



LOCAL

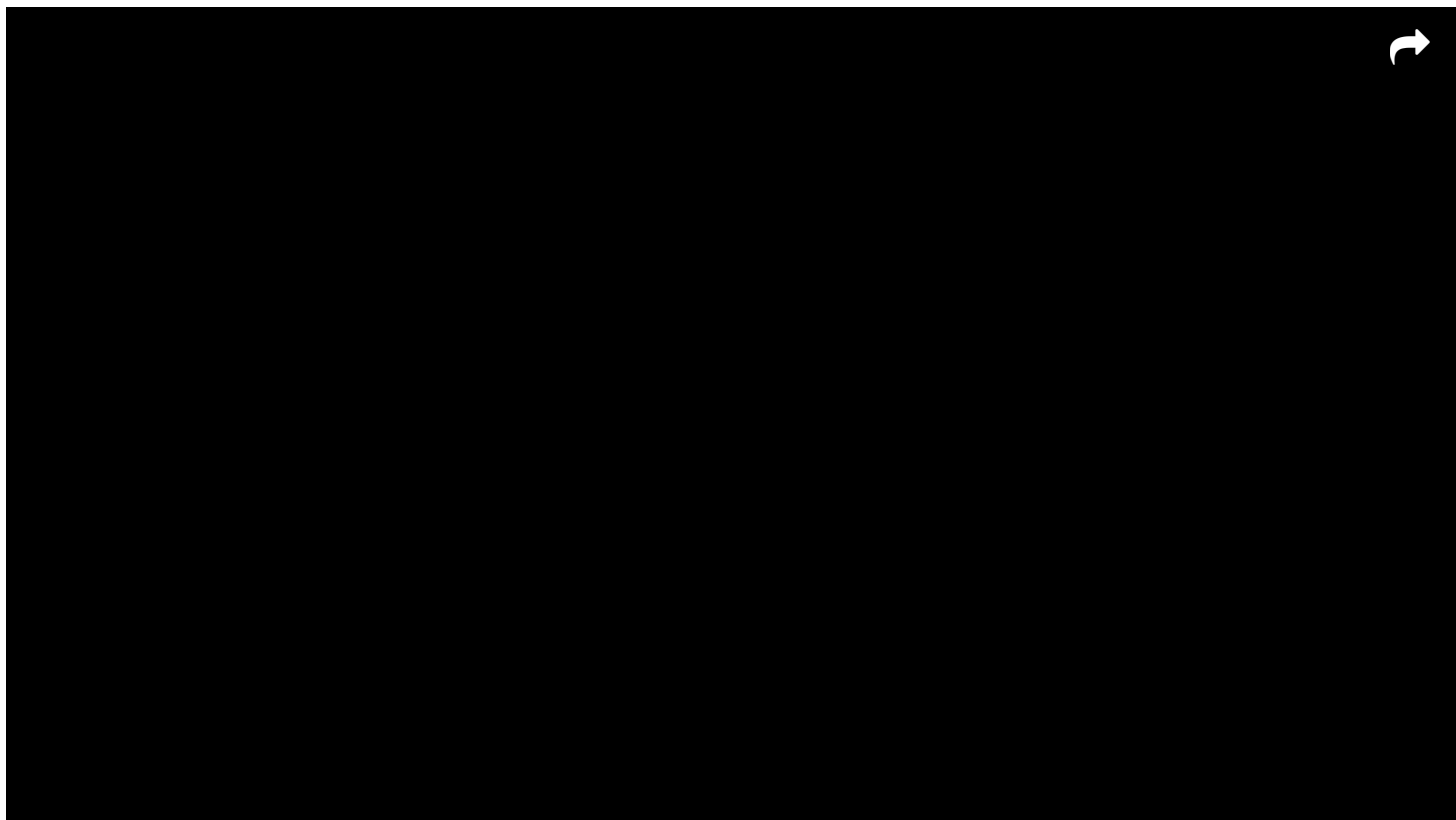
SC veteran who ‘delivered freedom to people around the world’ dies Friday

BY EMILY BOHATCH AND

JOHN MONK



JANUARY 04, 2019 12:01 PM



World War II Army veteran who liberated concentration camps and former South Carolina lawmaker Moffatt Burriss passed away January 4, 2019. The Anderson, South Carolina native was 99 years old at the time of his passing.

By

T. Moffatt Burriss, a former Columbia area contractor, Republican state lawmaker and American World War II battlefield hero, died Friday. He was 99.

