

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I am going to begin my comments, but I am told by the majority leader he may want to come in and do wrapup, and I am perfectly comfortable with him coming in and interrupting me if he does get to the floor to do that.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask my friend from Georgia, through the Chair, if I could do the closing script. It will take about 2 or 3 minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Certainly.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I do appreciate the Senator's courtesy very much.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Thursday, June 27, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 179, Anthony Renard Foxx, to be Secretary of Transportation; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow, June 27, upon disposition of the Foxx nomination and the resumption of legislative session, all postcloture time be considered expired with respect to the committee-reported amendment, as amended; that the pending amendments to the underlying bill be withdrawn; that I be recognized for the purpose of raising points of order against the remaining pending amendments to the substitute amendment; that after the amendments fall, the Senate proceed to vote on the adoption of the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended; that upon disposition of the committee-reported substitute amendment, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 744, as amended; finally, if cloture is invoked, it be considered as if cloture had been invoked at 7 a.m., Thursday, June 27.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, are we in a period of morning business now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No. We are on S. 744.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CAREY CASWELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a man, Albert Carey Caswell, who has dedicated his life to recounting the stories of our Nation's history to the visitors of the U.S. Capitol, as well as many others who have participated in Albert's tours.

Albert's poetic talent and upbeat attitude has enriched the lives of his colleagues, Senators, staff and visitors during his nearly 30-year career in the U.S. Capitol.

Albert is known for his gift of words, in poetry and in prose, which have left an indelible mark on the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as more than 150 of his poems are included in the RECORD. More recently, Albert wrote a poem to honor the late Senator Lautenberg from New Jersey.

Albert got to know Senator Lautenberg from years of escorting veterans around the U.S. Capitol. Albert had immense respect for Senator Lautenberg's military record as well as for his enduring commitment to public service.

Mr. President, I share Albert's "Let's Be Frank" poem for all to read.

LET'S BE FRANK

Let's!

Let's be Frank!

Of how his long fine life upon this earth so ranks!

Now, that's a Laut . . . En . . . Berg

For he was but a public servant,

Who our Nation all so Heard!

A Jersey Boy

Who so lived The Great American Dream

Who so looked as if he would live forever,

As so it seemed!

In his 80's

he looked like he was in his 60's . . .

Because, hard work was but his life's dignity!

Give me your tired and your poor!

As American opened up her arms and her doors . . .

To a family who came from far across the dark deep shores!

When,

at the edge . . .

as Mankind bled!

He volunteered to join the Army

As he so raised his hand and his life so pledged

To Save The World

In a World War!

While, Fighting in The Big One . . .

So far across those most distant shores!

And came back home,

and yet still to more greatness his heart of courage roamed!

As he took that GI Bill

And climbed another hill . . .

With now a great education he so owned

ADP,

as him and his friends built a great American Company!

But deep down inside . . .

something far much more important out to him so cried!

To serve his country and beloved New Jersey,

his heart would decide!

Like his favorite band Bon Jovi,

"like a cowboy" he wanted it "dead or alive!"

Until, finally rising all the way to the top,

To The Senate Floor where he would so stop as he so strived!

In thirty years,

It became oh so very clear!

The title of a United States Senator,

He was so meant to own!

Upon the Senate floor,

where his great shadow would be so cast for evermore!

Now Let's Be Frank,

you were one hell of a public servant and that's for sure!

For yours was a life of standing tall

To somehow,

someway make it a better world for one and all!

For you had a style and a grace!

And a look and a smile upon your face!

And a presence and a command

That so said that you so belonged in this place!

And even though you retired,

you went home and still you had the fire!

So you came back,

To ever one her to so inspire!

Let's Be Frank,

one could not have lived a life much more higher!

Right up to the end,

What you did Frank but so meant so very much!

But as a family man,

as where your greatest accomplishments would stand as such!

For Frank,

you were a giver . . . not a taker!

And it's clear a better world on your life's journey,

You would so make here!

