

Burwell to take this issue very seriously. Ultimately, the Secretary of HHS has the responsibility to ensure that health research grants are not abused. She needs to ensure that agencies within HHS have all the tools they need to recover money lost to fraud and to prevent it from happening in the first place. Secretary Burwell should investigate Dr. Wright's allegations about the Office of Research Integrity and fix the problems that Dr. Wright outlined before his resignation.

Oversight is an extremely important part of the government's role. Unfortunately, it is often ignored and taxpayers' dollars are abused. When researchers abuse the public's trust, Health and Human Services and its components should use all the power they have to investigate, resolve the problem, and get the money back. They owe it to the American taxpayers.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this past Wednesday, July 2, I was extremely pleased and honored to be a part of the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to a brave soldier Kentucky is proud to call one of its own. SPC Earl Wilson of Liberty, KY, received his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds suffered while serving our country in Vietnam. I want to share the honor and majesty of this event with my colleagues and so therefore ask unanimous consent that the full text of my remarks at the ceremony to award SPC Earl Wilson his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the text of the two proclamations for the Purple Hearts, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD:

SENATOR MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART WITH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON, JULY 2, 2014

Thank you for that kind introduction. It is my great honor to be here for the presen-

tation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Army Specialist Earl Wilson of Liberty, Kentucky, for wounds received in action while in service to our country in Vietnam.

It's a long-overdue honor that is finally upon us, thanks to Earl's many family and friends who helped make this moment possible. This event today is a testament to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship.

Because this ceremony is a high honor and a prestigious occasion, we have several dignitaries with us who I want to recognize, including State Senator Jimmy Higdon and Casey County Judge-Executive Ronald Wright. Casey County Sheriff Jerry Coleman and the county circuit court clerk, Craig Overstreet, are with us. And I'm pleased to welcome Casey County Attorney Tom Weddle and Liberty Mayor Steve Sweeny.

It's a pleasure to have Chris Smrt of the Kentucky chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart here today to welcome Specialist Wilson into their ranks, as well as VFW Post 5704 Commander Claude Wyatt. Both organizations are strong advocates for our veterans.

I'd like to recognize Glen Phillips, a veteran who played an important role in today's ceremony.

Let me also say a special hello to my longtime friends, Betty Lou and T.M. Weddle.

It's also an honor to recognize Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington, fellow resident of Liberty and fellow member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, here today. Jesse, welcome.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the members of Earl Wilson's family who are from right here in Liberty and came to join us today, including Earl's wife, Brenda, and family members Crystal and John Davis; Melissa Wilson Durham; Addison and Ian Davis; Tanner and Blake Durham; Jimmy Couch, Cierra Couch, and Dave Brown.

The original Purple Heart was established by General George Washington himself, and as such the Purple Heart is the oldest existing military award that is still given to servicemembers.

For a period in our country's history, however, the honor fell into disuse. In 1932, to mark the bicentennial of Washington's birth, it was General Douglas MacArthur who spearheaded its revival.

We remember MacArthur for many things, not least of which are his words. To an audience at West Point Military Academy, he once said:

"'Duty, Honor, Country'—those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

As it turns out, these words have particular meaning for the life and service of Specialist Earl Wilson. In the jungles of Vietnam, he found courage where we could have not blamed him for his courage failing, he found faith where there was little cause for it, and he created hope when it might have been lost.

Earl's time of service ended nearly 40 years ago, but our admiration of it has not. Earl was drafted into the U.S. Army and inducted on November 17, 1969. After completing basic training, he was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for infantry school. Earl has said that in those days, if you went to Fort Polk, you knew you were going to Vietnam, because Fort Polk was the hottest, most miserable place there was. It was like training for the intense heat.

Sure enough, Earl was deployed to Vietnam and served there for one year, from July

1970 to July 1971. Traversing the mountains and jungles of Vietnam, in an entrenched battle with the enemy, was hazardous duty. Earl spent as long as 40 days on patrol in the sweltering jungles, without hot food, without showers, without any of the luxuries or amenities so many of us take for granted here at home.

