

## TODAY

Today is Monday, April 19, the 109th day of 2021. There are 256 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On **April 19, 1995**, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said had planned the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In **1775**, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In **1865**, a funeral was held at the White House for President Abraham Lincoln, assassinated five days earlier; his coffin was then taken to the U.S. Capitol for a private memorial service in the Rotunda.

In **1897**, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In **1943**, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In **1993**, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In **1994**, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$3.8 million to beaten motorist Rodney King.

In **2005**, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In **2013**, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan, was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police.

In **2015**, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, died a week after suffering a spinal cord injury in the back of a Baltimore police van while he was handcuffed and shackled. (Six police officers were charged; three were acquitted and the city's top prosecutor eventually dropped the three remaining cases.)

In **2018**, Raul Castro turned over Cuba's presidency to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the first non-Castro to hold Cuba's top government office since the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro and his younger brother Raul.

**Ten years ago:** Cuba's Communist Party picked 79-year-old Raul Castro to replace his ailing brother Fidel as first secretary during a key Party Congress. Syria did away with 50 years of emergency rule, but emboldened and defiant crowds accused President Bashar Assad of simply trying to buy time while clinging to power. Norwegian runner Grete Waitz, 57, who'd won nine New York marathons and the silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, died in Oslo.

**Five years ago:** Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to resounding victories in New York's primary. Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro delivered a valedictory speech to the Communist Party that he put in power a half-century earlier, telling party members he was nearing the end of his life and exhorting them to help his ideas survive.

**One year ago:** Canadian authorities brought an end to a deadly weekend rampage, fatally shooting a man who had killed 22 people in shootings and fires across central and northern Nova Scotia; Gabriel Wortman had been driving a replica police car during the rampage.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Elinor Donahue is 84. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 79. Actor Tim Curry is 75. Actor Tony Plana is 69. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 65. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 59. Actor Tom Wood is 58. Former recording executive Suge Knight is 56. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 54. Actor Kim Hawthorne (TV: "Greenleaf") is 53. Actor Ashley Judd is 53. Actor Jennifer Esposito is 49. Actor James Franco is 43. Actor Kate Hudson is 42. Actor Hayden Christensen is 40. Actor-comedian Ali Wong is 39. Actor Victoria Yeates is 38. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 36. Actor Courtland Mead is 34. Retired tennis player Maria Sharapova is 34. NHL forward Patrik Laine is 33.

—Associated Press

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION

## NEW FLAGS FOR THE 'LUCKY' VET OF JOSEPH

Now 96, the Marine who missed the worst of WWII is still flying his flags proudly in Northeast Oregon

BY BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

**J**OSEPH — To honor his military service and his 96th birthday, one of Wallowa County's last World War II and Korean War veterans, Lee Cutler, was presented with a U.S. flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol and with a new Marine Corps flag earlier this month.

Cutler has flown one of each from a pole outside his Joseph home for years.

Glenn Smith, a community health care worker from Winding Waters, said Cutler "displays his flag proudly," but they're getting worn so they were being replaced.

Kim Hutchison, president of the Eagle Cap Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, made the presentation of the flags April 8. The national flag was obtained by U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, to honor Cutler's service and his birthday.

A couple dozen people joined Hutchison during the presentation, including fellow veterans, Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts, Joseph Mayor Belinda Buswell and members of the Joseph Fire Department in a fire truck with lights flashing.

Hutchison said Smith prompted the honor. "The driving force behind this is one of the care team and he got it from a local congressman," Hutchison said.

While Cutler values his time in the military, he doesn't consider his service as particularly heroic. Although his unit followed in the steps of much of the island-hopping campaign to drive the Japanese out of territory they'd conquered in the Pacific, he didn't see any serious action.

"We seemed to be just one step behind everybody," he said. "We weren't there when they took the island; we were there after for the mop-up operations. I always said I was lucky."

He added that most veterans don't want to discuss the horrors of war and he's no different. But he was fortunate in not having to witness much.

"I didn't do much fighting," he said.

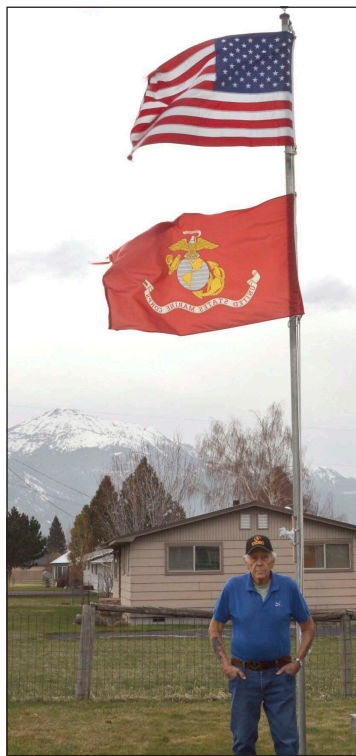
Cutler admits his memory isn't what it used to be, but he does recall boot camp. The Michigan native took a train to San Diego after enlisting in late 1942 — with his parents' consent — at age 17. It was at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot he learned some valuable lessons.