But there's more debates,

Byrd, Stevens, and Teddy up in Heaven you now await!

And all of your GI buddies,

Who the trip home with you never made

Let's Be Frank,

wouldn't we all want to live a long life so great!

Because all in the end,

it's far . . . far . . . far better to give, than to take!

Let's Be Frank!

TRIBUTE TO WILBURN K. ROSS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an honorable Kentuckian and decorated World War II veteran, Mr. Wilburn K. Ross of Strunk, KY. Ross, who turned 91 in May, celebrated his birthday by making a trip to Kentucky from his current home in Dupont, WA. Ross has not only served his country but continues to serve his childhood home by coming back each year to spend time with his family and fellow veterans of McCreary County.

Ross, who is also known as "Wib," was raised in Strunk, KY, and joined the U.S. Army here to begin his extraordinary service to our country. Every year for his birthday, Ross makes the visit back to Kentucky. "Everybody here treats me well," Ross said. "I like coming back here because

I was raised here." Ross's son Greg is the eldest of his six children and travels with his father.

On October 30, 1944, Ross served as a private in Company G, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. This day Ross fought courageously, and 6 months later he received the highest decoration in the U.S. military, the Medal of Honor. After 55 out of the 88 men were lost in his company, Ross manned a machine gun alone holding off six German attacks.

Mr. Ross's bravery and courage while in service to his Nation is an inspiration to his fellow Kentuckians. His story is one that is told again and again to remind McCreary County residents of his dedication and liberty to our country. A local newspaper published an article on May 23, 2013, to celebrate 91 years of life for Mr. Ross and to retell his story while in uniform. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the McCreary County Voice, May 23, 2013]

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

STORY OF NATIVE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT IS WORTH REPEATING

(By Eugenia Jones)

As he does each year on his birthday, Wilburn K. "Wib" Ross makes the journey back from his current home in Dupont, Washington to the Bear Creek community in Strunk, Kentucky, to visit his birthplace and childhood home and to celebrate and reminisce with family and friends.

This year, with Ross turning 91 on May 12, was no exception. Arriving in McCreary County on the day prior to his birthday, the spry 91-year-old clearly was not weary from his cross-country travels. After spending the remainder of his McCreary County arrival day visiting with his brothers and other family members, "Wib" found time to visit the American Legion Post 115 for a night filled with jokes and conversation with fellow veterans.

On the following day, "Wib" once again visited the American Legion, where he was honored at a special luncheon with an American flag birthday cake.

The story of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and McCreary County native Wilburn K. Ross, who was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Division, and his bravery under fire during World War II has been told many times, yet it remains a story that is worth repeating, not only to remind us of the individual courage and bravery needed to protect the freedom we cherish but also to share, with our young people, the historical legacy surrounding a McCreary Countian's inclusion into the elite group of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

It is from McCreary County that Ross, as a young man, entered the U.S. Army during World War II. His service led him to be cited for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty near St. Jacques, France" and to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

According to the "U.S. Army Center of Military History," Ross's extraordinary feat of courage began at 11:30 a.m. on October 30, 1944, after his company had lost 55 of 88 men in an attack on elite German mountain troops.

Risking his own safety in order to absorb the beginning impact of the enemy counter-

attack, Private Ross placed his machine gun 10 yards in front of his leading support rifle-men. With machine gun and small-arms fire whizzing around him, Ross fired with deadly accuracy and managed to fend off the enemy force.

Surrounded by automatic fire and exploding rifle grenades, Private Ross, by himself, continued to man his machine gun and bravely held off six more German attacks. By the eighth attack, most of Ross's supporting riflemen were out of ammunition. As the American riflemen took positions supporting Ross from behind, they crawled, during battle, to Private Ross in order to slip a few rounds of ammunition from his belt. Throughout it all, Ross continued to fight on with basically no help, successfully pushing the enemy back despite the fact that enemy grenadiers crawled to within four yards of his position in attempts to kill him with hand grenades.