Deployed with Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, Earl and his unit came under attack one night in January 1971. As daylight broke on the morning of January 7, Earl's unit went in pursuit of the enemy. Following a blood trail, they were in hot pursuit when they came upon a gate along their path.

One of Earl's fellow soldiers tried to open the gate. It was stuck, so he yanked on it, not knowing the gate was booby trapped. A hand grenade went off, knocking Earl and several other soldiers clean to the ground. Earl got pieces of shrapnel lodged in his leg, and had to be flown out for medical treatment.

Earl may have been down, but he was not out. After receiving care for his wound, he was back in action with the 1st Battalion, and was present on January 25 later that year on patrol in Quang Ngai.

As his unit proceeded on foot patrol, Earl was at the point. Earl circled back to the rear to check on his fellow soldier and best friend Specialist William Creech Jr. of Paris, Illinois. Earl's entire company had trekked the same path through the bushes, but as Specialist Creech entered the bushes along the same path he stepped on a hidden landmine and was killed.

Shrapnel from the landmine struck Earl in his head and arm and threw him backwards onto the ground. Earl suffered not only the loss of his best friend but also a severe hearing loss, which he still carries to this day. But Earl's injuries could have been worse. The landmine was so powerful it tore down trees that were up to five inches thick within the blast radius. Earl is lucky to be alive today.

Earl spent another six months in Vietnam before shipping out on July 8, 1971. It's ironic that as he was handed a four-inch thick stack of paperwork to process out of Vietnam, Earl accidentally dropped one of the folders—and learned from one document that he had received the Bronze Star Medal for bravery. But Earl never received the Purple Heart he earned with his blood and sacrifice—until now.

It is thanks to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship that Earl is receiving his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster today. Earl's daughter, Melissa Wilson Durham, wrote me to ask for help getting her father the medals he deserved. Thank you, Melissa, for honoring your father's service.

Earl was also helped by his friend and fellow soldier, and friend to Kentucky soldiers everywhere, retired Staff Sergeant Glen Phillips. It was Staff Sergeant Phillips who helped gather the facts in order for Earl to receive his Purple Heart today.

Glen, who is also from Liberty, has helped look out for many veterans in the area over the years. Thank you Glen, for your service and for your efforts on behalf of Earl and so many other fellow veterans.

Earl, I know you accept this award with humility and grace, and with reverence and respect for your fellow soldiers who fought alongside you in the jungles of Vietnam, including the many who did not make it home, such as Specialist William Creech.

We're grateful for your service, Earl, and we're grateful to celebrate your sacrifice. It's never too late to honor the brave.

By the way, for those who do not know, the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is to signify that

Earl is actually eligible to receive two Purple Hearts, for the incident on January 7 and then also on January 25.

The presentation of this Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is just a small recognition of the wealth of respect you deserve for your service to our country and your service in protecting all of us.

And to the values of duty, honor, country that you hold in abundance, as General MacArthur prescribed—in a way that you have demonstrated to all of us that it is possible to build courage where there is none, to regain faith when it seems lost, and to create hope when hope is what's most needed.

Now, the solemn moment we're gathered here for today has arrived. Specialist Earl Wilson, Brenda, and members of the Wilson family—please join me for the reading of the proclamation and the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

Text of first Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington

At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to:

Private First Class Denver E. Wilson

United States Army

For Wounds Received in Action

On 7 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Re-creation per General Orders 510, 13 January 1971

Headquarters, 23d Infantry Division  
APO San Francisco 96374

John M. McHugh

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Text of second Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington

At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to:

Private First Class Denver E. Wilson

United States Army

For Wounds Received in Action

On 25 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam

Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Permanent Order 135-25, 15 May 2014

United States Army Human Resources Command

Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-5408

John M. McHugh

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

#### REMEMBERING PETER M. WEGE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on July 7, Michigan lost a great champion. Over his 94 years, Peter M. Wege accomplished many lifetimes worth of goals. He helped the company his father founded, Steelcase, into one of the world's leading office furniture companies, employing thousands of

Michiganians and helping cement the status of Grand Rapids as the world's hub of office furniture making. And had he done no more than lead a great company and provide jobs to great workers, he would be worthy of celebration.

