration and program ad form. Registration forms are due to the Indianapolis Headquarters by April 3rd, 2020. See you in New Orleans!
At that time she was only 24, not yet married, and her maiden name was Bastin. Bertha Bastin began to place flowers on my father’s grave on special days like Memorial Day, Christmas, and a day the Dutch call Dodenherdenking which quite literally translates into “Remembering the Dead.”

She continued to faithfully adorn his grave with flowers after she married and started a family of her own. For 70 years, she did not miss a day during these special events!

In Mrs. Bouwers’ later years, her daughter Lea Hochstenbach joined in helping her mother. When her mother passed away in 2015, Lea adopted the grave that her mother had so lovingly tended for so long. Lea told me that taking care of my dad’s grave meant so much to her mother, that she desires to continue the legacy. She says that her mother was always thinking of my father and was thankful for the opportunity that was presented to her.

My family and I are forever grateful to Bertha Bouwers and Lea Hochstenbach for the faithfulness, dedication, and love they have shown to us in caring for our father’s grave.

Born and raised in New Jersey, but having lived in Alabama longer than in any other state and having come to consider myself an Alabamian, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the plan to adopt and lovingly care for the graves at the Netherlands American Cemetery had its beginnings in a letter written by a young woman in a small Alabama town. According to a 1963 Reader’s Digest article about the cemetery, she had lost her husband in WWII just six weeks after their marriage. She wrote to the burgermeister of Maastricht, a town near the Margraten cemetery, asking if he would locate her husband’s grave, place flowers on it, and send her a picture along with a short letter.

It’s at this point that I see the providential hand of God at work! You see, shortly before the burgermeister received this letter, his wife had proposed the idea of adopting the graves of the fallen American soldiers in Margraten. However, the burgermeister had originally vetoed his wife’s plan. His exact words are recorded to have been, “Out of the question, unless you get a sign from heaven.”

Well, talk about a sign from heaven! The letter from the young woman from Alabama was exactly that. The very next day, the baroness covered the man’s grave with irises and took photographs showing both the flowers and the fallen soldier’s name on the cross. She mailed the pictures with a note which began, “With all my heart I will help to give your dear one’s grave the care you would give it yourself.”

You can imagine how this Alabama widow was touched by such an act of kindness. In a desire to share this much appreciated gesture with others, she sent the picture to Life magazine, which published it. Others were prompted to send letters to Maastricht with similar requests. This led to a committee being formed in response to the pleas of American family members who had lost their loved ones in battle.

Also, the people of Maastricht and Margraten desired to do something to express their gratitude to the soldiers who had fought for their freedom from the Nazis, and in some cases even had been quartered in their homes. According to the Reader’s Digest article, the committee’s appeal for people to adopt the graves was met with an overwhelming response. All the graves were adopted, and there was even a waiting list of 3000 people who desired to sponsor a grave.

More than 8000 soldiers were laid to rest in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten. The names of over 1700 soldiers are on the Walls of the Missing. Each of these fallen has been adopted by a member of the local community. The people bring flowers to the cemetery and research the life of the service member as a way to honor their sacrifice.

Above: After her mother’s death in 2015, Bertha Bouwers’ daughter Lea Hochstenbach took over caring for Pvt. William Wilson's gravesite in Margraten, Netherlands American Cemetery

...continued on page 9
January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow. That sounds nice, doesn’t it?? Cozy - if you have warm clothes and a hot fire waiting.

But what if you don’t?

Men in wartime endure great discomfort, perhaps most of all in the winter cold. Throughout history those left at home to tend the hearth have longed to do something, anything to help ease the suffering of their loved ones. Knitting has long been a way for those on the homefront to reach out across the miles and wrap their beloved soldier in warmth from home, like a hug from far away.

Knitting dates back at least to the Middle Ages and probably much farther. Knitting was a popular pastime of women because it was possible to do it young or old, sick or healthy. Women knit in the dark when the oil in the lamps ran out, while tending flocks and rocking cradles and stirring the pot. We know for a fact that women knitted for soldiers during the Civil War, because it’s included in the pages of Louisa May Alcott’s beloved book *Little Women*. Says heroine Jo, “...I’m dying to go and fight with Papa! And I can only stay home and knit like a poky old woman!” And Jo shook the blue army sock till the needles rattled like castanets and her ball bounded across the floor.

As World War II began, the world was in the midst of a leap from the old ways to the new. Modernity was definitely on the horizon, but it hadn’t fully dawned yet. Nowadays we have the technology to quickly machine-knit reams of cozy fabric for socks and hats and undergarments, but as the war began, that infrastructure had not yet been put into place. Men were sent off to fight in Northern Europe with hats, without gloves, and worst of all, without warm stockings. As true now as it was back then, cold, wet feet are as great an enemy as the enemy actually is. During WWII, 20,000 men were killed from trench foot. Providing the fighting men of the Second World War these basic lifesaving necessities fell onto women back home, armed with their knitting needles and balls of wool.

The writer Alison Lurie reminisced (in the pages of *Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting*) that during high school in wartime, she and her friends were issued balls of heavy, oily, khaki-colored wool and mimeographed sheets of knitting patterns and sent off to do their part for the war effort, producing socks, hats, scarves, and face masks. Her experience was in no way unique. American women from coast to coast picked up their needles and wool, making knitted goods to be shipped off overseas firstly in “Bundles for Britain” to aid British troops and the Londoners being brutalized by the Blitz.

