

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

As we prepare to travel to visit family and loved ones (or receive them in our homes) and celebrate the traditional American holiday of Thanksgiving, it's good to remember the gifts of life that we can be thankful for - our health and happiness, the love of caring relatives and friends, and the wonders of nature, including our great Pacific Northwest lakes, mountains and forests.

As we reflect on these gifts, it's a time to appreciate how precious and fleeting life can be - all of us have lost loved ones. It's sobering to realize that nuclear war could wipe away millions of precious lives in an instant. But it doesn't have to happen - because of people like Stanislav Petrov.

GRATITUDE TO A HERO WHO SAVED THE WORLD

Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov (Sept. 7, 1939-May 19, 2017) is known as "the person who singlehandedly saved the world from nuclear war."

On September 1, 1983, the Soviet Union shot down a passenger plane flying to South Korea from the U.S. (KAL 007), suspecting it of spying; all 269 people aboard died. Tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union were extremely high: the U.S., after a series of military maneuvers, was preparing for a major NATO war game that simulated preparations for a nuclear attack.

Then, on September 26, while Lt. Petrov was on night duty at the Soviet military's early-warning facility outside Moscow, an alarm went off, signaling the launch of several U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles. The 44-year-old duty officer had to quickly determine whether the attack was real. With conflicting information from satellite and radar, he chose to consider it a false alarm. A subsequent Soviet investigation later confirmed that the Soviet satellite warning system had, in fact, malfunctioned -- caused by a malfunction of the satellite, which mistook the reflection of the sun off high clouds for a missile launch."

So today we'd like to take the opportunity to give thanks to an unsung hero, Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov, who made it possible for all of us to be here today – a man whose good judgment saved untold numbers of lives.

AND TODAY?

From Reuters news service on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, under the headline:

Senate Committee Questions Trump's Nuclear Authority:

A U.S. Senate committee on Tuesday held the first congressional hearing in more than four decades on the president's authority to launch a nuclear strike. . .

From the Department of Defense's Law of War Manual, 2015:

18.3 DUTIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES *Each member of the armed services has a duty to: ... (2) refuse to comply with clearly illegal orders to commit violations of the law of war.*

Crimes Against Peace include: Planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression;*
War Crimes include: Use of weapons that don't distinguish between military and civilian targets.*

GOOD JUDGMENT CAN SAVE UNTOLD NUMBERS OF LIVES...

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action * 16159 Clear Creek Rd NW - Poulsbo 98370 *
info@gzcenter.org * www.gzcenter.org

*https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/NT_Vol-I.pdf

