

day on October 1 of this year when he, along with 75 other veterans, participated in honor flight. This memorable day began for Mr. Dishman at 4 a.m., when he and his daughter departed for the Lexington airport.

Upon arrival, he and his fellow veterans were greeted by Governor Matt Bevin and others who were there to wish them a good trip. Mr. Dishman's guardian for the trip, Larry West, commander for the local Disabled American Veterans, expressed how honored and proud he was to be a part of such an "inspirational day."

Honor flight provides an opportunity for veterans to visit the memorials in Washington honoring their service to our country. When Mr. Dishman and the other veterans landed in DC, they were given a police escort to every stop they made in the city. They visited the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery before they flew back to Lexington in the evening, where they were welcomed back by lines of people waving flags.

Mr. Dishman told his guardian, Larry West, that it had been "the best day of his life." That same day, Mr. Dishman, a native of Monticello, was escorted by police with his family back to his hometown, where he was presented with a declaration proclaiming October 1, 2016, "Leonard Dishman Day."

Honor flight is very close to my heart, as my own father served in World War II in the European theater, and I am grateful to have had the privilege of meeting with several honor flight participants in the past. I am extremely proud to represent Leonard Dishman, such a remarkable man and veteran here in the Senate, and I extend my thanks for his service. I am sure my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for his service as well. He truly represents the best of Kentucky.

An area publication, the Outlook, recently published an article detailing Mr. Dishman's day with the Honor Flight program. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Outlook, Oct. 12, 2016]

DISHMAN HAS MEMORABLE DAY ON HONOR FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Saturday, October 1 is a day that 91-year-old Leonard Dishman will never forget. He packed a whole lot of memorable experiences in less than 24 hours, beginning with an early morning flight from Lexington to Washington, D.C. and ending with a special ceremony commemorating a day in his honor back in his hometown of Monticello.

Dishman, a World War II veteran, was among 75 veterans who participated in Honor Flight that day. Dishman, like so many veterans, had never gotten the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial, until he participated in Honor Flight.

Honor Flight's mission is to fly World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C. for a one-day, all-expenses-paid visit to the memorials that are dedicated to their service and sacrifices. The Oc-

tober 1 Honor Flight was one of only two this year, and it was sponsored by Toyota Manufacturing.

The day began very early for Dishman and his family, according to his daughter, Anneda Guffey. They left for the airport about 4 a.m. Once at the airport, the celebration began, as organizers had put together a big send-off for the veterans. Governor Matt Bevin and others were there to wish them well on their day.

Larry West, commander for the local Disabled American Veterans, served as Dishman's guardian for the trip.

"It was such an honor for me to be a part of this," West said. "It was just an inspirational day, and I am proud to have been part of it."

West and other members of the local D.A.V. learned more about Honor Flight when Gary Campbell from the organization spoke to them about it earlier this year. Since Dishman was the oldest member of the local D.A.V., West thought it would be a great experience for him. He noted that the priority of Honor Flight is to involve World War II veterans.

Also at the send-off were members of a sorority that provided breakfast for the veterans and their families. Once the plane landed in Washington, D.C. the group enjoyed a police escort to every stop along the way.

West noted that they also visited the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial. The group went to Arlington Cemetery, where they watched the changing of the guard and the placing of the wreaths.

After a jam-packed day of touring different memorials, the veterans and their guardians flew back into the Lexington airport, where a heroes' welcome awaited them.

Two lines of people waited, waving flags and cheering. West noted it was just like a parade.

"Leonard worked the crowd . . . He had a ball," said West. "He told me later that this was the best day of his life."

It was about to get even better, as the group of local residents returned to Monticello. Dishman and his family were greeted by policemen who escorted them to the area near Ringley Tire on North Main Street. Family and friends greeted Dishman and he was presented with a proclamation designating October 1, 2016 as "Leonard Dishman Day."

The proclamation noted the many military accomplishments of Dishman, including receiving the Bronze Star of the Philippine Islands for Liberation, two overseas bars, the Atlantic Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Army of Occupation Medal of Japan, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and the American Defense Medal.

Dishman was named the D.A.V. Veteran of the Year in 2011.

Dishman was overwhelmed by the turnout and the reception he received.

"I want to express my appreciation to D.A.V. Commander Larry West, who was my guardian for the day, to the Monticello Women's Club, the Monticello Police Department, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Monticello Fire Department, as well as the citizens of Monticello and my family and friends, all of whom took part in this event," stated Dishman. "It was thrilling to see how our little town pulled together and accomplished an event my family and I will never forget. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this amazing gift you gave me."

tuckian and honorable veteran of the Vietnam war, Don Parrish. More than four decades ago, Mr. Parrish and his hometown of Bardstown, KY, suffered great loss: In the summer of 1969, four Bardstown soldiers Mr. Parrish knew well were killed in service to our country. This loss was one of the worst suffered by any town in the war. As the years pass, Mr. Parrish finds himself more and more emotional regarding his time in uniform.