Yes, even before America’s entrance into the Second World War, women were knitting. *Life Magazine* answered the question “What can I do to help the war effort?” with a single word: “Knit.” The volunteer organization Citizens for the Army and Navy set a goal of a million standard Army sweaters knit by Christmas of 1941, a project well underway by the time the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

By January of 1942, the Red Cross was designated as the clearinghouse for all coordinated national knitting programs in the US. As wool was being strictly rationed and was incredibly difficult to ship from faraway places like Australia with the war on, yarn was hard to come by. The Red Cross was given priority for wool supplies, but with so many uses for wool, it wasn’t long before yarn for knitting was in short supply. Some branches of the Red Cross even set up programs to card and spin their own yarn from raw wool. And when the war effort made steel for needles impossible to attain, newcomers to the project learned to knit on bone and celluloid needles instead and kept right on knitting.

The Red Cross handed out millions of patterns for socks, scarves, sweaters, gloves, fingerless mitts to be used when shooting, hats and helmets. Companies like Red Heart Yarn printed booklets of military-approved patterns like “Knit for Defense” and “Knit for Victory”, with which knitters could produce garments in either olive drab or navy blue, useful for any branch of the service.

The Red Cross knitters - perhaps unsurprisingly given their overall mission - even created medical supplies. They knitted stretchy bandages from cotton yarn that were sterilized and used in the field. They knitted covers for stumps in both arm and leg size. They knitted toe covers to fit over the ends of casts. Soldiers were even given knitting needles themselves as they laid in hospitals recovering from wounds or illness, both to aid the war effort and for a kind of occupational therapy, to give them something constructive to focus their energies upon.

The knitting groups turned out a prodigious amount of clothing and other items for the war effort. One group alone, called the “Three Tree Point Knitters” - 30 women strong - within the span of 3 months turned out 244 knitted garments representing 4290 work hours. Imagine that kind of effort, nationwide, for the span of years. Many women became specialists, memorizing a single pattern and making it again and again so they could turn out as many items as quickly as possible.

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The entertainment industry got into the act, producing pro-knitting propaganda, including a surprising amount of knitting-themed sheet music, comic books, and even a movie called Mr. Lucky, which came out in 1943 and featured Cary Grant trying to learn to knit for the war effort!

The American knitting effort went all the way to the top. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, called “Knitter-in-Chief”, was a prodigious knitter, and was rarely seen sitting idle without some sort of handiwork in her lap to work on while she went about her business. There are several pictures that survive of Mrs. Roosevelt knitting on planes, in meetings, even at the beach. Her knitting patterns, most of which were handwritten, still survive in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY. She was known to produce war work, even mentioning it in her autobiography. It is entirely possible that one or more AWON fathers went off to war wearing socks or mittens knit by the Knitter-in-Chief herself!

Incredibly, knitting played an active role in the Allied victory by helping Allied spies pass messages along. British spy Phyllis Latour Doyle parachuted into occupied Normandy to gather intelligence ahead of D-Day, and her weapon of choice was a pair of knitting needles. Using a piece of silk that contained her codes (easily hidden by wrapping it around a knitting needle, as if it was an innocent ribbon meant to adorn a future sweater) and knitting to disguise her activities, she passed along 135 messages to the Allies about Nazi troop positions used to plan the assault on Normandy and later aiding in the subsequent liberation of France.

Other women used knitting as a tool of espionage more directly, passing along messages in the pattern of the stitches themselves. The Belgian resistance frequently used courageous older women as spies, tracking the passing of trains and recording them in their knitting.

The bravery of these knitting heroines is even more amazing since the Germans were aware of the possibility that knitting may be being used against them, as evidenced from the lyrics in the popular 1940 song The Pretty Little Mitt That Kitty Knit:

“The Nazi agents sent it to Der Fuhrer, and he threw a fit, for he thought there was a trap or a secret code or a map in the Pretty Little Mitt That Kitty Knit!” It’s mind-boggling to think of the formidable Germans worried over knitting.

When we think of the war we often think of battlefields, self-sacrifice, and big sweeping acts of heroism - as we should. But wars are fought and won by the actions of many - those on the front lines certainly, but also those millions of nameless faceless individuals who simply did their bit to help support the men in the trenches.

Let’s remember those humble folks at home who picked up their needles and their balls of wool and helped keep our heroes warm and dry in places that were cold and snowy. They may not have served in the same way, but they helped win the war in their own small way by knitting their bit.
Registration

New Orleans WWII Museum • Higgins Hotel • May 11-15

Please return registration and fee by April 3, 2020

Member Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City/State/Zip: ________________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: ______________

Is this your first AWON Conference? Y N Do you want your name listed in the conference roster? Y N Do you have special needs?: ________________________________

Registration Fee (includes Reception, Banquet, Meeting Room Fees and WWII Museum Admission)
   ____ Members & Guests X $185 __________________________ $ __________
   ____ New Members & Renewals X $210 (includes 1 year AWON Membership Dues) ______ $ __________
Total Registration Fees enclosed: $ __________

Name Tag Information (please print clearly – and include State of Residence)
   Your Name: (include maiden name) __________________________ State: ______
   Guests Names: __________________________ State: ______

Serviceman’s Name: __________________________ Service Branch: ______
   Rank: ______ First: ______ Middle: ______ Last: ______
Circle One: KIA  MIA  Died while on Duty  Date of Death: ______ Country Died: ______

Mail Registration Form with check or money order payable to AWON to:
AWON 2020 National Conference
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
If you would like to place an ad memorializing your family member in the AWON "Honor and Remember" conference program please complete the form below and include a photo or email an image. Please do not send original photos as we cannot guarantee their safety. If sending via US mail, identify the subject of the photo on the back. If emailing photo please identify by file name (such as JohnDoe.jpg) if possible and send a quality resolution JPG file (300 dpi or better)

If you can't print this form, please neatly write on a separate piece of paper or send the info via email.

