

While a few soldiers were able to escape the initial attack, the other 130 Americans were forced to surrender to the SS troops.

Given orders to take no prisoners and violating the rules of war, German tank gunners lined up the Americans and gunned them down in cold blood. Worse yet, these Nazi troops searched for anyone showing signs of life and shot them repeatedly at point-blank range.

However, 40 men, including Mr. Billow, were able to play dead and escape the massacre. Many of these survivors traveled to Nuremburg after the war to testify in the war crimes trials and demand justice for their fallen brothers in arms. Today Mr. Billow is one of only two men from the 285th Battalion known to be alive.

Mr. Billow dedicates his life to remembering his comrades who did not survive this massacre. Every Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day, Mr. Billow decorates his front lawn with 87 American flags, one for each man who fell on that terrible day in 1944.

Today I wish to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by those killed in the Malmedy massacre and also to honor and thank the survivors, including Mr. Billow, who keep the memory of their fellow soldiers alive.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDY SIMKOVITCH

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize a distinguished D-Day veteran from Pennsylvania, Mr. Andy Simkovitch, and to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

A resident of Erie, PA, Mr. Simkovitch was a U.S. Navy sailor that served aboard the tank landing ship USS L.S.T. 501 during World War II. He was involved in Operation Overlord at Utah and Omaha Beaches, where he transported troops during the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. During the operation and while under heavy German fire, he went to the beach nine times. Following his actions in France, his ship headed to the Pacific and saw combat in numerous battles, including the Battle of Okinawa. Mr. Simkovitch stayed in the Pacific until Japan surrendered, and he was then honorably discharged in March 1946.

The courage and bravery displayed by Mr. Simkovitch earned him the Chevalier Legion of Honor medal, the highest honor bestowed by the nation of France. With only 855,000 of the 16 million American WWII veterans remaining today, it is increasingly important to honor those that served our great Nation and ensure future generations know about the struggles and sacrifices these brave veterans endured.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to thank Mr. Simkovitch for his dedicated service to our Nation in advance of the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARDS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, to commemorate Public Recognition Week, the Vermont Federal Executive Association, VTFEA, recognized the more than 4,000 Federal employees working across the State and the good work they do every day. I would like to offer special congratulations to the 2016 Excellence in Government award winners, who have been recognized by VTFEA for their exemplary government service.

Excellence in Management and Program Support Award, Individual Award—Heather Festa, management program analyst, personnel security division, Office of Security and Integrity, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, South Burlington—Heather demonstrated exceptional innovation and professionalism in response to the Office of Personnel Management's security breach of electronic systems containing background investigation records. When OPM instructed Federal agencies to mail all paper documents, many agencies simply halted their personnel security processes. However, Heather skillfully designed and implemented an action plan for the hard-copy paper forms to ensure there would be no interruption in processing security checks within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Excellence in Management and Program Support Award, Group Award—northeast regional office position description workgroup, northeast regional office, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, South Burlington, including Jeannine Longchamp, Maegan Cutler, Brian Johansson, and Laurie Juskiewicz—the northeast regional office human resources team led a working group to review supervisory position descriptions for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's entire field operations directorate. Not only did the team ensure that all positions aligned with Office of Personal Management guidelines, it also created supervisory positions at new grade levels that opened up previously unobtainable career paths for some employees.

Professional Award—Peter Banacos and Andrew Loconto, meteorologists, National Weather Service, Burlington International Airport, South Burlington—Peter and Andrew worked together to develop a snow squall identification and forecasting technique that has greatly improved winter weather forecast and warning systems for many National Weather Service offices. Historically, there has been an overall lack of forecaster awareness in identifying the weather conditions in which snow squalls can occur, as well as understanding their impact. Peter and Andrew's innovation, leadership, and persistent efforts over the past 3 years

have enhanced the National Weather Service's ability to provide useful winter weather information to the public.

