

On May 7, 1978, Mr. James Kurth was hired by the U.S. Forest Service as a biological technician having recently graduated with a degree in wildlife management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. On Friday, May 31, Jim retired from public service, after a 41-year career, working mainly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He ended his career after serving more than 4 years as the agency's deputy director for operations.

Jim's story is an inspiring example of dedication to the vital mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He grew up in Columbus, OH. He married his high school sweetheart. He picked a career in public service, quickly finding his way to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and moving his family across the country as he accepted positions at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan, and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island. From there, he jumped to Alaska where he became manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Nation's largest protected land area at nearly 20 million acres.

He left Alaska in 1999 and journeyed to the Nation's Capital, to take the position of deputy chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest system of protected lands and waters, including Maryland's Blackwater, Eastern Neck, and Patuxent National Wildlife Refuges. He served as deputy chief for 11 years and then chief for nearly 4 years before accepting the job as the Service's deputy director in 2015.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said, "Jim served as my Deputy twice. Once when I was Refuge Chief, and again when I was Director. He was fond of saying, 'It's better to have a Deputy than be a Deputy' but Jim was much more. He was a friend and mentor. The kind of person who would tell you what you needed to hear, not what you wanted to hear. His strength is his character and deep and authentic concern for the people who do the organization's work." A culture of character and integrity in an organization like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grows through the examples of principled conduct from those in positions of authority.

For 41 years, Jim Kurth served the American people. His legacy is in the legions of people whom he has mentored and in the millions of acres of habitat he has helped conserve for wildlife and for people.

On May 31, 2019, Jim Kurth retired from public service. We are better as a nation for his service, and we take a moment to celebrate his career and his example of public service.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN STILLMON WILLIS, JR.

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of First Lieutenant John Stillmon Willis, Jr.'s 100th birthday and to speak on his extraordinary life and accomplishments. Mr. Willis has served his Nation honorably, and put his life on the line for the values that we hold dear as Americans. For this, we are forever grateful.

Mr. Willis was born on June 2, 1919, and was raised in Doyline, LA. He attended Louisiana State University from 1937–1940 and graduated with a degree in agronomy. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Willis, a member in the army infantry reserve as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, volunteered for pilot training. He was then transferred to the Army Air Corps, in grade, as a second lieutenant, and assigned to the 452nd Bomb group in Deopham Green Airbase in Atleborough in Norfolk, England. While there, he piloted a B-17 Flying Fortress and hit strategic targets in Germany and supported ground forces across Europe after the D-Day invasion. He would later be promoted to first lieutenant. After the fighting stopped, Mr. Willis credited the survival of his crew and himself to the fact that the "good Lord has his arms around them."

After the war, he worked in his father's lumber business for 20 years. Mr. Willis would go on to marry Lillian Mae Life and have one daughter, Martha Lou Willis, who gave them 3 grandchildren. The Willises enjoyed a beautiful 54 year marriage. Mr. Willis worked for another 20 years at his father-in-law's business, Webb Hardware, in Minden, LA. Mr. Willis recently celebrated his 100th birthday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Minden, where he has been a lifelong member.

It is because of his long list of accomplishments and beautiful life that we celebrate First Lieutenant John Stillmon Willis Jr.'s 100th birthday. We honor and thank him for a lifetime of service to our State and country and wish him the happiest of birthdays.●

### RECOGNIZING BOYD CYCLING

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, as a member of U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my honor to recognize a unique small business for its tremendous contributions to the local economy. Small businesses drive our Nation's economic expansion, generate lasting job growth, and encourage community development. This week, it is my honor to recognize Boyd Cycling of Greenville, SC, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Boyd Johnson, a former competitive cyclist, originally founded Boyd Cycling under the name Boyd Bikes in September of 2009. Charged by a mis-

sion of quality and service, Boyd set out to produce and sell various bike products in the Greenville area. About 3 months into the operation, Boyd's Bikes began to grow dramatically, and Boyd's wife Nicole joined as a partner of the business. Boyd and Nicole are a prime example of how a leap of faith, coupled with hard work, can pay off.

Boyd Bikes initially offered wheels, bike frames, handlebars, and other accessories, but the Johnsons quickly realized that their competitive advantage was their handcrafted wheels made out of carbon fiber and alloy. By 2011, Boyd and Nicole decided to focus directly on specializing in bike wheels and changed the name of the business to Boyd Cycling.

In addition to focusing on bike wheels, Boyd and Nicole decided to shake up their business model. Originally, Boyd Cycling focused primarily on direct-to-consumer sales. Wanting to expand their business, Boyd and Nicole reached out to the Spartanburg Area Small Business Development Center, SBDC, a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, and received business counseling and exporting advice. Eventually, Boyd Cycling began selling their products to bike shops around the country in addition to their own website. By staying committed to high quality and low pricing, the Johnsons have been able to avoid undercutting their retail clients while diversifying their income stream. In turn, this has enabled them to export their products globally and now currently distribute to over 15 countries.

A seasoned cyclist, Boyd spends time carefully designing each product the company offers. Once a product is developed, Boyd Cycling contracts manufacturing out to different firms domestically and internationally. Boyd maintains rigorous standards when contracting with every manufacturing firm that the company uses, making sure to implement quality controls on materials and construction methods.

Boyd Cycling's dedication to quality has not gone unnoticed. They have received national media coverage, excellent customer reviews, and numerous awards. In 2017 and 2019, Boyd and Nicole were named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year for South Carolina. This award recognizes small business owners for their success and commitment to exporting goods or services. Boyd Cycling also supports various philanthropies in their community including Meals on Wheels, the Alzheimers Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Miracle Hill, Upstate Forever, and Global Bike. Their community involvement has been a key to their success as Greenville has become a bustling hub for the recreational biking community.

Boyd and Nicole truly embody the entrepreneurial and community spirit. From its humble beginnings, Boyd has grown into a respectable player in the industry while maintaining a commitment to customer service and product