

302nd Construction Battalion—known as the Sea-Bees. Bill and his unit went from island to island across the Pacific building floating bridges from cargo ships to landing areas so that supplies could reach American troops onshore. When one mission was complete, Bill and the Sea-Bees packed up their bridges and moved to the next island in support of America's victories in the Pacific. Bill supported U.S. troops in Guam, Saipan, New Guinea and the Philippines, just to name a few. Without Bill's efforts, our troops would have been left without needed arms and supplies as they battled Japan's Imperial Army.

Bill earned the medals we will present today for his service during World War II, but I would be remiss not to mention his service in support of veterans long after the war concluded.

After World War II, Bill headed back to Wisconsin, started a family, and worked for 45 years as an engineer and a welder.

After his wife's passing, his love for the outdoors brought him to Billings where he remarried and made the lives of his fellow veterans a little easier.

Mind you, Bill was getting up in years himself by this point, but that didn't stop him from volunteering as a driver for Disabled American Veterans. In fact, Bill's last award before retiring once again was for driving more than 10,000 miles, taking veterans back and forth to their medical appointments all over Montana.

But today we honor Bill's heroic service during World War II.

After his service, Bill Schulze did not receive all the medals he earned from the Navy. Earlier this month, it was my honor to finally present William's widow Betty with the American Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Sharp Shooter Rifle Ribbon.

It was also my honor to present the Navy Discharge Button, the Honorable Service Lapel Pin, and an additional Bronze Star to the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

They are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LEWIS W. HOLZHEIMER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lewis W. Holzheimer, a veteran of World War II. Lewis, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Lewis Holzheimer's service in World War II because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Lewis was born in Neihart, MT.

He was working as a lineman's apprentice in Cascade County when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He tried to enlist

in Seattle but was turned away, because he did not have his birth certificate. He successfully enlisted in Montana and was sent to Fort Benning, GA, where he was trained to operate heavy weapons and was assigned to operate a Browning automatic rifle.

He was assigned to Company G, of the 60th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. He arrived in Normandy in early July 1944 on D-day plus 30. On August 8, 1944, Lewis was participating in the Battle of the Hedge Rows when he was wounded in the foot. After recovering, he headed back to his unit, only to find that they had been wiped out by what was believed to be a V-2 rocket attack. It turned out to be friendly fire.

Lewis said the blast made a hole in the ground that looked like a deep mine crater.

Lewis was reassigned to Company B in the same regiment. On December 12, his unit was responsible for an attack on the town of Hoven in Belgium for which they were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Lewis demonstrated outstanding bravery during that attack and was promoted to staff sergeant.

His unit went on to see heavy action in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest from late 1944 until early 1945. On the 1st of February 1945, Lewis's company was cut off from the rest of his regiment and was pinned down by sniper fire. The members of the company took turns running back toward the nearest American forces. When Lewis ran, he was shot under his left arm. When he informed his scout that he was wounded and would have to seek medical attention, a shell exploded near them. Despite being severely wounded, Lewis insisted that his scout be taken to the hospital first. He was informed that the scout was dead, was carried to a jeep, and was then taken to the nearest field hospital.

Lewis nearly lost his leg and underwent several years of surgery and rehabilitation. He still carries the shrapnel in him today.

After his service, Lewis Holzheimer never received the medals he earned from the Army.

Last month, in the presence of his family, it was my honor to finally present to Lewis his Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, and his Presidential Unit Citation.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful Nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO HERBERT S. KINDSFATER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Herbert S. Kindsfater, a veteran of World War II. Herb, on behalf of all Montanans and all Ameri-

cans, I thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Herb Kindsfater's service to our Nation. Herb was born in Rocky Fort, CO. At the age of 17, he tried to join the Navy, but was turned away. He was told he could join the Army or work in the Butte silver mines, and he chose the Army.

Herb was a machine gunner in Company H, 172nd Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division—the "Green Mountain Boys" of Vermont. Herb's unit served in the Pacific Theater. He engaged in combat in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea, where he suffered injuries from shrapnel.

In the Philippines, Herb and his fellow soldiers fought mile-by-mile to reach Manila. They then took the island of Luzon. At Ipo Dam, Herb was badly wounded in both arms, and he spent months recuperating in a hospital.

After his military service, Herb moved to Billings where he married his wife Betty and worked for the railroad. During the first several years of their marriage, he still suffered from malaria that he had contracted in the war.

After serving his country with honor, Herb never received all of the medals he earned from the Army.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his wife Betty and his son Bruce, it was my honor to finally present to Herb his Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Good Conduct Medal.

It was also my honor to present a Presidential Unit Citation, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

Earlier this month, I also presented to Herb a Combat Infantry Badge First Award, a Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, and a Honorable Service Lapel Button.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS J. WELLS

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Nicholas J. Wells, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nicholas, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Nicholas Wells' service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After graduating high school in Darby, MT, Nicholas completed basic training at Fort Knox and trained at Camp Irwin, CA. He became an Army scout assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, 2-9 Cavalry Regiment.

Nicholas arrived in Iraq in October 2005. He served in the north and central zones near Baghdad, Mosul, Adwar and