

While a few soldiers were able to escape the initial attack, the other 130 Americans were forced to surrender to the SS troops.

Given orders to take no prisoners and violating the rules of war, German tank gunners lined up the Americans and gunned them down in cold blood. Worse yet, these Nazi troops searched for anyone showing signs of life and shot them repeatedly at point-blank range.

However, 40 men, including Mr. Billow, were able to play dead and escape the massacre. Many of these survivors traveled to Nuremburg after the war to testify in the war crimes trials and demand justice for their fallen brothers in arms. Today Mr. Billow is one of only two men from the 285th Battalion known to be alive.

Mr. Billow dedicates his life to remembering his comrades who did not survive this massacre. Every Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day, Mr. Billow decorates his front lawn with 87 American flags, one for each man who fell on that terrible day in 1944.

Today I wish to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by those killed in the Malmedy massacre and also to honor and thank the survivors, including Mr. Billow, who keep the memory of their fellow soldiers alive.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY SIMKOVITCH

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize a distinguished D-Day veteran from Pennsylvania, Mr. Andy Simkovitch, and to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

A resident of Erie, PA, Mr. Simkovitch was a U.S. Navy sailor that served aboard the tank landing ship USS L.S.T. 501 during World War II. He was involved in Operation Overlord at Utah and Omaha Beaches, where he transported troops during the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. During the operation and while under heavy German fire, he went to the beach nine times. Following his actions in France, his ship headed to the Pacific and saw combat in numerous battles, including the Battle of Okinawa. Mr. Simkovitch stayed in the Pacific until Japan surrendered, and he was then honorably discharged in March 1946.

The courage and bravery displayed by Mr. Simkovitch earned him the Chevalier Legion of Honor medal, the highest honor bestowed by the nation of France. With only 855,000 of the 16 million American WWII veterans remaining today, it is increasingly important to honor those that served our great Nation and ensure future generations know about the struggles and sacrifices these brave veterans endured.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to thank Mr. Simkovitch for his dedicated service to our Nation in advance of the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARDS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, to commemorate Public Recognition Week, the Vermont Federal Executive Association, VTFEA, recognized the more than 4,000 Federal employees working across the State and the good work they do every day. I would like to offer special congratulations to the 2016 Excellence in Government award winners, who have been recognized by VTFEA for their exemplary government service.

Excellence in Management and Program Support Award, Individual Award—Heather Festa, management program analyst, personnel security division, Office of Security and Integrity, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, South Burlington—Heather demonstrated exceptional innovation and professionalism in response to the Office of Personnel Management's security breach of electronic systems containing background investigation records. When OPM instructed Federal agencies to mail all paper documents, many agencies simply halted their personnel security processes. However, Heather skillfully designed and implemented an action plan for the hard-copy paper forms to ensure there would be no interruption in processing security checks within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Excellence in Management and Program Support Award, Group Award—northeast regional office position description workgroup, northeast regional office, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, South Burlington, including Jeannine Longchamp, Maegan Cutler, Brian Johansson, and Laurie Juskiewicz—the northeast regional office human resources team led a working group to review supervisory position descriptions for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's entire field operations directorate. Not only did the team ensure that all positions aligned with Office of Personal Management guidelines, it also created supervisory positions at new grade levels that opened up previously unobtainable career paths for some employees.

Professional Award—Peter Banacos and Andrew Loconto, meteorologists, National Weather Service, Burlington International Airport, South Burlington—Peter and Andrew worked together to develop a snow squall identification and forecasting technique that has greatly improved winter weather forecast and warning systems for many National Weather Service offices. Historically, there has been an overall lack of forecaster awareness in identifying the weather conditions in which snow squalls can occur, as well as understanding their impact. Peter and Andrew's innovation, leadership, and persistent efforts over the past 3 years

have enhanced the National Weather Service's ability to provide useful winter weather information to the public.

Law Enforcement, Safety and Security Award—Amanda Cahill, special agent, Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, satellite office, Rutland—Amanda exemplifies the highest traditions of government service: tireless dedication and devotion to her agency and the residents of her community. She has singlehandedly reestablished a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives presence in southern Vermont and has begun to fill a void in the law enforcement community's fight against armed drug traffickers. She has acted as an undercover agent, as well as a lead investigator, and recently, she has been recognized for her efforts by the U.S. attorney for Vermont.

Managerial/Supervisory Award—Daniel Whitney, section chief, training, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, law enforcement support center, Williston—Dan Whitney exemplifies the continued pursuit of excellence and an unparalleled record of achievement. The law enforcement support center, LESC, is U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's primary point of contact for law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Dan is responsible for ensuring that all LESC employees receive continuous training in multiple law enforcement databases, including ICE's new enterprise database that his team tested to ensure that LESC employees had the training and the tools to provide up to the minute information to law enforcement agencies. Dan is someone who leads by example and is always willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that LESC meets its mission.

Tina Gurka Community Service Award—registered nurse Sharon Levenson and police officer Guy Gardner, VA medical center, White River Junction—in January 2016, Nurse Sharon Levenson and Officer Guy Gardner demonstrated their dedication to veterans in their local community. After one of her patients did not show up for an appointment, Sharon contacted the local police department and requested a welfare check. When the police department said the situation did not warrant a check, VA Officer Guy Gardner contacted a neighbor, and they discovered the veteran in serious distress. Thanks to Sharon and Guy's efforts, the patient recovered fully. Their commitment to veterans was recognized by VA Secretary McDonald during testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Interagency Collaboration and Partnership Award—Brian Wood, Border Patrol agent, U.S. Border Patrol, Richford—Brian has demonstrated exemplary professionalism and work ethic in forming and maintaining valuable and productive partnerships with various Federal and State agencies in Vermont and across the country. Brian's efforts have resulted in the arrest of numerous alien smugglers, drug