

His first stop was an eight-year stretch serving in Governor Tom Kean's Constituent Service Office and the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles. Thereafter, for many years, Scott served as the Executive Director of the Ocean County Republican Organization and ultimately, he became the Deputy County Clerk, of Ocean County in January 2004.

As Deputy Clerk, Scott proved his muscle and helped build a program based on a deep understanding of New Jersey election law and its equitable, just application. As such, the people of Ocean County recognized his talents and resoundingly elected him to serve as County Clerk in 2010.

Since 2010, Scott was elected by wide margins three consecutive times—a public affirmation and reward for his steady and exemplary service as a State Constitutional Officer.

When he took the helm as County Clerk, the office had a reputation as a well-run organization, but Scott still worked to find new ways to expand its reach and make it even better. Under his watch, the office processed millions of vote-by-mail applications and ballots and millions more sample ballots. Scott also directed the processing of countless trade names, passports, notary public oaths and veterans' cards.

During his tenure, Scott successfully launched the Property Alert Service to empower the public to monitor any changes made to their property records. He modernized election software to enable the public to monitor election results in real time on the Clerk's website, and he upgraded the electronic e-records system to attain paperless recording of over 70 percent of all mortgages and land deeds and other documents.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Scott met and stayed ahead of the extreme challenges facing county clerks across the state—and he helped lead the way. When voters in 2020 were required under state law to use only vote-by-mail ballots, for the first time ever, he met the task, secured the trust of the voters and achieved a successful election process.

A longtime resident of the Borough of Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island, Ocean County, New Jersey, Scott is moving on to the next chapter of his life.

He will be greatly missed by me and thousands of my fellow Ocean County residents, who have taken great confidence and comfort in knowing Scott Colabella was at the helm, securing free and fair elections in Ocean County.

We thank Scott for his unparalleled public service. May God bless my friend, and bring him added success and great luck in the years ahead.

ADDRESS OF MAJOR GENERAL
PETER ANDRYSIAK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, inspiring remarks were presented by Major General Peter Andrysiak EUCOM Chief of Staff on December 14, 2024, for the Com-

memoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at Luxembourg American Cemetery. Americans are grateful for the proven competence of the American military.

Good morning, Grand Duke Henri, Grand Duchess, King Philippe, Queen Mathilde, Prime Minister Frieden, Speaker Claude Wiseler, President Roberta Metsola of the European Parliament, Prime Minister Alexander de Croo, Ambassador Nelson, Secretary Djou, honorable Members of Congress, Ambassador Thomas Barrett, Commissioner Matthew Jones, distinguished guests, allies and partners, and most importantly, to our honored veterans that are with us here today, welcome today this sacred place we gather to honor the legacy of those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. And it's a privilege to stand here among you in this solemn 80th anniversary, a moment to reflect on the courage and sacrifice that secured freedom that we cherish today. 80 years ago, in the depths of the Ardennes winter on the ground that we stand on, bore witness to extraordinary courage and unimaginable sacrifice. Young soldiers faced not only a relentless enemy fire, but also the freezing temperatures and the snow-covered terrain against the possible odds, they stood firm, not just for their own countries, but for the liberty of millions. Their fight was for something greater, a vision of a Free Europe and a better future. And so today as we commemorate their bravery, we reaffirm our gratitude for their sacrifice and the unity that made victory possible. For me, this commemoration is profoundly personal. My parents, like many millions in Europe, endured unimaginable horrors of World War Two. My father, orphaned by the Nazi tyranny when his mother was put in prison, was liberated by the Allied Forces who fought here in the Ardennes. His father, a man I never knew, perished in a concentration camp. My mother and her family were forced out of the Sudetenland and into forced labor camps and eventually granted refugee status in Germany. But the journey was a grueling one, and her father never survived it. Another man that I never had the opportunity to know. So these tragedies, like so many others, were the reality of life under the oppression during the war, yet their liberation and the liberation of millions came at the hands of Allied soldiers that we honor here today. Their courage gave my parents and countless others a second chance. They made it possible for me to be standing here in front of you today. Millions endured similar struggles, and millions owned their liberation to the soldiers who fought here. Their courage changed the course of history, not just for families like mine, but for entire nations. The Battle of the Bulge tested allied resolve under extreme conditions, and in December of 1944 the German Army launched a massive surprise offensive through the Ardennes, creating the infamous Bulge of the Allied front lines. Nowhere was this more evident than at Bastogne, where Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe in the 101st Division held the line against overwhelming odds, encircled and under siege. McAuliffe and his men faced relentless attacks under freezing conditions, and when the Germans demanded surrender, everybody knows the story that McAuliffe his famous statement "Nuts!" The Defiance became a rallying cry for the beleaguered defenders and a symbol of American and Allied determination and victory at Bastogne was marked by a turning point in the battle. It was the end of any German offensive, but it came at a high cost. Over 75,000 were killed, wounded or captured, but their sacrifice endured that the march

