

percent from the last reauthorization. The legislation also includes significant accountability provisions, including audit requirements, enforcement mechanisms, and restrictions on grants and costs.

Our bipartisan bill is the product of careful consideration and has widespread support. I have reached out to those who have opposed these provisions to work out a time agreement to govern amendments. The Judiciary Committee passed this bill after considering the amendments offered by the minority. That is what the Senate should do. Then we should move forward and pass this important measure with strong bipartisan support. These problems are too serious for us to delay. We should reauthorize this law now.

This is crucial, commonsense legislation that has been endorsed by more than 700 State and national organizations. Numerous religious and faith-based organizations as well as our law enforcement partners have endorsed this VAWA reauthorization bill. The Violence Against Women Act should not be a partisan matter. The last two times the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized, it was unanimously approved by the Senate. Although it seems that partisan gridlock is too often the default in the Senate over the last couple of years, it remains my hope working with our Republican cosponsors and if those who have voted for VAWA in the past come forward to support it, we can pass our VAWA reauthorization with a strong bipartisan majority.

Domestic and sexual violence knows no political party. Its victims are Republican and Democrat; rich and poor, young and old, male and female. Let us work together and pass strong VAWA reauthorization legislation without delay. It is a law that has saved countless lives, and it is an example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT S. VERRILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made a great sacrifice to protect and defend the liberties of his beloved United States, and the Republic of France as well: 2LT Herbert S. Verrill of Laurel County, KY. Mr. Verrill is a veteran of World War II and served a tour of duty in Europe in 1945. Today he is 92 years old and resides on Old Whitley Road in Laurel County.

Mr. Verrill, or "Herb" as many call him, served in the U.S. Army, Company E, 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division. Near Reyersviller, France, on March 15, 1945, he commanded a small troop. He was just a lieutenant, and at the time he and his men ventured into the midst of an attack that day. To Herb's horror, his unit found themselves trapped in a maze of barbed wire and landmines while bullets whizzed around them.

Herb accidentally set off one of the buried mines, and the explosion took off his foot in a nearly fatal wound. In a superhuman act of courage, Herb ignored the pain and forgot the wound he had just received. All the 24-year-old lieutenant would think about was the safety of his troop. Using the one foot he had left, Herb directed his men safely out of the middle of the heated skirmish.

After the war, Herb returned home to Kentucky and settled down. He married, fathered three successful children, and found his way back to civilian life. For the next many years Herb, like many other World War II veterans, kept the courage and selflessness he had shown on the battlefield to himself. He sat by quietly and humbly, watching those around him enjoy the freedoms and liberties he and many others had made such a great sacrifice to preserve. Although Herb had done his best to move on, the world would not forget the great heroism that he had shown.

Herb received a letter from the Consul General of France, based in Chicago, IL, in July of 2011. He had been named a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic, one of the highest awards one can receive in the country of France. The letter read:

My fellow countrymen will never forget your sacrifice. Their children and grandchildren are as proud of your courageous actions as can be your own children and grandchildren. This outstanding distinction is the highest honor that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France. It is also a sign of gratitude for your invaluable contribution to the liberation of France during these difficult times in the history of our nation.

The award was authorized on July 4, 2011.

Herb was also recognized by the country whose flag he had worn on his uniform in Europe—the United States of America. He received the Distinguished Service Cross. The letter he received from GEN Donald Storm recalled the "indomitable courage and resolution" displayed by Herb during the battle in Reyersviller that "prevented confusion and consequent casualties among the men, which made possible the capture of the objective."

Herb's nephew, Randy Stanifer, is in awe of the great sacrifice that was made by the service men and women during the Second World War. "The men from those wars were pre-cell phones and pre-Internet," he says. "They were out in the field and would go months without hearing from their families. They went through many things and when most of them came home, they didn't talk about it."

Randy went on to declare, "I think we should all pause for a few minutes and recognize the things they had to go through and appreciate their sacrifices."

Herb was extremely pleased to receive both awards. He is one of the few remaining veterans of World War II;

sadly, our country loses more every day. He answered his country's call to serve, and he did so valiantly. Herbert Verrill undoubtedly deserves every recognition.

Mr. President, at this time I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the service and sacrifice made by 2LT Herbert S. Verrill in World War II on behalf of the United States of America and the French Republic.

