

carefully placed machine gun nests, two guns to each nest. At 7 a.m., orders were given to "halt and lie down." While others were trying to stay below the hail of deadly gunfire, Willie Sandlin had a rendezvous with destiny that changed his life forever. Sandlin observed a narrow lane between the firing line of the two guns. Arming himself with four hand grenades, an automatic pistol, and a rifle, he charged the nests alone. Advancing within 75 yards of the guns, he threw his first grenade, which fell short and exploded without effect. He raced forward while the enemy emptied two automatic revolvers at him. When he was less than 50 yards away from the intense machine gun fire, he threw his second grenade, which struck the nest. He then threw two more grenades, charged the nest, and killed three more German soldiers with his bayonet, making a total of eight enemy combatants that he killed there.

Sandlin's platoon advanced and he again took command of his men. The Americans moved forward and flanked another machine gun nest and Sandlin dispatched it in the same way, utilizing grenades. When his grenades were spent, four men still defended the nest. Sandlin had killed them all with his bayonet by the time his platoon arrived. The line continued to advance and at 2 p.m. Sandlin destroyed a third German machine gun nest and its occupants in similar fashion. His heroic assaults resulted in the death of 24 German soldiers and the capture of 200 more German soldiers. Sandlin's commander, General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, praised him for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty" and recommended him for the Medal of Honor, detailing his heroic actions and praising the 28-year-old Sandlin's "splendid example of bravery and coolness to his men." Pershing personally presented the Medal of Honor to Sandlin in February of 1919 at Chaumont, the general headquarters of the AEF. Pershing would later describe Sandlin as the outstanding regular army soldier of World War I.

When the war ended, Sandlin returned home to Leslie County for six months. In December, 1919, because of his exemplary military record, he was appointed special escort for the bodies of soldiers who had died overseas. Sandlin left for France in January 1920. Later that year, Sandlin returned home and married the former Belvia Roberts, a woman he began courting at a box dinner social after he first returned from Europe. Their happy marriage produced one son and four daughters who reached adulthood: Vorres, born in 1921, followed by Leona, Nancy Ruth, Florence, and Robert E. Lee Sandlin. Cora and Rose died of childhood diseases before their fourth birthdays.

Like his more famous counterpart, Tennessee's Alvin York, Sandlin returned home with a heightened commitment to education and community service. In the years following WWI, eastern Kentuckians were working to improve the quality of life in their mountain homeland. Two of the region's greatest leaders were Mary Breckinridge, founder of the Frontier Nursing Service at Hyden in 1925, and Cora Wilson Stewart, founder of the "Moonlight School" program to promote literacy. Newspapers reported that Willie Sandlin, "Kentucky's greatest hero" had joined the crusade "to help stamp out illiteracy in Kentucky." Sandlin toured the state with Stewart and spoke in hundreds of towns and villages. He was so devoted to Mrs. Stewart and her campaign that he and Belvia named their second child after her—Cora Wilson Stewart Sandlin.

Willie Sandlin never presented himself as a celebrity. He was too modest to seek public adoration and too shy to enjoy the attention

of the media, but he did, on several occasions, attend local and national meetings where he was recognized as a Medal of Honor recipient. Throughout the 1920s, Sandlin continued to attend Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) meetings in the hope that the VFW could help him receive additional benefits as a wounded, injured, and disabled veteran.

Like many wounded veterans, Sandlin wasted no time in pursuing benefits. In 1921, government physicians at a Veterans Center in Richmond, Kentucky, examined Sandlin and reported that he was "suffering a serious lung infection as a result of gas inhaled" in the Battle of the Argonne Forest. To make a claim for increased compensation, in 1925 Sandlin appeared before the United States Veterans' Bureau in Lexington. Sandlin was only receiving \$10 a month compensation for being a Medal of Honor recipient, a reduction from the \$40 a month he was receiving when he was "invalided home." In 1928, at age 38, Sandlin should have been in his physical prime when he moved back to a house on his father-in-law's property. Instead, according to some newspaper accounts, he was very ill. Sandlin "coughed and wheezed a great deal," especially in the winter. By 1928, Sandlin had spent time in hospitals in Chillicothe and Cincinnati, Ohio, and "other places." An old army buddy encouraged Willie to move to Colorado because he thought "the dry air and high altitude" would help him. But Willie would not leave his eastern Kentucky homeland, and he didn't have enough money to travel if he had wanted to. "I'm not one-third the man I used to be before the war," he observed without complaint. "If I take 25 steps up the hill, I'm done for. My wind's gone." In 1928, Indiana Senator Arthur R. Robinson and others presented a bill to Congress which "would enlist and retire as a captain Willie Sandlin, Kentucky hero of the world war, who is now destitute." The whole unproductive process of seeking the benefits he deserved became exhausting and demoralizing to Willie Sandlin, yet he had no choice but to continue.

