

VETERANS DAY

2018



Dedication, compassion and concern

Col. Katherine Jump remembered for her service

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE — Retired Col. Katherine R. Jump, a former resident of Wilkes-Barre, died in 1997, but her legacy lives on. Her family talked about her career and her opportunity to make history — they say she was offered to be the first woman promoted to the rank of general, but declined because she wanted to retire and return to Wilkes-Barre and her family.

Jump died at the age of 82 on Dec. 22, 1997, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. During her illustrious career in the Army Nurse Corps, Jump served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. She was presented the MacArthur Medal from the Walter Reed Hospital. The presentation was made for those who served Gen. Douglas MacArthur during his last weeks at the hospital. MacArthur requested the presentation in gratitude for their service.

Jump also helped care for President Lyndon B. Johnson and she was a friend of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Jump was at Eisenhower's bedside when the former president passed away.

Her nephew, Art Jump, 61 of Plains Township, lived in the same house with Jump at 69 East Jackson St., Wilkes-Barre.

Prior to her retirement, Art Jump said his aunt was given the option of a promotion to become the first woman general in the history

of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"She declined because she wanted to return home and be with her family," Art Jump said.

Art Jump said Col. Jump would watch the TV show MASH and often remarked how she worked in a similar unit while serving in Korea.

Art said his aunt was very active in the Wilkes-Barre community, volunteering at St. Mary's Church on Washington Street and at Little Flower Manor. She also helped to deliver Meals on Wheels, he said.

"I will always remember her generosity and her dedication to helping her community," Art Jump said. "She really had an impact on me. I coach with the Special Olympics. Aunt Kitty, that's what we called her, was always helping others."

Her story

Although Col. Jump passed away 21 years ago, her story and good deeds are still being remembered today by her loving family. Zack Lee, a distant cousin, said since Katherine was a child she always had a love for soldiers and an interest in taking care of them. Before starting her career as an army nurse, she graduated from Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre.

"While in high school she worked at a drug store and one time she looked up at a picture of nurse on a medicine box and announced she



The late Col. Katherine Jump

was going to be a nurse," Lee said. Jump went on to graduate from Wyoming Valley Homeopathic Hospital School of Nursing as a registered nurse. At the Jewish hospital in Philadelphia she received postgraduate training in operating-room technique. She went on to graduate from the Army Management school at Fort Belvoir, Va.

In May of 1941, Jump was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps

See Dedication on Page 11





Free food, discounts as thank you to veterans

Veterans Day is one of the most patriotic days of the year, inspiring businesses and retailers to offer our military and veterans free food, drinks, and other discounts to say thank you for their service. While saying thank you is important all year long, these restaurants offer free meals and desserts to our service members on and around Veterans Day. Always call ahead, as some locations may choose not to participate in Veterans Day offers!

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Texas Roadhouse

Choose from 10 lunch offers, including a complimentary beverage.

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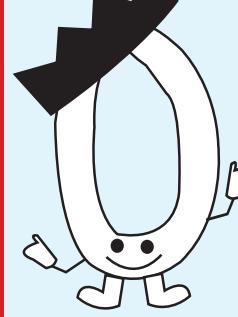
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How to help veterans in need

Millions of men and women serve in the military and make the sacrifices that such service requires. Risking their lives to serve their countries, veterans sometimes endure mental and physical trauma, returning home to face uphill

veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their recoveries. In addition, veterans' hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.

volunteers spend more than 11 million hours in service to America's veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their recoveries. In addition, veterans' hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.

- Employ social media to help local veterans. Many people who want to help local veterans might not be able to do so more than one day



battles as they deal with their injuries. Many veterans in need are not just in need of medical attention. Learning that their efforts and sacrifices are recognized and appreciated by the ordinary citizens they protect can make a world of difference to veterans as they recover from their injuries. Men, women and children who want to help veterans in need can do so in various ways.

• Visit a veterans hospital. Contact a local veterans' hospital to inquire about their volunteer programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that each year more than 75,000

- Help a neighbor. Unfortunately, many veterans return home with injuries that affect their ability to make it through a typical day without assistance. Disabled veterans may be unable to do their own grocery shopping or maintain their homes. If a neighbor or nearby veteran is facing such hurdles, offer to do his or her shopping or mow his or her lawn. Such tasks won't take much time but can make a world of difference to veterans.
- Offer professional services free of charge. Professionals who want to help veterans can of-

per week. But some veterans may require daily assistance. Men and women can start a locally-based Facebook group for fellow members of their community who want to pitch in to help local veterans. Such a group can make it easier to share information and arrange help for veterans in need.