In October of 1968, Mr. Parrish was deployed to Vietnam with the C Battery of the Kentucky Army National Guard. Mr. Parrish and his fellow soldiers were reportedly the best firing battery in all of Southeast Asia. The battery consisted of childhood friends, brothers, and cousins. As boys who had grown up together to become men, they operated flawlessly as a unit.

The battery was "infused" with soldiers from New Hampshire, a precaution taken in an effort to prevent too many men from the same hometown from remaining a part of one unit in case of fatal attacks. Regrettably, that did not prevent an attack by the Viet Cong on Firebase Tomahawk, resulting in the tragic loss of four of Mr. Parrish's Bardstown comrades and fellow servicemen.

Mr. Parrish, a native of Bardstown, where he still lives today, worked for many years operating his family's business manufacturing concrete blocks. Eventually he and his wife Judy opened a bookstore together, which they ran for almost 20 years. Mr. Parrish is now a volunteer member of KET's Friends Board, which promotes KET in counties all over Kentucky.

I am tremendously proud to represent such a remarkable man and veteran here in the Senate, and I extend my thanks for Don Parrish's service. I am sure my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for his service as well. He represents the finest of Kentucky.

A Kentucky publication, KET Visions, recently published an interview with Mr. Parrish about his experience in Vietnam. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From KET Visions, Nov. 2016]

HOMETOWN HERO PARRISH SERVED, SUFFERED LOSS IN VIETNAM WAR

Don Parrish has always been able to talk about his Vietnam experiences. Not that it isn't difficult. His losses—and they were great—affect him more and more as the years pass. Emotions rise more readily to the surface.

"As time moves on, my emotions get worse," said Parrish, who deployed to Vietnam in October 1968 with "C" Battery of the Kentucky Army National Guard, an artillery unit of men from Bardstown and the surrounding area.

"We went to Washington last fall to help our daughter and her husband move into a new apartment. While we were there, we went to the wall," he said, his voice breaking

TRIBUTE TO DON PARRISH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a distinguished Ken-

as he remembered visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"It was tough. I've been there many times, and the crazy thing about it is that it gets tougher every time."

Parrish, a member of KET's Friends Board, a volunteer organization which promotes KET in counties statewide, was born and raised in Bardstown, where he still lives. He operated his family business manufacturing concrete blocks for many years, and later opened a bookstore he and his wife, Judy, operated for nearly two decades.

Parrish's National Guard battery was "infused" with soldiers from New Hampshire. Infusion was a military policy designed to prevent too many men from the same hometown from dying in a single incident from the same unit.

In Bardstown's case, however, the policy wasn't enough to thwart fate.

During their training and tour, the soldiers from Nelson County worked seamlessly as perhaps only men who had once been boys together can. In fact, the unit not only contained boyhood friends, but seven sets of brothers and many cousins as well.

"We were declared to be the top firing battery in all of Southeast Asia because we were so effective and efficient," he said with pride. "Why? Because we went to school together and we knew each other. So when it came time to do our job, we did it well."

An attack by the Viet Cong on a rainy night at the difficult-to-defend Firebase Tomahawk, however, was too much for even the best of the best. In that summer of 1969, four Bardstown boys were killed, plus another from "A" Battery of nearby Carrollton.

The story of that loss, one of the worst suffered from any town during the war, has brought news outlets, television documentaries, and authors to Parrish's door, and he has been interviewed by CNN, CBS Sunday Morning, and more about the fatal attack. He also shared his experience with KET in Kentucky Veterans of the Vietnam War: In Their Own Words.

"There are a lot of guys who don't talk about it—except to me," said Parrish, who returned to Vietnam and Firebase Tomahawk in 1995, accompanied by other vets and WHAS-TV, which produced a program on the trip.

"War is really difficult to win when you are on the enemy's turf. That war could have been won had restraints been removed," he said.

"In fact, it is said by many, and I agree with them, that the war was won—because its purpose was to stop the spread of Communism among the Far Eastern nations. And to that end, we won the war."

When Parrish talks about Vietnam, he also remembers the good times, the camaraderie, and fond memories, like the two guys from Bloomfield, Ky., who raced one another with 95-pound Howitzer rounds in each hand.

He has photographs, now fading, of the people he met—like the Catholic priest who still served at the same church when Parrish returned in 1995. The stray dogs they adopted. The bunkers where they slept at night. These memories became a part of who he is.

"I'm proud of my service," Parrish reflected. "I think we did well, and I'm sorry to lose friends, but that's a part of war—a terrible part of war."

