

of the Capitol Guide Service, and prolific poet whose work has been recited many times on the Senate floor. It is a privilege to present Bert's touching piece, written in memory of Lance Corporal Philippon. I invite my colleagues to remember and honor Lance Corporal Philippon and all current and former members of the military, and their families, today and always.

THIS IS MY BLOOD

This . . .
This Is My Blood,
that I so bled!
ALLELUIA!
And this is my life,
that I so led!
ALLELUIA!
And these are all of the moments,
which I no longer so have!
ALLELUIA!
As for you,
I so gave up all that I had!
ALLELUIA!
That Last Full Measure,
My Life . . .
The Greatest of All Treasures,
that one so has!
ALLELUIA!
And I'm so very sorry Sister and Brother,
My Dearest Mother and Dad!
ALLELUIA!
And I know that you all so miss me,
and so want to be with me so very bad!
ALLELUIA!
And I know that it make's you all so very
sad!
ALLELUIA!
And these,
are all of your tears that you now so weep,
that you so have!
ALLELUIA!
All because your baby boy . . .
your son, your most precious joy . . .
your bother this one,
has so died hurting you all so very bad!
ALLELUIA!
All because,
in warm arms holding each other again we'll
never have!
ALLELUIA!
But, find comfort . . .
Because,
one day up in Heaven we will all be together
so very glad!
ALLELUIA!
For no Parent,
no Sister, nor Brother of another . . .
should so have to so watch their loved ones
being buried in the ground!
ALLELUIA!
And these are,
the Sons and Daughters that I shall never so
see!
ALLELUIA!
And this is the Wife,
that I'll never so grow old with so happy to
be!
ALLELUIA!
But take heart,
for all that I've given up . . .
Heaven so awaits all so for me!
ALLELUIA!
So wipe away all of those tears now so very
deep!
ALLELUIA!
Moments are all that we all so have!
ALLELUIA!
To Make A Difference!
To Change The World!
To March Off So Very Boldly,
With But Our Flags So Unfurled!
ALLELUIA!
So very proud,
wearing those most magnificent shades of
green,

to so show the world what the word honor all
so means!
ALLELUIA!
And to be One of The Few,
Hoo Rahhhh . . . A United States Marine!
Oh yes,
remember all of this my little boys and girls
what all so means!
ALLELUIA!
For Heaven so holds a place,
for all of those of such honor and selfless
grace!
ALLELUIA!
For it's far . . . far . . . better,
to have died for something!
Than,
to have lived for nothing at all!
ALLELUIA!
Because,
that's not really living,
no . . . no . . . not really living at all!
ALLELUIA!
As that's why,
I so answered that most noble of all calls!
ALLELUIA!
Because in life,
there is no higher height to which one can so
be called!
ALLELUIA!
And no greater thing,
then while all in the face of death to so stand
so very tall!
ALLELUIA!
Then,
but to lay down ones life but for The Greater
Good of It All!
ALLELUIA!
As why up in Heaven with our Lord Larry,
your fine soul has now so been called!
ALLELUIA!
As an Angel In The Army of Our Lord,
to so watch over us and protect us one and
all!
ALLELUIA!
For Larry,
we will hear you on the wind . . .
and we will feel you on the breeze . . .
As we carry you in our hearts,
all in our memories . . .
ALLELUIA!
And tonight in Connecticut,
as you so lay your heads down to sleep . . .
there comes a gentle rain . . .
ALLELUIA!
As it's our Lord's tears from up in Heaven,
washing down upon you to so ease your pain!
ALLELUIA!
Until,
up and heaven you and Larry will all so meet
again . . .
And you won't have to cry no more!
ALLELUIA!
This Is My Blood!
ALLELUIA!
AMEN!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LEE RICH

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor William Lee Rich, a career Navy man. Bill, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bill Rich's service in the U.S. Navy, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Bill was born in Jamestown, NY, in 1947. After moving around the country with his family, he graduated from Spring Valley High School in New

York and enlisted with the U.S. Navy in Poughkeepsie in 1966.

Bill trained with the Seabees in Davisville, RI, before transferring to Mobile Construction Battalion 121 at Seabee Headquarters in Gulfport, MS. From there he was deployed to Phu Bai with MCB 121, just south of Hue City in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Bill's unit was responsible for transporting South Vietnamese refugees out of Hue.

In February 1968, his unit saw heavy action during the Tet Counter Offensive. They were responsible for transporting a group of South Vietnamese out of Hue to the refuge center at Phu Bai. It was for their time in Hue that the MCB 121 received the Presidential Unit Citation. Bill also earned his Combat Action Ribbon.

Bill's deployment ended after 9 months, and his unit returned to Gulfport, MS before going back to Vietnam, this time to Camp Eagle in the Gia Lai Province. During his 8 months at Camp Eagle, Bill worked on various construction and electrical projects, both around the camp and in Hue. He also worked with the American-Vietnamese Civic Action Program to help construct engineering projects in the region.

After his two tours in Vietnam, Bill transferred to Naval Reserve Construction Battalion 19 for 4 years before returning to Active Duty.

Back with the Seabees, Bill was assigned to Italy and New Zealand before spending a year in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. He was then assigned to Harold E. Holt station in Australia where he married his wife, Debby, a Helena native.

From Australia, Bill went to Winter Harbor, ME, and then to MCB 74 in Gulfport. He deployed from Gulfport to Japan and Puerto Rico. From battalion he went to Manama, Bahrain, in the Persian Gulf as a contract inspector.

From Bahrain, Bill went to the Naval Headquarters in London, England, for 4 years where his daughter Mariah was born.

Bill's last assignment was part of a five-man Active-Duty staff for Reserve Construction Battalion 13 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, NY. Before he retired, Bill received both the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and the Long and Faithful Service Medal.

Upon his retirement, he received both the Navy and Army Achievement Medals. Bill retired with the rank of E-6, construction electrician first class.

Bill transferred to Fleet Reserve and retired after a 30-year naval career.

Petty Officer Bill Rich moved to Helena to start his new life with his wife and daughter. He currently works for the State of Montana Department of Military Affairs here at Fort Harrison as an electrician.

After his service, Bill never received all of the medals he earned from the Navy.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his friends and family, it was my honor to finally present to Bill his Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device,

Navy Expert Rifle Medal with Three Bronze Stars, Navy Expert Pistol Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and his Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon with One Silver and Four Bronze Stars.

It was also my honor to present the Antarctica Service Medal with Bronze Clasp, the Vietnam Service Medal with One Silver and Two Bronze Stars, the Navy Good Conduct Medal with Four Bronze Stars, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Star.

Earlier this month I also presented to Bill the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation with One Bronze Star.

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

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 982. An act to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 16. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass.

At 12:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 324. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

H.R. 570. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1344. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1412. An act to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 982. A bill to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 324. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 570. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1344. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1412. An act to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1003. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

S. 1004. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity.

H.R. 45. An act to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 22, 2013, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 982. An act to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

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-1578. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methyl 5-(dimethylamino)-2-methyl-5-oxopentanoate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9385-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1579. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Triforine; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9387-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1580. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1-Naphthaleneacetic acid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9386-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1581. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Kevin M. McCoy, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1582. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Ralph J. Jodice II, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1583. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Clarification of 'F' Orders in the Procurement Instrument Identification Number Structure" ((RIN0750-AH80) (DFARS Case 2012-D040)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1584. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Government Support Contractor Access to Technical Data" ((RIN0750-AG38) (DFARS Case 2009-D031)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1585. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1586. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1587. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant