

been unable to achieve through legislation. As Majority Leader McCONNELL previously explained, legislation can be repealed, but “[w]hat can’t be undone is a lifetime appointment.”

In the past, this lifetime appointment was viewed as an important protection to ensure courts remained independent and fair minded. Now, it is being weaponized as a tool to enforce extreme, conservative policies through the confirmation of deeply partisan and ideologically driven judicial nominees.

In the past 2-and-a-half years, we have seen why it is so critical to have fair and independent courts. As Senate Republicans race to pack the courts with more and more partisan judges with extreme ideologies, the integrity and independence of the Federal judiciary is at stake.

Americans must be able to trust that courts act fairly and impartially to protect the rights of all Americans. That is why I will vote against Matthew Kacsmayk’s nomination today.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. Following the end of World War I, the generation who fought the war to end all wars created an organization dedicated to the protection and defense of all veterans who answered the call of duty.

The American Legion has been our Nation’s leading advocate for proper healthcare and earned benefits for America’s veterans, establishing hospitals and other services for the returning servicemembers of World War I. The Legion champions compensation and pensions for the disabled and for widows and orphans and was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930. It also played an important role in the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights, first for World War II veterans, and then for veterans of following eras, establishing education, vocational training, and home loan benefits.

Known as the father of the American Legion, Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President Roosevelt, organized the first caucus of the American Legion in Paris in March 1919. The meeting continued in St. Louis in May 1919 where the official name was adopted. A preamble and constitution were adopted during the first National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis in November 1919. The preamble became one of the fundamental tenets of the American Legion’s orientation and objectives, beginning with: “For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 Percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and

incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

Through the work of American Legionnaires, those same words remain compelling today. With members represented in all facets of our culture, including Presidents, Governors, Academy award winning actors, professional sports players, and Members of Congress, the American Legion played a role in many of America’s triumphs. Today’s Legionnaires, known for their legacy of patriotism, service, sacrifice, and community, continue the march. They dedicate their time and service to ensure these doctrines remain the heart of the American Legion.

The American Legion has deep roots in Wyoming’s history. Wyoming was represented in both Paris and St. Louis and at the first National Convention in Minneapolis. True to their pioneering nature, Wyoming’s Ferdinand Bransetter Post No. 1 organized to situate themselves at the forefront of the Legion organization. However, due to the bureaucracy encountered by the first posts, Van Tassel was actually among the first 10 posts to be chartered.

In October 1919, Wyoming held its First American Legion Convention, hosted by Samuel Mares Post No. 8 in Douglas. The first department officers included Commander Charles S. Hill and Adjutant Harry Fisher. Department headquarters was originally in Casper, later moving to Cheyenne as membership gradually grew to a high of 10,805 in 1949.

Today’s Wyoming American Legions continues to care for their comrades. As leaders in their communities, they demonstrate honor and respect for veterans and their loved ones. They actively support numerous youth programs including Boys and Girls State, the Child Welfare Fund, Boy Scouts, baseball, and scholarship programs. Their accomplishments continue to grow as they serve our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Today’s Wyoming American Legion is comprised of 57 posts. Their leadership includes Commander Richard F. Dansereau, Jr., Vice Commander Mike Cooke, 2nd Vice Commander Jerry Clark, Immediate Past Commander Kenneth V. Persson, Sr., Finance Officer Deanna Hurless, National Executive Committeeman Terry Miller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Doug Uhrig, Adjutant Lee Buchschacher, Department Service Officer Dwight Null, Service Officer Michelle Jones, Historian Penny Merryfield, Chaplain Jim Vandivort, Judge Advocate Gary Hartman, and Office Manager Gina Mayhan.

Current posts and their commanders are:

