

For More Information

Visit these websites to learn more about Lt. Estill, Dr. Taylor's quest and others who helped make this program possible.

Dr. Sharon Taylor's personal website regarding her search
<http://myphantomfather.com/>

American WWII Orphans Network
www.awon.org

Arlington National Cemetery's page about Lt. Estill
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/seestill.htm>

Artist James Hartel, whose work is on the cover of the program
www.jimmychacha.com

JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command)
<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/>

Spiegel TV Distribution
<http://www.spiegeltvdistribution.com/>

Mark Your Calendar!!!

September 29, 2010, 5pm Reception, 6pm Presentation

The General Raymond E. Mason Distinguished Lecture on WWII
Maj. Abraham Baum, Distinguished Service Cross recipient
"The Hammeburg Raid: Patton's Secret Mission to Rescue POWs Behind Enemy Lines"
Louisiana Memorial Pavilion

October 28, 2010, 5pm Reception, 6pm Presentation

Meet the Author
Col. Wayne B. Quist
"God's Angry Man: The Incredible Journey of Pvt. Joe Hann"
Stage Door Canteen



My Phantom Father

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Dr. Sharon Taylor featuring Kay Siering



"In My Thoughts,"
an artist's rendering of the author and her father
courtesy James B. Hartel

***American Premiere of
Spiegel TV's
"The Last Flight of Lt. Estill"***



Biographies



Kay Siering was born in Hamburg, Germany, on January 6, 1976. After graduating from high school in 1995, he studied Political Science, History and Journalism at Hamburg University and at Harvard.

Even during his college years, Kay was already working as an author and moderator for several newspapers and, in the area of broadcasting, for Spiegel TV and Norddeutscher Rundfunk.

Since 2003, Kay Siering has been writing and directing Spiegel TV reports and documentaries for a range of TV stations. His works include “The Last Flight of Lt. Estill”, “The Secrets of the Ice Age Hunters”, “Moscow in Flux” and “Search for the Lost Fighter” to name a few.

Siering lives near Hamburg with his wife and two children.



Sharon Estill Taylor, Ph.D, an educator, speaker, and writer, is an Associate Professor of Social Work and Psychology, and Women’s Studies Chair, at Saint Martin’s University near Seattle.

She is the daughter of a WW II fighter pilot shot down and killed at the end of the war. She considers herself a late bloomer who aspired to be a foreign correspondent and live a life of endless adventure and travel. Some of that has actually happened with more of both predicted.

Dr. Taylor is a frequently invited presenter at professional conferences where she speaks about issues of grief and loss. A Spiegel TV documentary film, “A Love in the Time of War: the Last Flight of Lt. Estill”, depicts her search for and recovery of her father’s crash site in Germany. Her published ongoing research about father-loss in war informs much of her writing.

She is currently working on a “color coded” memoir and a textbook for Grief and Loss.

She lives Arizona when she’s not in residence in faculty housing in a campus dorm.

Program

- 5:00 PM Reception, Stage Door Canteen**
- 6:00 PM Seating, Solomon Victory Theater**
- 6:05 PM Welcome and Introductions**
Stephen Watson
Vice President & COO
National World War II Museum
- 6:10 PM “The Last Flight of Lt. Estill”**
- 7:00 PM Q&A session**
- 7:30 PM Evening concludes**



1Lt Shannon Estill, 22, was the last man killed in his squadron (428th/474th Fighter Group) at the end of WWII in Europe. While flying a mission in his P-38J Lightning on Friday, April 13, 1945, he encountered anti-aircraft flak over Elsnig in eastern Germany. His plane was last seen spiraling through the clouds trailing fuel and smoke.

Lt. Estill never returned to his young wife, Mary Taylor Estill and his three week old daughter, Sharon, waiting for him in Cedar Rapids Iowa. His parents, Gordon and Leticia Estill also awaited his return, as did his teenage sister, Margie, and his brother, Wes, a Naval officer. No one knew of

Lt. Estill's fate until his crash site was found after years of searching by Sharon Estill Taylor and German aircraft researcher, Hans Guenther Ploes.

Shannon was born and raised in the family home in Enid, Oklahoma. His maternal grandparents, one of the original pioneer families to settle in Oklahoma, farmed wheat and oil. Shannon’s parents moved to Iowa when he was in high school where he met Mary Taylor and declared it “love at first sight.”

Pearl Harbor was bombed the month they graduated and they married when he completed basic flight training in Fort Stockton, Texas. He worked for John Deere Tractor Company before he was inducted into the Army Air Corps and planned to get a degree in English literature and start a passenger airline when he returned from war. He built and flew a plane in high school and declared in one of the many letters to his young wife that he loved God, his family, and flying above all else.

Lt. Estill was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 2006.