

## SCR 11 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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**Prepared By:** C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 3/6

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Honors Staff Sergeant Don Anderson.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Life and service of Staff Sergeant Anderson

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Staff Sergeant Don Anderson was born on March 28, 1925. He was drafted and began his service in the United States Army Air Force. He was assigned to his B-17 crew in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 12, 1944; shipped from New York aboard RMS *Queen Elizabeth* on November 21, 1944; arrived in Scotland six days later, and was assigned to the 614th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 401st Bombardment Group, 94th Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 1st Bombardment Division, Eighth Air Force, based in Deenethorpe, England. Staff Sergeant Anderson flew his first combat mission over Gerolstein, Germany, on December 27, 1944, as a member of First Lieutenant Ken Hartsock's crew. He went on to fly a total of 22 combat missions over Germany, the last of which was on April 10, 1945. He and his crew departed England several weeks after Germany's surrender on May 8, 1945, and he remained on duty at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada until he was discharged on October 27, 1945.

Staff Sergeant Anderson served 26 months in uniform, including seven months in harrowing combat conditions overseas. He was awarded numerous medals and commendations for his brave and selfless service, including the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. The citation for the second Oak Leaf Cluster on Staff Sergeant Anderson's Air Medal praises the "meritorious achievement" and exceptional conduct for which bomber crews in operations over Europe were known: their unfailing "courage, coolness and skill."

Staff Sergeant Anderson's postwar life took him from Redmond, Oregon, to Sherwood, Oregon, where he worked as a dispatch operator for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, then as a public education officer before retiring in 1987. He has maintained an active role in the Oregon chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and the 401st Bombardment Group (H) Association, of which he was a director.

Staff Sergeant Anderson exemplifies the spirit and values of the "greatest generation" to which he belongs: answering his nation's call into service, demonstrating selfless valor and devotion to duty in defense of our liberties, and returning to succeed in civilian life. Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 recognizes and honors Staff Sergeant Don Anderson for his service to his country.