Recently an article appeared in the Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel Echo. The article highlighted the courageous life of Mr. Verrill and reported on the awards bestowed upon him by the French Republic and the United States in July, 2011. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Aug. 26, 2011]

LAUREL MAN RECEIVES FRENCH MILITARY HONOR

(By Nita Johnson)

A local veteran of World War II recently received two honors for his military service, one of which is the highest honor bestowed by the French government.

Herbert Verrill of Old Whitley Road was presented with the Knight of the Legion of Honor on behalf of the President of the French Republic through the Consul General of France, based in Chicago. He also received the Distinguished Service Cross for his valor in leading his men away from harm during a battle in France and for directing his company to continue an attack, despite being injured himself.

Verrill served with the United States Army Company E, 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division near Reyersviller, France, on March 15, 1945. Verrill, a lieutenant at the time, was leading his troops through an attack by enemy forces—through mines and barbed wire—when he accidentally set off one of the mines. The explosion blew Verrill's foot off. In spite of the pain and trauma, Verrill kept his fellow comrades and their safety foremost, and ordered them away from the minefield. He continued to ensure their safety and defense by continuing to direct the men by hand and arm signals.

Verrill received the letter from Graham Paul, Consul General of France in Chicago, Ill., last month.

"It is my pleasure . . . to inform you, on behalf of the people of France, the President of the French Republic has named you Knight of the Legion of Honor for your valorous action during World War II," the citation reads. "My fellow countrymen will never forget your sacrifice. Their children and grandchildren are as proud of your courageous actions as can be your own children and grandchildren. This outstanding distinction is the highest honor that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France. It is also a sign of gratitude for your invaluable contribution to the liberation of France during these difficult times in the history of our nation."

The award was authorized through a decree from the President of the French Republic on July 4, 2011.

Verrill was also presented with the Distinguished Service Cross by the American government for his courageous acts. The citation outlining Verrill's heroic act reads: "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress,

July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Infantry) Herbert S. Verrill, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an army enemy.

"The indomitable courage and resolution which he displayed prevented confusion and consequent casualties among the men, which made possible the capture of the objective. Second Lieutenant Verrill's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 100th Infantry Division, and the United States Army," reads the citation.

The award was recently presented by Adjunct General Donald Storm, who said, "It is an honor and privilege to give him the award. Those soldiers in Afghanistan now will be the next generation of heroes."

Verrill is one of the few remaining veterans from World War II, and although nearly bedfast now at age 92, he was pleased to receive the honor. His nephew, Randy Stanifer, praised his uncle for his valiant contributions to his country, not only during wartime but also after returning home from the war.

Verrill, a mere 24 years old while doing his military service in France, watched the war rage throughout Europe and made his sacrifices like thousands of other servicemen and women. "Herbert came back home, married and raised three children, all of whom are successful. Herbert and the men from those wars were pre-cell phones and pre-Internet. They were out in the field and would go months without hearing from their families. They went through many things and when most of them came home, they didn't talk about it," he said.

Stanifer mentioned two other local World War II veterans, of whom he learned information about their wartime activities.

"Vernon Hedrick, who died a few years ago, escaped from a German POW camp and walked over 100 miles to get away from enemy lines," he said. "I didn't know that until recently. Bill Moore (owner of London Tire until his death) was given his last rites on the battlefield. They both survived and came back home, but they didn't talk about these things."

"Herb (Verrill) never talked about any of (his experience)," he continued. "That generation has sat back and watched the country do what it's doing now. I think we should all pause for a few minutes and recognize the things they had to go through and appreciate their sacrifices."

TRIBUTE TO WILMER LEE BOGGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has not only valiantly served his country but has also been a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather. Mr. Wilmer Lee Boggs of Laurel County, KY. Mr. Boggs served in the U.S. Army Air Corps for over 3 years, and upon returning home he contributed to the Nation in a different way, by serving with the U.S. Postal Service for a quarter of a century.

Wilmer was drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces in 1942. He was 21 years old. Shortly after receiving glowing scores on his entrance exam, he was pulled out of basic training in Ft. Thomas, KY, after only a few days and transferred to the Air Corps, the Army service division from which the Air

Force would later come. At the time, the Army Air Corps was in need of mechanics, specifically supercharger mechanics. Superchargers were built onto plane engines to provide the vehicle with more power and speed. The skills displayed by the young Wilmer Boggs showed that he was the man for the job.

Wilmer Boggs, along with the rest of his supercharger class No. 21, graduated from the Aviation Institute of Technology in 1943. Based in England, Wilmer spent the next 7 months going wherever the Corps called him to repair, service, stock, and fuel the airplanes.