Law Enforcement, Safety and Security Award—Amanda Cahill, special agent, Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, satellite office, Rutland—Amanda exemplifies the highest traditions of government service: tireless dedication and devotion to her agency and the residents of her community. She has singlehandedly reestablished a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives presence in southern Vermont and has begun to fill a void in the law enforcement community's fight against armed drug traffickers. She has acted as an undercover agent, as well as a lead investigator, and recently, she has been recognized for her efforts by the U.S. attorney for Vermont.

Managerial/Supervisory Award—Daniel Whitney, section chief, training, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, law enforcement support center, Williston—Dan Whitney exemplifies the continued pursuit of excellence and an unparalleled record of achievement. The law enforcement support center, LESC, is U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's primary point of contact for law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Dan is responsible for ensuring that all LESC employees receive continuous training in multiple law enforcement databases, including ICE's new enterprise database that his team tested to ensure that LESC employees had the training and the tools to provide up to the minute information to law enforcement agencies. Dan is someone who leads by example and is always willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that LESC meets its mission.

Tina Gurka Community Service Award—registered nurse Sharon Levenson and police officer Guy Gardner, VA medical center, White River Junction—in January 2016, Nurse Sharon Levenson and Officer Guy Gardner demonstrated their dedication to veterans in their local community. After one of her patients did not show up for an appointment, Sharon contacted the local police department and requested a welfare check. When the police department said the situation did not warrant a check, VA Officer Guy Gardner contacted a neighbor, and they discovered the veteran in serious distress. Thanks to Sharon and Guy's efforts, the patient recovered fully. Their commitment to veterans was recognized by VA Secretary McDonald during testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Interagency Collaboration and Partnership Award—Brian Wood, Border Patrol agent, U.S. Border Patrol, Richford—Brian has demonstrated exemplary professionalism and work ethic in forming and maintaining valuable and productive partnerships with various Federal and State agencies in Vermont and across the country. Brian's efforts have resulted in the arrest of numerous alien smugglers, drug

dealers, and human traffickers and the removal of countless illegal firearms, heroin, and cocaine from our communities. Brian uses his expertise in law enforcement and his ability to collaborate successfully to keep our communities and citizens safe.

**Heroic Act Award**—John Marsh, Border Patrol agent, U.S. Border Patrol, Swanton sector, Beecher Falls Station—in April 2016, while returning from a call for assistance in New Hampshire, Agent Marsh approached two men on the ground, one pounding the chest of the other. Agent Marsh found the person on the ground was choking on food, was not breathing, and would not respond to verbal stimulation. After requesting emergency medical services, Agent Marsh administered the Heimlich maneuver and was able to dislodge the food from the victim. He remained with him until the paramedics arrived and took over care. Thanks to John's training and his ability to stay calm under pressure, the victim is alive and well today.

**Vermont Federal Team of the Year Award**—the northwest Vermont locality pay committee: Brandon Ackel, Transportation Security Administration, Robert Brugman, National Credit Union Administration, Brian Johansson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Kelly Larsen, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska, Bruce McDonald, Transportation Security Administration, Sean McVey, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mark Nielsen, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Jeff Ostlund, Transportation Security Administration, Corey Price, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Texas, Lisa Rees, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Krista Scheele, Transportation Security Administration—in November 2012, VTFEA discussed what initiatives would benefit the most Federal employees, and it didn't take long to realize that securing locality pay for Vermont was the No. 1 priority. In early 2013, VTFEA created a locality pay committee, consisting of employees from six Federal agencies. Working tirelessly, the team prepared a locality pay proposal for northwest Vermont and, in December 2013, presented it to the Federal Salary Council in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the first proposal was denied, so the following year, they tried again. Again, the proposal was denied. Not to be discouraged, the team drafted a third proposal in November 2015, and committee members traveled to Washington at their own expense to support the package and their fellow Vermonters. At the hearing, the Council approved the package, which is waiting for approval by the President's pay agent and the President. The northwest Vermont locality pay committee's tenacity, collaborative spirit, and positivity is why Vermont is being considered for locality pay, and it is because of their efforts that VTFEA chose them as "Federal Team of the Year."●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID MAXWELL

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor David Maxwell, the director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, ADEM, and State Homeland Security adviser, who is retiring next month after more than 36 years of service at ADEM.

