



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

April-May 2025 Newsletter
www.WWIIroundtable.com

Greetings! Wow—what a Winter—first time in several years that I was able to ice skate on a lake January and February and toboggan! My wife's daffodils bloomed 23 March and we had great presentations at the Roundtable. Do NOT miss out on the rest of this year's—invite folks (especially YOUNG folks) to our dinners/give them our bookmark calendars/tell them about our website/bring them to our Roundtable and RSVP/buy them a dinner—to continue we need new members who will carry on our passion into the future--HOOAAH!

Charles A. Holt, D.O.

WHERE HISTORY AND
HEROES MEET



WWII HISTORY &
WARTIME STORIES
for Everyone!



Ernie Pyle
WWII Pulitzer Prize Reporter

MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAMS

Live Guest Speakers
Northside Events & Social Club
(formerly "Knights of Columbus")
2100 E 71st Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Doors open - 5 PM
\$11 Buffet Dinner - 6 PM (RSVP)
Program - 7 PM

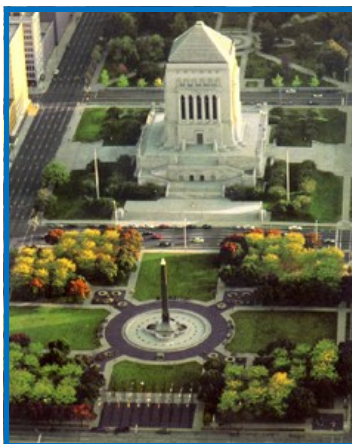
WWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

Programs April 28 and May 19, 2025

Indiana's WWII

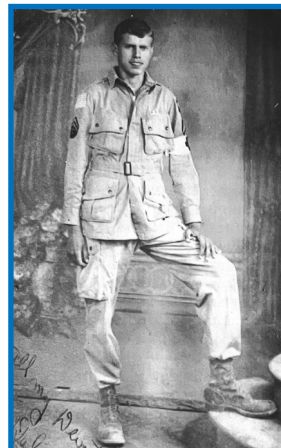
Monuments and Museums



Ron May Apr 28, 2025

Remembering Dale E. Gillespie

WWII 82nd Airborne Medic

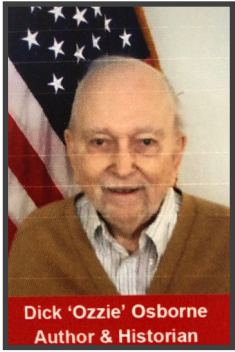


Brad Damon May 19, 2025

Roundtable Board

Charles A. Holt, President
Kathryn Lerch, Vice President
Treasurer, Andy Fulks
Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
Meeting Arrangements: Karl &
Jan Kleinbub
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis
Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa,
Steve Hogan, & John Chalfin
Web/Audio/Visual:
Travis Petrie & Steve Hogan

Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your monthly dinner RSVPs to Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@mytwinstar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948 **no later than Thursday prior to Monday's program!** (Do not rsvp via the website!) A head count for Northside Events & Social Club (K of C) is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. We encourage you to invite a guest! Thank you!



WW 2 Trivia April through May 2025

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . . *Eighty Years ago!* . . . April through May 1945 a focus on war memorials around the world. How many have you visited?

National WW2 Memorial, Washington, D.C.



Indiana World War II Memorial



Manzanar National Historic Site



Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii




Arlington National Cemetery



Cambridge American Cemetery, England

Military History Connections . . . In Honor of Memorial Day



Clay Township Military Library and Museum
An Indiana 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation
10801 North College Avenue, (Home Place) Carmel, Indiana 46280

"Operation: Phoenix Rising"

WHO: Veterans established the museum and library in the late 1990's for fellow veterans to preserve, protect, honor, and share their stories. However, since that beginning, the founding veterans passed away and the museum became a "time capsule."

WHAT: a physical collection of photographs, awards and decorations, and equipment that is tangible evidence of their service. The items are entry points to our Web site with their stories and more information. It's for veterans, families, students, and researchers.

WHERE: Real world...10801 No. College Ave., Carmel. Virtual world...our Web site is "under construction," so stay tuned.