Born and raised in Laurel County, Wilmer Boggs had never lived anywhere else. While he was in the Army Air Corps he traveled through 19 different countries and made sure to hold onto a little piece of home the entire time: his dear friend Wilma Vaughn. Mr. Boggs had promised Wilma, whom he had met at Sue Bennett College, that he would write to her faithfully each month, and that is exactly what he did. The two kept up until the soldier returned home in January 1946.

Just 6 months later, in July of 1946, Wilmer went to pick Wilma up from her house with the idea of marriage in the back of his mind. The unsuspecting Wilma was no doubt surprised by Wilmer's request. But love prevailed, and later that day the two were wed, and according to Wilmer, "She was the best wife there ever was."

Wilmer went on to become a postmaster in the U.S. Postal Service while Wilma taught elementary school. They retired together in 1981. Sadly, his beloved Wilma passed away in 2011 but not before the two had seen almost the entire western part of the United States together.

Wilmer has spent his 89 years on Earth forging a legacy that is matched by few. His character is upstanding, and he is a man driven by principle. He is deeply loved and admired by his family, and he is greatly respected by those who know him. It is men like Wilmer whom we can all look up to. Underneath the loyalty and service he has shown his country in its time of need, there is a deep and humble appreciation for his fellow man and local community, which he has conveyed throughout his lifetime.

Mr. President, at this time I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating Mr. Wilmer Lee Boggs for his upstanding character and devoted service to country and community throughout his prosperous lifetime.

An article was published in the Sentinel Echo Silver Edition in the fall of 2011. The story observed the phenomenal life and times of Wilmer Lee Boggs and his dedication to the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Army, and his local economy. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo Silver Edition, Fall 2011]

WORLD WAR II: TAKING THE LEAD

(By Carrie Dillard)

After 25 years with the United States Postal Service, Wilmer Lee Boggs retired as postmaster in 1981. The 89-year-old has worked in banking and the family business, in farm machinery and dairy. He's volunteered for more than four decades with soil conservation and the Gideons.

With his natural leadership abilities, Boggs could've been a politician like his father, Boyd Boggs, who served as both judge and sheriff during his lifetime, but he preferred tinkering with tools instead.

It's why his job in the U.S. Army Air Corps suited him perfectly. Boggs was an airplane engine mechanic, specializing in superchargers.

"It was pretty fortunate to get to do something I liked to do," he said.

Boggs was drafted into the military in 1924. He was 21 years old.

"I got a notice to go into London to the draft board. I was expecting in," he said.

Although Boggs was drafted into the Army, his entrance exam quickly showed an aptitude for more, and he was chosen for the Air Corps, a predecessor to the Air Force.

He was supposed to do his basic training at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, but after just a couple of days there, he was selected to go to mechanics school.

"I took a test," he said, "and they pulled me out of it. They were needing people to go to mechanics school."

Boggs was then selected to specialize in superchargers, which gave the airplane engine more power, and became a graduating member of supercharger class No. 21 from the Aviation Institute of Technology in 1943.

During the war, Boggs's home base was England. Boggs has lived his whole life in Laurel County, except for his time in the service when he traveled to 19 countries, including Scotland, Casablanca, Algeria, and Russia.

"It was my first time away from home," he said. He remembers the damp cold of Ireland, the beauty of Switzerland, and being bombed out in Russia.

Supercharger mechanics were scarce. Boggs said he'd be moved from base to base as needed. "Our job was to service the planes, put bombs in them, fuel them up and repair them," he said.

At his highest rank, he was a sergeant. "That's the highest I wanted to go," Boggs said. "If you went any higher, you had more responsibility."

In total, Boggs was in the Air Corps for 38 months, spending seven months overseas.

During his time across the ocean, he'd write home to family and to an "acquaintance," Wilma Vaughn.

Boggs met Wilma, who would later become his wife, while he was attending Sue Bennett College, but the first time he saw her was at Lily High School. Boggs went to school at Lily for 15 weeks before transferring to Hazel Green, but he would remember Wilma.

"I don't think I even spoke to her then," he said, "but that was the first time I saw her."

Although they were not dating at the time, Boggs said he would write her faithfully once a month.

"I couldn't tell (her) much about what I was doing," he said. Although Boggs went overseas on a ship—the Queen Mary—he came back in a boat one-third of the size.

"I was seasick," he said. After their departure, they encountered a storm and were