"I thought it was all a big game at first until a sergeant came out one day and said, 'Did you shave this morning?' I said, 'No.' Big mistake," he said. "I was told to shave and I didn't do it. I didn't need to. So he made me get a razor and



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Kim Hutchison, president of the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, presents new national and Marine Corps flags to World War II and Korean War veteran Lee Cutler on the front porch of Cutler's home in Joseph on his 96th birthday on April 8. The U.S. flag is one that flew over the U.S. Capitol. The presentations were to honor his service and his birthday.



Cutler stands under the national flag and the Marine Corps flag that fly outside his Joseph home on April 7, the day before his birthday.

sat down for a whole hour shaving both sides of my face — a dry shave. My face was so damned sore. I learned the hard way to take orders. ... I remembered that when I was told to do something, to do it."

He believes the military has lightened up in recent years.

"These guys nowadays never went through what I went through. When we went through boot camp, we went through boot

camp," he said.

While the MCRD was tough, he quickly learned to appreciate it.

"Those first two weeks, I'd have given anything to get out of there. If I wasn't so scared, I'd have probably walked out," Cutler said. "It took about two weeks of training, then I thought it was the greatest place."

After boot camp and rifle training, he was assigned to the Marine Air Wing.

"I was just lucky," he said.

The first plane he was in was a Curtiss SBC Helldiver, two-seat scout bomber. Considered obsolete before the outbreak of the war, it was kept well away from enemy fighters. The pilot took the front cockpit, with the gunner/radioman in the rear. That's where Cutler got his first ride.

"The guy just stuck me in there and said, 'We're going to see if you can make it or not. Here's a bag.' He strapped me in and said ... 'If you get sick, throw up in this bag.' So I got in the plane and we got up there and he started to roll the plane, and I was just thrilled to death," Cutler said. "I enjoyed it. Then he went right, straight down and I started calling out (the altitude.) But looking back, that was all fun."

After it was determined he could handle flying, he was sent to aerial gunner school and qualified among the top of his class. But radio school in Hawaii tripped him up.

"I flunked, so I didn't get my wings," he said. "So I went over as a spare aerial gunner and went to Midway."

His arrival there months after

the crucial June 1942 Allied victory was as one of the replacements sent to the island where much of the Japanese Navy had been destroyed. He handled bombs at the airfield there and machine guns he was familiar with.

After a quick return to Hawaii, he was shipped to the Solomon Islands, the site of another important Allied victory. But again, it was after the island had been retaken from the Japanese. There, he flew again, but spent most of his time disrupting Japanese supplies and equipment.

"We kept their food line and their ammunition line down," he said. "We'd just go out there and put gasoline on their rice fields and shoot up all their boats."

Cutler believes his failure to get his wings may have saved his life, since about half of the radiomen/gunners he was aware of didn't survive the war.

"I just lucked out," he said. "I was in the right place at the right time." He met his current wife, Kate, in Sandy, where she used to swim in a pool he cleaned.

"It was the bathing suit that caught his eye," she said.

In retrospect, Cutler highly values his time in the service and thinks the experience would be valuable to all young people.

"I think it was fantastic. I would go through the Marine Corps again. They taught us to follow orders and help one another," he said. "Every young man — who can — should serve his four years — to learn something, to learn to be a man."

## Oregon offshore anglers to see uptick in hatchery coho fishing

The Oregonian

Despite declines in some salmon runs from Washington, the lower Columbia River and Northern California, offshore anglers will see substantially more hatchery coho fishing this year over last, especially along the central Oregon Coast.

State and federal biologists completed a grueling weeklong spring session Wednesday afternoon after intense discussions about how to balance an abundant coho salmon prediction with diminishing returns of other stocks in several rivers.

Still pending are summer and fall regulations on the Columbia River. Those are typically announced by Washington and Oregon in late April or early May.

The following ocean salmon seasons were adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council but must still be ap-

proved by the National Marine Fisheries Service: Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon near Manzanita (mouth of Columbia). Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain (central coast). Humbug Mountain to Oregon/California border. Managers said in-season changes are possible.

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MAGAZINE

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