Commander	Post	Town
Dale Miller	Ferdinand Bransetter Post #1	Van Tassel
Rich Larimore	George W. Vroman Post #2	Casper
Donald Dafeo	George Monroe Post #3	Newcastle
David Shaner	Wieten-Dupes Post #4	Lusk
Michael Sinner	Travis Snow Post #5	Torrington
Jerry Bowen	Francis E. Self Post #6	Cheyenne
James Schlenker	John Donald Garbutt Post #7	Sheridan
Doug Johnson	Samuel Mares Post #8	Douglas
Marvin Wohletz	Jesse Martin Post #9	Glenrock
Darrel Curry	Ora Call Post #10	Wheatland
Rich Fink	Robert Boyd Stewart Post #11	Lovell
Don Sullivan	Powder River Post #13	Buffalo
Jonathan Storey	Husted-Pendleton Post #14	Laramie
Adam Blackburn	John Prince Post #15	Glendo
Nate Messenger	Walter Haynes Post #18	Thermopolis
Warren Hess	Riverton Post #19	Riverton
John West	Fred Coe Post #20	Cody
Michael Pavlica	Robert Hogan Post #21	Cheyenne
Michael Hobbs	Archie Hay Post #24	Rock Springs
Tim Wattenberg	Moorcroft Post #25	Moorcroft
Jerry Clark	Hughes-Pittinger Post #26	Powell
Thomas Niemiec	Tom Whitmore Post #28	Green River
John Bubla	Marian Tanner Post #29	Basin
Douglas Cubbison	Philip Burlington Post #31	Dubois
Paul Linse	Greybull Post #32	Greybull
Mark Keiser	Don Stough Post #33	Lander
Brian Sartor	Fort Bridger Post #36	Ft. Bridger
Norm Freeman	Lavoy-Thorncock Post #40	Cokeville
Michael Erickson, Jr.	Medicine Butte Post #41	Evanston
Jerry Walters	Campbell County Post #42	Gillette
John Sherwood	Jackson Hole Post #43	Jackson
Joshua Craft	Floyd Minch Post #44	Worland
Jimmy Bowman	Crook County Post #45	Sundance
Daniel Corun	American Legion Post #46	Alpine
Brandon Shriver	Phillips Edwards Post #47	Pinedale
Charles Sutter	Star Valley Post #49	Afton
Steve Wilcoxson	Angus England Post #54	Saratoga
Robert Bowen	Kemmerer Post #55	Kemmerer-Diamondville Veteran
Ricardo Nelson	Marilyn B. Anderson Post #56	
John Wise	Donald W. Eisenhauer Post #60	Pine Bluffs
Albert Oakley	Washakie Post #61	Pavillion
David Kendall	Reed-Gobble Post #63	Lingle
Marion McCartney	William Home Post #64	Medicine Bow
Donald Kessler	John McGill Post #70	LaGrange
Robert Kissel	Mcdonald And Voight Post #75	Chugwater
Ronnie Olson	Boyce Marlatt Post #77	Albin
Spencer Nichols	Dee Fox Post #78	Big Piney-Marbleton
Keith Davidson	Roy Montgomery Post #80	Hulett
Wyman Weed, Sr.	Richard Pogue Post #81	Ft. Washakie
James Yockey	James Oliver Hogg Post #85	Meeteetse
Ray Fritz	Labarge Post #88	LaBarge
Robert Perry, Jr.	Hole In The Wall Post #90	Kaycee
Kelly Colvin	Heart Mountain Post #91	Cody
Jack Flores	Garcia-Castaneda Post #93	Cheyenne
Nick Schwab	J.J. Webb Post #95	Guernsey
Martin Blackburn	Arapaho Warriors-CPL Bill Farris Post #96	Arapaho
Mike Sherr	Hittner Engstrom-Duncan Post #122	Rawlins

The American Legion is more than the names of men who fell on the battlefield in the name of freedom, liberty and democracy. They are more than buildings or posts. They are the lifeblood of our country, endowed with the never-ending spirit of patriotism and liberty. They will never quit, they will never falter and will always complete their mission. America and the State of Wyoming are better for it.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY P. LAWRUK, SR.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, I wish to honor a member of our Greatest Generation, Stanley P. “Lucky” Lawruk, Sr., of Wilmington, DE. Stanley P. Lawruk, a lifelong Delawarean, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the Battle of Normandy and throughout World War II.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, 20-year-old Technical Sergeant Stanley Lawruk was on his fourth combat mission as

both the flight engineer and top turret gunner on a Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress. Sergeant Lawruk and his fellow crewmen were part of the 327th Bombardment Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group, known as Fame's Favored Few.

His squadron's mission on D-Day was to target and destroy the marshalling yards and industrial center at Thury-Harcourt in Normandy, France. As the dorsal turret gunner, Sergeant Lawruk manned twin 50-caliber machineguns located just above the cockpit of his bomber.

"I saw all the ships go across the channel," Stan said in a 2014 interview. "They were so thick, you could almost walk across the channel [on them]. And you could see the troops." Sergeant Stan Lawruk survived D-Day and the many follow-on missions of the Normandy campaign. After more than 20 combat flights, Lucky Lawruk had earned his nickname.

On his 26th mission, Stan Lawruk's luck ran out. On August 25, 1944, Stan's B-17 was on a bombing mission to destroy a V-2 rocket experimental station located along the coast of Peenemünde, Germany. There, his Flying Fortress fell victim to anti-aircraft batteries below.

"A direct hit blew off the propeller on our number four engine. That in turn tore a large hole in our right wing," Stan said in a 1945 newspaper interview. "Another hit put our number three engine on fire and set another windmilling. We lost altitude rapidly."

Stan and his fellow wingmen were instructed to bail out over Germany; however, they decided to stick with the plane if possible. "Over the Baltic we started to toss out everything we could move or pry loose," Stan said in 1945, stating that he even tried to drop the ball turret. "I didn't have a chance to finish the job before I jumped to my crash position. We came down in a slight crash near a fishing village. None of the crew was hurt."