WHEN: hours of operation...ask to visit.

WHY: to preserve, protect, honor, and share the stories of local Hamilton County veterans from World War 2 to the Present Day. In addition, there will be stories of MIA/POW, Home Fronts, Animals in Service, Guard/Reserve Forces, during the conflicts.

HOW: the hard dedicated work and donations of veterans, their organizations, and the volunteers who care about their service are turning the "time capsule" into a vibrant entry to the service and sacrifices of Hamilton County veterans.

For more information and to help us "Preserve and Connect," contact Jon Baldwin, President - Pike and Edwards Memorial Military Library and Museum, at Jonbaldwin@gmail.com, or call/text (317) 435-7194.

Plan a visit soon! Contact Jon Baldwin 317-435-7194

Dale Gillespie's remarkable military experiences will be the feature of two programs, the first will be in May. Each guest attending on May 19th will receive a gratis copy of *Words of War: Wartime Memories—Oral Histories from WWII* (Vol. IV). This anthology includes Dale's account as well as stories from numerous WW2 veterans who were at one time members of our WW2 Indianapolis Roundtable: Past President Earl Zimmerman and former members Merrill "Lefty" Huntzinger, Jim Baize, Ray Ogle, Norris Thomas, and Ralph Swartzell. Alex Rearick is a member and our last WW2 veteran, but unfortunately he is unable to attend our meetings as he is now in a care facility.

Other Indiana heroes in this volume include: Bob Bleier, Neal T. Cobb, Stuart Felton, Michael Fodrochi, Daniel Folsom, Bert Holmes, John T. Jameson, Donald Korb, Louis Lindeman, John D. MacDougall, Richard Marks, Roll McLaughlin, Mark Kishego, Robert J. Moore, Paul Moxley, James O'Donnell, William Rice, Nelson Roetter, Harry A. Stout, Thomas M. Sweeney, and more veteran stories from beyond Indiana.

To honor our American war dead: Visit virtually through the link below:

The Cambridge American Cemetery in England



Photos from Cambridge American Cemetery (2019 by Kathryn Lerch)



Go to video tour: <https://www.abmc.gov/video/cambridge-american-cemetery/>

Annual Dues for 2025

Veteran Family \$25.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

Please mail your check to: WWII Roundtable 917 E. Walnut St, Lebanon IN 46052 or Pay at the dinner

Name: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____ Address: _____

WW2 Veteran? _____ Post-WW2 Veteran? _____ If yes, branch & period of service _____

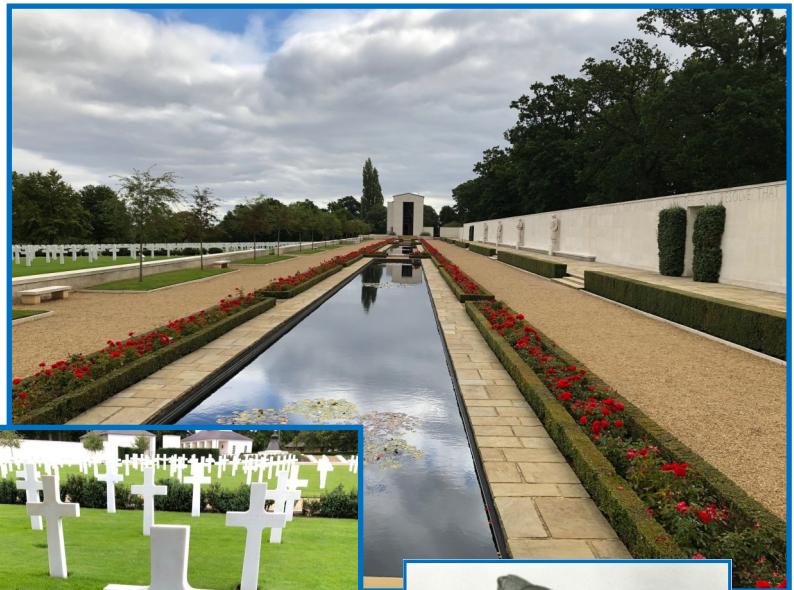
As a courtesy to others, please Do Not attend the dinner if you are ill, or possibly becoming ill, as you may be contagious to others. *Same time, same place, great speakers and remember to invite a guest!*

