

In May 1944, 1,100 U.S. military men joined ranks to form what would be called “the Ghost Army.”

Composed largely of artists, this unit had unusual orders: not to avoid detection by enemy forces, but to actively attract attention through an ingenious optical illusion.

One of them was Staff Sergeant Stanley Nance, signal Company Special of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops.

The Ghost Army’s tactics were to impersonate other Allied units, using inflatable tanks and jeeps made of sticks and burlap, to make the enemy believe that large factions of soldiers were on Omaha Beach and surrounding areas, after D-Day.

Massive speakers were mounted to the back of military vehicles, blasting the ambient noises of a much larger unit. They sounded like they were coming from the battlefield, but in fact had been recorded months before in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Kept a secret until 1985, the story of the Ghost Army and those in its ranks serves as a heroic tale of young Americans’ bold actions to defend freedom.

Decades later, Staff Sergeant Nance’s great-granddaughter, Madeline Christianson, told his story through a history project, which recently won the World War II History Award at the National History Competition. Her project is an amazing re-creation of a story of skill, courage and triumph—unique in the annals of history.

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day 2019, we honor two extraordinary generations of Utahns—the soldier who helped defeat tyranny during World War II, and his great-granddaughter who is keeping the story of heroism alive.

**SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT NO. 35
TO H.R. 3055**

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment numbered 35 to Division A of H.R. 3055 to direct the National Institutes of Standards and Technologies to establish standards for pyrrhotite in concrete aggregate. Pyrrhotite is a mineral that unfortunately has been mixed into concrete aggregate and is widespread in concrete foundations and residential commercial municipal buildings in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and parts of Quebec, Canada, that after exposure to moisture, causes the material to premature crumbling and collapse because of rusting.

Estimates are as high as thousands of structures in the New England region are affected with crumbling foundations, causing catastrophic losses to homeowners and municipalities. By establishing standards for pyrrhotite content, NIST could mitigate the problem from occurring in other areas, or at least reduce the costs of mitigation.

Right now, any level of pyrrhotite is considered a cancer on a property and makes it unmarketable. This amendment would allocate \$4 million from the NIST general operations funds towards pyrrhotite research, which my office and others have been discussing over

the last year. The amendment would require NIST to research the best testing methods for pyrrhotite detection, as well as to develop a pyrrhotite risk rating scale. This amendment would utilize the world’s leading researchers to mitigate the cost of this problem. In addition, my amendment requests that NIST work with leading academic institutions in this area to expedite this research process—including expediting the procurement process for obtaining concrete samples, should NIST need to utilize core samples containing pyrrhotite to conduct this research.

I urge adoption of this en-bloc package, and I want to thank Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. SERRANO for their kind support for this measure.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT MICHAEL WILLIAMS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Special Agent Michael Williams for his 32 years of dedicated service to Alabama as a member of the United States Secret Service. He concludes his distinguished career as the Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service Birmingham Field Office, where he has had executive oversight over operations in Alabama and Mississippi since 2016.

Special Agent Williams is a native of Birmingham and a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He joined the Secret Service in 1985 and over the span of his career has been recognized for investigative excellence, including receiving the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

In 1996, he was assigned to the Presidential Protective Division in Washington, D.C. where he protected President William J. Clinton and President George W. Bush. He was promoted to a Supervisory Special Agent assigned to the Protective Intelligence Division in 2001.

Special Agent Williams was able to come home in 2003, when he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Birmingham Field Office.

He returned to Washington, D.C. in 2005 where he served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Presidential Protective Division. In October 2008, he was promoted to the Special Agent in Charge of the Columbia, South Carolina Field Office.

In January 2013, he once again found his way to D.C. when he was promoted into the Senior Executive Service where he served as the Special Agent in Charge of the Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division. In this capacity, he had executive oversight for protective intelligence, threat assessments and the Secret Service behavioral analysis program. In 2015, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Assistant Director in the Secret Service Office of Protective Operations. He ensured that the President, the First Lady and all protected persons, places and events received the highest level of security based on threats and vulnerabilities.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Williams has also served the community volunteering for a number of organizations, includ-

ing the Big Brother program, Boys/Girls Club and Crime Stoppers of Metro Alabama. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Phi fraternity and received UAB’s Outstanding Alumni Award. He is married to Angela Bryant-Williams and they have a son, Bryant Michael Williams.

I am grateful to Special Agent Williams for his 32 years of service to this country and wish him well in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 24, 2019 I unfortunately missed evening votes due to a flight delay. I also missed a vote on June 25th. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 399; YEA on Roll Call No. 400; YEA on Roll Call No. 401; YEA on Roll Call No. 402; and YEA on Roll Call No. 411.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WEEKS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of longtime Kentuckian Mr. John Weeks and to wish him well in his retirement.

For over 40 years, John has provided legal counsel in the commonwealth of Kentucky be it to the Courier Journal daily newspaper, WHAS TV and radio, Standard Gravure, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kentucky, and—since 1992—Delta Dental of Kentucky. In 2000, he became Vice President and General Counsel and in that capacity has been responsible for legal affairs and legal compliance including insurance regulation, HIPAA, employment law, federal requirements, and government relations for the company at both the state and federal level.

Prior to his successful legal career, John served this great county in the United States Navy submarine and intelligence branches. And continued to help other veterans—serving on the board of the Kentucky chapter of USA Cares, a veterans support organization.