Many veterans return home from serving overseas in need of help. Offering such help can improve veterans' lives while letting them know their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.



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Beyond the Byline: Thank all veterans for their service



Bill O'Boyle

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE — They fought for their lives while fighting for their country — while fighting for us and our freedom.

That's why every time you encounter a veteran or a current member of the military, you should thank them.

Veterans come in all shapes and sizes — all ages and all ethnic backgrounds. They are men and they are women.

Every single one of them is brave.

I knew one very special veteran — my dad — William O'Boyle Sr., who ran up a beach in Northern France, met the enemy and stepped on a landmine. He woke up in an Army MASH unit and he was told he was going home with one less leg.

Even though I lived with my dad most of my life, I didn't really get to appreciate what he had done during World War II until he was near the end of his life. That's when he told me the story. That's when he opened up to me and provided details I had never heard before.

His story was one of millions of stories about veterans who served in battle. They all were courageous, brave, unselfish, patriotic, determined, and willing to put it all on the line in defense of their country — our country.

I've heard a lot of stories from veterans. I am always amazed at what they have been through, but I can never fully appreciate it because I never stared into the eyes of the enemy, nor have I

ever thought for one moment what it would be like to never see my loved ones again.

These are some of the things veterans have had to deal with and they have done so without ever questioning why. When their country called their name, they were there. They endured the rigorous training and they accepted their assignments.

They were always good soldiers. Whether they fought on the battlefields, or in the jungles, they charged into action.

Now I know Sundays are important days for families. There are things people need to do, whether it be to worship in church or on the golf course, Sundays are always for important things to do. Today, Veterans Day, we all should take the time to attend the Veterans Day Parade or find some other event or ceremony to show our respect for veterans.

Get out and see these proud men and women and be proud right back. Shake their hands, yell out congratulatory comments, bask in the glory of the red, white and blue and be a patriot — be an American.

Be one of thousands lined up along the parade route from Kingston Corner to Public Square, cheering, waving flags and paying tribute to veterans from all wars and conflicts. Let them know how you are of them and their service. Trust me, they don't hear it enough.

These are our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, our aunt and uncles, our cousins, our friends, our grandparents and our children and grandchildren. They have volunteered to take an oath to defend us and our country.

Veterans are very special people. My dad was just one, but he made sure I

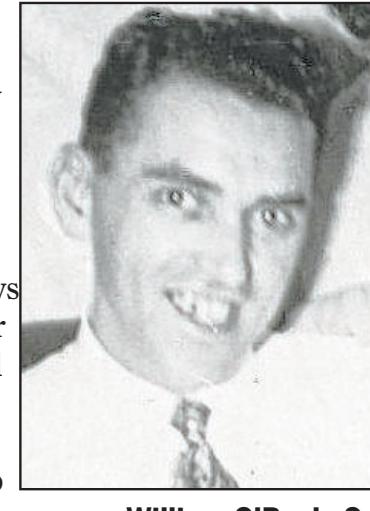
got to meet and know many of his friends and fellow veterans. And he instilled in me the respect for all veterans and he urged me to always thank veterans for their service. And I do that to this day, never letting an opportunity go by without saying "Thank you for your service."

Take some time and Google any war and read some of the accounts of what each was about. Read about those battles, the casualties, the stories about those who would not return home. And read about those that did come home, albeit in a slightly different form, having to adjust to their new life with a prosthetic, or wheelchair. Read about the post traumatic stress disorder and the psychological battles still being waged deep inside many veterans. Today we honor all veterans — those gone and those who remain. We honor them for their service. We thank them. We appreciate them. We respect them. We celebrate them.

Display your flag. Wear red, white and blue. Appreciate all veterans.

Today is Veterans Day, but we owe all our days of freedom to each and every one of them.

Reach Bill O'Boyle at 570-991-6118 or on Twitter @TLBillOBoyle, or email at boboyle@timesleader.com.



William O'Boyle Sr.

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'You can help just by thanking a vet'

Ceremony kicks off veterans commemoration at Wilkes

By Mark Guydish
mguydish@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE — Standing in full green camo, with the stars and stripes fluttering high above him against a bright blue sky, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Justin Newcomer talked of 24 years in service, five overseas tours, and the most valuable part of Veterans Day.

