

REMEMBERING JOSE S. CHAVEZ

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, the State of New Mexico lost a great man on March 17, 2011, when Jose S. Chavez passed away at the age of 93. He was a man who served our country proudly during World War II and was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. I would like to honor his memory today.

Mr. Chavez was a man of strength. He had a strong faith, a strong will to survive, and was described as the strength and patriarch of his large and loving family.

As a member of the 200th Coastal Artillery and 515th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Mr. Chavez served his country in the Phillipines during World War II. He was captured along with many other of his fellow soldiers and forced to endure the horrors of the Bataan Death March and the more than 3 years of captivity which followed.

Mr. Chavez is credited with saving many lives during the horrific march—picking up and carrying men to keep them from being killed. Mistaken for dead and put in a grave three times during his captivity, Mr. Chavez refused to give up. It was his strong faith in God, and also in those he served with, which helped him and others survive the inhumane conditions they faced.

After returning home he worked as a farmer before continuing his service to his country by reenlisting in the military and later taking a government job.

Mr. Chavez's strength extended beyond the battlefield to his home life, where he was the pillar of his large family. He built the home that he and his wife of 65 years, Susie, lived in and was known as the man who could fix anything and could always be found tinkering away at a project.

His family will miss his strong-willed and loving personality, and certainly feel the void left by Mr. Chavez's passing. Let us take a moment today to remember Mr. Chavez and the remarkable strength he shared not only with his family, but with our country during his service. •

TRIBUTE TO EDGAR PEARA

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on April 14, the Government of France will present the National Order of the Legion of Honor to Edgar Peara one of Oregon's more modest heroes.

The Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 as a way of recognizing exceptional merit regardless of rank, class, or privilege. The Order remains the highest decoration in France and is being bestowed upon Edgar for his service in that country during World War II.

Already highly decorated by the United States for bravery and valor, Edgar's story is indeed remarkable and worthy of high praise. After the bomb-

ing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Edgar immediately volunteered for the military. At first he was told he would be more valuable to the Nation if he returned to his engineer studies, but the call to action was too strong. By June 1942 he received a commission in the U.S. Army and was assigned as an officer in the 531 Amphibious Combat Regiment of the 1st Engineer Amphibious Combat Brigade.

His unit specialized in supporting large amphibious invasions, clearing the way for the infantry and keeping the Army on the move. By November 1942, Edgar's outfit landed in Arzew, Algeria, where Edgar, determined to keep the situation as calm as possible, went from house to house telling anxious Algerians unfamiliar with war or Americans that "we come in peace. We are not here to harm anyone. We simply want you to surrender any weapons so that all armed resistance ceases." He said later that "No one gave us any trouble and we collected so many arms we could hardly carry them all."

This action set the tone for Edgar's entire war experience and his later life. As he prepared for the invasion of Italy, Edgar made a conscious effort to look for, and be grateful for, whatever there was to be appreciated that day, whether it was food, a dry place to sleep, reasonable weather, the friendships of comrades, and being well and safe. As Edgar put it, "That change in attitude helped make me a happier person, for I stopped thinking that my contentment had to lie in the future when the war was over."

After participating in the invasions of Sicily and mainland Italy, Edgar was moved to the southwest coast of England in order to help ready allied forces for D-day. He landed at Utah Beach on the upper French coast on June 6, 1944. Early that morning he noticed a battalion medical aid station was under intense fire. Recognizing the danger to those helpless soldiers, he scrambled to find a more protected area. He came across an abandoned German concrete underground command post. Dodging bullets and shells, he ran back to help move the wounded to safety.

Edgar would later be part of the invasion of Okinawa, Japan, making him one of the few veterans to serve in Africa, Europe, and the Pacific.

Taking what he learned from his experiences in war, Edgar dedicated himself to a life of internal peace and became a staunch advocate of greater peace for all humanity. He used his GI Bill to train for ordination as a Christian Science practitioner. During the Korean war, Edgar served as a Christian Science chaplain at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. After this duty he went on to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. Edgar has worked diligently to help others find the same peace he discovered in his own heart and to help all mankind achieve greater peace between neighbors and nations.

As an Oregonian, I could not be more proud of Edgar, his wonderful story, and his life's work. He truly is a hero and embodies the best of our State. As our Nation continues to struggle in conflicts overseas, Edgar serves as a testament to the belief that sometime restraint is as powerful as force in times of war. I am very appreciative of Edgar's selfless service. The people of France are thanking him today with this award. Oregon thanks him for continuing to make us proud. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1217. An act to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

At 3:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1473. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

At 4:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1473.

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1473.