Forms and Payments are due by Mar. 15

Name: _______________________________________________________________

Father's Name: ________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _________________________________________________________

Phone/Email: __________________________________________________________

Select one of the following options:

$100____Full Page $50____Half Page $25____Full Page

$10____"Lest We Forget" Line (100 character limit)
For example: Walt and John, In memory of our Mother,
Wife of S/Sgt Walter John Linne, KIA 3/2/45

Everyone placing an ad will receive a program book whether or not they attend the conference.

Message: _____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to AWON and mail form, photos, and payment to:

Kristin Holmes
PO Box 242
Creston, WA
99117

email: atomicsagebrush@gmail.com
Memorial Day 2020 is Coming Soon!

Remembering

our fathers and loved ones is an AWON tradition this time of year. If your father rests in an overseas cemetery, our Coordinator will be contacting you. To see Memorial Day services 2019 – Click Here!

Support AWON when you Shop!

When you shop through smile.amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of the purchase price on all eligible products to AWON, at no extra cost! Just enter “AWON” as the organization you support.

Call for Tributes!

Add a Tribute to the AWON Website! This could be one of the most long-lasting and satisfying ways to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, or Uncle. Just be a current AWON Member!

Here’s How: 1. Have a look at our website’s TRIBUTE section at www.awon.org (click “Our Fathers”) to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on “How to prepare a Father Tribute” – (at www.awon.org/check5.htm); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko’s scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . janceysue@gmail.com. If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/529-2315.

Don’t let another day go by. AWON is honored to help you honor your Father or loved one! . . . a Tribute page is yours for the asking.
Reflecting upon the dedication and devotion Mrs. Bouwers demonstrated in looking after my dad’s grave, I asked myself, “Would I care for the grave of a stranger for 70 years?”

I must admit, I have not even been that faithful in visiting graves of family members to whom I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. As Americans, we should ask ourselves if we show this level of appreciation for those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

The people of the Netherlands have a deep respect for the American soldiers who freed them from the occupation of the Nazis. An area school is named after one of the soldiers buried in the Margraten Cemetery. Children are taught that these victims of WWII are not just numbers, but they were people who also had families they left behind. They speak with great pride of the soldier their family has adopted.

The Dutch people of Margraten faithfully attend the Memorial Day observation at the Netherlands American Cemetery. The neatly cared for graves are beautifully adorned with flowers and a Dutch and an American flag. I have watched the Dutch people of Margraten observe their Memorial Day, sometimes standing in the rain sheltered only by their umbrellas.

What motivates a people to do this? I believe it has its beginnings in the deep sense of gratitude in the minds and hearts of the Dutch who lived through the horrors of WWII, and who did not neglect to pass this appreciation and thankfulness unto the generations that followed.

An inscription on a wall at the Netherlands American Cemetery reads, “Here we and all who shall hereafter live in freedom will be reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live.”

Let us not let their sacrifices be forgotten and not let them be in vain.

The gravesite of PVT William D. Wilson, father of author Lois Wohlers, at Netherlands American Cemetery. Wilson’s grave has been carefully tended by the same Dutch family since 1945

They think of their soldier as a member of their family and want their soldier to stay in the family. Today, the Foundation for Adopting Graves at the American Cemetery Margraten manages the program.

With a similar intention, the Foundation United Adopters American War Graves created a program known as The Faces of Margraten. They collect photos of the fallen and display them next to the crosses, the Stars of David, and along the Walls of the Missing every two years in the early part of May, providing an even greater connection between the visitors and their liberators.

The devotion of the Dutch is awe-inspiring. An American descendant speaking at the 70th Memorial Day observance asked, “What would cause a nation recovering from losses and trauma of their own to adopt the sons and daughters of another nation? And what would keep that commitment alive for all these years when the memory of the war has begun to fade? It is a unique occurrence in the history of civilization.”

Their commitment fills my heart with gratitude. The phrase “fallen but not forgotten” is truly brought to life by the dedication of Dutch people who give so selflessly to the soldiers and the families they represent.
The mission of Our AWON Moments series is to review AWON's history, celebrating special moments experienced by AWON's orphan members since Ann Bennett Mix founded the organization in 1991.

We will be celebrating our 15th AWON National Conference, 5/11 - 5/15 2020, in New Orleans.

All are invited to "Honor and Remember" our Fathers at the National WWII Museum. Registration and program ad form are located on page 6-7.

From American WWII Orphans Network Newsletter Vol 6, Spring 1995: "As you know, there is a new group of Luxembourg citizens who have and are in the process of adopting each of the 5,076 graves at Hamm American Military Cemetery. Their name is U.S. Veterans Friends, Luxembourg. I am their honorary President, Galen Cole."

Galen, a supporter of AWON, hosted over one hundred Luxembourgers to his Transportation Museum in Bangor, Maine.

From Vol 7, Summer 1995: Burial Benefits. "Veterans or their families who need information concerning headstones or grave markers can now call the VA's National Cemetery Service hotline at (800)697-6947 weekdays from 8am to 4:30pm Eastern Time. Remember, if your father was missing in action and his body was not recovered and/or there is no marker for him in any cemetery, you are entitled to a free government marker. A burial service with color guard can be arranged locally through the nearest military base."

From Vol 8, Winter 1995: "Gold Star Pin order form placed in the newsletter. The lapel pin, with a gold star on a purple background, are the government's acknowledgement of your sacrifice in losing a father in war. Available for your mother and siblings."

From Vol 9, Spring 1996: "The AWON Website is now online thanks to Lorin McCleary and especially to RIK Peirson, Webmaster. A key section on the AWON Website is our Father's Tributes."

Unforgettable AWON Moment - The first time I saw my Father's Tribute on the AWON Website. Sgt Walter John Linne, Tank Commander, Father of Walter and John was now known to the world for his valor in action and supreme sacrifice for his country.

Please send your AWON Moment to:

AWON STAR, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216 or president@awon.org, so we can share in the joy of knowing your Father!