Suicide rates among veterans has climbed since the Iraq war. "We come home, sometimes, to no one," he told a small crowd gathered for a ceremony on Wilkes University's Fenner Quadrangle Thursday morning. "You can help just by thanking a vet. Veterans Day, he added, is a chance for those who served to reconnect with each other, and with those they had left behind. "It is quite humbling to have a day being thanked by the



Aimee Dilger | Times Leader

community." The service marked the start of commemoration events that will run through Nov. 13 with the seventh annual Heroes Brunch, when veterans who had shared oral histories of their experiences with students are feted by the university. This year's focus is on the 100th anniversary of World War I, and will include a

Faculty and students listen to Wilkes President Pat Lahey speak at the Veterans Day program.

lecture Nov. 12 in Breiseth Hall on the end of that war, presented by assistant professor on global cultures Jonathan Kuiken.

Kuiken gave a few remarks at Thursday's ceremony as well, noting America joined that "war to end all wars" late, only really contributing

See Thanking Vets on Page 10

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Free LCTA rides for vets Monday

To honor area veterans, the Luzerne County Transportation Authority will once again offer free rides on its fixed route buses and present commemorative pins to all active duty military and all veterans Monday.

WILKES-BARRE — To honor area veterans, the Luzerne County Transportation Authority will once again offer free rides on its fixed route buses and present commemorative pins to all active duty military and all veterans Monday, Nov. 12.

Veterans should show the bus driver their military ID card; VA medical card or Certificate of Discharge. They will then receive their commemorative pin, which will serve as their "bus ticket" for the entire day.

LCTA will also host a special table at the Intermodal Center in Wilkes-Barre from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All veterans visiting the table will receive a small (while last) supply of a veteran's pin, a drink, and a snack. Also, courtesy of McDonald's/Pat Stella, the lunch tote will have a certificate for a free cheeseburger from participating McDonald's.



LCTA is proud to have many employees who are veterans, from drivers to mechanics to administrative staff. In honor of those employees and as an effort to assist local veterans, LCTA Human Resources Director Janine Hennigan will be on hand to provide employment outreach assistance to veterans interested in pursuing a career with LCTA.

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Remembering our veterans

The men and women who defend the liberties and freedoms of the countries they represent hold a special place in people's hearts and an eternal spot in their countries' histories. Any opportunity is a good time to commemorate the bravery and selfless deeds of military personnel, but certain prominent holidays in November make this an especially important time to thank veterans for their service.

November 11 is Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. It's also known as Armistice Day in other parts of the world. These holidays honor all military veterans who have provided service to their countries, and that each falls on November 11 is no coincidence, as the day commemorates the anniversary of the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Many places around the world pause and remember fallen veterans on November 11, but a good majority of Veterans Day and Remembrance Day commemorative events focus on past and current veterans who are still alive. There are many ways to honor the military at home and abroad in time for the November festivities. The following are just a handful of ways to show appreciation for military men and women.

- When dining out, ask your server if you can pay the tab for a soldier or veteran you see in the restaurant.
- Attend a military parade with your family and explain the significance of the day to children in attendance.
- Draft letters and send care packages to sol-



Any time is a good time to remember to honor veterans but Nov. 11 offers a special chance.

diers currently in service far away from home.

- Ask your company if Veterans Day or Remembrance Day can be an observed holiday at your place of business each year to pay homage to servicemen and women.
- Visit a military memorial in a city near you. Your town also may have its own memorial.
- Petition town officials to erect a memorial if your town does not already have one. Such memorials can be a source of inspiration for your community.
- Support a military family in your town who may be missing a loved one stationed elsewhere. Make meals, mow the lawn, help with grocery shopping, or simply provide emotional support.
- Volunteer time at a veterans' hospital. You

may be able to read with veterans or engage in other activities.

- Get involved with a military support charity that can provide much-needed funds to struggling families or disabled veterans.
- Have children speak with veterans in your family, including grandparents, uncles and aunts or even their own parents. It can help them gain perspective on the important roles the military plays.
- Ask a veteran to give a commencement speech at a school or to be the guest of honor at a special function.
- Drive disabled veterans to doctors' appointments or to run any errands.
- Support a local VFW organization.
- Create a scrapbook for a veteran in your life.
- Cheer for or thank military personnel each time you see them.
- Visit the veterans' portion of a nearby cemetery and place poppies or other flowers on the graves.
- Always keep the military on your mind and never forget those who have served and didn't return home.

Armistice Day, Remembrance Day and

Veterans Day are great ways to honor past and current military for their service and sacrifice.