David began his career at ADEM in 1978 as a temporary housing employee working with Arkansans displaced by major flooding in Little Rock.

Through the years, he held a number of positions at ADEM, including plans and operations division manager, where he ensured the State emergency operations plan, EOP, and local jurisdictional plans were maintained and in compliance with State and Federal guidelines. Prior to assuming the role of director, David served as the department's deputy director.

As director, David chairs the Arkansas Homeland Security executive committee and serves on a number of the State's emergency response-related councils and committees. In October 2009, David served a 1-year term as 2010 president of the National Emergency Management Association, NEMA, and now serves as an adviser to the current NEMA president. Additionally, he serves on the board of directors of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium, CUSEC, and is a member of the executive committee of the National Governors Association, NGA, Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council for which he chairs the catastrophic disaster and preparedness committee. In 2015, David was awarded the Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award by the National Emergency Management Association.

David has served as the designated State coordinating officer for 24 federally declared disasters and one federally declared emergency during his career at ADEM.

I worked very closely with David during his tenure as ADEM director. I have always found him to be a very responsive, committed public servant who is dedicated to the people of Arkansas.

I thank David for his service to our State and applaud his efforts to keep Arkansans safe over the last three decades. I wish him all the best in retirement.●

##### CONGRATULATING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BLUE DEVILS

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Montgomery Youth Hockey Association's, MYHA, Squirt AA Blue team for winning the 2016 International Silver Stick championship in Sarnia, Ontario. I am proud that this year—for the 3rd year in a row—the name of the Montgomery Blue Devils from Rockville, MD, will be on a plaque placed alongside the Sil-

ver Stick trophy in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Canada.

The International Silver Stick tournament has attracted teams from all over the United States and Canada since 1958. The laudable purpose of the tournament is to develop and promote "Citizenship and International Goodwill through hockey." The Montgomery Blue Devils team of 9- and 10-year-olds—a squad of 15 boys and 1 girl—exemplified this philosophy both on and off the ice. Led by tournament "most valuable player" Reid Pehrkon, the Squirt AA Blue team outscored its opponents by a margin of 30 goals to 17. The team defeated the North York Knights in Toronto, Canada, in four overtimes, 5-4, to win the championship for a 3rd consecutive year. Compiling 145 victories in the process, the Blue Devils can legitimately lay claim to being the best AA team in North America.

In addition to winning the International Silver Stick tournament, the team won its regular season title, the league playoff championship, and the International Silver Stick regional championship.

Throughout the season, the AA Blue team lived up to its simple rallying cry of "work," and never wavered from the main goals established by Coach Rob Keegan and assistants Dave Cohen, Stu Margel, and Lee Rosebush, which were "to be the hardest working team around and to always believe that the team is more important than the individual."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the MYHA Blue Devils Squirt AA Blue Team for its dedication to the values of teamwork and perseverance while winning a third consecutive International Silver Stick Championship. Team members include Ethan Birndorf, Caden Blazer, Will Cohen, Andrew Fou, Nick Garner, Cody Keegan, Alexander MacMillan, Dylan Margel, John McNelis, Jack Oliver, Reid Pehrkon, Dakota Rosebush, Brady Silverman, Jack Slater, Lucy Thiessen, and Maddox Tulacro. We should also express our appreciation to the coaches mentioned above and to the parents, other family members, and friends who have tirelessly supported and mentored this superb group of youngsters.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR JOSEPH P. KELLY

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, a dear friend and spiritual advisor, for his decades of extraordinary service in helping others and working to secure the common good. Fifty years ago, Monsignor Kelly was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton. Since then, he has touched the lives of thousands of people in Northeastern Pennsylvania and Nebraska. He is been a servant leader, one whose profound faith is demonstrated in his works. I would like to take this time to wish him the best on