

Agency deserve commendation for its work to identify casualties, like Durell Wade, and offer some measure of closure to families of fallen servicemembers.

In this instance, I am pleased that Wade's family, including his 99-year-old sister Nancy, have an opportunity to be part of a burial ceremony with full military honors in Kilmichael, MS.

So many families in Mississippi lost loved ones during World War II, but Durell's long absence made this family's sacrifice all the more heart-breaking.

I hope the families of those who perished on the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* will find comfort and peace in knowing their loved one's service in defense of our Nation helped in the ultimate fight to protect our liberty.

I ask unanimous consent that an August 18, 2018, article from *The Baton Rouge Advocate* titled, "Pearl Harbor casualty's remains getting a proper funeral ends lifetime of wondering for Baton Rouge family members," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[August 18, 2018]

PEARL HARBOR CASUALTY'S REMAINS GETTING A PROPER FUNERAL ENDS LIFETIME OF WONDERING FOR BATON ROUGE FAMILY MEMBERS  
(By George Morris)

Seventy-seven years after he was killed, sailor Durell Wade will finally get a proper burial. For his Baton Rouge nephew, it ends a lifetime of wondering.

"I knew that I had his name, and I knew that he died at Pearl Harbor," said Dr. Larry Wade, 75, whose middle name is Durell. "I'd think about him a lot but never explored and tried to know more about him. He was just Uncle Durell who had been killed at Pearl."

This spring, Wade's family learned that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified their relative's remains, as well as others of his shipmates who died in the attack that launched the United States into World War II. Naturally, the family is grateful.

"Because his body wasn't recovered when his immediate family was still alive, they didn't have that resolution," said Lauren McAdams, Larry Wade's daughter. "Obviously, we know now it was a time of a lot of distress because there was the confusion of had he survived or had he not."

Durell Wade, who was born in rural Calhoun County, Mississippi, in 1917, was an aviation machinist mate aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He had enlisted in the Navy in 1936 and re-enlisted four years later.

Larry Wade's research on his uncle revealed him to be a cheerful person who loved to joke and laugh. Late in her life, Durell Wade's oldest sister, Orena, said he "loved his life aboard the USS *Oklahoma* (and) bragged that it could not be sunk."

Wade, who was not married, had written home on Sept. 27, 1941, pleased to report that he had passed tests to be promoted to chief aviation machinist mate.

"In one of his letters, he mentioned his fiancé had broken up with him," Larry Wade said. "He last saw her when he was an aviation machinist's mate third class, and he wanted to propose to her but he knew he could not support her on the kind of income he had then. Right after that, she sent him a 'Dear John' letter and she married another guy. He mentions that in one of his letters."

On Dec. 7, 1941, five torpedoes from enemy aircraft struck the battleship, which capsized in less than 12 minutes, trapping hundreds of sailors in their battle stations below deck. The attack killed 429 men on the *Oklahoma*.

Those who perished inside the overturned ship remained there for more than a year before the ship could be righted. Remains that were recovered were hastily buried, said Chuck Pritchard, public affairs director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

After the war ended in 1945, remains were disinterred to identify them using forensic methods available at the time. Thirty-five were identified, and the rest buried again.

In 2015, remains from the *Oklahoma* were disinterred for DNA testing. Family members, including Larry Wade, were contacted to provide DNA samples.

So far, 146 remains from the *Oklahoma* have been identified. It's a tiny fraction of the roughly 72,000 unaccounted-for military losses from World War II, but it's meaningful to each family, Pritchard said.

Larry Wade, Lauren McAdams and her husband, Brendan McMichael, met with Navy representatives on Aug. 2 at the American Legion Nicholson Post 38 hall, where they received an inch-thick notebook that included details of how the DPAA identified his remains. The notebook also had copies of letters between the Navy and family members that revealed something living family members never knew—that the family erroneously had been told that Durell Wade had survived before authorities confirmed his death.

"That stirred the family up quite a lot," Larry Wade said.

The Navy will pay to have Durell Wade's remains returned and buried, and the funeral is set for Dec. 7—the 77th anniversary of his death—at North Mississippi Veterans' Memorial Park in Kilmichael, Mississippi.

"I have his name and my grandson has his name, but still, Uncle Durell was just an idea from Pearl Harbor," Larry Wade said. "I've learned a lot about him (by) reading and talking to family members. He's come much more alive as a person."

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH HARTLEY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Sarah Hartley, a member of my staff who has served the people of Arkansas over the last 20 years and who will retire later this month.

Sarah first began her congressional career in 1998 working for then-Congressman Asa Hutchinson. When I was elected to fill Representative Hutchinson's seat representing Arkansas's Third Congressional District in 2001, I was fortunate to have Sarah join my staff lending her expertise in constituent services.

As a caseworker based in north-central Arkansas, she has been the primary point of contact for my office when constituents were facing difficulties related to their Social Security. She personally assisted thousands of Arkansans who were often facing the most difficult moments of their lives. Her kindness and patience have been a source of comfort and hope, and her persistence has solved countless problems that changed lives.

Excellent constituent service has been a commitment of mine since I en-

tered public office, and I am indebted and very grateful to Sarah for her many years helping to deliver just that for so many throughout the course of her career.

While I regret that her time as a member of my staff is coming to an end, I truly respect and appreciate her commitment to helping her fellow Arkansans these last two decades. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her to help get answers for constituents who had nowhere else to turn. Sarah's knowledge and relationships were the reason that many casework requests were brought to a positive conclusion.

My staff and I will miss her many contributions to the important work of assisting Arkansans and being their advocate on matters involving the Federal Government. Even so, I wish her all the best in this next chapter. She will now have more time to do the things she loves, including spending time outdoors exploring everything the Natural State has to offer.

Again, I want to congratulate Sarah on her 20 years of service and extend my sincere, heartfelt thanks for the dedication and skill she brought to the job each day as a member of my staff. The difference she has made in the lives of so many Arkansans is a testament to how blessed my staff and I were to serve with her.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CHIP MORGAN

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am proud to honor Chip Morgan of Leland, MS, for his contributions to the State of Mississippi and the Nation, while serving as Delta Council executive vice president.

Delta Council was founded in 1935 by farmers, entrepreneurs and educators committed to improving agriculture production, transportation, and flood control in the Mississippi Delta. Over the years, Delta Council has become a highly respected economic development organization representing a wide range of issues for northwest Mississippi. I commend Delta Council for its continuous role in improving the quality of life in this unique part of our country, and I applaud Chip Morgan for his many years of good leadership.

Chip began his work with Delta Council in 1975, and was promoted to executive vice president in 1982. Under his leadership, Delta Council expanded its influence beyond agriculture and related industry, which are themselves vital to the economic well-being of the Delta and my State overall. The Delta Council today is involved in a number of important areas, including access to healthcare, funding for higher education, improving adult literacy, among many others. Throughout his tenure as executive vice president, Chip has helped transform innovative concepts and strategies, into meaningful results.