Aware of Sandlin's financial difficulties, Senator Hiram Brock, who represented Leslie County in the state legislature, continued his efforts to get funds from the state government to purchase a farm for Sandlin. Senator Brock's efforts had been inspired by the American Legion's efforts to raise money to provide a home for Sandlin and his family so they could "live with the common comfort of life." During the 1920s, the VFW had established a "Hero Fund" and called upon "all patriotic citizens, along with members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars" and "others throughout the country to mail in their contributions to the VFW, McClelland Building, Lexington, Kentucky." VFW leaders said there would have been no need to raise funds to buy a home for the Sandlins if Willie had been willing to "sell his birthright for a mess of pottage." According to VFW leaders, a "celebrated moving picture concern" had offered Willie \$500 a week to re-enact his heroic deeds, but "Sandlin refused to capitalize on his war records" and turned down "other offers to profit from his patriotism."

Life after the war was just one medical examination after another for Willie. He was examined at Cincinnati in 1928 and given a 69 percent disability rating, which would have entitled him to a fair compensation. But the Louisville Veterans' Bureau, which had jurisdiction over Sandlin, appealed that rating to the Bureau of Appeals at Chicago and the bureau then placed the case before the Veterans' Bureau in Washington. Bureaucracies do not always yield justice, and technicalities blocked compensation for him, making a special action by Congress necessary. Despite his continuing efforts, Sandlin, who had been wounded twice and gassed twice,

never received any disability compensation from the Veterans Bureau, and he never received a penny of the money that was donated by private citizens to purchase a farm for him and his family.

By the beginning of the Great Depression, Willie Sandlin realized that he would probably not receive any money from the Veterans Administration Bureau to compensate him for his warsustained injuries. So the Sandlins did what tens of thousands of Appalachian families did: "they hunkered down" and "did the best they could with what they had." They became subsistence farmers. Drawing on practices that were more than a century old, subsistence farmers, like the Sandlins, produced almost everything they needed from their farms and nearby fields and forests. They raised cows, hogs, and chickens for meat, which was supplemented by food from vegetable gardens and orchards. During the Depression, Willie and Belvia both worked extremely hard to make a good life and a good home for their children. During those years, Willie also worked as a supervisor on a WPA road project.

Although Sandlin's health continued to worsen, he still had a large family to support. So, in 1941, for the first time in his life, Willie sought political office and ran unsuccessfully as an Independent for Leslie County jailer.

In December 1941, a journalist called on the Sandlins at their home. Willie, Belvia, and their guest sat comfortably in "a long living room" and talked about "a number of things," but soon the conversation turned to Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entrance into another world war. Willie refused to talk about his heroics in World War I, but he told his visitor that if his health were better and if "the navy would take [me, I would] join tomorrow." In the early spring of 1942, the old warrior, who was 52 years old and in very bad health, went to Hyden and registered for the draft.

Early in May 1949, Willie's breathing problems grew much worse. Belvia took him to the hospital in Hyden; two days later he was transported by ambulance to the Veteran's Hospital in Louisville. Belvia went with him and stayed in the hospital room for the next three weeks, along with her daughters, Florence and Vorres. One of them was always in Willie's room.

In the early morning hours of May 29, Belvia and Vorres had gone to the lobby to rest while Florence remained in the room with her father, sitting next to Willie's bed and holding his hand. Doctors had advised Willie to move to Phoenix. They thought the climate and environment there might improve his health. He squeezed his daughter's hand and said, "We missed the train [to Phoenix]." And then he was dead. He went easy, with a smile and a sigh. He was originally buried in the Hurricane Cemetery in Hyden; however, in September 1990, Sandlin's widow had his remains re-interred in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville. When Belvia died in 1999, at age 98, she was buried next to her husband.

Now he belongs to the ages. He had been raised in poverty and had grown into a quiet, resolute man of courage and honor. Willie Sandlin spent a lifetime accepting adversity and inequity and meeting life's challenges with a smile and a "can do" attitude. All he wanted from life was to serve his country, build a home, and enjoy his loving family, and he achieved his goals through hard work. Only death can stop men like Willie Sandlin.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT MADON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to join the citizens

of Pineville, KY, in remembering the life of Mayor Robert Madon. Bob, who led his community for nearly two decades, passed away earlier this year at the age of 83. Throughout his life of accomplishment for his hometown, Bob earned the affection of his neighbors and the gratitude of the people he served so well.

Graduating from Pineville High School, Bob attended the Millersburg Military Institute before joining the U.S. Air Force to serve in Korea. Bob returned to Bell County after his military service and, like so many of his fellow veterans, was active in his local American Legion post and other civic organizations.

One of the oldest traditions in southeastern Kentucky is the Mountain Laurel Festival. Named after the mountain laurel flower that commonly grows in Appalachia, the annual festival celebrates the region's heritage through concerts, carnivals, craft and talent shows, a parade, and a beauty pageant. This May, Pine Mountain State Park will host the 88th annual festival. For many years, Bob was an integral part of the festival's success, as the general chairman in 1966 and serving on the advisory board from 1967 to 1972. The pinnacle of the festival's traditions is the selection of the Mountain Laurel Princess and the Mountain Laurel Queen. Young women from local high schools compete for the title of princess, and universities from throughout the Commonwealth send candidates seeking the queen's crown. Serving as its emcee, Bob was the voice of the festival and the contest for many years.