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

AWON Wishes to Thank Our New and Renewing Members from October, November, December

Sharon Harville
Phyllis Solangi
Pamela Wachutka
Michel Lorquet
Robert Lombardo
William Blake
Roberta Russo
The American WWII Orphans Network was invited to the White House Gold Star Evening Reception May 31, 2019, honoring Fifty Fallen Heroes from various wars. Three AWON members - Roger Connor, Robert "Bob" Meek, and Dianne Baczynski - were in attendance. Each of these three members was allowed to bring two guests related to the soldier being honored. Thoughts from the AWON members in attendance follow:

**Roger Connor:** Roger's daughter, Annie, and her husband, Greg D'Amico, were his guests: "My daughter Annie, her husband Greg, and I were thrilled and honored to be invited to the White House Reception in honor of Gold Star Families. I was particularly pleased that Annie could be part of this event honoring her grandfather. I have been to the White House twice before as a tourist, and during the presidency of Ronald Reagan I was invited to a ceremony in the Rose Garden. However, I have never been to an event inside the White House. This was quite an extraordinary event for me."

**Retired Colonel Robert "Bob" Meek, Jr.:** Bob's wife, Nancy; and son, Major Robert Meek III, were his guests. "It was very moving and I think a wonderful tribute to our Dads. I was particularly touched by the eight-year-old girl sitting in front of us who had just lost her dad about a year ago. She was cold and my son and namesake loaned her his jacket. I think his granddad is proud of him and my heart hurt for this young girl. I spoke with her after the formal program and tried to offer a little encouragement. I do want to thank Marilynn for all the leg work she does to coordinate this for AWON and I encourage everyone who can, to try and attend this event. It was also great to see Dianne and Roger, as it had been awhile. It is so gratifying to have AWON and all our brothers and sisters in the group."

**Dianne Baczynski:** Dianne's husband John; and Grandson, Max, were her guests. "Attendees included Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen; every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff--truly incredible to have all of these people in one room! Fifty fallen heroes were honored and we had the chance to meet many of their families, and hear their stories. We are proud to have represented three generations (Father, Grandfather; and Great Grandfather, Frank H. Wiegand KIA in Mindanao, Philippines on May 9, 1945). It was a truly humbling, emotional, and memorable experience, and we are extremely grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

**Marilynn Lieurance:** "The White House added a last-minute invite for a person to represent our organization. I presented this to our AWON President, Walt Linne, however, Walt already had plans in place to be in Europe and gave the okay for me to attend in his place. Each one of us was very proud to be there representing our dads--all of our dads and our organization as a whole.

One by one we were announced before entering the room to meet and shake hands with President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania. We were escorted into the next room to be seated for the program. President Trump shared heartfelt thoughts at the beginning of the program. Mary Tollefson, a Gold Star Mother, gave a personal and moving speech during the program.

It was an added honor this night to have the dads of three AWON members remembered and their names spoken during the Candle Lighting Ceremony while they were being honored in the White House of our Country.

I enjoyed seeing how much this meant to our members and others, as each family took their turn standing in honor of their fallen soldier. It was an evening filled with deep emotion, honor, pride, and gratitude for the privilege of being there.

An opportunity arose, and I reached out and shook hands with Vice President Pence, had several conversations with General Robert Neller, United States Marine Corps and his wife, D'Arcy--you can't help but respect the Four Stars on General Neller's shoulders; and I spoke with several other guests throughout the evening.

I must mention that Dianne's Grandson, Max, was given a Challenge Coin by General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff for the United States Army. It was a Grand Evening, and I wasn't the only person that spoke of moments wondering if it was all a dream.

Yes, an Evening Event at the White House is everything you might think it could be and more--so much more.

Truly, this was a memorable experience that will always be cherished and remembered the rest of our lives.
My triplet sisters Dr. Janet Bachant, Karen Bachant Sellars and myself, Nancy Bachant, returned to Rennes five years after having discovered the place our father died securing the release of the capital of Brittany from the Nazi regime, August 1, 1944.

In 2014, we were invited by the city of Rennes and the village of Saint-Gregoire to commemorate the 70th anniversary where 50 4th Armored Division soldiers were ambushed by German 88 anti-aircraft gun emplacements while racing down the road to liberate Rennes.

M. Etienne Maignen, an amateur historian who was researching the event and discovered one of those soldiers had triplet daughters, was just finishing up his first book, "Rennes During the War" and was working on his second book about the amazing day of liberation, Aug 1, 1944. He was our host and interpreter, and introduced us to his friend M. Jean Chasle, who was an eye witness to what unfolded that fateful first day of August.

These kind men took us to the spot where our father’s half-track was hit, and even had a picture of the blown up truck that was in the local exhibition. We also participated in several commemorative events, and rode into the city in a half-track on behalf of our father during the parade of WWII vehicles, finishing the journey he was never to see.

Five years later, through M. Maignen's new book, "The Strange Story of the Liberation of Rennes" we discovered EVERY detail of the saga about the combat at Rennes, and when we came this past August we brought my sister Janet’s daughter, Miriam, and granddaughter, Dax, to be with us for the event.

Also there in 2014 and on this trip 5 years later, was the grandson of Gen John Shirley wood, his namesake John S Wood, III, and his French wife Carolyn. Gen. John Shirley Wood was in charge of Patton’s 1st Army spearheading a column down from Avranches to quickly take Rennes back from the Nazis.

At long last, 75 years later, the final details of what was a very complicated tragic event during the fog of war and the fatal blunder of the American captain was revealed to us. The column was advised by that local eye-witness, M. Jean Chasle to go around the other way, and enter Rennes "like butter" but if they continued the route they were on, they would be shot "like rabbits." Very tragically, the captain did not heed this advice and 11 tanks, 3 half-tracks, and 50 men were lost, including our father Herbert R. Bachant.

