

For six weeks, the beer sat in the ship. It wasn't until a few soldiers figured out how to break open a port window and throw some of the beer into the ocean to scoop up later that any of it could be consumed. Finally, the beer was released and Gildea's strange guard duty was over.

Gildea moved around to several different areas, being assigned to various guard duties and police work. He remembers the climate being hot and humid, with not much for areas to escape the weather.

At a staging area where soldiers prepared to enter Japan, in Leyte, Gildea found himself in the hospital with an illness. While there, soldiers from Corregidor liberated American women and children from a prison there. These former prisoners were sent to the hospital that Gildea was recovering.

"I had been there for three weeks, and I was getting to where I could get up and move around," he said. "They come in one morning and wanted to know if some of us boys could get up and help the women and children with their stuff. They were putting them through their interrogation. I went up to this lady and little girl and spoke to her and said I'd be glad to help her. We got to visiting, and the little girls' folks were from Boxholm, Iowa. Her mother had died in prison, and her dad was some place out in the jungles.

"This lady . . . I can't remember where this lady was from . . . this lady brought the girl back to Boone," Gildea said. "They were in Boone and called my folks and went up and talked to them."

The dropping of the atomic bombs brought about the end of the war, and with it great relief from many soldiers. Gildea had already been training to go to Japan. He was a part of three platoons in the company—one dealing with traffic control, one with prisoners and one general guard duty. While being given their duties, one that struck the soldiers was tagging bodies.

"That's how bad they were figuring it was going to be," he said.

Gildea was 3/4 of a mile away from the U.S.S. Missouri while the peace treaty signing was being done.

"We could see it through good field glasses," he said. "You could see people moving around. We could say we've seen it, I guess."

Following the end of the war, Gildea was sent to Yokohama, where he stayed in the third floor of a large building. Everything in the area had been fire bombed, however this building had been spared. He also recalled one other building in the area that was still standing.

"There was a little Methodist church," he said. "It was made of brick, and it never burned."

It was while staying in this building that he made a trade with a Japanese man that was moving out of the building. He had several postcards of the building on his desk, which Gildea asked for, and the man agreed. He then asked Gildea for some chocolate from his rations . . . he had a little boy who had never tasted chocolate. Gildea obliged.

"He had a little boy who was seven years old and never tasted chocolate," he said. "It was kind of amazing to think that he wanted that candy."

Gildea's time overseas was varied. His recollections vary from the odd to touching to humorous. He enjoyed his time overseas, however quickly reminds folks that at the time, it was not much of a choice. Whether being drafted or not, for most men at the time, serving their country was something they did without much thought.

"We had no other choice," he said. "It's just our duty and we had to do it."

I commend Harold Gildea for his many years of loyalty and service to

our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
STEVE HEGEDUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Steve Hegedus, beloved family man, friend, mentor, firefighter, peace activist and United States veteran.

Mr. Hegedus grew up in Cleveland along Buckeye Road where many Hungarian immigrants, like his parents, had settled. He served with honor in the United States Army during World War II as a member of the 11th Airborne in the Pacific Theater. The young men he met while at war grew to be close and life-long friends. After the war, Mr. Hegedus joined the Cleveland Heights Fire Department where he served with excellence, compassion and dedication for more than thirty years. He eventually attained the rank of Captain. While a firefighter, he operated a small home repair business. Although his work ethic was unwavering, his first priority was always his family. He and his wife, the late Mary Rose Hegedus, raised their children and remained closely connected to them and their grandchildren. When Mary Rose became ill, Mr. Hegedus lovingly cared for her. His daughter, Pamela; son, Steven; son-in-law, Timothy; daughter-in-law, Debbie; and grandchildren, Jordan and Ariel continued to be the center of his life.

Mr. Hegedus' energy for life, passion for learning and willingness to take a stand on issues of social justice were always part of who he was. He lived with love for humanity and concern for our planet. He was an environmentalist before most even knew what the word meant. Mr. Hegedus took great care of his garden and fruit trees, sharing his harvest with friends, family and neighbors. He utilized green practices before they were popular, was an active member of the Sierra Club and he served on the board of the Cleveland Peace Action. Mr. Hegedus was an outspoken advocate against nuclear arms and was an outspoken leader of the Lyndhurst Nuclear Weapons Freeze Group. He was also an avid patron of theater, music, literature and the arts, and he attended lectures and performances on a regular basis. Mr. Hegedus was a long-time member of the South Euclid Library Book Club.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Steve Hegedus, whose kindness, colorful personality, love for humanity, and devotion to family and friends framed his entire life. His beautiful spirit will live on, and he will always be remembered.

CALLING ON TURKISH-OCCUPIED  
CYPRUS TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS  
ARTIFACTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to H. Res. 1631, a one-sided resolution that seeks to advance political interests under the guise of the protection of religious sites on the island of Cyprus. This resolution carries with it the potential to significantly damage relations between Turkish and Greek Cypriots at a time when reconciliation talks are at a critical stage. In fact, the United Nations special envoy for Cyprus expressed hope that, an agreement on the divided island could be brokered by the end of the year.

In 2009, Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders took a tremendous step toward reconciliation with the formation of the Cultural Heritage Technical Committee, an organization tasked with the protection, preservation, and restoration of the rich cultural heritage of Cyprus. This committee has made enormous progress in identifying sites, located in both northern and southern Cyprus, which are suitable for restoration and protection. This committee has been one of the most successful vehicles yet created for fostering open dialogue and honest conversation between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on an issue of great importance to both communities. It would be unfortunate if actions by the U.S. Congress were to somehow unintentionally disrupt the progress that has been made so far to protect and restore precious artifacts and heritage sites.

While I commend my colleagues for their desire to protect the rich cultural heritage of Cyprus, the two parties in this conflict are already working to correct the wrongs of the past. This resolution puts their hard work in jeopardy, and I urge Congress to play a peacemaking role, rather than take sides in a dispute.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MR. JOE HUBBARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exemplary life of Mr. Joe Hubbard, a tireless advocate and dedicated servant for people in need.

For fifty years in the East St. Louis community, Joe Hubbard has been the person that people turn to when they have nowhere else to turn. When a single mother needs shelter and food for her children; when a family has seen all their possessions destroyed in a fire; when an unemployed father has lost all hope of finding a job; or when an elderly person comes to the end of life with no family or friends to see them through their final days, there has been one response—call Joe Hubbard.

Joe Hubbard learned about families in need the hard way. His father experienced a debilitating workplace injury when Joe was young,