But as his hometown paper, the Grand Rapids Press, described him with typical West Michigan understatement, Pete Wege was "an unconventional industrialist." In a community that has benefited greatly from the public spirit of its business leaders, few have rivaled the impact of this remarkable man. Always aware of his good fortune and of the needs of his community, he poured money that could have made him one of the world's wealthiest people into the Grand Rapids area and beyond. Libraries and schools, theaters and museums, churches and civic buildings, parks and wilderness areas all benefitted from his generosity and vision.

And he had those two qualities—generosity and vision—in abundance. He was more than a philanthropist; he was a man on a mission. That mission began when he was on another kind of mission, serving his country during World War II, when he flew as a transport pilot. Piloting an aircraft to Pittsburgh during the war, the landing field was so shrouded in smog that he couldn't land. That polluted air launched him on a lifetime of dedication to environmental causes. He created the Wege Foundation in 1967 to promote educational, cultural, environmental and scientific efforts. Two years later, he established the Center for Environmental Study. He wrote two books laying out his argument that environmental stewardship would boost the economy, rather than harming growth.

Perhaps nowhere was Pete Wege's impact more strongly felt than in his love for the Great Lakes. In 2004, he sponsored the Healing Our Waters conference in Michigan. His agenda was simple and powerful: "The lakes are our life support system, and we've got to treat them that way," he said. The conference brought together environmental leaders from across the country, and led to publication of a report on the need for a plan to restore the Great Lakes. That powerful call helped lead to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has devoted millions of dollars to habitat restoration and environmental cleanup on the lakes. The Healing our Waters Coalition continues today to advocate for restoration and preservation of the lakes Pete Wege cared about so deeply.

Pete Wege dedicated his life to preserving this world's natural beauty, and to promoting the beauty that humankind creates. His legacy will live in the cleaner waters of the Great Lakes he loved, and in the artistic and scientific endeavors he helped to promote. He represents the best part of Michigan, the best part of America, that part that celebrates what makes

our world and its people so irreplaceable. I will miss him and Michigan will miss him.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I too wish to pay tribute to a great industrialist who became an even greater philanthropist, a passionate protector of our Great Lakes, and a dear friend, Peter Wege, who passed away yesterday at the age of 94.

A man of profound faith, with a deep love for his country, Peter was born in Grand Rapids, MI. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Peter left the University of Michigan to serve his country as a multi-engine pilot for the Army Air Force.

When he returned from World War II, he became a salesman for an office furniture company founded by his father. He wasn't given any breaks—he was forced to rise through the company by virtue of his own hard work, not his name.

He eventually became vice chairman of that company, whose name was changed to Steelcase, Inc., in 1954. The company became the world's largest manufacturer of office furniture, and Peter was eager to use the wealth he had earned to make a difference in the many causes that mattered to him.

Through the Wege Foundation, Peter made generous donations to the arts, to education, to health care, and to other human services.

His greatest passion, however, was the environment and our beautiful Great Lakes.

When he gave money to be used for the construction of a building, Peter never asked to see his name in gold. He only wanted the building to be green: He insisted on sustainable, LEED-certified design.

I can remember how proud Peter was to give me a book he had written. The title "Economicology," was a word he coined to describe his belief that you could make profits without making pollution.

As an outgrowth of his love for Michigan, Peter was a champion for the Great Lakes: His sponsorship of the "Healing Our Waters" conference brought conservationists and environmentalists from around the world. This helped provide the vision for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has provided over \$1 billion in funding for nearly 3,000 projects around the Great Lakes since 2010.

Throughout his life, Peter strived to make the world a better place for future generations. In that respect—as in every other endeavor he devoted himself to—Peter was an unqualified success.

He will be deeply missed, but Peter's generous spirit will live on.

Peter will be remembered every time a child plays in the sand on one of our beautiful Michigan beaches.

Peter will be remembered every time a family gathers around a dinner table to enjoy fish caught in one of our beautiful Great Lakes or the many fresh, clean rivers and streams across the region.