I was able to work directly with John from time to time and enjoyed getting to know him and his family well. I’m sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Lynda, and their children and grandchildren. I would like to formally congratulate John on his retirement and wish him luck in this next chapter.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL DOUGLAS B. GUTTORMSEN

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen is retiring as the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. He has diligently served in this role for three years.

After earning degrees from The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the University of Missouri at Rolla, the National Defense University and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Colonel Guttormsen went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Guttormsen oversaw many military and civil works projects throughout the District. From overseeing construction projects at the region's many military installations to ensuring our levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Guttormsen able led an office with diverse mandates and responsibilities. Although his resume boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Guttormsen's work to maintain the superiority of the Emergency Operations Center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Guttormsen is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing him well in the days to come.

KEEP MAIL SAFE ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention the growing mail theft crime in the United States that is known as mail fishing. Mail fishing is the process in which thieves "fish" mail out of blue collection boxes. Specifically, criminals use a contraption as simple as a string connected to a sticky substance to "fish" out envelopes from these mailboxes, then open the letters to steal people's personal information such as bank, credit card, and Social Security numbers. Tragically, this has resulted in many incidents of identity theft and bank fraud.

In the last year alone, there were 3,000 incidents of mail fishing in New York City. These criminals also engage in check washing to rewrite the name of the payee and/or the amount. Many of my constituents became victims of bank fraud, some losing thousands of dollars, as a result of having their mail fished. That is why, in 2017, I made the push to have the United States Postal Service retrofit all standard mail collection boxes in Queens, NY. Currently, 77 percent of these mailboxes in Queens have been retrofitted. As a result, mail fishing crimes have significantly decreased in Queens. However, as only some mail collection boxes are retrofitted, mail fishing crime shifts to regions without this security feature.

Madam Speaker, it is unacceptable that our constituents cannot safely leave their mail in the United States Postal Service mail collection boxes.

This is why I am introducing the "Keep Mail Safe Act". This bill would require the Post-

master General to conduct a study on retrofitting all standard mail collection boxes in the United States with narrow mail slots. Retrofitting all mail boxes would deter and prevent incidents of mail fishing, ensure the security of our constituents' mail, and restore their trust in utilizing the United States Postal Service.

As mail fishing incidents are on the rise, our diligence in protecting our constituent's mail is more important than ever. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in the fight against mail fishing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes No. 411 "King, Steve (R-IA)—Amendment No. 3—Strikes the section 126 of the underlying bill which prohibits the use of funds from the Department of the Treasury's Forfeiture Fund to plan, design, construct or carry out a project to construct a southern Border Wall or barrier along the southern border of the US," No. 412 "Norton (D-DC) Amendment No. 4—Prohibits funds made available by this Act from being used to relocate the National Institute of Food and Agriculture or the Economic Research Service outside the National Capital Region," No. 413 "Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3401," No. 414 "Passage of H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019." Had I been present, I would have voted "YES, NO, YES, NO" on these bills, respectively.

NATIONAL LOGISTICS DAY—JUNE 28TH

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge you to designate June 28th as National Logistics Day. For centuries, the logistics industry has connected our world and our nation one shipment at a time. The logistics industry is a prime example of success not only in the United States, but also globally. The field of logistics employs over 50 million people around the world, 5 million of those being proud American citizens.

This year, Logistics Plus, a flourishing company proudly founded and based in Erie, Pennsylvania, requests that June 28th be proclaimed National Logistics Day. Along with being routinely regarded as a thriving contributor in the logistics industry, Logistics Plus, a global logistics company, has generated hundreds of valuable careers in Pennsylvania's 16th district. Since its establishment in 1996, Logistics Plus and its founder, Jim Berlin, have spread award-winning business solutions to their numerous locations worldwide.

The logistics industry is a prominent model of the success, achievement, and prosperity that American businesses and corporations

strive for daily. Often, the current administration speaks on the importance of business and commercial activity in the United States and global community. Logistics Plus and the Logistics industry overall is an outstanding representation of the continuous economic growth, with approximately eight percent of products made and sold in the U.S. being attributed to logistics. The third-party logistics industry (3PL), which aids in business management of supply chains, represents an \$800 billion industry on its own. The national logistics industry connects and unites the country by aiding in the transportation of more than 13 billion tons of freight domestically by means of roads, sea, air, and rail.

It is vital that we recognize the dedicated professionals in the logistics industry who unify and strengthen our world community through safe, reliable, and affordable transportation and storage services. National Logistics Day on June 28th serves as an annual show of appreciation and recognition to the industry, which has contributed to our national and global economies. I urge this committee to ensure that this sign of commendation to an industry that has demonstrated the value of hard work time and again be granted the national acknowledgement of achievement by declaring June 28th National Logistics Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 I inadvertently switched my recorded vote for Roll call No. 345. The vote was on Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 2740 offered by Reps. AMASH and LOFGREN. My intended vote should be noted as a "yea" on roll call 345.

HONORING PRIDE MONTH

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that is rooted in my deeply held religious belief that we are all God's children.

This June, in honor of Pride month, I rise not only to recognize the many contributions of the LGBTQ community, but also to remind my colleagues of the discrimination faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people.

House Democrats worked together last month to make history by passing the Equality Act and passed the Defense Appropriations bill with a provision to block this Administration's attempts to discriminate against the transgender community and will continue the fight until there is true equality. I know this House will continue to fight and stand up for equality.

This Pride Month, I also want to pay special tribute to LGBTQ people living in fear of deportation.

This Administration's policies of fear and cruelty especially impact already vulnerable