While in Maison Blanche in 2019, we were again treated to honors and participated in the laying of flowers on the monument in the village. Bringing the youngest descendant
of our father, Dax, was very special to us all, and our hearts will always be with our friends in Rennes.

During our first visit to Rennes and the village of St-Gregoire, the local stamp club presented to us a beautiful stamp and reproduction of a V-mail letter.

It read: Dear Janet Lee, dear Nancy Sue, dear Karen Ann,

On behalf of the citizens of Rennes, on behalf of those who have experienced the tragedies of war, on behalf of those who were born and now live in a country at peace, we send you, from the bottom of our heart, our eternal gratitude. Your father, Herbert Bachant, died as a hero during the battles for the liberation of Rennes on August 1, 1944, without ever meeting his daughters who were born on the other side of the Atlantic. His sacrifice on French soil makes you our sisters in remembrance. You will be forever, for all the people of Rennes, the three daughters of Liberty. With our dedicated and fraternal affection.

Great News!

Janice Crandell Powers, Author of Pieces of Us (as featured in Issue 94 of The Star) will be attending the upcoming "Honor and Remember" AWON Convention and will have more copies of her wonderful book available! If you were unable to purchase Pieces of Us before it sold out, you can pick one up at the conference bookstore!!

Read the amazing full story of the Bachant Triplets online in #53 (June 2009) of The Star, available to AWON Members at www.awon.org!
AWON Member Penny Le Grand was featured in the Tucson, AZ newspaper The Oro Valley Voice last year. Penny has been using her wonderful creative talent to paint portraits of fathers killed in WWII, like her own father, 1st Lt. Charles E. Hopkins Jr, who went missing in action over the Marshall Islands when Penny was only 2 ½ months old.

Penny began painting as she neared retirement. After having lost her mother and her beloved daughter, she decided she needed a hobby to fill her time, and she began taking art lessons at a nearby community center, followed by workshops at an art gallery. Eventually, she felt confident enough to paint her father’s portrait.

“When I finished the portrait,” LeGrand told reporter Theresa Poalucci of The Oro Valley Voice, “it was the first time in life that my dad looked back at me. I felt I had finally brought him home.” Since that time, she has completed several more portraits for her fellow AWON members, bringing their fathers home as well, with even more requests pending. Rather than receiving payment for her work, Penny says her gratification comes from giving the gift.

AWON members who have received LeGrand’s handiwork include Sharon Connor and Pat Albani. Connor says that when she received the portrait of her father, Sgt. William E. Crowley, she cried. And Albani expressed how amazing it was to finally see her father’s face in a nearly life-size form rather than a small photograph and in full color, revealing his vivid blue eyes for the first time. She, too, was overcome by tears of gratitude. “When I do these portraits, I always start with the eyes,” LeGrand explained. “It is where all the emotion centers.”

Penny LeGrand’s artwork is both a gift to the appreciative recipients of her work, and is truly a labor of love. “I hear such heartwarming things from those I have done portraits for. I really believe this is what I’m meant to do for now.”
Upper row from left to right:
CDR George B. Nicol, father of Norma Nicol Hamilton, PFC Frank H. Wiegand, father of Diane Wiegand Baczinski, 1LT Charles E. Hopkins Jr, father of Penny Hopkins Le Grand

Middle row L-R: 2LT George Riley Francis, father of Barbara Kelly, S1c Albert M. Cervenak, father of Patricia Cervenak Albani

Bottom row L-R: CDR Austin C. Behan, father of Patricia Behan Armstrong, Catherine Regina Larson, US Navy WAVE, SGT William E. Crowley, father of Sharon Crowley Connor

For larger versions of these portraits online please click the Connected "W"!
Editor's Note: The January 2019 *AWON Star* (Issue 91) featured the story of AWON Member Gretchen Hintz Wronka and brother Loren Martin Hintz’ journey to Italy to locate and recover the wreckage of their father, Lt. Loren Hintz’ P-47 fighter shot down over Northern Italy April 21, 1945. On November 16, 2019, the complete remains of Lt. Hintz were interred at Florence American Cemetery in Florence, Italy.

**Gretchen Wronka shares her experience:**

Hello to my AWON colleagues, especially those whose dads are buried in the American Battle Monuments Commission's Florence American Cemetery.

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, my family had the great honor of participating in the memorial and military burial of my father, Lt. Loren Hintz. Several other AWON members' fathers are buried in this beautiful cemetery or are listed on the Tablets of the Missing.

We had cool and cloudy weather the day of the Memorial. It poured rain all night and into the morning. I'd promised to lay a rose on each AWON dad's grave, but since it was pretty wet and miserable Cemetery Associate Riorenzo Iacono generously offered to fulfill my promise. When the weather cleared, he and the cemetery staff went to each grave with a fresh rose that had been part of my dad's memorial. They laid the rose and took a picture for each of you. These pictures are available for viewing on the AWON website at [www.awon.org/connected95/fallen95.html](http://www.awon.org/connected95/fallen95.html)

At the end of the memorial ceremony, my brother and our youngest grandchildren who were with us (ages nine down to almost two) reverently laid a large laurel wreath at the base of the Tablets of the Unknown in honor of all the soldiers buried in this cemetery and those in other ABMC cemeteries. I said a silent prayer for all of your fathers.

I was proud of my grandchildren and great nieces who with great dignity solemnly performed this ritual. My three teenage grandchildren spoke during the memorial. All ten of Loren's great-grandchildren present had the honor of taking down the flag at the end of the ceremony.

ABMC has a great short video clip of the occasion available on YouTube. The US Army mortuary unit that guarded dad's remains from the US Army 21st TSC Mortuary Unit based in Landstuhl, Germany, also posted a short clip on their website in remembrance.

