

We must also impose sanctions against any Russian manufacturers that provide military equipment such as advanced anti-aircraft systems to Syria in contravention of U.S. law.

In my view, it is unconscionable for us to provide Russia with the recently announced \$550 million contract for 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters, a purchase the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has strongly advised against.

American taxpayer dollars should not be provided to a Russian state-owned corporation that is complicit in the murder of tens of thousands of innocent Syrian men, women, and children. The Department of Defense has the authority to end this contract with Rosoboronexport, which fails to meet the requirements of the Afghan military, and I have joined many of my colleagues in urging the administration to review this sale.

The United States must not be complicit in the arming of the Asad regime nor in the empowerment of countries like Iran, which will triumph if Asad succeeds. I urge the administration to impose sanctions on Rosoboronexport and to demonstrate to Russia that its behavior in Syria will not be cost-free in its relations with our Nation.

REMEMBERING PETER SORBO

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the service of Mr. Peter Sorbo, of Connecticut, whose family resides in Waterbury, CT. In January 1943, 18 year-old Peter Sorbo enlisted in the Army to serve his country during World War II. Deployed to the European theater and assigned to Bombardment Group 384, Squadron 545, he served as a waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress and perished on August 12, 1943 after his plane was shot down above the Rhine.

I would like to have printed in the RECORD an article from the Waterbury Republican American that outlines this fascinating story about one of Connecticut's brave soldiers.

Many of Connecticut's sons, like Peter Sorbo, gave their lives defending our freedom and they deserve our perpetual gratitude. I ask that this body devote itself to remembering these courageous men and women by honoring their sacrifices and forever preserving their memories.

The following article written by Mike Patrick appeared in the July 29, 2013 edition of the Waterbury Republican-American. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE TRUTH . . . FINALLY

IT TOOK DECADES, BUT WATERBURY SISTERS LEARN ABOUT THEIR BROTHER'S DEATH IN WORLD WAR II

WATERBURY.—A family friend, some Internet research and the handwritten notes of

prisoners of war have unearthed a story of tragic heroism that after seven decades has at last brought closure for two Waterbury sisters whose brother died in World War II.

"He was a good kid, a really good boy," Marie Debiase said through tears. "After 70 years, we're finally finding out what happened to him."

All she knew all these years, she said, was that her brother, Peter Sorbo, died when his plane was shot down over the Rhine in 1943.

But recently, her sister Joann Devino met Carmen Mancuso, one of their brother's old friends, at church. Mancuso said his son Richard was pretty handy at Internet research and may be able to learn a little more about the circumstances of Sorbo's death.

The sisters gave them some of their brother's letters and other documents, and Richard Mancuso, a sales manager from Madison and self-described history buff, got to work. "I read a few of them it struck my interest," he said. "I started Googling it."

Mancuso discovered a treasure trove of information, including reports of Sorbo's death written by the men who served with him that day.

The following story was pieced together from those reports, and from family recollections.

Peter Sorbo was working in the United Cigar store late in 1942 when a woman came in and chided him with something like, "What are you doing working here when my son is overseas?"

The tall, quiet 17-year-old took it to heart. He quit school, to the consternation of his parents, and enlisted in January 1943.

"I remember every bit of that day he went into the Army," Debiase said. "It was a terrible blizzard that day."

For the next several months, he wrote his family letters from the European Theater, mostly general, mundane greetings. Those letters would later prove helpful to Mancuso in learning how he died.

In August that same year, the waist gunner on a recently formed B-17 Flying Fortress squadron went AWOL. Sorbo, by then a staff sergeant, was assigned to take his place on a bombing mission over a synthetic fuel plant in Germany.

It was an extremely dangerous operation. B-17s were large, obvious and difficult for their gunners to defend. That was especially so for waist gunners, who endured sub-zero temperatures and thin oxygen while shooting Axis fighter planes through a very small window into a powerful airstream that made it hard to lock onto a target.

The plane was hit by a 20-mm shell that caught Sorbo in the neck.

The plane started to go down under continuous enemy fire. The crew prepared to bail out. One tried desperately to get a parachute onto Sorbo, who was already dying from his neck wound.

Then the plane exploded.

Six airmen parachuted out, including one who said the blast blew him out of the craft, and another who said he saw the plane go down as he drifted into the Rhine.

All six survivors were captured by the Nazis. Sorbo and three others were killed, including the crewman who tried to save him.

Devino said she often thinks of that heroic airman.

"I thought of the family," she said. "If he didn't stop to try and get a parachute on Peter, he might have just been a POW."

The family didn't know any of this for decades.

After the plane was shot down, the military sent a letter saying Sorbo was missing in action.

"All those years, we were hoping maybe he was a prisoner, maybe he would get back," Debiase said. "My mother never stopped hoping."

It wasn't until the war was over that the government acknowledged the plane and Sorbo's remains had been found, and asked the family if it would like them to be returned for burial.

Debiase said her family doubted from the beginning that the remains were his, but figured it was a service member who needed burial anyway, so they accepted them.

"Who we got, I don't know, but we respect it as my brother," Debiase said. "We visit the cemetery and put the flags on when they need to be put on."

Sorbo's loss devastated his family. His father was so distraught that he walked off a 20-year job as a tool setter at Chase Brass & Copper.

"He couldn't handle it," Devino said.

The parents doted on and spoiled their remaining son. He ended up drafted into the Korean War, returned an alcoholic, and died young.

Debiase and her husband, Michael, live in a lovely house with a dining room table long enough to accommodate their many family gatherings.

Her brother Peter, she said, wanted to go into radio. He was funny and kind and protective—all the things an eldest brother should be to his siblings.

"We at least know what really happened," she said. "We never knew. I'm glad my parents never really knew."

Her memories of Peter, she said, she has "stored away in my heart" since she was 9, the age she was when he died. She's 79 now and Devino is 83.

Debiase looked over at that dining room table, on this day strewn with Sorbo's sepia-toned service photographs.

"Every holiday you sit down and say, 'There should be another chair,'" she said. "But there isn't."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SANDWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, today I wish to honor Sandwich, NH—a town in Carroll County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic event.

Sandwich is a picturesque community situated in the shadow of the Sandwich Dome, that has through the hard work and dedication of its citizens retained the look and feel of a traditional colonial New Hampshire village.

Sandwich was granted a charter by Governor Benning Wentworth on October 25, 1763, and derives its name from John Montague, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. Today, the population has grown to include over 1,300 residents.

Carpenters, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths formed the base of Sandwich's vibrant artisan history. The beauty of the region, and its rich history, has attracted a variety of artists to Sandwich.

In 1920, Sandwich Home Industries was founded. Today it is known statewide as the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen.

Sandwich is also home to one of New Hampshire's premier agricultural fairs. Held every year on Columbus Day weekend, the Sandwich Fair has been providing a venue for the celebration of