

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Reilly, Garrish, and Campos nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACSC CONGRESS WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would call my colleagues' attention to the recent 229th anniversary of the first quorum of the U.S. Congress.

The House of Representatives achieved a quorum on April 1, 1789. Five days later, on April 6, the Senate marked that milestone.

Each year, the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, ACSC, commemorates this anniversary by observing Congress Week during the first week of April. Commemorative events around the country encourage students to explore the work of the U.S. Congress and its constitutional role in our government and promote advanced scholarly research.

The ACSC was founded in 2003. It includes more than 40 organizations and institutions that help to preserve and make available the archival records of Members of Congress.

Each year, the annual meeting of the ACSC brings together Members of Congress who create the records, archivists who preserve the records, teachers who incorporate them into their lesson plans, and scholars who study them in order to advance our understanding of congressional history and the evolution of the political process. This year's annual meeting will be hosted by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

Thanks to the work of the ACSC and its member organizations, we have substantially improved the number and research value of congressional collections being preserved nationwide, producing an educational resource for legislative branch studies that rivals the presidential library system.

I am happy to report that the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville is one such member organization. Created in 1991, the McConnell Center nurtures "Kentucky's next generation of great leaders" with programs focused on service, leadership, and civic education. Last spring, at the annual meeting of the ACSC, I had the pleasure of participating in a fireside chat with the McConnell Center archivist,

Deborah Skaggs Speth. We discussed the importance of Members preserving their records, which shed important light on what we do on behalf of the American people, and how we do it.

In 2008, Congress unanimously passed H.Con.Res. 307. It recommended that Members' records be properly maintained, that each Member take all necessary measures to manage and preserve their records, that they arrange for the deposit or donation of their records with a research institution that is properly equipped to care for them, and that they make them available for educational purposes at an appropriate time.

Organizations like the McConnell Center and the Dole Institute, in collaboration with the ACSC, are diligently working to ensure the preservation of records for generations of students and scholars.

I encourage my colleagues to preserve the records of their service in a research institution, where they can contribute to this vital, necessary, and growing component of our Nation's documentary heritage.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT WILLIE SANDLIN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a man called Kentucky's greatest hero, who served our Nation in the First World War and later received our highest military recognition, the Medal of Honor. SGT Willie Sandlin, a native of Leslie County, KY, single-handedly attacked and disabled three German machinegun nests during the Battle of the Argonne Forest in 1918. With only a rifle, an automatic pistol, and four hand grenades, Sergeant Sandlin's heroism resulted in the death of 24 German soldiers and the capture of 200 more.

At that time, Sergeant Sandlin was under the command of General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force, who personally recommended him for the Medal of Honor and presented the award to him in February of 1919.

In a recent edition of the Kentucky Humanities Magazine, Dr. James M. Gifford, the CEO and senior editor of the Jesse Stuart Foundation, published a profile on the life of Sergeant Sandlin. Dr. Gifford traced his journey, from his birth in Appalachian poverty, through his remarkable service in the Great War, to his campaign to improve literacy rates in Kentucky. Named for the renowned author and Kentucky Poet Laureate, the Jesse Stuart Foundation publishes important works from Appalachian authors to help the region's unique heritage flourish. I would like to thank Dr. Gifford for his study of this proud son of Kentucky.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Dr. Gifford's article on Sergeant Sandlin's life be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Kentucky Humanities Magazine, Fall 2017]

SERGEANT SANDLIN: MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

(By James M. Gifford)

In 1917, after several years of provocation, America declared war on Germany. By November of the following year, the United States had sent two million men overseas.

In the bloody fighting that took place in the Meuse-Argonne Forest in the fall of 1918, thousands of Americans distinguished themselves, including two young men from central Appalachia who received the Medal of Honor. On September 26, 1918, Sergeant Willie Sandlin, acting alone, attacked and disabled three German machine gun nests. During his heroic assaults, Sandlin killed 24 German soldiers and assisted in the capture of 200 more. Less than two weeks later, Corporal Alvin York led an attack on a German machine gun nest, taking 35 machine guns, killing at least 25 enemy soldiers, and capturing 132. Sandlin was from Hyden in Leslie County, Kentucky, and York was from Pall Mall, Tennessee, a community just across the Kentucky line. Although York and Sandlin shared the same military distinctions and emerged from similar Appalachian communities, their lives after World War I were remarkably different. York acquired money and fame and became a national icon and an international celebrity. Sandlin lived in modest circumstances, ill-health, and purposeful obscurity until he died of war-inflicted gas poisoning at age 59.

If war is a rich man's war and a poor man's fight, then Willie Sandlin represented millions of poor men who became soldiers during World War I. Born into Appalachian poverty, on January 1, 1890 on Long's Creek in Breathitt County, Kentucky, Sandlin's parents were John "Dirty Face" Sandlin (born March 17, 1867) and Lucinda Abner Sandlin (born December 1870). John and Lucinda had five sons: Willie, Charlie, John, Elihue (Sonny), and Mathew (Mathy). When Willie was a boy, his father was imprisoned for murder, and Willie's mother and father divorced in 1900. Lucinda, who was half Native American, died in childbirth in 1900, so Willie and his motherless siblings were divided among relatives, as was the custom of the day. Willie and his brothers Charles and John were raised by his father's relatives in Leslie County.

Sandlin enlisted in the Army on April 16, 1913, and served under John J. Pershing on the Mexican border. He re-enlisted in 1917 and was soon on his way to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force. Sandlin arrived on France's bloody Western Front in time to take part in the Battle of the Argonne Forest, the massive Allied offensive that finally defeated Kaiser Wilhelm's war-weary German army. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, also known as the Battle of the Argonne Forest, was a major part of the final Allied offensive of World War I that stretched along the entire Western Front. It was fought from September 26, 1918, until the Armistice of November 11, 1918, a total of 47 days. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the largest in United States military history, involving 1.2 million American soldiers.

Sandlin and his men were in several battles during the summer of 1918. Then at Bois de Forges, France, on September 26, 1918, Sandlin emerged as one of the greatest heroes of World War I. He was in charge of a platoon of 59 men when the day began. Following an all-night artillery barrage, Sandlin's platoon was ordered to advance that day toward a specific, important military objective. The line had been fighting for hours, advancing slowly, when the doughboys were stopped by withering fire from