

and then came back again. I served on a Merchant Marine ship. We didn't do any fighting. We took a load of ammunition to the Philippines, 150 tons, unloaded it, and the Japanese blew it up that night. We took supplies to other countries, but I can't remember. It's been 65 years since I got out. I stayed in Hong Kong, China, cutting hair for 18 months in a G.I. barber shop before I came home. I didn't have enough points to get out (Navy)." Navy training counts for retirement points, so Francis decided to learn how to cut hair.

Besides ammunition, Francis also delivered airplane fuel to the Philippines.

Francis was discharged in May 1946. His experience in the Navy was all good.

"There was no bad. I won't take nothing for what I seen went on, but I wouldn't go do it again."

Francis, 86, was born in Monroe County in 1924 to Herman and Maye Francis. His father had a farm between Tompkinsville and Mud Lick.

"We raised about everything we ate," Francis said.

The family moved to Indiana in 1937, where his father got a job working for the L&N Railroad.

When Francis was 19, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy on Dec. 2, 1941, on his birthday. Two or three years after he was discharged, he married Irene Barton when he was 27 or 28.

"She was a Kentucky woman. I met her in Indiana," Francis said. "We moved back down here in 1966. She was born and raised in Corbin. When she died, I married Lola Boggs. I've been a widower for about two years now. When she (Lola) died, I moved to Carnaby Square Apartments. I'm too old to get married again."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A. SANTOR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a man who has been successful in serving his country, in his career, and in building longlasting relationships with family and friends, all because he has learned to incorporate his passion into all that he does: Mr. William "Bill" A. Santor of Lexington, KY.

Bill Santor lives on the Griffin Gate golf course with his wife of 72 years, Nettie. He tries to play golf at least twice a week, sometimes more. Mr. Santor turned 100 years old on Easter Sunday of this year. Despite his age, he is a competitor through and through; he recently accumulated an astonishing score of 42 strokes after playing 9 holes.

Mr. Santor truly loves the sport of golf, so much, in fact, that he passed his knowledge of the game down to both of his children as they were growing up. Now they, too, have fit the game into their livelihoods in one way or another. His son, Tom, played golf in college at the University of Kentucky, while his daughter, Patty Driapsa, instructs professional golfers at the Club Pelican Bay in Naples, FL. Both children are not only amazed that their father is still able to play the game but are also awestruck by how good he is. Despite his age, after a long lifetime of practice, he still has exceptional skill.

Bill was first exposed to the game when he began caddying in Youngs-

town, OH, at age 12. The pay he received was usually 25 cents for working an entire 18-hole game. He picked up a few spare clubs here and there and began playing himself at the age of 15. Bill quickly found that he was a natural-born golfer, and he began playing in and winning local tournaments.

When World War II began Bill enlisted, but he never ceased to play golf. He was stationed at Fort Knox, close to the Lindsey Golf Course, where Bill would eventually play against Byron Nelson, winner of two Masters, a U.S. Open, and a PGA, in the Kentucky Open in 1943. Although Bill didn't win the tournament that year, just being able to participate is one of Bill's fondest memories to this day.

Not long after the Open, Bill was deployed to Europe, but again he found himself in close proximity with the game he loved so dearly. Bill worked maintaining a golf course on the Czechoslovakia-Germany border. Military officers would come to the course when they were on leave to play, relax, and enjoy their time off. One of the visitors was Bob Hope, with whom Bill had the opportunity to play nine holes. All these years later, Bill will be the first to tell you he won that game.

When Bill returned home after the war, golf was a big part of his family and work life. His wife Nettie remembers most of their family vacations were to golf destinations, where the whole family would play. Bill worked for a business equipment company for almost 50 years and he spent a lot of time with clients discussing business over a game of golf. But Bill's competitive nature would never allow him to let a client win.

To this day Bill tries to fit a round of golf into his schedule every chance he gets, which is something he has done his whole entire life. Bill can drive a golf ball 175 yards, and he has a running count of 10 holes-in-one to this day. Bill's children both agree that golf is what keeps their father going; it is something that he has built his life around. Golf has opened many doors for Bill throughout his life, and for that he is grateful.

It is my wish at this time that my colleagues in the Senate join me in celebrating the successful and still very active life of Mr. William "Bill" A. Santor.

Mr. President, there was recently an article published in the Lexington newspaper the Herald-Leader. The article featured the legacy of Mr. Bill Santor and the love and passion he has for his country, his State, his family, and the game of golf. 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 Lexington Herald-Leader, Apr. 1, 2012]

AT ALMOST 100, BILL SANTOR LOOKS BACK ON HIS COLORFUL LIFE IN GOLF

(By Mike Fields)

To Mark Twain, golf was a good walk spoiled, but to Bill Santor, who will mark his 100th birthday on Easter Sunday, golf has been and still is a wonderful life lived.

"It's given me so much," Santor said. "Great experiences and great memories."

