

But something wasn't right. The system showed five missiles heading for the Soviet Union. Petrov's training had indicated that if a nuclear strike came, dozens of warheads would rain down on Russia, not just five.

What was going on? Time wasn't on Petrov's side. Every minute he spent trying to figure it out was a minute weapons might be speeding toward his sleeping homeland.

And nobody in the entire Soviet Union was aware of it—except Stanislav Petrov. His standing order was to immediately notify the Kremlin's big brass in such an emergency. His gut instinct told him to wait. As he was making up his mind, the word "launch" flashed in his face.

In the end, he didn't notify his superiors as protocol required. Had he done so, they likely would have ordered a massive retaliatory strike on the United States, very probably ending life as we know it. Instead, he waited. "Twenty-three minutes later I realized that nothing had happened," he said. "If there had been a real strike, then I would already know about it. It was such a relief."

It was the closest the world had come to an actual nuclear conflict since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

It turned out Petrov's instinct was right. The computer system had malfunctioned. At first his superiors were pleased with his coolness amid the ultimate crisis. But the Soviets were world-class bureaucrats, and he was later reprimanded for not filling out the required paperwork while the crisis was underway. "I had a phone in one hand and the intercom in the other, and I don't have a third hand (for filling out forms)," he said.

Petrov eventually left the military to work for the very research institute that designed the faulty monitoring system. He suffered a mental breakdown due to the emotional trauma he had experienced, recovered, and eventually retired to tend to his wife during her final battle with cancer.

He was living alone when he died quietly at age 77 last May 19, such an obscure figure that news of his passing wasn't learned until just a few weeks ago.

"They were lucky it was me on shift that night," Stanislav Petrov once said. That's putting it mildly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUROR PAY PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Juror Pay Parity Act to require that DC Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

Currently, Superior Court jurors are paid \$40 per day, and, under the Home Rule Act, only the DC courts and Congress have the authority to increase Superior Court juror pay. My bill would require that Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

In the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress increased federal juror pay to \$50 per day, the first increase to federal juror pay in 28 years. My bill would give Superior Court jurors the same pay.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–33), Congress took responsibility for paying for the DC courts and other state-like functions provide by DC. The DC courts, however, have always been under the control of Congress, even when they were funded by the District. The Home Rule Act prohibits the District government from enacting any law relating to Title 11 of the DC Code. Title 11 provides that the Board of Judges of the Superior Court sets juror pay, but that the pay may not exceed the pay of federal jurors. Therefore, this bill, or action by the DC courts, is necessary to increase Superior Court juror pay.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD LOFTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Floyd Lofton's service to our country during World War II and in celebration of his upcoming 100th Birthday.

Mr. Lofton was born in West Point, Mississippi on February 22, 1920. He joined the Army on December 5th, 1942 in Little Rock, AR. He was trained as a truck driver and qualified as a sharpshooter in riflery training.

During the war he was deployed to the Pacific Theater of operations and served in New Guinea. He spent 2 years, 2 months, and 13 days in theater on foreign soil. As a result of his service, Mr. Lofton was awarded the WWII Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Floyd Lofton is a true American Hero from the greatest generation. I invite Congress to join me in thanking Mr. Lofton for his service to this nation and the free world and in wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JASBIR "GUDDI" KAUR SIDHU

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu who tragically passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Guddi will be remembered for her dedicated service to the Sikh community of Fresno, California.

Guddi lived an admirable life and made countless contributions to the city of Fresno. For 25 years, she had a weekly television show and was a founding member of KBIF 900, a local radio station. Her weekend program featured interviews with community members, cultural figures and well-known international songs. Her station was aired not only in Fresno, but also in India and streamed by thousands on social media.

Guddi was a well-known and well-respected leader in the Punjabi Sikh community. She was a member of numerous local groups and

worked hard to preserve the Punjabi culture and Sikh religion for children and families in the community. Guddi was a member of the Sikh Women's Organization for 15 years and was Vice President Sikh Institute of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu. She was a respected member in the community and had a passion for the people of the Central Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF MELVIN CURTIS WHITLOCK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr.

Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr. was born on Saturday, June 8, 1957. He was the first born of Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Sr. and Mary Lean Johnson-Whitlock, or "Mary Lean" as she is most affectionately called. As engaged members of their community, Melvin Sr. and Mary Lean's high-spirited union was further harmonized by the joy and laughter Melvin would bring.

As he grew, Melvin became openly passionate and outgoing through his love of music and baseball. He became a member of the band and joined the baseball team during his trajectory at Jim Hill High School. Melvin had a love for motorcycles, percussion, The Temptations, Good Times, and Sanford & Son.

Following high school, Melvin attended Jackson State University. Upon leaving JSU, he married his high school sweetheart and started a family. From their union came three beautiful children which Melvin would tell everyone were his three greatest accomplishments.

Melvin received certification in masonry from Hinds Community College and spent time working with his father, Melvin Sr.

He was known for the phrase, "Y'all think y'all deserve everything on a silver platter", which encouraged his children and others to appreciate the value of earning whatever they wanted in life.

He was an outstanding, faithful member at his spiritual home, Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ until his passing on September 24, 2019.

Melvin is survived by his father: Melvin "M.C." Whitlock, Sr., mother: Mary Lean Whitlock, daughter: Niki Whitlock, grandsons: Tyler Nelson and Lance Jones, great granddaughters: BellaKay Jones and Emerson Jones, son: Brian M. Whitlock, son: Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., grandchildren: Gerren Whitlock, II and Cayla Whitlock, brothers: James Whitlock and Marvin Whitlock, sisters: Sandra Moses, Joyce Whitlock, Debbie Whitlock, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Melvin Whitlock, Jr.