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN HATFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate a distinguished Kentuckian and accomplished attorney, Martin Hatfield. Mr. Hatfield recently received the honor of being se-

lected as Pulaski County's "Attorney of the Year."

Mr. Hatfield, a native of Nancy, KY, graduated from Nancy High School in 1976. The importance of a good education was instilled in him from a young age by his parents who themselves were educators. There was no question Mr. Hatfield would continue his education after graduating high school, but he was not yet ready to leave home. When the Somerset Community College presented him with a scholarship to play basketball, Mr. Hatfield accepted, allowing him not only to stay close to home, but also to fulfill his dream of playing college basketball.

Upon graduating from SCC, he decided to move on to Eastern Kentucky University. Mr. Hatfield, interested in pursuing a career in Federal law enforcement, began working as a dispatcher and deputy sheriff with the Pulaski County Sheriff's office. Watching the trials sparked his love for the legal side of the justice system and inspired him to apply to law school.

Mr. Hatfield was accepted to the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law, from which he graduated in 1981 and returned to Pulaski County. He served as an assistant Commonwealth's attorney for Pulaski and Rockcastle Counties and then went on to serve as assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Kentucky for 16 years before running for the position of Pulaski County attorney.

In an effort to give back to the community that had given so much to his family throughout his life, Mr. Hatfield ran for county attorney and has held the position since his election in 2010. He now also serves on the boards of many organizations, such as the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Governor's Kentucky Criminal Justice Council. Recently, he was appointed by Governor Matt Bevin as one of three county attorneys from across Kentucky to serve on the Attorney General's Prosecutors Advisory Council.

This year, Martin Hatfield was chosen as Pulaski County's "Attorney of the Year," and he attributes his success to the support of his family, the education and confidence boost provided to him by SCC, and the dedication of his staff. I want to congratulate Mr. Hatfield for his years of service as an attorney in Pulaski County. I am sure his wife and children are very proud of him, and Kentucky is glad to have benefitted from his work and service.

An area publication, the Commonwealth Journal, recently published an article announcing Mr. Hatfield as county "Attorney of the Year." I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Sept. 6, 2016]

SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT: PULASKI COUNTY ATTORNEY
MARTIN HATFIELD

Although he now serves his home community in a high-profile role, Pulaski County Attorney Martin Hatfield wasn't always a fan of the limelight. In fact, the Nancy native and basketball stand-out credits his time at Somerset Community College (SCC) with helping him become more confident in himself as a student and leader.

Hatfield graduated from Nancy High School in 1976. His parents, Avery and Lois Hatfield, always encouraged education in their home.

"My parents were both educators," Hatfield said. "My sisters and I saw the value of having a good education firsthand. High school was seen as a milestone in the educational process, not the end."

Given that Hatfield was expected to continue his education after high school, and had the opportunity to play college basketball, his decision to attend Somerset Community College was an easy one, he said.

"At 17, I wasn't ready to leave home," Hatfield said. "SCC was part of the University of Kentucky system and had a basketball team. I was offered a scholarship to play there and took the opportunity."

Most of Hatfield's memories and stories about his college days at SCC revolved around his time on the court.

"Playing at SCC gave me the opportunity to fulfill a dream of playing basketball in college," said Hatfield, who was part of the last organized SCC basketball team. "The community really pitched in to support the program by feeding us, giving us a place to practice and play, and by attending the games."

After graduating from SCC, Hatfield chose to transfer to Eastern Kentucky University. He wanted to go into federal law enforcement, so he paid his dues by working as a dispatcher and deputy sheriff with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office and watching trials. There, he developed a love for the legal side of the justice system and was later accepted to the University of Louisville School of Law, now known as the Brandeis School of Law.

Hatfield graduated from law school in 1981 and came back to his home county to give back.

"I chose to come back home," Hatfield said. "I knew I wanted to marry and have a family someday and that I wanted to raise my children here in Pulaski County. My wife (Debbie, a kindergarten teacher at Pulaski Elementary) and I have done just that. Pulaski County has been very good to my family throughout the years, which is one reason I ran for County Attorney . . . to give back to a community that has given so much to me."

In addition to his service as County Attorney, a role he has held since being elected in 2010, Hatfield also serves on the boards of the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Governor's Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, Kentucky County Attorneys Association, Somerset Community College Foundation, and is the Kentucky County Attorney's representative to the Kentucky Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee. He was also recently appointed by Governor Matt Bevin as one of three county attorneys from across Kentucky to serve on the Attorney General's Prosecutors Advisory Council. He is a member of Sievers Lodge #491 and First Baptist Church. Most recently, Hatfield was recognized as Outstanding County Attorney at the Kentucky Prosecutors Conference.