

Marie Wade. In addition, he is survived by his brothers Cory Alan Lee, Zachary Daniel Wade and his fiancée Victoria Lloyd; his niece Molly Diane Wade; maternal grandmother Denise Webb; maternal grandfather, Gerald Lee, Sr.; paternal grandmother Betsy Brown and her husband Tommy Brown; paternal grandfather, Daniel Lee Wade, Sr., and his wife Linda as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends. He was preceded in death by his brother Adrian David Wade.

Sergeant Tristan Mykal Wade is a quintessential Hoosier, and true American hero. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor him for protecting our treasured country. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES MCGEE

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to join the Columbia College Alumni Association in recognizing one of the college's most prestigious alumni. Colonel Charles McGee is among the most decorated and accomplished Air Force aviators, holding an Air Force record of 409 fighter combat missions flown in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I am proud to applaud him for his invaluable service and contributions to the Air Force, Kansas City, and to our country.

Charles E. McGee was one of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen of World War II and continued his service as a career officer in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years. He was born in Cleveland, OH on December 7, 1919, and as a young man, McGee was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout on August 9, 1940. He later served in district and regional positions in the BSA. At the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, he was recognized with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

During the Vietnam War, as a Lieutenant Colonel, McGee flew 172 combat missions in a McDonnell RF-4 photo-reconnaissance aircraft. After a series of other appointments in the United States, Italy and Germany and promotion to Colonel, McGee retired on January 31, 1973. He ended his military career with an impressive 6,308 flying hours. Following his military service, McGee has held many prestigious functional and honorary positions within the field of aviation.

In 1978, at the age of 58, he completed his college degree at Columbia College in Kansas City, over 30 years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, attaining a college degree had been a lifelong goal. I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Colonel McGee for this great achieve-

ment and am proud that he chose to complete his studies and continue his impressive career in the great State of Missouri.

In his civilian life, McGee served as the director of the Kansas City downtown airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission. For 30 years, he has been an ambassador of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., serving three times as national president. He has shared his story in numerous public addresses and has received many accolades, including the National Aeronautical Association's Elder Statesman of Aviation.

In 2005, McGee was part of a group of former Tuskegee Airmen who flew to Balad, Iraq to speak to active duty airmen serving in the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, the current incarnation of the 332nd Fighter Group.

McGee has been recognized for his combat and military service with a number of awards including: Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Hellenic Republic World War II Commemorative Medal, along with related campaign and service ribbons.

In 2007, President George W. Bush awarded him and the surviving Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest civilian award, and in 2011, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, OH.

I am honored to join Columbia College in celebrating Colonel Charles McGee's accomplishments and service, from which we have all greatly benefited. I want to thank Colonel McGee for his leadership in the field of aviation, in our military, and in his community.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL NORBERT CZECH

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Nevada educator and veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Norbert Czech, for his retirement as the District Army Instructor, DAI. His selfless work for the District JROTC Program and with the veterans of Northern Nevada make him truly deserving of our appreciation.

LTC Czech received his commission through the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in 1970. He served honorably with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment along the East/West German border as the Regimental Adjutant and Executive Officer. His final assignment was as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, where he was responsible for the recruitment, training, and commissioning of more than 100 Army Second Lieutenants.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, LTC Czech established the

Army JROTC Program at Galena High School. He went on to serve as the Director of the Washoe County JROTC Programs for 5 years. Last year he was honored as the Nation's best District Army Instructor.

Not only has LTC Czech had a lasting impact on the young students of Nevada through the JROTC program, but he has helped his fellow military veterans in Northern Nevada. He is an active member of the 82nd Association, the Westmoreland Chapter of Association of the United States Army—AUSA—and the Veterans Guest House, which was created as a place for military veterans and their families to stay when they are receiving treatments at area hospitals.

I am continually humbled by the sacrifices made by the brave men and women in the Armed Forces who fight to preserve freedom in the United States. They faced dangerous situations in order to protect Americans from harm and deserve our utmost respect. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue fighting for veterans' benefits and supporting all of our men and women in uniform.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LTC Norbert Czech for his accomplishments and expressing my sincere gratitude to him for his service and contributions to Nevada's students and military veterans. He is a true American hero.●

TRIBUTE TO KATY SIMON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Katy Simon as she retires from the position of Washoe County Manager, a title which she proudly held for 15 years. Ms. Simon's diligence and determination has made her an extraordinary leader to the people of Washoe County.