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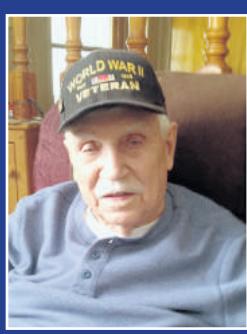
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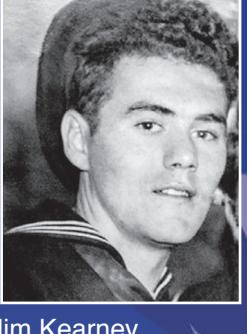
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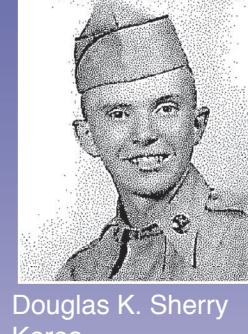
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Thanking vets cont.

to the last three months of fighting, yet proved pivotal in breaking the German lines and ending the war. Yet even after the Armistice was signed famously on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — thus setting a date that later became Veterans Day — the fighting continued, Kuiken pointed out.

In fact, he noted, the last person who lost his life in World War I fighting was American Henry Gunther, "killed in the last minute while charging a machine gun nest with bayonet." Wilkes President Patrick Leahy offered the opening comments after King's College President The Rev. John Ryan offered an invocation, and Leahy led with a favorite observation when the two appear together, noting Ryan is a Wilkes graduate. "It's not every day a King's person gets applause on this campus."

Leahy recalled encounters with veterans sharing poignant stories. There was a Wilkes grad who served as medic in Guadalcanal hauntingly recalling the difficulty in making instant decision about which wounded could be saved in the time allotted, and the veteran wounded by a sniper in Iraq who, when Leahy thanked him, replied "if I knew what was going to happen to me and and a choice to do it again, I would, because I love this country."

Urging the crowd to remember those who served in World War I on this 100th anniversary of the armistice as well as other veterans, to remember their families, and to remember what they fought for. Leahy quoted President John F. Kennedy — a Navy lieutenant who served on a PT Boat.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

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Remembering the veterans of an overshadowed war



By Jonathan Kuiken
Guest Columnist

As a young child, I remember slowly grasping what was meant by the term "veteran" through the stories of my grandfathers, both of whom served in uniform during the Second World War. While neither of them had seen combat, many of my extended family did, and my grandfathers spoke in hushed and

respectful tones of the members of their generation who had fought in that titanic struggle. Perhaps it is not surprising, therefore, that my understanding of Veterans Day was shaped by those perceptions, those stories, and the row upon row of World War II veterans which slowly and sadly thinned for each year's parade. World War II, for obvious reasons, occupies a very large space in our national consciousness and even helped to rename the very day that we use to honor the men and women who served in that, and other wars. Few Americans realize that from 1919 to 1954, Veterans Day was known as Armistice Day. The "armistice" in question was an agreement signed in a railcar in the forest of Compiègne, France, on Nov. 11, 1918 – an event that brought the First World War to an end.

When Congress changed the name from Armistice to Veterans Day in 1954, they did so with an eye toward expanding the holiday to include the recently minted veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War. In the process, they inadvertently began to

separate the day from the conflict, which the holiday was created to commemorate. This is not surprising, but it is unfortunate. Even in the 1950s, America's involvement in the First World War was downplayed as simply a precursor to the much larger effort of 1941 to 1945. While understandable, viewing the First World War in this way diminishes the importance of that event and the immense contribution by America's servicemen and women who fought, bled and died on the battlefields of that conflict.

World War I began in late July 1914 and raged for nearly two and a half years before the United States entered the fray.

Drawn into the conflict due to a mixture of economic and diplomatic pressures and antagonistic attacks by German submarines on American shipping, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against the Central Powers in April 1917.

While the war was not universally welcomed in the United States, the entry of the Americans not only injected much needed supplies and manpower into the forces opposing Germany and its allies, but also helped to recast the war effort as a struggle for a democratic future upheld by a peaceful international order. These ideas boosted the flagging morale of the Allies and simultaneously sapped the will to fight among the enemy.

America's contribution of troops took time to materialize, but by 1918 nearly 10,000 U.S. troops were arriving in France each day. These new American "doughboys" were on average younger, taller and healthier than their European counterparts and what they lacked in experience they made up for in enthusiasm. Their contribution was essential in blunting a last-ditch effort by the German army to smash through the British and French lines in the spring of 1918. In the counter-offensive, which

broke the fighting spirit of the German Army, the American Expeditionary Force engaged in a vicious month-long battle known as the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, puncturing the German lines but suffering approximately 120,000 casualties. By some estimates, this remains the bloodiest battle in American history.

