

fire departments have gotten better and train harder because of 9/11."

Every firefighter is by law a "peace officer" and duty-bound to report anything unseemly they come across.

In the post-9/11 world we live in today, firefighters are expected to do even more to safeguard the lives of residents in their districts. They must be able to address all hazards, not just fires.

As "first responders," firefighters can provide information to emergency-response agencies that have not yet arrived on the scene. They can determine the situation and decide what resources are required, whether it be an ambulance, law enforcement, hazmat team, or an arson investigator.

House fires kill and injure thousands yearly, and cost many more their valued possessions and memories.

"The activity report for 2011 has Bush Volunteer Fire Department responding to 102 calls," Ernest Rudder said. "Thankfully, only nine were structure fires. We had several grass fires and about five or six vehicle fires. The vast majority of our calls these days are to assist Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County with automobile accidents or to answer and investigate residential smoke or fire alarms."

Rudder said it would be hard to designate the most dangerous fire the department had responded to over the years. "But the Blackwater Church fire was really big with a roof collapse. The big fires in the city of London that we've assisted with and the fires at Chaney Lumber were big and dangerous. We've never had anyone seriously hurt, but recently, on a mutual-aid fire with Laurel County, two of our men were knocked down when the garage doors and ceiling fell on them. Luckily, there were several other firemen there who pulled them to safety."

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of a group of men from the Commonwealth of Kentucky who all acted bravely and valiantly during their time of service in the United States Armed Forces in World War II. Glenn Combs, Toleman Combs, Mansell Stone, Benjamin Garrison, Walter Garrison, Rufus Miller, Earl Hobbs, and Elvy Roberts, who are all from different towns and hollers in Clay County, KY, each has a fascinating story of his experiences while in the military. And it is my hope to share a few of those with you today.

When the United States of America decided to enter the Second World War, we did so with an insurmountable level of patriotism, dedication, and determination to defeat the Axis Powers. Men were going to extreme lengths to enlist and answer the call to serve their country, and protect freedom and democracy in the foreign countries around the world in which it was being tested.

Earl Hobbs, one of the men in this group of eight, had learned that he was just 2 pounds shy of the minimum weight required by the U.S. Army at the time of his enlistment. Upon hearing this news, he hurriedly ran to the nearest convenience store and purchased 3 square pounds of bananas. He gobbled them down right there outside the grocery, every last one of them.

Later that day he passed the physical, including the weight requirement, and was an official member of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was instances like Earl's that truly inspire me; instances of men and women going to such great lengths to secure their freedom and the freedom of the ones that they love.

Earl's action that day so long ago was just one of many from what we call the "Greatest Generation." Men and women alike across the Nation assumed new and unfamiliar assignments and positions that they may not have been comfortable with, all for the cause of defending liberty and securing freedom. We must look to the veterans of not only the Second World War, but the veterans of all the Nation's conflicts and struggles, with the utmost respect. We must not take for granted the inalienable rights we have so passionately fought to gain and maintain, and we must never forget those who have made the greatest sacrifice made by many on behalf of those rights.

I truly cherish the opportunity to stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate today to speak on behalf of these eight men and relate a true story of a local Kentucky "Band of Brothers" who decided to honor God and country and selflessly serve all those who inhabit this great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the great contributions of Glenn Combs, Toleman Combs, Mansell Stone, Benjamin Garrison, Walter Garrison, Rufus Miller, Earl Hobbs, and Elvy Roberts to the cause of freedom.

In July of 2011 there was an article published in the Manchester Enterprise, Clay County's local newspaper, which featured the truly unique journey these eight World War II veterans have experienced in their lifetimes. I ask unanimous consent the said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Manchester Enterprise, July 28, 2011]

A CHAPTER IN WWII HISTORY

Note: This week's feature story covers eight individuals who aided their country to take part in World War II. This story was graciously sent in by Ted Garrison.

After a thorough debate on the world situation, expressing their personal opinions and obligations for a month, they made a decision. They would honor God and country, and defend the Republic of the United States in WWII.

Glenn and Toleman Combs, Mansell "Dude" Stone, and Benjamin and Walter Garrison enlisted in the U.S. Army. Another of the Garrison brothers, Theo, wanted to join, but he was informed that it would be more important to the war effort for him to remain at home and continue to mine coal.

When I first began my research on this small group, I thought Rufus "Jamup" Miller and Earl Hobbs were with them. I found that they entered the military at a different date, but these men (as did so many others) endured enormous hardships during their service, so I decided it necessary to include them in this brief history of patriotism and uncommon valor.

The small group of recruits departed Manchester on October 16, 1940, to be inducted into the military at Ft. Thomas, KY. Walt Garrison was 18 years old at that time. Walt and a friend from Kentucky earned the top scores for expert riflemen in their company. Later, Uncle Walt laughed and blamed snow for causing him to lose to his friend by one point the day they were at the rifle range.

