

Medal, the American Theater Medal, the European Theater Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Three years after being discharged, he married Lela Baker of Hazard, and for 20 years he lived and cut hair in his hometown.

In 1965, Young, his wife, Lela, and two children, David and Judy, moved to the Sublimity area of Laurel County. In 1995, his wife passed away, and today Young's family includes son David and wife, Lillie; daughter, Judy Smith and husband, G.J.; three grandchildren, David Ryan Young, Cameron Justin Smith, and Trey Jordan Smith; and one great-grandson, David Rylan Young.

Young retired from the swivel chair and scissors several years ago, but his hands do not remain idle he makes wood-crafted items and plays several musical instruments. This talent got him an appearance in 1947 on the first official broadcast of the Hazard radio station.

Today, not in good health, like most World War II veterans, Young spends his days reminiscing and visiting with family and friends who stop by Laurel Heights Home for the Elderly.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT MICAH B. MASON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICAH J. MASON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a father and son who are bravely serving in our Armed Forces simultaneously: MSG Micah B. Mason and his son, PFC Micah J. Mason, both of London, KY. Master Sergeant Mason has served in the National Guard for 28 years. He now has had the opportunity to see his son, Private First Class Mason, learn, work, and grow in the same organization that the elder Mason began his career in almost three decades ago.

Not only are the Mason men both involved in the same service branch, they also served on the same mission, in the same truck. Master Sergeant Mason was excited to be given the opportunity to work alongside his son in "real world" missions. He feels that he is lucky to be able to experience a work environment firsthand with his son in a way very few parents get the chance to do.

Private First Class Mason is excited to be able to go on missions with his father. The 22-year-old didn't know that his father was going to be on the same truck as him until the day they deployed. He is overjoyed to show his father the proficiency at which he does his job on a day-to-day basis.

There is obviously a certain level of concern when deploying on a mission solo, and that level increases when there are not one but two members of the same family on a single mission. Nonetheless, the two have expressed that at the end of the day, they are glad they have each other for support.

The resiliency and strength shown by these two individuals in such a tolling work environment is truly remarkable. With men like the Masons serving in our Armed Forces, we have little reason to doubt our military's abilities. These men are true American heroes who have given much so that we may

sleep soundly at night and know that our freedoms and liberties will always be protected.

Master Sergeant Mason and his son Private First Class Mason deserve a great deal of recognition, just as all those in military service do, for what they have done to protect the citizens of their community, the great State of Kentucky, and our great country of the United States of America.

Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in recognizing the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of MSG Micah B. Mason and his son, PFC Micah J. Mason.

There was recently an article printed in Whitley County, Kentucky's local newspaper, The Times-Tribune, which highlighted the outstanding service of this father and son duo who have so graciously contributed to our Nation's defense throughout the years. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Times-Tribune, Oct. 12, 2011]

FATHER AND SON TEAM UP TO GO OUTSIDE THE WIRE

(By Corbin, special to the Times-Tribune)

As soldiers complete their pre-mission checks and get everything loaded for transport, it would seem the job of escorting supply trucks from Joint Base Balad to Contingency Operating Site Mosul is just another mission for the soldiers of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

However, a rare occasion has been marked, not only in the 149th Infantry Regiment, but in the military as a whole. A father and son are going out together on not only the same mission, but in the same truck.

"It's a unique experience for sure to actually be doing real-world missions with your son as a gunner and seeing him in that atmosphere," said Master Sgt. Micah B. Mason, an assistant operations noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149 Inf. Regt., a native of London. "It's something very few parents get to do. I'm excited to actually go on a mission and experience it first-hand with my son."

Master Sgt. Mason, 46, who served in the Guard for over 28 years, usually watches convoy escort missions unfold as a shift battle NCO in charge of the 149th Inf. Regt.'s tactical operations center. However, the unit sent him on this mission as part of their ongoing efforts to ensure everyone in the tactical operations center is able to see what goes on first-hand during the missions they monitor on a daily basis.

"I have a lot of concerns . . . if something does happen (on the mission)," said Master Sgt. Mason. "I'm glad I'm there with him, though."

Master Sgt. Mason said he's only told two people back home about him and his son doing this mission together and that "they're just in awe."

"I didn't know he was going, 'til I saw him sitting out by the trucks," said 22-year-old Pfc. Micah J. Mason, a gunner with Delta Company, 1/149th Inf. Regt., also a native of London. "It just makes me happy to actually do something with him, to let him see what I do on a day-to-day basis."

Pfc. Mason said he had been waiting to be able to go on a mission with his father, as not many people can say that they have done that. After the mission, Master Sgt. Mason had only good things to say.

"Things went very smooth," he said. "The convoy escort team knew their jobs very well and were professional every step of the way. Being out with my son was the chance of a lifetime. It was very strange to see him doing his job, being in control. But in the same sense, I was very proud."

TRIBUTE TO FIRST CLASS SEAMAN JAMES FRANCIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an exceptional veteran of the United States Navy who wore the uniform during World War II, First Class Seaman James Francis of Laurel County, KY.

James was born in Monroe County, KY, in 1924. His family lived on a farm where they raised just about everything they ate. The family moved to Indiana in 1937 when James' father got a job working for the railroad. James was drafted into the Navy in 1941, on his 19th birthday.

Although James never entered combat, he was an intricate part of the war effort in the South Pacific. He was stationed on a Merchant Marine ship that delivered ammunition to the soldiers who were on the front lines. After his time aboard ship, James spent 18 months in Hong Kong cutting hair at a G.I. barber shop. He was discharged in May 1946.

Mr. James Francis is most assuredly deserving of commemoration for the sacrifices he made for each one of us and for our great Nation, as well as his years of service to the betterment of his community and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

There was recently a feature article published in the Sentinel Echo: Silver Edition magazine in November 2011, highlighting the upstanding legacy of Mr. James Francis and his commendable dedication to our Nation's Armed Forces.

Mr. President, it is my wish that my colleagues in the United States Senate join me in honoring the loyalty and bravery shown by Kentucky's own James Francis. And I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Nov. 2011]

NAVY SUPPLIER

(By Carol Mills)

First Class Seaman James Francis was a Merchant Marine during World War II.

In time of war, the Merchant Marine is an auxiliary to the Navy and delivers troops and supplies for the military.

Francis went to Great Lakes Boot Camp in Illinois, near North Chicago, and gunnery school in Gulf Port, Miss., and then went to California and caught a ship.

"We were shipped out," Francis said. "I went to the Philippines the first trip, came back to the States, and then went to Australia and the South Pacific for six months