Finally, having used his last rounds of ammunition, Private Ross was directed to withdraw to the command post with the eight surviving riflemen. Instead, Ross, anticipating more ammunition, stood his ground. The Germans, realizing that Ross and his machine gun were all that stood between them and a major breakthrough, embarked on their last attack, bringing their fire and wrath together on Private Ross in an effort to destroy him. Just as the enemy was about to rush over Ross's position, he received fresh ammunition, allowing him to open fire on the enemy, killing 40 and wounding 10 of the attacking force.

Single-handedly breaking the attack, Ross killed or wounded at least 58 Germans in more than five hours of continuous combat, saving the last members of his company from devastation.

"I didn't really get tired," Ross commented when asked about the battle. "But they got awfully close to killing me."

Remaining on his post that night and the following day for a total of 36 hours, Ross proved that his upbringing in McCreary County, Kentucky, had served him well in preparing him to exhibit extraordinary courage and fortitude in protecting his comrades and his country under fire.

Six months later, on April 14, 1945, Ross proved that the same McCreary County upbringing had prepared him to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration given by the United States government to a member of the armed forces.

Years later, that same McCreary County man, who as a young adult worked in the local coal mines at Stearns, received congratulations from and shook the hand of President John F. Kennedy, just a few months prior to Kennedy's assassination.

In continuing his career with the Army, Ross reached the rank of Master Sergeant and received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and the French Croix De Guerre. He was wounded four times and also served in Korea.

Today, at 91 years old, Ross will quickly tell everyone how much he enjoys his birthday visits home to McCreary County.

"Everybody here treats me well," Ross smiled. "They've named the highway [Private Wilburn K. Ross Highway] after me. I like coming back here because I was raised here."

Ross's son Greg, the eldest of six children, travels with his father and truly admires his father. "He's been a super man all his life," Greg commented as he smiled at his father. "He's always been helpful to everybody. It's fun to travel with him."

"Wib" says his life is "pretty good" now. With his son close by, Ross still lives by him-

self in Dupont and mows his own grass. He enjoys going out for his weekly visit to a local gathering spot to listen to music and sings along when the lyrics, "Put your sweet lips a little closer to the phone," ring out from the stage.

The Congressional Medal of Honor recipient is straightforward and direct when asked for his advice to the younger generation.

"I think the best thing is to always do what you think is right," Ross declared. "If you do that, you'll have nothing to worry about."

COLUMBIA FALLS, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to wish the Town of Columbia Falls a very happy 150th birthday. Throughout this year, Columbia Falls will celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this sesquicentennial marks Columbia Falls' incorporation, the year 1863 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. It is a journey that began eons earlier, when the receding glaciers carved out the river known to Native Americans as the Wescogus and to those who came later as the Pleasant. In the decades before America won its freedom, the Pleasant River provided the wildlife that sustained the first settlers. In the years that followed, it became a great avenue of commerce in products from field and forest and a great shipbuilding industry thrived along its banks.

Natural resources are only the background for Columbia Falls' story. Such names as Judge Thomas Ruggles, Daniel Carleton, Elijah Hamlin, Henry Bucknam, and Mary Ruggles Chandler remind us of the determination, ingenuity, and hard work that built the town. The impressive representation of Columbia Falls landmarks on the National Registry of Historic Places and the town's ongoing effort to restore Union Hall demonstrate the high regard the residents of today have for those who came before.

In the year of Columbia Falls' incorporation, America was engaged in the Civil War. Many brave patriots from this community stepped forward to preserve our Nation and to secure the blessing of freedom for all, and they were remembered at the Columbia Falls Civil War Ball in April that launched this 150th anniversary celebration. Through their longstanding commitment to the inspiring Wreaths Across America Project, the people of Columbia Falls honor the heroes who have served our country throughout our history and bring distinction to our State.

This celebration is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who for more than a century and a half have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Columbia Falls has a wonderful history. Thanks