

daughter, Cora; and her parents, David and Luanne.

REMEMBERING HAROLD JOHN SHIMER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today marks the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was during that fateful event that more than 2,400 American lives were lost and another 1,100 were wounded. While that day took a tragic toll, heroes were made of those who rushed to action. I wish to honor the life and memory of one such Pearl Harbor hero who went on to serve his country for an additional 20 years after that day. That man is Harold John Shimer, who passed away on October 30, 2016, at the age of 97 in Anacortes, WA.

Mr. Shimer was born on February 12, 1919, in Wurstboro, NY, the son of Harold and Irma Shimer. He attended schools in Wurstboro and Middleton, NY, and enjoyed working with his father on their 640-acre dairy farm. After graduating high school, Mr. Shimer joined the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Shimer had begun his naval career as a storekeeper third class aboard the newly commissioned USS *Helena*, where the ship's first assignment was as neutrality patrol in South America, protecting Uruguay and Argentina prior to the United States' entrance into World War II. Mr. Shimer had the very unique and rare account of watching the famous German *Graf Spee* warship and its captain, which had sunk nine merchant ships, scuttle itself after being pursued by English warships.

The USS *Helena* was assigned to the Pacific, where it was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was hit by a Japanese torpedo and lost 23 men. Mr. Shimer and the other surviving crewmembers immediately fired back against the attackers. He passed ammunition for the new guns that had just been installed that summer. He recalled, "In a superhuman effort we emptied the ammunition locker in less than two hours." Mr. Shimer and his team were credited with saving the USS *Pennsylvania*, the flagship of the fleet in a drydock just forward of the *Helena*. Following repairs, the *Helena* went on to win fame for sinking a number of Japanese ships before being sunk herself by a submarine in 1943.

Mr. Shimer returned to the States before being reassigned to establish a submarine depot in Fremantle, Australia, and was promoted to chief warrant officer. In 1947, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC, then to Japan Naval Supply Depot, Yokosuka, Japan, and finally Naval Depot, Seattle, WA. Mr. Shimer had served aboard the USS *Philippine Sea*, USS *Mount McKinley*, and USS *Constellation*. He retired from Naval Station Seattle in June 1961, after 22 years of patriotic service to his country.

Mr. Shimer's great pleasure was golfing with all his friends in the Similk

Men's Golf Club, and he was an active member of Pearl Harbor Survivors, life member of VFW and American Legion, and member of the Anacortes Elks Lodge.

Mr. Shimer is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters Patricia Armstrong, Terrie Hughes, and step-daughter Brenda Eissenstat; grandchildren Toni Gill and Clayton Hughes and step-grandsons Ethan and Daniel Eissenstat; great-grandchildren Mitchell, Jamie, and Katelin Gill and Hayley and Brynn Hughes; step-sister Gale Angelostro; sister-in-law Blanche Shimer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Please join me in extending our warmest gratitude to Mr. Shimer and his family for the years of dedicated service to his country and for being an upstanding and active member of the Anacortes community. His stories, which were described as no less than "amazing", will be missed, but they will also live on in the memories of family and friends that knew him well.

REMEMBERING LEROY MAZELL SMITH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Leroy Mazell Smith, an aviation mechanic from Fordyce, AR, who was part of the illustrious Tuskegee Airmen and served his country with honor and distinction.

Born in 1927, Smith loved to tell the story of his birth with wry humor and fondness. A midwife helped his mother deliver him while on a bridge where some had taken refuge from the great Mississippi River flood of that year. They remained there for 4 days before his birth was documented. The result was that his birth certificate indicated a different date of birth, 4 days after his actual birthday.

From that unusual beginning, he went on to lead a remarkable life. He credited his Baptist grandfather with having a large influence on him growing up, including teaching him the value of hard work. He graduated from high school at age 16 and took preflight aeronautical classes. After graduation, Smith joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a mechanic.

He completed basic training in Texas and was stationed at Chanute Field in Illinois. Later, during World War II, he was sent to Europe where he was assigned to the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tail squadron. He remembered being scared during his time in theater but always relayed his sense of pride in the work he did and the fact that the Tuskegee unit never lost a bomber.

Smith also helped break social and racial barriers in the military. As part of the group of African Americans who served in the Armed Forces in the mid-20th century, he was among many servicemembers who confronted segregation within the barracks and beyond. Even so, he recalled his time in the Army Air Corps as "one of his best memories."

Leroy Smith honorably served with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force for more than 25 years, including further combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. He retired in 1968 as a master sergeant.

Leroy Mazell Smith passed away on December 1, 2016. He will be laid to rest on December 9, wearing an Air Force uniform complete with the medals he earned during his service, a recent request that the nonprofit veterans' support group Team Red, White and Blue helped fulfill.

Smith is an American hero whose admirable service is recognized and appreciated by all Arkansans. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and I hope that they take comfort in the wonderful legacy that he leaves behind.

TRIBUTE TO JOE AND LOUISE HEAD

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Joe and Louise Head, recipients of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's 2016 Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award, which is presented annually to honor citizens who have made significant contributions to the greater Cincinnati community.

Recognized for their generosity as philanthropic and civic leaders, Joe and Louise have volunteered their time, talents, and treasure to countless community endeavors to make the greater Cincinnati community a better place to live.

They have both been very active volunteers to many local organizations including Xavier University, Seven Hills School, the Metropolitan Growth Alliance, and the Cincinnati Nature Center. Joe and Louise have also provided significant leadership by serving as trustees and board members to many civic and charitable organizations. Louise is a former governing board chair of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Joe is a former chair of the Christ Hospital Health Network board of directors. No couple is more community-minded, and the people of greater Cincinnati have been the beneficiaries.

I would like to congratulate Joe and Louise Head on this award.

NASHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Nashville Fire Department in North Carolina. On December 17, 2016, the men and women of the department will celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Nashville Fire Department has a tremendous history of dedicated service to its community. On December 17, 1916, it was outfitted with their first hose and reel to replace the previous bucket brigades. As the oldest fire department in Nash County, NC, its volunteers and employees continue, to this day, risking their lives to protect