Like when he competed against Byron Nelson in the Kentucky Open. Or when he played nine holes with Bob Hope during World War II. Or when he teed it up in the same tournament as Babe Ruth. Or when he made two holes-in-one in a two-week period at age 87.

In his prime, Santor was one of the best amateurs in Ohio. He passed the golf gene on to his children. His son, Tom, played at the University of Kentucky. His daughter, Patty, played at Bowling Green State and is now a teaching pro in Florida.

Bill Santor still plays golf a couple times a week at Griffin Gate, where he's lived since 1991 with his wife of 72 years, Nettie.

His legs are failing him, and so is his eyesight, but Santor is still capable of scoring well. Just last week, he carded a 42 for nine holes.

He has shot his age so many times that he laughs off the accomplishment as if it were a tap-in putt.

"It's crazy," his son Tom said when asked about his dad's knack for still hitting the sweet spot.

"He's a freak show."

Patty Driapsa, who works at the Club Pelican Bay in Naples, Fla., said she finds it "incredible" how solid her father still hits the ball. "He has a little trouble maneuvering in and out of the cart, but hey, at 100 years old, you'd expect to have a few challenges."

Bill Santor's introduction to golf came when he began caddying as a 12-year-old in Youngstown, Ohio. He earned 25 cents for 18 holes.

He got a few hand-me-down clubs and started playing when he was 15. A natural athlete, he quickly found his groove and was winning area tournaments within a few years.

He continued to caddy on occasion to earn entry-fee money for tournaments. One of his best gigs was looping for Ben Fairless, president of U.S. Steel.

"He'd give me \$30 for expense money,"

Santor said. "That was like \$300 then."

In 1935, Santor played in a tournament in Cleveland and the field included Babe Ruth, the most famous athlete on the planet at the time.

When World War II began, Santor enlisted in the Army and was stationed at Fort Knox. He was upset when he was told the post's golf course was mostly restricted to officers. But Santor's golf talent and gift of gab got him playing privileges.

He was second low amateur in the 1943 Kentucky Open, which was held on Fort Knox's Lindsey Course. Byron Nelson, who had already won four majors (two Masters, a U.S. Open, and a PGA), won that Kentucky Open.

When Santor was shipped overseas during the war, he still played some golf.

As a staff sergeant, he was part of a Third Army team that won a military golf competition in Paris in 1945. The spoils of victory included an engraved gold watch that he's worn for 65 years.

Part of Santor's time in Europe was spent running the golf course at a resort called Marienbad on the Czechoslovakia-Germany border. It was where troops on leave would go for rest and relaxation. And it was where Bob Hope visited during a USO trip.

"The manager came up to me one day and said, Billy, you've got to play with Bob Hope this afternoon." I said, What?!" I went out and played nine holes with him, and I beat him," Santor said.

Before he returned home after the war, Santor got in a lot of golf at Marienbad.

"I played every weekend with a captain, a colonel and a general, and here I was a staff sergeant," he said.

"They gave me the colonel for a partner, and he couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a handful of gravel. I'd have to take out \$6 every time we played."

Golf was also an integral part of Santor's civilian life.

Patty remembers that family vacations were usually golf destinations. Nettie also played in those days, so there was a family foursome.

Bill worked for a business equipment company for almost 50 years, and he did his share of schmoozing on the golf course. Ever the competitor, however, he never lost to a client on purpose.

"One guy asked me if I played customer golf." I said no, and I threw a 68 at him," Santor said, laughing.

While luck is a factor in getting a hole-in-one, there's skill involved, too, especially when you've had 10, Santor's running total. In 1999, he aced the par-3 fourth hole at Griffin Gate on May 3, and aced it again on May 14.

New technology in golf clubs and balls has helped Santor stay in the swing of things after 85 years in the game. His odd-looking interlocking grip his left thumb is tucked under the club still allows for a smooth stroke that can send a drive 175 yards.

"I can't swing too hard, but I can still hit it OK," Santor says proudly.

Patty Driapsa said golf "is basically what keeps my dad going. It's the world he lives in. It's been a game of a lifetime for him, that's for sure."

Tom Santor, who lives in Columbus, Ohio, said golf has been "one of the cornerstones" of his father's life "his family life, his business life, his social life. When he's on a golf course, wherever that might be, he feels like he's home.

"I think that's where he's most at peace." And still fairly close to par.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 4075 HONOR GUARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of individuals who have been working to make a difference in the lives of local veterans in their community for over 60 years. The honor guard of Frankfort, Kentucky's Veterans of Foreign Wars Office Post 4075 has been providing an official military funeral ceremony for local veterans in the central Kentucky area since the 1950s.

Veterans K.B. Johns, Ralph Spooner, Bill Hampton, and Charlie Mauer founded the first VFW Post 4075 color guard over 60 years ago. The men worked together to increase the size of the color guard over the next decade into a full honor guard with 11 members: 2 flag folders, 7 riflemen, 1 bugler, and 1 leader. The honor guard takes any and all requests to play at a fellow serviceman's funeral, free of charge.