Burriss's death was announced by his family and posted on the Shives Funeral Home web site.

Burriss, who was known as a humble man with a good sense of humor, served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 and participated in some of that war's heaviest fighting, notably "Operation Market Garden" in the Netherlands.

That 1944 mission made massive use of U.S. and British airborne troops, whose mission it was to capture bridges deep inside Nazi-controlled territory and hold them until Allied ground troops could reach them. Burriss was in the lead elements of the American paratrooper forces, which saw in that operation some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

His and others' roles in that operation were featured in the movie, "A Bridge Too Far." Actor Robert Redford played a composite of Burriss and other 82nd Airborne soldiers.

Later in the war, Burriss and fellow paratroopers helped liberate a concentration camp near Wobbelin, Germany, and he saw first hand the horrors that the Nazis had unleashed upon Jewish people. As a civilian, Burriss made it his mission to bear witness to what he had seen in that concentration camp, speaking to Jewish groups and others about the horrors of Nazism.

"I was there. I saw it. I felt it. I photographed it," Burriss said at Columbia's Beth Shalom synagogue in 2010 at a Holocaust event to remember the 6 million Jews killed by Nazis in European death camps. "It cannot happen again. We must remember."

Burriss wrote a book about his exploits called "Strike and Hold."

The veteran also served as a representative in the South Carolina State House from 1977 to 1992 representing Richland County.

"Moffatt Burriss is one of the finest leaders our state and nation has ever produced," S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster tweeted Friday just before noon. "He delivered freedom to people around the world and made the lives of those he touched better and safer."

McMaster ordered that the flags on the Statehouse grounds be lowered from sunrise to sunset on the day of his funeral. It is not clear which day that will be.

Emily Bohatch is a breaking news reporter and data keeper for The State. Her accomplishments include winning a Green Eyeshade award in Disaster Reporting in 2018 for her teamwork reporting on Hurricane Irma. She has a degree in Journalism with a minor in Spanish from Ohio University's E. W. Scripps School of Journalism.

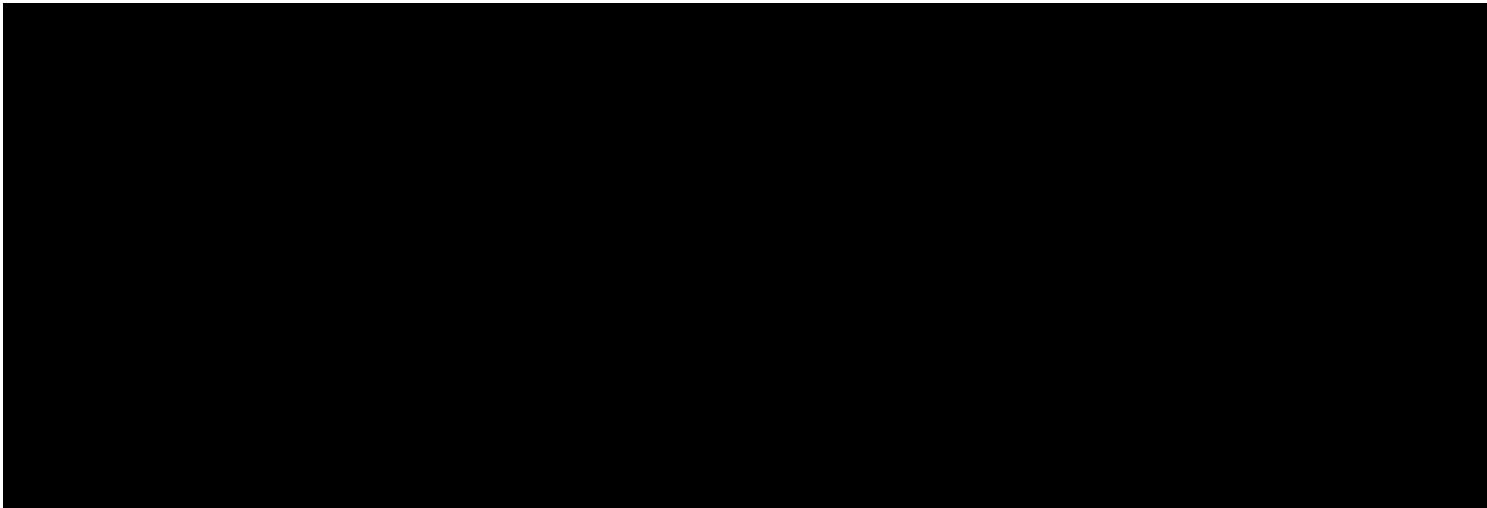
 **Comments** 

VIDEOS



SC veteran and politician Moffatt Burriss dies





Congaree National Park open to visitors during federal shut-down

[VIEW MORE VIDEO →](#)

TRENDING STORIES

Will Muschamp has passionate opinion about recruiting rankings. Is he right?