Toleman Combs, Ben Garrison, and Walt Garrison were assigned to Anti-Tank Company of the 10th Infantry Regiment attached to Lt. General George S. Patton's 1st Armored Division of the 3rd Army. Glenn Combs was assigned to Headquarters training and was a Glider Wing of the 82nd Airborne Division.

I believe we should mention that Capt. Elvy Roberts, born on Beech Creek in Clay County, commanded a Glider Wing in the 101st Airborne at Normandy. He also participated in two parachute jumps there. Elvy Roberts made a career of the U.S. military and led the 6th Army as a Lt. General in Vietnam.

The 10th Infantry, with other Army units, including segments of the 101st and 82nd Airborne, were stationed in Iceland. The troops weren't informed that this location was actually a staging area in preparation for the Normandy invasion. Normandy was one of the most important events of WWII. They shipped out of Iceland bound for an unknown destination. After arriving offshore, the 10th Infantry Regiment stayed aboard ships during the first three days of the battle. Their orders were to wait until inclement weather cleared enough to move the tanks and anti-tank guns onto the beaches.

The day before the landing, in the pre-attack briefing, they learned the location was Normandy, and details of the mission were revealed. At that time, they were unaware that their friend, "Dude" Stone, was in the initial attack on the German-held beaches. Soldiers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne had already fought a fierce battle, starting June 3, 1944. "Dude" had gone in with a glider wing. There were 200 men in his wing, and only nine survived.

10th Infantry Regiment and other units prepared to attack. The Anti-Tank company departed the USS Republican by landing crafts and stormed the beach on June 6 at 6:30 AM. Uncle Walt said, "The scene was terrible, but we had a job to do. We could see fortifications blown apart, tank wreckage, and the bodies of American airborne troops lying on the beach."

I asked him if he was afraid when they hit the beach, and he answered, "No, but I was very angry when I saw how the Germans had treated our soldiers." American troops had sustained approximately 6,036 casualties during the first hour of the invasion and over 2,400 at Omaha Beach alone, but they had gained a toehold.

American troops were able to fight their way over the beaches and hundred-foot high cliffs to move ahead a few miles and dig in for approximately 24 hours, thus securing the area. This was a process they repeated, moving the line forward. During these advances, Uncle Walt and a soldier of German ancestry performed sniper and reconnaissance duty for their company. On one occasion near the Modelle River in France, A-T Company came under mortar and rifle fire from a small town. Walt and Wolfgang split up and worked their way toward each end of the village, firing on the enemy positions as they moved in. When they were close, Wolfgang yelled to the enemy troops using the German language, telling them they were surrounded and ordered them to surrender.

Approximately 150 German soldiers surrendered. There was at least one SS Trooper with them. Walt and Wolfgang referred to that episode as their Sgt. York Trick!

Earl Hobbs was discovered to be two pounds under the required body weight at the induction center. He ran to a nearby grocery store, bought three bounds of bananas, hurriedly ate the fruit and passed the physical. Was this an example of youthful patriotism or what?

After basic training, Earl was schooled in armor at Ft. Knox, KY. He was assigned to a tank crew in the 1st Armored Division. During a battle near Algeria, Africa, his tank was disabled and the crew was forced to evacuate. They were captured by German soldiers and taken to a POW camp, Stalag 3B in Berlin, Germany, where he was a prisoner for 27 months.

While he was in this camp, fellow Clay Countian Squire Baker was incarcerated there for three or four months, then moved out to a different location. Squire and surviving members of their bomber crew had been shot down and captured. Stalag 3B was liberated by Russian allies. Earl said, "The Russians were much more cruel than our former German captors."

Rufus "Jamup" Miller, Jr. was inducted into the military at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 13, 1943. After basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, he was assigned to K Company of the 339th Infantry, Third Battalion. They were heavily involved in the assault on the Gustav line.

This location was in Italy. K Company's losses were very heavy, nearly 55 percent. Most of the casualties in K Company were from the minefields. However, they also encountered mortar, rifle, and machine-gun fire. "Jamup" was among the wounded. The 339th Infantry was one of the three regiments of the 85th Infantry Division. In WWI, they were nicknamed the "Polar Bears."

The 85th had a proud and famous history. The second time "Jamup" was wounded was in the North Apennines Campaign in bitter fighting east of Mount Verruca. He was also involved in the PO Valley campaign as well as the Rome-Arno Campaign. After being wounded twice, Miller was transferred to the military police. June 5th, 1944, the 339th did their victory march through Rome.

Glenn Combs was at the induction center when doctors decided his feet were a little flat for the infantry. He went through basic training and into Headquarters Company of the 1st Armored Division. In December of 1942, they traveled to North Africa by ships. Glenn was involved in battles at Anzio, Kasserine Pass, Tunisia, and Algeria. After avoiding a near disaster at Kasserine Pass, the commanding general was relieved and Col. Robinett was placed in charge of operations. Because of his excellent strategy and leadership in attaining victory in a very negative situation, Col. Paul "Little Man" Robinette was promoted to Brig. General. Kasserine Pass was considered to be the first major battle won by American forces in North Africa. Glenn Combs was promoted from staff sergeant to junior warrant officer, and in a few months to chief warrant officer. Glenn said, "One of the reasons I was promoted through the enlisted ranks to officer was due to so many men getting killed in my company."

