

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

forced to wait it out. "For 17 days, we didn't move, just rocked. Everyone was sick."

Upon leaving military service, he made short work about marrying Wilma Vaughn.

"I came home in January 1946. We were married in July 1946."

On the day that would end up being his wedding day, Boggs asked to borrow his father's Chevy. He didn't have a car at the time. He drove over to Wilma's house and picked her up.

"She didn't know we was going to get married until I picked her up," Boggs said. "She was the best wife there ever was. A real Christian woman."

The couple's first car was a '36 Ford they bought in 1947. They'd been married for six months and needed a car because Wilma was teaching school.

Boggs said it seems odd by today's standard that you'd have to buy a nearly decade-old car, but that's the way it was back then.

"You couldn't get a car back then, new or used. We were lucky to get that one," he said.

While at Sublimity Elementary, Wilma retired from teaching in 1981, the same year Boggs retired from the post office, in order to travel. Before Wilma's passing earlier this year, the two had seen most of the western United States together.

Boggs enjoys woodworking, having built his home in the Sublimity area. He keeps his family close, as a majority live just a stone's throw away, including his daughter, Libby Smallwood.

He has three grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

TRIBUTE TO "CHIP" JAENICHEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today in honor of Captain Paul "Chip" Jaenichen, United States Navy, who is retiring this month after three decades of dedicated service to our great Nation. Captain Jaenichen has spent the last 2 years of his career serving the U.S. Congress as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this role, Captain Jaenichen maintained oversight of the Navy team that provides Members and committees of Congress with information concerning the programs of the Department of the Navy.

Captain Jaenichen's Kentucky roots run deep. He spent his formative years in Brandenburg, graduating from Meade County High School in 1978. During his senior year he was selected as one of 50 football players from across the Commonwealth to play in the 1978 East-West All-star game. Chip's wife Paula was born in Morganfield, grew up in Louisville and later attended Meade County High School with him. After her graduation from Western Kentucky University, Paula and Chip were married in Brandenburg. The couple then moved to Louisville, where they lived until he began the Nuclear Training pipeline. Their daughter Rachael attended Murray State University and is now an English teacher at Reidland High School in Paducah. Chip and Paula's son Nathan currently serves as a Marine Corps pilot.

Chip was able to pay homage to his Kentucky heritage in his career as the Executive Officer of the USS *Kentucky*,

an Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine. During this tour he started a Namesake State school partnership with Raceland Elementary School near Ashland. Through this program, which continues to thrive, he coordinated several visits for the crew of the *Kentucky* to work on humanitarian projects in the Commonwealth. Chip's efforts led to his nomination and selection to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in 1996, an organization with which he remains active.

Captain Jaenichen's naval career began in 1978 with an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from Representative William Natcher. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a submarine officer and spent the majority of his career on sea duty. He honorably served on four different submarines before assuming the role of Executive Officer aboard the USS *Kentucky*. After three strategic deterrent patrols with the *Kentucky*, Captain Jaenichen assumed command of the USS *Albany*. Captain Jaenichen served the final 2 years of his career with the Navy's Legislative Affairs office here in Washington.

I thank Captain Jaenichen for his 30 years of loyal service to this Nation. He has made a lasting and significant contribution to the United States Navy and our Nation. I wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

TRIBUTES TO SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in congratulating Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI from Maryland on becoming the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress. Senator MIKULSKI has thus reinforced her distinctive mark on this institution and her unmistakable place in our Nation's history.

Those who have worked beside Senator MIKULSKI know her to be a dynamic force of nature. While she is not the tallest senator, she reaches the greatest heights with her strong principles, indomitable spirit, and steely resolve.

From the neighborhoods of east Baltimore to the Halls of Congress, she has spent her career in the political trenches fighting for others—for women, for working Americans, and for her beloved Maryland. Senator MIKULSKI has been a practical leader for better women's health care. She fought to have women included in clinical trials and medical research at the National Institutes of Health and helped establish federal standards for mammograms.

Her impact is not only felt in the lives of those she serves, but also in her relationships with those she serves with. At this time in our politics when the partisanship pulls us apart, when tribal instincts have coarsened our discourse and weakened our bonds, Senator MIKULSKI is a unifying force of

comity in the Senate. She brings a sense of civility and a sense of humor to this institution at a time when both are sorely needed.

Women senators fondly know Senator MIKULSKI as their Dean. She hosts regular bipartisan dinners for them and is a trusted mentor. She understands that while many of us come to Congress with competing goals, at the end of the day, we are colleagues. We have to work together. Unless we can affirm our bonds as colleagues and fellow humans, the work we are tasked with by the American people will not get done, and the public interest will suffer as a result.

Senator MIKULSKI's remarkable career continues to inspire women across our country on the nobility of public service and the ability for one person to bring about positive change in the lives of others. It is a pleasure to serve beside her, and I wish her my very best for many more productive years here in the Senate.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, today I want to honor Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who has represented the people of Maryland for more than 35 years, and who earlier this week became the longest-serving female Member of Congress. Senator MIKULSKI is a fighter, a fearless leader and a role model for women and young girls everywhere, including my three daughters, Caroline, Halina and Anne.

During the course of her distinguished career, Senator MIKULSKI has been an incredibly effective advocate, and in particular has taken a leadership role in mentoring other women as they follow in her footsteps to the halls of Congress. She has represented Maryland exceptionally well—on issues ranging from civil rights and the environment, to issues affecting working families and our criminal justice system.

Tracking Senator MIKULSKI's career is also a good way to follow the progress of women in our country. When first elected to Congress for Maryland's 3rd district in 1976, Senator MIKULSKI was one of 21 women serving in Congress. Today there are 92 women serving, thanks in large part to the trailblazing efforts of Senator MIKULSKI.

Through her work in an array of roles, from the women's amendment in the Affordable Care Act to her leadership on the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families, Senator MIKULSKI is known as a coalition builder. This role has led her to cultivate personal and professional partnerships among the members of the Senate. Likely some of the country's most important work is done during the bipartisan dinners she frequently hosts for her female Senate colleagues.

I am proud that my first vote as a Senator in January 2009 was in favor of one of Senator MIKULSKI's bills, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which guarantees women equal pay for equal work. And I have thoroughly enjoyed