toward liberation would continue. The people of Luxembourg endured the occupation, suffering and loss during the war, yet they also witnessed liberation brought by Allied forces who risked and gave their lives in these very fields. Luxembourg has shown remarkable dedication to honoring those who fell here and through the care of this Cemetery and others like it, you remind us of the enduring bond forged between the nations in the crucible of war. And your commitment endures with your with you being your presence here, as these sacrifices are never forgotten. I've had the good opportunity and good fortune to be at a number of the American Battle Monuments, cemeteries, and I'm always in awe of their splendor? They're pristine. They're powerful, you know. And as we stand here, as you look behind me, 5,076 headstones, both Latin Crosses and Stars of David, were reminded of the extraordinary courage and the sacrifice of those who rest here, farmers, factory workers, teachers, students, fathers, brothers, sons and sisters and daughters, and they came from all walks of life, all races, and united for a common cause, the defense of freedom. Each marker is perfectly aligned and oriented westward toward home, a poignant reminder of the enduring connection that these heroes shared with the nation that they fought to protect, even in eternal rest, they faced the families who awaited their return but never got to see them again. The Wall of the Missing on both sides of the tent consists of two walls inscribed with the names of 371 service members whose remains were never recovered. And these walls standing in solemn symmetry symbolize the connection between those who fought and those who remain to honor their sacrifice. And then, though their bodies are absent, their memory endures as a testament to the cost of liberty. And at the center, right, or back here behind us stands the small chapel, a place for reflection and reverence, and the description in their reads their name liveth forevermore. These words serve as a solemn promise that the sacrifices for those who rest here will never be forgotten. This Cemetery and its pristine grounds are solemn and solid markers telling their story. We spare no expense to honor those who perished, providing them with a final resting place fitting of their sacrifice, a place that reflects the magnitude and courage the debt we owe to their memory. And so this sacred place ensures that their sacrifices will be remembered, not just by those that are gathered here today, but by the generations to come. The sacrifices of those who rest here are not relics of history. They are the foundation for the present and the future. NATO built on the unity and determination shown during these battles like The Ardennes remains a cornerstone of peace and security, and then today, NATO's commitment to collective defense and shared values is a shining city on a hill to deter aggression and to uphold freedom secured by these brave men and women. The courage and resolve of these soldiers inspire us all, and still, they challenge us to live up to their legacy by protecting the values they fought for, liberty, unity and dignity for all. I'll close with a quote from President Roosevelt. The light of their sacrifice shall not grow dim with the passing years, let us ensure that their gift of liberty endures for generations. So let us honor their legacy, not only with our words but our actions. Let us strive to live lives worthy of their sacrifice by protecting the freedoms they fought for, fostering unity amongst nations and standing resolute against tyranny in all of its forms. So May their bravery continue to inspire us, may their memory forever guide us toward a better world, Thank you.