These men served approximately five years. Walt Garrison was one of the fortunate. He didn't receive a scratch. Uncle Ben wasn't so lucky. He was wounded in the shoulder by shrapnel from an exploding artillery shell on a hill near the Moselle River in France.

Walt Garrison was one of those veterans who could talk about his war experience. Ben, "Dude," "Jamup," and many others were too scarred emotionally, mentally, and physically to recall their combat duty.

I apologize that I'm unable to provide more complete information concerning the sac-

rifices these men made for our country. They and many more of those veterans are heroes and should never be forgotten. The American people who lived during the WWII era earned a reputation as "The Greatest Generation." I truly believe they deserve that compliment. Not only in military service, but also in different walks of life, many of them had exemplary attitudes and accomplishments.

At this time, Glen Combs is the only one of these men still living. He is 92 and in poor health.

Toleman Combs passed away November 29, 1995, and is buried at Nancy, KY. Rufus "Jamup" Miller died February 3, 1997, and is buried in Manchester. Benjamin Franklin Garrison died at Wilmore Veteran's Hospital December 27, 1997, and is buried at Memorial Gardens in Manchester. Walter Garrison passed away on May 22, 2002.

Years ago, Uncle Walt decided to be buried with some of the soldiers he served with at Normandy. He was laid to rest in Butler County Memorial Park "Field of Honor" near Hamilton, Ohio.

Earl Hobbs died November 25, 2003, and is buried at Memorial Gardens in Manchester. Mansell "Dude" Stone passed on July 2, 2004, and is buried in Harts Branch Cemetery outside Manchester.

TRIBUTE TO BURT BACHARACH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I salute the life and accomplishments of Burt Bacharach, who received The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song on Tuesday night. This award is given to musicians whose lifetime contributions to the field of popular song demonstrate the standard of excellence associated with George and Ira Gershwin. Mr. Bacharach received this award jointly with cowriter Hal David, which is the first time in the history of this award that it has gone to a songwriting team. This prestigious honor not only celebrates their work, but it places them among the ranks of Paul Simon, Paul McCartney, and Stevie Wonder, all previous recipients.

Born in Missouri and raised in New York, Burt built a name for himself over his six-decade career as one of the country's most respected and honored songwriters. His partnership with Hal David created such beloved songs as "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," "What the World Needs Now is Love," "Walk on By," and "Alfie." The duo first began collaborating in the 1950s at the Famous Paramount Music Company, and among their first big hits were "The Story of My Life," made famous by Marty Robbins, and "Magic Moments," performed by Perry Como.

Following on their first successes, between 1962 and 1972 their songs were almost continuously on Billboard Magazine's singles chart. During this time they worked with an array of singers, including Dionne Warwick, B.J. Thomas, Dusty Springfield, The Carpenters, Tom Jones, Jackie DeShannon, Gene Pitney, and Herb Alpert. Together, Burt and Hal have written numerous hits that have helped launch the careers of some of America's most celebrated musicians.

Mr. Bacharach, one of the most honored and successful composers of our

time, has earned three Academy Awards and eight Grammy Awards. These include the 1997 Grammy Trustees Award, which he shares with David, and the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. Even after being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he is still touring and performing all over the world.

I ask my Senate colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Burt Bacharach on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO PATROLMAN BEN CAMPBELL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Patrolman Ben Campbell of Copley, OH, for being honored as a 2012 National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) TOP COPS award recipient for the brave and heroic actions he has displayed in the line of duty.

On August 7, 2011, Officer Ben Campbell responded to a report of shots fired in a Copley Township neighborhood and he found a very grisly scene. An armed suspect had shot eight people, killing seven, and was still at large in the neighborhood. Without waiting for backup, Officer Campbell took off on foot after the suspect. As he scoured the area, he heard more gunshots and ran in their direction. Suddenly he found himself in an open area, with no protection, but surrounded by trees and houses, any one of which could be concealing the shooter. Moments later, the suspect stepped out from behind a house and pointed an automatic pistol directly at Officer Campbell. Officer Campbell commanded the shooter to drop his weapon, and when the man refused, the Officer had no choice but to shoot, killing the suspect.

It was a horrible tragedy, but without Officer Campbell's unhesitating courage, it would have been far worse. A subsequent investigation confirmed this when more than 200 rounds of ammunition were discovered in the suspect's car.

For his commitment to the Copley community, as well as his tremendous acts of bravery on August 7, 2011, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Campbell for his service and congratulate him on receiving the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) TOP COPS award.

2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONOREES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, every year the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA, honors our country's local entrepreneurs, hardworking Americans who have built businesses from ideas and created jobs for their communities. I would like to congratulate the eight outstanding entrepreneurs from Connecticut who were recognized in 2011, most especially, A. Gregory Bachmann of Torrington, Connecticut's DYMAX Corporation, who