 WASHINGTON-- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) released the following statement today on the passing of the last United States veteran who served in World War I:

"With the passing of the last American veteran of World War I, we say goodbye to a generation of Americans who showed the world that the United States was the most powerful defender of freedom and liberty on the face of the earth. Frank Buckles embodied the spirit of a true American. He lied about his age so he could enlist in the Army at the age of 16. Like millions of Americans who came before him, and millions more who followed, Frank Buckles fought for his country at the hour of its greatest need for his generation. He is the epitome of the American citizen soldier.

At this trying time in our nation's history, we remember men like Frank Buckles – what they stood for, what they fought for, and what they lived for."

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