Script from video courtesy of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

The Cambridge American Cemetery sits on a quiet hillside outside the ancient university town of Cambridge. This is the only military cemetery in the United Kingdom that commemorates American servicemembers and civilian volunteers who died in World War II. Graves fan out across the lawn in sweeping curves. It's a place of stillness and reflection. A stately memorial building contains a map room and devotional chapel. Leaded-glass windows display the seals of U.S. States and Territories. The mosaic on the ceiling depicts the flight of ghostly aircraft, joined by mourning angels flying into eternity.

A visitor center tells the epic story of the historic alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States during World War II. Some three million Americans came to the British Isles to prepare, train, and fight for freedom in Europe and beyond.

More than 3800 of those Americans are buried here. Some died in the air in raids over Hitler's Europe, some at sea in the Battle of the Atlantic, and others fighting on the ground in lands far from home. The Walls of the Missing list over 5,000 names. Some are familiar – big-band leader Major Glenn Miller perished in a plane over the English Channel. Navy bomber pilot Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. was killed in action in 1944. His younger brother, John F. Kennedy, would become president. But every name has its story. Every name resonates with its message of sacrifice. And free people everywhere will always remember the bravery and selflessness of these American men and women. They crossed the ocean to fight for freedom and sacrificed their lives.



Thank you from English residents in Hertfordshire . . . For the sacrifice of these airmen who did not crash into their homes. Or, remember **Navigator Clyde M. Yank** (appropriate last name!) born in Willows, California, served in 96th BG. He gave his life in Nov. 1943. It was reported that they crashed soon after takeoff at Norfolk, England, just 3 miles from their base at East Harling. There were no survivors. It was never determined what caused their crash, however it was likely some type of mechanical failure.

Armen Charles Avakian, 1953–2025



Armen Charles Avakian of Indianapolis died in Haarlem, Netherlands, on February 24, 2025. He was born on September 1, 1953, just weeks before his family moved from Leominster to Weston, Massachusetts. He attended public schools there and in McLean, Virginia, finishing high school in Fresno, California, after his family moved there in 1970.

During his school years, Armen played trumpet and swam for the swim teams. After high school, he attended California State University at Fresno and graduated in 1975 with a degree in journalism. He joined the Air Force, attaining the rank of Captain and serving as Public Affairs Staff Officer at bases in southern California, Florida, Missouri, and Greenland.

Armen had an early interest in aviation. From the age of nine, he accompanied his parents to airports, where he watched airliners take off and land and observed the different aircraft with their varied color schemes. He learned to fly in small planes in Fresno, then began his career as a pilot with a regional air carrier affiliated with Continental Airlines. From there, he moved to Continental itself and became a copilot on 737s, the culmination of his dream to fly the big jets. After retiring as an active pilot, he continued his flying activity as a Certified Flight Instructor teaching others.

Armen cherished his Armenian heritage. He learned Armenian and visited the old country. In Fresno, he attended St. Paul Armenian Church and served in various roles there and in St. Mary Armenian Church in Washington, D.C.

Settling in Indianapolis, he found friends in the Indianapolis Hiking Club. He also enjoyed swimming and was a member of social clubs, a singles club at St. Luke's Church, and the Indianapolis Postcard Club.

Armen's passion was collecting airline memorabilia, airplane models, and vintage aviation postcards. He regularly attended conventions sponsored by the World Airline Historical Society and once served as a judge of a postcard contest at Airliners International. He was attending such a meeting, the Amsterdam Aviation Collectors Fair, doing what he loved best, when he died unexpectedly at age 71 due to a cardiac event.

He was a kind and gentle person and saw good in the people he met. He is survived by his sister Armine Mortimer and his brothers Arra and Arten and by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. His parents Arra and Georgia Avakian and his sister Arsine Peterson predeceased him. As Armen's family is scattered, no ceremony is planned. His ashes too will be scattered, in one of his favorite places.