

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.

Peter 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.

Peter will be remembered with every refreshing glass of clean water that comes from the tap and every invigorating breath of fresh air.

He will never be forgotten.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SPECIALIST RYAN J. GRADY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Ryan J. Grady. Ryan died July 1, 2010 in Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom due to injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Ryan was born May 30, 1985 in Marion, KS and later moved to Bristow, OK. After graduating from Thunderbird Military Academy in 2003, he joined the Army as a combat engineer. He was awarded a Purple Heart from shrapnel wounds he received when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during his first deployment to Iraq in 2005–2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After returning home in 2006, he joined the Vermont National Guard. In 2008 he transferred to the Oklahoma National Guard and then returned to the Vermont National Guard in 2009 because he heard the unit was deploying to Afghanistan.

Ryan grew up in a military family, with his father and brothers serving in the Army as well. On the day of the incident, Ryan shared a meal with his brother, Kevin Grady, who was also deployed to Afghanistan with the Vermont National Guard.

Jim Grady, Jr. said Ryan's size 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds sometimes intimidated people, but said anyone who met him quickly could tell he had a warm heart. As a soldier, he would sign off on notes with the words "saving the world one mission at a time," his brother said.

At the grand opening of the Grady Dining Facility on Bagram Airfield's Camp Warrior, acting director of the Army National Guard, MG Raymond Carpenter, said "Specialist Ryan Grady represents to us what the modern National Guard is. He joined the guard because he wanted to serve his country."

Ryan was posthumously promoted from private first class to specialist and was laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in St. Johnsbury, VT.

Ryan is survived by his wife Heaven, of Bristow, OK, his daughter Alexis, his father SFC James A. Grady of West Burke, VT, his mother Debbie Hudacek of Bristow, OK, stepfather Tom Hudacek of Bristow, OK, and his brothers: Kevin Grady of St. Johnsbury, VT and James Grady of Muskogee, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Ryan J. Grady, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT CHARLES S. JIRTLE

Madam President, today I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a

remarkable young man, Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle. Along with four other soldiers, Scott died June 7, 2010 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Dangam district of Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Scott was born September 13, 1980 in Lawton, OK and graduated from MacArthur High School. After graduating, he served in the Navy Reserves in Oklahoma City.

The son of an Active Duty Army master sergeant, he enlisted in the Army in 2007. After completing basic training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY as an indirect fire infantryman.

Scott, who served a tour in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, knew the impact the deployments had on his family. His final posting on Facebook read: "Savannah is having a real problem with this deployment, and I pray to God that He will watch over her and my children."

Pastor Trey Smart said Scott's four older brothers would recruit him when they heard the ice cream truck coming down the street. "They always knew if they sent Scott to ask Terry and Virginia for money, they wouldn't turn him down because he was the youngest," Smart said.

His parents said, "Our son Charles Scott Jirtle joined the Army because he wanted to take care of his children. He extended his enlistment for this deployment, knowing that he was going to a very hot spot."

Those thanking Scott for his ultimate sacrifice for the protection of this great country say John 15:13 describes his selfless virtues perfectly: "greater love hath not man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

On June 16, 2010, the family held church services at First Baptist Church East in Lawton, OK.

He is survived by his wife Savannah, daughters: Chelsie and Cheyenne, a son Jordan, unborn son Charles Scott Jirtle, Jr., stepdaughter Rylee Jo Jirtle, parents, MSG (Retired) Terry L. and Virginia Jirtle, Lawton, OK; 4 brothers: Joseph Elkins and wife Tammy, James Jirtle, Kendall Jirtle and wife Brandi, all of Lawton and AME2 (AW) Anthony Jirtle, Oak Harbor, WA; stepbrother, Danny Henry and wife Shauna; several nieces and nephews: Ashley, Kayla, Starr, Alexis, Skyler, Payton, Preston, Morgan, Bryce and Kolby.

Today we remember Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST AUGUSTUS J. VICARI

Madam President, I now wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC Augustus "Augy" J. Vicari of Broken Arrow, OK who died on July 29th, 2011 serving our Nation in Paktia Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Vicari

was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Specialist Vicari died of injuries sustained when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device while on patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl. He was 22 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: his wife Holly, parents Michael and Evelyn Vicari, and siblings: Joseph, Michael, Emily, and Mollie.

A native of Lowell, IN, Augy graduated from Lowell High School in 2008. After graduation, he and his wife then moved to Broken Arrow to be close to his father-in-law. Augy then enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard and attended basic training and advanced individual training in 2009.

In addition to being a soldier, Augy enjoyed working on cars and spending time with family and friends. As evident by reading through some quotes from family and friends, he consistently impressed and touched the lives of those he interacted with on a daily basis:

John and Barb Slankard said "Augy's smile lit up every room he was in . . . a truly amazing person that was taken far too soon. We thank him for his courage and sacrifice and we are honored to have known him."

MG Myles Deering, the Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant General said, "This loss of life has shaken every member of the Oklahoma National Guard to their core. We have lost a very brave man who once raised his hand and took an oath to defend our nation. He courageously gave everything he had to ensure our freedom and safety and his sacrifice will not be forgotten."

SSG Kyle Wachtendorf of the Oklahoma National Guard praised Augy by saying, "He was a Oklahoman who chose to stand up and fight for what was right. Chose to leave his family in order to fight for others and made the ultimate sacrifice for God and their country."

Reverend Tony Janik said "Augy wanted to see the world. He wanted to see justice in the world."

U.S. Congressman PETER VISCLOSKEY from Indiana's 1st District honored and paid tribute to Augy on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 7, 2011.

A true warrior, Augy died while participating in a patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl of Paktia Province on his way back to the U.S. combat outpost just barely over a month after arriving in Afghanistan. This tough fight took Augy from us prematurely, but make no mistake; it is a fight we will win. We must continue our unwavering support for the men and women protecting our Nation and allies.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Augy's family and friends. Augy lived a life of love for his