One of Bob's friends remembers his passion for the Mountain Laurel Festival. "He was everywhere making sure people were picking up debris from their yard, mowing the grass, painting the curbs, cleaning up the city." When Pineville was on display for visitors, Bob worked hard to help it shine. In 1995, the festival honored Bob by including him in its hall of fame. He would later also receive the festival's "Outstanding Service Award" and the "Lifetime Honorary Directors Award" as well-deserved recognition of Bob's unrelenting work to make the festival a success every year.

In 1968, at the request of the new governor, Louie Nunn, Bob decided to leave Bell County and begin a political career in Frankfort. As an administrative assistant to Governor Nunn in the first Republican administration in two decades, Bob served the people of the Commonwealth in State government.

After his time in Frankfort, Bob returned to his hometown to fill a vacancy on the Pineville City Council in 1971. Later, Bob was named a city judge and served in that capacity until his election as the mayor of Pineville in 1977. Beginning his first term as mayor only months after the devastating flood, Bob certainly had an overwhelming task ahead of him.

That April, the Cumberland River topped the floodwall and devastated

the community. During the crisis, Bob was integral to ensuring the safety of these Kentuckians. According to one of his friends, "Bobby made sure that everybody got up on the hill." Bob led the effort to rebuild, serving on the flood related projects committee, and as mayor helped bring millions of dollars to extend the floodwall to prevent future tragedies. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bob oversaw the project. It was completed in 1988, the year after he left office.

After a period out of public office, Bob was elected as mayor again in 1994 and served until the end of 2002. He was again reelected for his final term in 2007 before leaving in 2008. During his time in office, Bob oversaw the construction of a new U.S. 25E bypass, which was later named in his honor.

While leading Pineville as its mayor, Bob also participated in the Kentucky League of Cities, KLC. This organization is dedicated to helping cities and their leaders accomplish their goals through trainings, advocacy, and policy research. For nearly three decades, Bob was a director of the KLC and served one term as its president.

Bob's passion for his community extended far beyond public service. He spent years of his life in many other pursuits speaking directly with the families of Pineville. During a professional career that included managing a number of radio stations and the Pineville-Sun Cumberland Courier, Bob was also the voice of the Pineville Mountain Lions. An avid sports lover, he later became a Kentucky High School Sports Association official in both boys and girls basketball games. Bob was also a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Pineville, singing in the choir and working as the associate Sunday school superintendent.

Those who knew Bob—and that seemed to be just about everyone in Pineville—recalled that he was always talking about his hometown. For anyone who shared their concerns with him, Bob would do his best to fix them. His life was one of passion for his neighbors, and the whole Pineville community benefited from his work. His son Scott even followed in Bob's footsteps and serves as the current mayor of Pineville.

Bob's memorial service drew hundreds of people to pay their respect to the man who made such a significant impact on their lives. The people's outpouring of support was a fitting tribute to the man who lived his life for his neighbors. Elaine and I would like to extend our condolences to Bob's loving family, his friends, and the entire Pineville community.

#### TRIBUTE TO TED HAMPTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Ted Hampton, of Knox County, KY, who was named the 2017 Man of the Year by the Knox County Chamber of Commerce during an event at Union

College's student center. For more than 50 years, Ted has served as the CEO of Cumberland Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. At his hiring, Ted was one of the youngest distribution managers in the country. Now, he has the distinction of being the second longest serving in the country.

Throughout his tenure leading the organization, Ted has overseen the building of a new headquarters, a branch office, and the hiring of hundreds of employees. One of his colleagues spoke highly of Ted's service, saying his greatest accomplishment has been keeping his employees as safe as possible.

At the awards ceremony, Ted was joined by his wife, Margie, and their 8-year-old granddaughter Tori. During his remarks to accept the award, Ted warmly acknowledged all of his co-workers for their work to serve the area. I would like to join the Knox County community on congratulating Ted on this award, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

#### BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on March 22, 2018, I filed adjustments to enforceable budgetary levels to accommodate spending in H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, P.L. 115-141. Included in the spending that qualified for cap adjustments was program integrity funding that is classified as off-budget. The previous adjustment correctly increased the allocation to the Appropriations Committee to accommodate this spending but also increased the spending aggregate for fiscal year 2018. Under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the spending aggregate should only reflect on-budget amounts. As such, I am reducing the spending aggregate by \$295 million in budget authority and \$257 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying table be printed in the RECORD.

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

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES	
(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)	
	\$s in millions
	2018
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,400,136
Outlays .....	3,221,606
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority .....	-295
Outlays .....	-257
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,399,841
Outlays .....	3,221,349

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30