My family and I were incredibly moved by these young soldiers and the respect they paid both to our living family members and to my father's memory. Over the course of a couple of days we had an opportunity to get to know them. What a fine team of young people who are nobly carrying out all of our fathers' legacies. Salute to them all.

An honor guard from Viamo Air Force Base also participated in the ceremony. This experience reinforces to me and my brother Martin how fortunate we are to have the ABMC cherishing the ground where our father and yours lie. This cemetery is pristine and I know all the other ABMC cemeteries receive the same respectful and loving care. Angel Matos, the Superintendent, Fiorenzo Iacono and the rest of the staff coordinated the ceremony flawlessly.

So much gratitude owed to so many people!

The Hintz family kindly arranged to have roses laid on the graves of several AWON fathers buried at Florence American cemetery, and a laurel wreath laid at the base of the Tablets of the Unknown. Fathers so honored were:


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AWON had the great privilege of partnering with Wreaths Across America this holiday season. The theme for Wreaths Across America in 2019 was “Everyone Plays a Part” and this sentiment was present in abundance on December 14, 2019 as 2.2 million wreaths were placed at 2158 participating cemeteries in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad, speaking the name of the fallen soldier as they did.

Nearly 600 truckloads of live balsam wreaths were shipped across the country by hundreds of volunteers using donated trucking services and fuel. These wreaths are gifts of respect and appreciation, each one donated by a private citizen or organization and placed on the graves by volunteers as a token of gratitude for the freedoms we all enjoy.

For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor. Wreaths Across America honors America’s fallen from the Revolutionary War, to World War II, to the nation’s present day conflicts. WAA believes that this tradition represents a living memorial that honors not only those we lost, but also our living veterans, active duty members of the military, and their families.

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on December 19, 2020. Join in the mission of WAA: "Remember, Honor and Teach" - Remember the Fallen, Honor those that serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.
AWON BOOKSTORE
Price List / Order Form

Books

Authors in **BOLD** are orphan or family members
Items marked with (*) include P&H

**NEW!!!** Pieces of Us
   ___By Janice Crandell Powers                  $20.00*
   ___A Daughter’s Quest: Retracing My Father’s Footsteps During World War II

By Laura Smail Sims                          $16.95
   ___The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance

By Robert Fowler                              $15.99
   ___Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found

By Reda Reynolds                              $9.00
   ___Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse

By Joe Finnigan                               $12.99
   ___A Bit of Earth

By Wendy Crisp Lestina                        $13.95
   ___K.I.A.: An Orphan’s Search for His Father Through the Fog of War

By Patrick Audinet                            $10.00*
   All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON
   ___The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found

By Susan Johnson Hadler                       $15.00*
   ___In Search of a Pilot: Hanford “Rusty” J. Rustand

By Marilyn Rustand Lieurance                 $7.00*
   ___My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag

By Jerry W. Pinkerton                         $12.00*
   ___The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War

By Nancy Kenney                               $16.00
   ___“Daddy’s Gone to War”: The Second World War in the lives of America’s Children

By William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD                 $30.00
   ___In My Father’s Words: Letters From a WWII Soldier

By Bill McElvain                              $16.00
   ___Farebersville 1944

By Jeff Wignall                               $18.95
   ___A Soldier’s Daughter

By Lois Brown Klein                           $17.00
   ___The Ordinary Infantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again

By Imogene Woods and Twelve WWII Infantrymen  $15.00
   ___Full Fathom Five: A Daughter’s Search

By Mary Lee Coe Fowler                        $29.95

___ Love Always, Ben
      By Huey Tyra, nephew Reduced!        $2.00
      ___ Sporty Course (bomber pilots)

By Col. Jack Swayze                            $10.00
   ___The Hotton Report (About the Battle For Hotton)

By Robert McDonald                            $13.95
   ___World War II: A Legacy of Letters-One Soldier’s Journey

By Clinton Frederick                          $26.95
   ___An 8th Airforce Combat Diary

By John A. Clark                              $49.95
   ___When I See a “Forty and Eight”... I Remember World War II

By Lt. Col. Jacques Adnet USAF (ret.)         Reduced! $5.00!
   ___In Their Memory: American WWII Orphan’s Network

By Turner Publishing Company                  $10.00
   Was 49.95
   ___The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on The Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial

By William Downes                             $24.95
   ___The War Journey of Major Damon “Rocky” Gause

Forward by Damon L. Gause                     $21.95
   ___No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son’s Journey to Normandy

By Walter Ford Carter                         Reduced! $18.00
   ___D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History

By Jerome J. McLaughline                     $25.00
   ___They Also Served: Women’s Stories From the WWII Era

By Jeanie Sutton Lambright                    $20.00
   New Price!
   Hardcover                              $20.00
   Softcover                                $10.00
   ___Finding Billy

By Diana Thompson Dale, niece                 $16.95
   ___Father Found: Life and Death as a Prisoner of the Japanese In WWII

By Duane Heisinger                            $13.95
   ___Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific

By Michael J. Goodwin                         $19.95
### CD/DVD

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>___ Leather and Strings</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Mark LaPoint, grandson of Sgt. William G. Aubet featuring <em>Somewhere in Germany</em>, written and sung by Mark at AWON’s 10th conference memorial service</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Letters of Love and War (CD for Mac or PC)</td>
<td>$19.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By 1LT John and Betty Peirson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ AWON 2004 Conference &amp; WWII Memorial Dedication (VHS)</td>
<td>Reduced!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers (VHS) produced by Patrick Tierney and Terry Boettcher</td>
<td>Reduced! was $15.00 now $3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ AWON 2000 Conference Journeys - Finding Our Fathers (VHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Justin Taylan</td>
<td>Reduced!</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru</td>
<td>Reduced!</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Shawnee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Scarf (royal blue fleece - only 3 left!!)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ 20th Anniversary Tote Bag (small)</td>
<td>Reduced!</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Tote Bag (large)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ 20th Anniversary Garden Flag (without holder)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ *AWON Holiday Ornament</td>
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<td>___ *AWON lapel pin</td>
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### AWON Logo Products