A declassified document, Missing Air Crew Report 8275, recently found in the National Archives, verifies that all nine crew members survived the force of the crash landing near Sovde, Sweden. Weather conditions and visibility were described as "cloudy smooth." The bomber, numbered 43-37596, was last sighted at "1322 hours" that day.

Stan and his crew were rescued by Swedish troops and Red Cross workers; however, the American airmen would remain in neutral Sweden for 6 months. The bomber crew were considered prisoners of war until repatriated back to England. Stan, who originally enlisted in January 1943, remained in the U.S. Army Air Corps until he was honorably discharged at New Castle Army Airfield in October 1945.

After World War II, Stan did what many GIs did upon returning home. He picked up where he left off before the war. Stan went back to his grocery job at the American Store, now known as ACME, located at Chestnut and Franklin Streets in Wilmington.

Shortly thereafter, Stan Lawruk married Pearl DeLucia in November 1946. Together Stan and Pearl raised three children: Kathy, Stan, and Tim. Stan eventually landed a delivery job with the Tasty Baking Company, the maker of Tastykake treats. He worked there for 35 years until retirement. Topping that record was the nearly 69 years of marriage shared by Stan and Pearl Lawruk. His beloved wife passed away in 2015.

Stan, who just celebrated his 95th birthday, is still well known in our community and in our State. He recently moved to Wilmington VA Medical Center's Community Living Center, where he quickly became a favorite among the residents, staff, and veterans.

Stan still loves Tastykake treats and is widely known to be a bit of a card sharp who enjoys a game of Blackjack. Besides his interest in playing cards, he recently discovered his talent as an artist. In the last year alone, Stan has painted more than a dozen works of art. Folk who know Stan know him to be a loving, caring, social, and extremely positive person.

In summary, Stanley "Lucky" Lawruk is truly part of our Greatest Generation. I offer him my thanks for his sacrifices for family, for State, for country, and for humanity.

Stan, on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your dedicated service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GE BANGOR

• Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, in 1969, General Electric opened a factory in Bangor, ME. At that time, it was a small operation using old machinery to produce components for turbines that powered only 7,000 homes. Today, 50 years later, the skilled workers at GE Power manufacture equipment that powers more than 1 million homes. I am delighted to congratulate this outstanding company and its dedicated workforce on their golden anniversary.

GE Power is a center of excellence for steam turbine rotors and blading. It specializes in gas turbine component manufacturing, which is especially important as natural gas has become an essential contributor to America's growing energy independence and has helped reduce harmful emissions. As this facility has grown, so has its global reputation for innovation and problem solving.

That reputation is earned every day by the nearly 400 employees at GE Power. Their ingenuity and dedication have made their plant one of Bangor's most significant employers. They have embraced GE's companywide ethic of philanthropy and service to others, and they contribute to their community in countless ways.

The General Electric Company was founded in 1892 by Thomas Alva Edi-

son. The famed inventor and electricity pioneer could well have had Bangor in mind when he said, "The three great essentials to achieve anything are hard work, stick-to-itiveness, and common sense." The men and women of GE Power demonstrate those essentials every day, creating opportunity for themselves and our city, and I congratulate them on this landmark anniversary.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN FALLS AMERICAN LEGION POST 7

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I congratulate the American Legion Post 7 in Twin Falls, ID, on its 100th anniversary.

On March 15, 1919, the first American Legion caucus was held in Paris, France, in the wake of World War I. Just a few months later, in June of 1919, the American Legion Post 7 in Twin Falls, ID, was chartered. On September 16, 1919, Congress established the American Legion as a federally chartered corporation. As you can tell, those men in Twin Falls wasted no time answering the call in peacetime as they had in time of war, as veterans so often do. The low post number, post No. 7, shows the veterans of Twin Falls were one of the earliest to request and receive a charter in the Idaho Department.

The Twin Falls American Legion Post 7 has been around to help veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other U.S. engagements and activities. A remarkable record of accomplishment of service and support to our troops and veterans.

In addition, you will see post 7 members serving on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, veteran funerals, and many other community events as the color guard, providing 21-gun salutes, or playing taps on the bugle. They quietly provide support to grieving military families, injured veterans, and patriotic citizens.

Twin Falls American Legion Post 7 is part of the fabric and spirit of Twin Falls and the surrounding communities. They provide assistance and service to veterans by helping them to understand and apply for benefits, find jobs, and healthcare services. In addition, they are involved in many programs and community activities such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical Contests, and scholarship awards. Post 7 also has a women's auxiliary that sponsors the Girls State Program and serves in many capacities in the community.

The Preamble of the American Legion Constitution speaks volumes about the quality and patriotism of American Legion members. The first few lines of the preamble make evident these values: "For God and Country we Associate Ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United