By the end of the war, more than 200,000 Americans had been wounded, 50,000 lost their lives on the battlefield and a further 65,000 died in the great pandemic known as the Spanish influenza. Given that American units were only heavily engaged for less than a year, they suffered proportionately higher casualties than nearly any other combatant. Americans at the time appreciated the great cost of the war but also the possibilities it opened for the future. In his proclamation to commemorate the date of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1919, Woodrow Wilson spoke to his fellow citizens by saying, "To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations."

On this 100th of the end of the horrors of the First World War, let us reflect similarly and remember the brave men and women who sacrificed so much for a cause they believed was worthy of their effort and their lives. For those who would like to learn more about the end of the First World War, please join us for a free, public lecture entitled "Ending the War to End all Wars: Reflections on the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the End of World War I" at 4 p.m. Monday at Breiseth Hall, room 107 at Wilkes University.

Jonathan Kuiken is an assistant professor of History in the Division of Global Cultures at Wilkes University.

and served during World War II, the Korean War, and The Vietnam War. In December of that year she and six other nurses were sent to Hawaii where they arrived at North Sector General Hospital 10 days after the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. After Hawaii she returned to the mainland where she was assigned to the Valley Forge General Hospital in Phoenixville.

She soon rose in rank and became captain in 1946.

In 1950 when the Korean conflict started she went back to war with a liking to where the workload was heaviest. She went to Korea as chief nurse of the 4th Field Hospital and operating room nurse at Tokyo General Hospital when the war broke out.

She established the hospital there and was in charge of 29 nurses. Her brother, State Rep.

James Jump, sent her Christmas ornaments in 1952 because she anted to make sure that the servicemen and nurses would have a little reminder of Christmas even though they were far from home.

She served an overseas tour of duty as an operating room supervisor at the 20th Station Hospital in Germany and in 1957 at the Nevada Proving Grounds, she served as a nurse participant for the bio-medical project where the physical effects of the first nuclear bomb were evaluated.

In 1960, she became operating room supervisor and was named chief of nursing service at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. during which time she rose in rank again and became a full colonel and her promotion brought much distinction because there were only five other officers in the Army Nurse Corps who held the rank of full colonel.

Lee said Jump was recommended for a promotion to brigadier general which would have given her the honor of becoming the first woman general in any of the armed services.

However she retired as chief of nursing from Walter Reed Hospital on March 31, 1968.

"Katherine devoted her entire life to helping others and showing women that they could be in the army," Lee said. "She devoted her life because she truly loved helping people. When asked what her reward for all her hard work was she would say that just being able to look at her patients recovering and going out the front door and going home was all the reward

she needed." Many stories In a Times Leader story in 2007, a "terse order" came from President Lyndon Johnson during a visit with wounded Vietnam veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. "Take good care of my boys," President Johnson told Col. Katherine Jump. She gave her promise they would be.

Time magazine reported the visit in a

piece titled "A Walk in Ward 34" in its May 20, 1966, edition, not long after Jump had been promoted. At the time she was chief of nursing service at the hospital, one of the numerous honors and achievements for the Wilkes-Barre native and career U.S. Army officer.

Jump's path followed a continuous ascent from high school, through nursing school and into the military. In 1968, after more than 25 years in the service she retired with the rank of colonel.

While stationed in Hawaii she made an impression on the future Army surgeon general, Maj. Leonard Heaton. At the time of Jump's retirement, then Lt. Gen. Heaton recalled in a letter read at the ceremony honoring, that during their service together she displayed qualities that continued throughout her career, "her dedication, compassion and concern for patients," according to an April 10, 1968, story in the Wilkes-Barre Record.

"With a penchant for being where the workload is heaviest, she went to Korea as chief nurse of the 4th Field Hospital when the war broke out there in 1950," the Wilkes-Barre Record wrote. She participated in the invasion of Inchon and established the hospital there, heading 29 nurses."



As she moved about on assignments both overseas and stateside, she rose in rank and received accolades for her service at the 20th Station Hospital, Nuremberg, Germany; Tilton General Hospital at Fort Dix, N.J.; and Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In 1957 she was a nurse participant at the Bio-medical Project at the Nevada Proving Grounds, where testing was done for the atom bomb, according to her obituary.

In 1963 she earned the distinction of being the first woman elected president of a class at the U.S. Army Management School at Fort Belvoir, Va. Jump and her 45 male classmates attended the three-week course for the Army's promising administrators.

The Times Leader Evening News of Dec. 21, 1963, quoted her: "It was a fine course. The students represented many disciplines, but we all worked together in close harmony, and each learned much that could be taken back and put into practice in our widely different fields."

Upon her retirement in 1968 she received the Legion of Merit award for her service.



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