Ms. Simon was appointed Washoe County Manager in 1998 after serving 2 years as assistant county manager for Finance and 1 year as deputy county manager. Prior to her appointments, she was the owner and principal consultant for Simon and Associates Management Consulting, providing services both here in the United States and overseas. She also served executive positions with Washoe Health System.

Ms. Simon's dedication to the people of Northern Nevada has not gone without notice. During her implementation of the employee classification and compensation system, she was recognized twice by the State legislature for objectivity and fairness. Additionally, she was accountable for the successful startup of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. These are just a few examples of Ms. Simon's efforts to promote the growth and development within her community and the State.

Resilience and persistence aided Ms. Simon as she helped Washoe County through 5 years of the toughest economic times this great county had ever seen. She took Washoe County from a

strong, well-managed county to being one of the very best local governments in the Nation. I applaud Ms. Simon's commitment to the people of Washoe County and all of Northern Nevada. She serves as a shining example for all Nevadans, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE AMES

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor CPL George Ames, a hero from the Korean War.

George was born in Pennsylvania and at age 16, he talked his mother into signing a form so he could enlist in the Army Cavalry. In 1951, George was deployed to Korea where he fought for 2 years. He was wounded three times and eventually was flown to a military hospital in Japan. George did not talk much about his time in Korea but did show his daughter a flag he had made when he was in the hospital in Japan. The flag had a map on it which showed all of the places in Korea where he had fought.

When he returned home, George spent 16 years as a military police officer in El Paso, TX.

In 1971, he moved to Montana and served as the sheriff of Sweet Grass County in Big Timber for 20 years.

George was one of the first sheriffs in Montana to bring the Drug Abuse Resistance Education—DARE—program to his county schools. He also was one of the first sheriffs to bring the FBI's Child Find program to help schools put kids' fingerprints and pictures into a booklet for parents.

George passed away in 2011, but it was my honor to present the honors he earned to his widow Clara and his granddaughter Meggin. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented CPL George Ames' Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp, National Defense Service Medal, and Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars.

I also had the honor of presenting George's widow Clara and his granddaughter Meggin the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award and the United National Service Medal.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget George Ames' heroism.●

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEONARD

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor TSgt Norman Leonard, a hero from World War II and the Korean War.

Norman was born in 1925 in North Jackson, OH.

In 1943, Norman enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served on the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill. During his 2 years in the South China Sea, Norman was involved in 11 major battles.

Two days after he left the Bunker Hill, the carrier was hit by two kamikazes and over 400 servicemen were killed.

Private First Class Leonard returned to the United States and joined the Air Force. He deployed to Germany where he served with the Allied Forces from 1948 until 1951. From Germany, Norman was Deployed to Taegu, Korea, from 1953 to 1954. In Korea, Staff Sergeant Leonard worked on the F86 fighter bombers.

Twenty years after he enlisted in the Air Force, Norman retired.

He went to Bible school and worked as a pastor in Nebraska, Colorado, and Minnesota.

Norman and his wife moved to Billings 15 years ago to be close to their son and grandchildren.

Earlier this month, it was my honor to present Norman his Korean War Service Medal and his Official Citation from the Republic of South Korea on the 50th Anniversary of the War.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget Norman Leonard's heroism.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL MERRILL

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor PO1 Michael Merrill, a sailor who fought in Vietnam.

Michael grew up in Outlook, MT, and went to Butte in 1961 to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He was sent to Millington, TN, for training at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South base. In Tennessee, he met his future bride, Barbara, whom he married in 1964. Barbara said she always wanted to be in the service, and for her, helping take care of Michael was her way of contributing to our country.

Michael traveled back and forth between San Diego and Millington until 1969 when he received orders to deploy to the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-La as a jet mechanic. The Shangri-La was posted in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

For his service during the war, Michael earned the Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

After Vietnam, Michael and Barbara headed back to Miramar Naval Air Station before a tour on the USS Midway in Japan. Michael's last posting was to Whidbey Island in Washington where he worked with a helicopter squadron.

In 1981, after 20 years in the Navy, Michael retired and moved home. In Billings, he worked various jobs, including working at a tire supply company.

Michael passed away in 2009, but it was my honor to present the honors he earned to his widow Barbara. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented PO1 Michael Merrill's Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

I also had the honor of presenting to Michael's widow Barbara, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Navy "E" Ribbon, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with the 1960 device.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget Michael Merrill's heroism.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 807. An act to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 807. An act to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1441. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2012 Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessments from the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the three national security laboratory directors, and the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (DCN OSS No. 2013-0648); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1442. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith M. Huber, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.