The honor guard is made up of veterans from World War II, the Vietnam war, the Korean war, Operation Desert

Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They may be from different generations, but they all share the same respect for one another. Charlie Mauer is the only surviving original member of the troop; he is 85 years old.

Mr. Mauer is joined by three other World War II veterans: Mr. Burnett Napier fought with the U.S. Marines in the Battle of Peleliu in the Pacific Theater at the age of 19. He is now 87 years old, and he is the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, two of the highest honors awarded by the U.S. military. Mr. Charlie Hinds, who is 88 years old, served as a scout for GEN George Patton for 2 years. He enlisted in the Army at age 18. The youngest of the WWII veterans at age 84 is Jim Wolcott. He was stationed in Europe from 1944 to 1947.

According to Charlie Mauer, the honor guard is "a great bunch of guys." The men have conducted ceremonies for hundreds of funerals throughout the program's lifetime and expected nothing in return. They are driven by compassion for their fellow servicemen who have gone on and their families who are left behind with only the memories of their loved one. The men are honored to get the chance to pay tribute to Frankfort veterans who have passed away. When asked, all of the men say that they plan to stay involved in the honor guard as long as they are able to.

It is inspiring to witness others who truly receive joy and satisfaction from helping their fellow man. The men of Frankfort's VFW Post 4075 honor guard will sometimes perform at as many as three funerals a day, all for free. These men have all been involved in historic battles throughout our Nation's history, and they have served their country valiantly. And although they have already given so much, they are still far from done giving back to their community, State, and country.

Mr. President, at this time I ask that my fellow colleagues in the Senate join me in recognizing the valiant dedication to service shown by these brave individuals. There was recently an article published in the Lexington Herald-Leader that featured Frankfort's Veterans of Foreign Wars Office Post 4075. 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 Lexington Herald-Leader, Mar. 26, 2012]

FRANKFORT VFW'S HONOR GUARD MEMBERS FEEL PRIVILEGED TO SERVE (By Kayleigh Zyskowski)

When the phone rings at the Frankfort Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Second Street, 85-year-old Charlie Mauer answers it.

On the other end is not a question about the day's soups or the next bingo night, but a request for the VFW Post 4075 honor guard to pay final respects to a fellow veteran.

It's a call Mauer, honor guard commander, has been answering for years, and he's honored to take it.

K.B. Johns, Ralph Spooner, Bill Hampton and Mauer the only living original member founded the first VFW Post 4075 color guard in the early 1950s.

Within the next decade they were able to support a full honor guard, which takes at least 11 members: two flag folders, seven riflemen, one bugler and one leader.

Four of the current members are World War II veterans, and the rest served in Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are from different generations, but the men say they share the same respect for each other.

"We've got a good bunch of guys," Mauer said.

Mauer, a World War II veteran, says serving the community and paying tribute to Frankfort veterans is something he's glad to do. And because he grew up in Frankfort, he knows many of those who've died, which makes the job more important to him.

Several days after the call comes in, Mauer arrives at the post ready to greet the other members and prepare the equipment.

"We don't get paid," says World War II veteran Jim Wolcott, "other than a free lunch and a beer."

The men arrive wearing dark-blue uniforms decorated with gold cords, white gloves and polished black shoes.

They shuffle into the game room of the VFW where the rifles are stored in a locked cabinet.

After they are prepared to leave for the funeral service, the group stands in the doorway teasing each other about their weight and asking the kitchen crew what's for lunch.

There's no need for practice or rehearsal; each man knows his role because the group has done it so often.

The group has attended as many as three funerals in one day, Mauer says, but the number is usually several per month. Over the years, they have provided services for hundreds of funerals.

The men have braved every kind of weather for funerals, and this morning is chilly and rainy. Luckily, they've heard the sky will clear before the service starts.

The 11 men divide into separate vehicles and make their way up East Main Street to Frankfort Cemetery.

As they wait for the family to arrive at the cemetery's chapel, Charlie Hinds asks Burnett Napier, "What are you doing lately?"

"As little as possible," Napier jokes.

Both Napier and Hinds are World War II combat veterans—Napier in the Marines and Hinds in the Army.

By 19, Napier was fighting in one of the Marine's deadliest battles in the Pacific on Peleliu Island with the 1st Marine Division.

It was September 1944 when Napier ended up on the coral island fighting against the Empire of Japan. He was a corpsman, or medic, when he ran to the side of a fallen Marine, performed first aid on the man under machine-gun fire before carrying him to safety.

Shrapnel hit him later in the same battle, and he suffered a concussion.

Napier, an honor guard member for 15 years, received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star while in combat on the island, which is present day Palau Islands.

"They didn't stay in one place for too long. I was all over the Pacific," he said.

"According to the citation, a Marine was caught in crossfire with machine guns, and, according to the citation, I administered first aid under fire and carried him back to relative safety," Napier said.

Charlie Hinds, 88, has been a member of the honor guard for about 16 years.

He served in seven campaigns and was an Army scout for General George Patton for two years.