JANUARY 06, 2019 07:45 AM

South Carolina coast ‘buzzing’ with great white sharks, ocean research group said

JANUARY 05, 2019 03:08 PM

Spread, odds and projections for Clemson-Alabama’s national championship clash

JANUARY 05, 2019 02:32 PM

What sparked USC’s game-winning dunk at Florida? A player’s ‘unselfish’ revelation

JANUARY 06, 2019 09:23 AM

SC teachers’ patience waning as lawmakers again pledge to fix public education

JANUARY 06, 2019 05:00 AM

[READ NEXT](#)



POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

SC teachers' patience waning as lawmakers again pledge to fix public education

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER AND

TOM BARTON



JANUARY 06, 2019 05:00 AM

Two days before SC lawmakers return to Columbia with an unprecedented desire to overhaul the state's public education system — with pledges to boost teacher pay — there is no consensus on how to fix the issue.

KEEP READING →

**DIGITAL ACCESS FOR ONLY
\$0.99**

#READLOCAL

For the most comprehensive local coverage, subscribe today.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

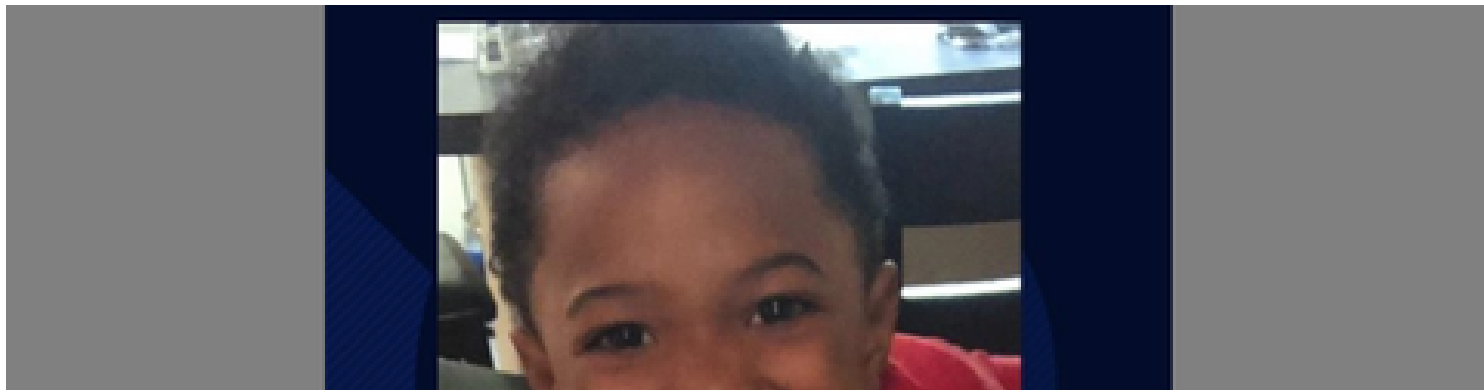
MORE LOCAL



CRIME & COURTS

Dead inmate discovered in cell at Columbia prison, SC officials say

JANUARY 06, 2019 05:27 PM



CRIME & COURTS

Father arrested after 5-year-old shot himself in the face at Wendy's, NC cops say

JANUARY 06, 2019 05:32 PM



CRIME & COURTS

1 killed in shooting at northeast Richland gas station

JANUARY 06, 2019 01:23 PM

Vehicle / Suspect Information:

2004-2012 Chevy Colorado or GMC Canyon Pickup with a standard or crew cab, unknown

CRIME & COURTS

21-year-old killed in Lexington County hit-and-run

JANUARY 06, 2019 07:49 AM



TAKE US WITH YOU

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



THE STATE APP →



VIEW NEWSLETTERS →



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Start a Subscription

Customer Service

eEdition

Vacation Hold

Rewards

[Pay Your Bill](#)

LEARN MORE

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

ADVERTISING

[Information](#)

[Place a Classified](#)

[Local Deals](#)

[Special Sections](#)

COPYRIGHT

PRIVACY POLICY

TERMS OF SERVICE