Closeout on the Following AWON merchandise

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<tr>
<td>___ *AWON Holiday Ornament</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ *AWON lapel pin</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ *AWON Button 2 1/4”</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ *AWON Lanyard w/nametag and ticket holder (blue with white lettering, 4&quot;x6&quot;holder)</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ *AWON notecards &amp; envelopes (pkg of 20) (Only 2 left!!)</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ *AWON bookmarks</td>
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</table>

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

### The Star Newsletters

<table>
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<tr>
<td>___ *Individual issues: $4.00 - Includes P&amp;H</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ *All archived issues: $40.00 - Includes P&amp;H</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ *Special!! Most recent five issues: $15.00 Inc. P&amp;H</td>
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### Ordering Information

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

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

Washington State residents please add 7.8% sales tax

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

Send check or money order to:

**AWON Bookstore**

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

email: bookstore@awon.org

NAME:__________________________________________________________

ADDRESS:______________________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP:_________________________________________________

EMAIL:________________________________________________________

**Total Enclosed** (check/money order payable to AWON):___________
Want to contribute to *The Star??* Heres's how!!

The purpose of *The Star* is to serve the needs of AWON. While these tips help make our job easier, please don't hesitate to contribute even if you can't meet all these guidelines. We want to tell your family's story, honor our fallen heroes, and share news and information that AWON members find helpful above all else. We don't sweat the details, we're here to help! But the better the quality of information you give us here at *The Star*, the more easily we are able to do that.

Before contributing, be sure to check out the previous edition of *The Star* to get an idea of the type of features we publish. Most often, we share family stories about our fathers. That having been said, we are open to any submission - general history, biographies, current news items, editorials, fiction, art, and even poetry! We also love receiving pictures, and even if we can't run everything we receive in *The Star*, the extra items we receive are often featured on the AWON website.

*The Star* is published 4 times a year, Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall. We can't always fit every article into every issue and sometimes we have to hold items for the next edition to include time-sensitive items. The sooner you submit your story, the more likely it is to be run in the next edition, but sometimes circumstances arise that make that impossible. Stories that are bumped will be given top priority for the next edition.

It is best for us to receive stories in .doc form and photos in a .jpg form (300 dpi or better if possible)

1) If writing a story about your father please include as much of the following info as you're able:

- Full name, nicknames if any
- Date and location of birth
- Where he grew up
- His childhood and education
- Occupation
- Military Unit and location where he served
- MIA, KIA, or Date of Death
- Burial and Memorial Info
- Any additional information of historic or military importance regarding his service

2) Please don't forget to include information about your extended family as well:

- Your name (PLEASE include your name in your contributions, we can't always figure out who you are from email alone!!)
- Your mother's name
- Details of marriage (where and when)
- Father's parents' names
- Father's siblings names
- Your sibling's names and your ages when you lost your father
- Where you grew up
- How the loss of your father affected your family both emotionally and in a practical sense
- Your search to learn more about your father

3) Tell your story in any way you feel is appropriate. While 1000 words is a good goal length, be as thorough as you feel is required to paint a full picture of your father and how his loss affected your family.
It is best for us to receive your stories in .doc form as this allows us to edit them more easily. Some other details that may be welcome additions:

How and why he joined the military
His military training (what, when, and where)
Military assignments and special duties
Medals awarded and special commendations he received
Date he was sent overseas
Circumstances of his death
Circumstances of his burial
What you have heard about the kind of man he was
What you and your siblings miss about your father
The legacy he leaves behind

4) Any photos you have are welcome additions. However, we do NOT want you to take any chances with your precious and irreplaceable pictures. For this reason, electronic files of pictures are preferred. While we at The Star are willing to receive photos via US Mail, scan them in ourselves, and return them to you, this does put your photos at risk of loss or damage while they travel in the mail.

To avoid this danger, it is best if you provide electronic files of your pictures:

Scan your photo with a scanner or have Kinko's or some other computer service bureau scan it for you (300 dpi or better)
Put the photo into a .JPG file format with 300dpi resolution or better (and if you have the option, naming the file with your father's name really helps us identify who the photos are of.)
Attach the electronic photo file to your email and send it to atomicsagebrush@gmail.com or star@awon.org.

We can also accept contributions sent by a third party such as a child, grandchild, or friend via email, but be sure to identify who the photos are originally coming from and what article they’re meant to accompany!
If you don’t have an email address and can’t find someone to send the information on your behalf, we are willing to receive photos via US Mail to Kristin Holmes, Star Editor, PO Box 242, Creston WA, 99117, but this should be a last resort as sending in the mail puts your photos at risk of damage or loss. Whenever possible, computer files are preferred to protect your precious and irreplaceable photos.

5) If your story has already been published in a newspaper or other location, it’s fine to send a copy of that article IN ADDITION to telling your story in your own words. But we can’t run already-published articles as written. We also cannot use photos that have been printed in a newspaper. We need the original photo or a digital file to get enough resolution for publication. Newspaper articles that are scanned into a computer sent in a .PDF file are also very difficult for us to transcribe (and the photos are not useable as they are part of the PDF and can’t be moved separately, in addition to being inadequate resolution.)

It is best for us to receive your story in your own words, in a .doc form, with pictures sent separately as .JPG files.