SENATOR JERRY MORAN AT
BASTOGNE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, hosted by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and U.S. Embassy Belgium, on December 13, 2024, at the Mardasson Memorial featured remarks by Senator Jerry Moran. Heartfelt observations by a fellow son of a Kansas, same as Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Ladies and gentlemen, and our veterans, those who served here at the Battle of the Bulge and around the globe, who served in World War Two and the wars that preceded that, and those who serve today, it's an honor to be with you here in Belgium to lead this Senate Delegation to the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. And I want to recognize my colleagues from the Senate who are here, Senator Susan Collins, Senator John Barrasso, Senator Kristen Gillibrand and Senator Maggie Hassan. I also recognize Congressman and Chairman McCaul and his House members and Administrator Bill Nelson in his representation of the Administration of the United States of America. We thank all of you who have traveled here today for this very important and significant occasion. I represent the state of Kansas, the home of Dwight D. Eisenhower in the United States Senate, I am the ranking member and incoming Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. In marking this commemoration in Belgium today and Luxembourg tomorrow, we are here to pay tribute to and to honor the memory of the men who fought for freedom on the European Continent and those who remain here, still lying in internal rest in sites like Ardennes, the American Cemetery to the north and Luxembourg American Cemetery to the southeast. Together, they are the final resting place for more than 10,000 Americans, and another 834 are memorialized on the wall of the missing places like these and the monuments where we are today are reminders of the price that were paid for the liberties that we each enjoy. The Battle of the Bulge was the largest, as we've heard, the most costly battle for the Americans during World War Two. On the morning of December 16, 1944, under the cover of poor weather, Nazi Germany launched a final offensive seeking to divide allied forces and to force a negotiated end to the hostilities on this Western Front. Despite being outnumbered, outgunned short of supplies, it was here during the coldest winter in decades, where the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, The Screaming Eagles, held off the enemy's advances and bought time for the allies to halt and counter the last gasp the surprise attack of the enemy. This Band of Brothers was made up of men from every corner of the United States, such as Senator Collins, Father Don Collins, Senator Barrasso, Father John and Senator Hassan's father, Robert Wood and many more. Those of you here in attendance today who have loved ones, who served, who answered the call and to bear arms in this Battle of the Bulge. On December 22, 1944, General Eisenhower, from that small town in Kansas called Abilene, sent the following message to every member of the Allied Expeditionary Force. General Eisenhower said, "the enemy is making his supreme effort. He is fighting savagely to take

back all that you have won, but already in this battle, your gallantry has done much to foil his plans. In the face of your proven bravery, your fortitude, he the enemy will completely fail, but we cannot be content with just a mere repulse by rushing out from his fixed defenses. The enemy may have given us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat." I call upon Eisenhower speaking here. "I call upon every man of the Allies to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort, united in this determination and with this unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory." With that message in the soldiers' minds and hearts, the fighting continued through Christmas, the soldiers huddled in their foxholes and prayed between shellings, echoing the prayers of their loved ones in church pews and around the dinner tables back home, as the calendar turned from 1944 to 1945 the Allied Army steadily drove back the enemy in a unified push toward victory. One year after the war ended on America's Independence Day, the people of Belgium broke ground on this site to demonstrate and to dedicate this patch of earth to the memory of the heroes of the Battle of the Bulge in this center of this monument, there is an inscription that, when translated into English, reads the Belgium people remember their American liberators, July 4, 1946, I thought of that as we drove through this town and saw the Christmas ornaments, the trees, the stars, the lights, what happened here 80 years ago makes life possible here today and other places around our globe. This Transatlantic partnership forged in war, remains a pillar of strength for both of our nations, Belgium and the United States. And as Russia wages war in Ukraine, the bonds of NATO must grow stronger and continue to deter the aggression of our shared adversaries. The General indicated what the Germans were trying to accomplish, and I take his words to say, we too must demonstrate the Alliance cannot be shattered. We will stand together today, shoulder to shoulder, just as the soldiers who liberated this continent did eight decades ago, 80 years after the Battle of the Bulge, remember, we remember the cost paid by those who died here and those who served here. Time cannot time must not dim the glory of their deeds. We often look for heroes, and we look in baseball parks and amphitheaters and sports figures entertainers. We sometimes look to politicians to be heroes, and sometimes they are. But mostly we don't have to look very far for heroes. They are among us, among us today in our hometowns across the United States of America, they are the ones who served there's a small memorial back home in Abilene, Kansas. It's a memorial at the presidential library of Dwight D. Eisenhower that bears this inscription. "Let us be glad that such heroes have lived and mourn those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Indeed, let us be glad for those, those heroes who have lived, those heroes who show us away and let us strive to live our lives in a manner worthy of their sacrifices." God Bless you, veterans. Thank you for being our heroes and our role models. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MCCAUL
HONORS VETERANS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to participate in CODEL