6) To send your stories and photos electronically please send to: atomicsagebrush@gmail.com or star@awon.org

And to send stories and photos via snail mail, please send to
Kristin Holmes
Editor, The Star
PO Box 242
Creston, Wa
99117
MINUTES
AWON 2019 BOD
Regular Tele-Meeting
November 24, 2019

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

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

President's Notes:
WL: Facebook, Listserv and the reminders we are sending are helping keep members involved and on board. We are doing a nice job in bringing lapsed members back in. We just need to keep up the good work.

Discussion of the 2020 Budget and Finances:
A review of programs and spending plans for 2020 and the draft operating budget was conducted. GL: moved that next month, we have a separate meeting entirely about the budget for 2020. JR second. Motion carried.

2020 National Conference
Conference co-chairs WL and Barbara Kelly have visited Higgins hotel and it is very nice. They met with the Event Planner and he has lots of contacts with the WWII Museum. Sharon Taylor, an AWON member, is on BOD of WWII Museum and the Museum President Watson will be a speaker at the conference, likely on Tuesday night at the formal reception. Wednesday will be an open day for visiting the Museum and seeing the sites of New Orleans. Thursday will be Sharing Circles and the Banquet. The Museum has so much to offer our members. We are hoping to have 150 people in attendance.

BF: asked about any planned excursions as a part of the conference? Wednesday is an open day. WL: There are many things that can be done. The decision has not yet been made on whether excursions will be offered for the whole group of attendees. GL: are meetings in hotel or museum. WL: says both will be used. RP: is the museum near the hotel? WL: yes, the Higgins is about 100 steps from the main entrance to the Museum. The Civil War Museum is on the other side of the WWII Museum. GL: make sure everyone knows about the United Airlines 10% discount for flights.

Proposed Projects for 2020
RP and Membership Committee have a list of 30 projects that could be done for Membership in 2020. The Committee needs to meet to review the list and particularly emphasize projects that develops membership rolls. BF: suggests Committee sending the list of projects to the entire BOD to review and respond to, setting priorities for the various tasks. RP will send out the original list of 30 projects to the BOD members and each person should respond.

GL: has been sending notes to people who post to the AWON Facebook pages informing them that family memberships are available and telling them about the AWON Conference in New Orleans at the WWII Museum.

New Member Processes
WL: Requests for new member packets were being sent to wrong email address for Judi Kramer. That has been fixed.
WL: what is in the packet? JK: reviewed the information she sends out in a new member packet WL: we should also have an AWON membership card sent out to new members. JK: already always includes a membership card. RP: has sent 3 possible designs of a new membership card to the BOD for response. LM is now responding to new member inquiries received in the AWON email inbox.

Past Members Rights:
WL: How should we handle people who are no longer paying members of AWON but they are still on the Listserv and Facebook page? He is assigning that decision task to the Membership Committee to make a recommendation to the Board.

Treasurer Replacement:
WL: Paul Bremer is hoping to leave by the end of 2020. He agreed to continue to serve as Treasurer until a replacement can be found.

Need for Volunteers:
Listserv
WL: The Listserv moderators have asked to be replaced by December 31. LM: will be taking over the Listserv administrator job on a temporary basis. This cannot be done, however, until wp.org can make that change. Judy Hoffman and Judy Hathaway have agreed to continue to serve until the change can be made by wp.org. New members need to be added to the Listserv list.

JK: will Barbara Kelly let JK know when new members' checks are received? WL: yes she will.

The Meeting was Adjourned
Membership

This is a

☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal
☐ Family Membership
☐ Database Registration Only

About You:

Name ______________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City, State/Zip __________________________________
Home Phone _________________________
Mobile Phone _________________________
E-Mail _______________________________________

If you’re renewing, skip to the Dues Section
Your Relationship to Serviceman ___________________
Your Date of Birth ______________________
How did you hear about AWON ____________________

About your WWII Service Member:

Last Name ____________________________________
First Name _____________________________ M.I.____
Birthdate ______________________________________
Hometown & State ______________________________
Military Unit ___________________________________
Rank _______ Service Number ____________________
Date of Death ____________ Place ________________
Burial Location _________________________________
Wife’s Maiden Name ____________________________

Additional information on your WWII Service Member’s
Military Service, Death, or Burial. ____________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Please send your check:

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

AWON Treasurer
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Membership Types:

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

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

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

Membership Dues:

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

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

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

Membership Dues Levels:

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<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (Printed Star Version)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (E-Star Version)</td>
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<td>$30</td>
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<td>Supporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Star (Increased Donation)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$192</td>
<td>$280</td>
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Please circle your Dues Level below:

Donation Considerations:

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

Submittable
Online >>>

AWON (American WWII Orphans Network) is a humanitarian, non-profit, nonpolitical service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the US Federal Tax Code. (EINB #91-1538912) Membership is not required to be entered into the Database. For more information, the AWON Website is at www.awon.org.
Is it time for you to renew?

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
Lorin McCleary
ldmccleary@gmail.com

Archives
OPEN POSITION

Bookstore
Walt Linne
bookstore@awon.org

Database Coordinator
Lorin McCleary
ldmccleary@gmail.com

Dues
Paul Bremer
bremergolf@aol.com

Facebook
Barry Barr-Finch
barrfinch1@gmail.com

First Inquiry Coordinators
Lorin McCleary
AWON@awon.org
Janice Ott Buterbaugh
Janicebuterbaugh@gmail.com

Friends of the National WWII Memorial Liaison
OPEN POSITION

ListServ
Judy Hathaway
judy0305@yahoo.com
Judy Geis Hoffman
jghoffman44@gmail.com

Membership
Gloria Layne
glayne731@gmail.com

Memorial Day White House Event
Marilynn Lieurance
mrlustysgirl@yahoo.com

Memorial Day Wreath Project
Jeanne Rinehart
hart1003@comcast.net
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