McCaul for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. A highlight of the ceremonies at the Bastogne War Museum in Belgium was a speech by Chairman Michael McCaul of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on December 13, 2024. As Chairman McCaul completes his impressive service as Committee Chairman, his sincere presentation will always be historically appreciated.

Thank you. It's truly an honor to be here today, but also to be the presence of our veterans of Battle the Bulge. You're truly heroes, and I thank you for being here today. Today we gather to honor and remember the valor and sacrifice of the men who fought the bitter cold of December 1944 and changed the course of history, the freedoms that we enjoy today were born out of this bloody battle, which Winston Churchill described as undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war 80 years ago in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. The Battle of the Bulge began a desperate and brutal offensive by Nazi forces that tested the resolve of the Allied troops, while the U.S. and allied forces faced tremendous challenges against a well-equipped and well-trained enemy. The American troops did what they do best. They stood up to the challenge and held the line. This was also my father's war. I cannot stand here today without thinking about him. James McCaul, the veteran of the European theater. He served as a bombardier on a B 17, known as a Flying Fortresses, participating in 32 bombing missions on enemy targets, including this one right here today, he was part of the largest bombing mission in U.S. history, in support of the D Day invasion in Normandy, as well as the skies above us during the Battle of the Bulge. He was and is always my hero, as are you, and so too are all those who bravely liberated a continent and defeated evil their commitment to victory at all cost, exemplified the grit and defiance of the American spirit. It was here in the frozen forest that the world witnesses strength and unity and resolve soldiers like the men of the 101st Airborne who held the line in Bastogne, despite being surrounded and outnumbered, they refused to surrender. They understood the stakes that were happening right here, aside from the death and carnage from the battle, American troops faced one of the coldest winters in recorded history, with record breaking temperatures sinking as low as negative 18 degrees Fahrenheit, trench foot, frostbite, arctic conditions were just as deadly as Hitler's army. Supply lines were stretched thin. Troops were exhausted from constant combat as they advanced across Europe, closing in on Berlin, the battle spanned six weeks and had staggering costs, 80,000 casualties, nearly 20,000 killed Americans and 20,000 taken prisoner, and the SS did not abide by the Geneva Convention, all told; half a million Americans, along with over half a million Allied troops, fought in this battle. It was the bloodiest battle for U.S. forces during the entirety of World War Two. The Allied Victory here broke the back of the Nazi war machine and paved the way for liberation of Europe. The memory of this battle should reinforce the moral clarity to defend freedom at all costs. My father's generation, your generation, fought to eradicate evil, and we must never forget their sacrifices and continue the legacy of freedom that they handed down to us, to my children and to our grandchildren. As a Texan, I'm also proud that many heroes of this battle went to Texas A&M University, which I represent, including then Colonel James Earl Rudder. He was a distinguished Texas A&M alumnus who was a commanding officer of the Army's Second Ranger Battalion. He was one of the amazing soldiers who landed at