

wounded veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting for even basic health care, let alone health care in their distant gold-en years.

And there are other battles that need to be fought by these old warriors. Floyd Sears, one of the hardest fighters on the grassroots battlefield, the leader of the Internet campaign for the restoration of military retiree health care, saw his home in Biloxi, Mississippi, destroyed by hurricane Katrina. He is living in an RV powered by a generator as he oversees the rebuilding of his house. Jim Whittington, Floyd's best friend and comrade, lost electricity in his Laurel, Mississippi, home for almost a month. He is rebuilding his Internet business. Col. Day is over 80 years old now and is ready to move on and support our new generation of veterans.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the grassroots warriors have fought the good fight. As the Class Act Group closes its doors, we should honor them and thank them for all they have done for our country. They will always be heroes to me.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BROWN COUNTY HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize before this House the Brown County Home Builders Association as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

As we all know, home ownership in this country has had quite a run over the last few years, with more Americans than ever before settling into their very own homes. Last year alone, 1.18 million families purchased single-family homes—a new record. This has had a direct impact on our economy at all levels, boosting revenues, attracting new business, and spurring community revitalization.

The Brown County Home Builders have made the dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of families in northeastern Wisconsin. For the last 50 years they have helped create safe and affordable housing opportunities for Brown County residents, raising the quality of life in communities throughout my district. Despite its humble beginnings, this great organization has grown from a mere 18 members to over 1,100, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Brown County Home Builders Association on this wonderful occasion. Fifty years is an outstanding accomplishment, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH STACHON

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege, as a U.S. Representative, to acknowledge my constituent, Mr. Joseph Stachon, on

his retirement from the Chicago Police Department, after serving a loyal career of 30 years with the force.

Not only a dutiful police officer, Joe Stachon has been a loving husband to his wife Barbara, and a loving father to his three children, Joseph, Julie and Jon, and most recently a new title of grandfather—one he will cherish the most, I am sure.

Joseph Stachon has lived his adult life dedicated to protecting his Nation, his city and his fellow veterans proudly. Joe served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1969 in the turbulent Vietnam war and earned the distinguished Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals for his courage and valor. After the war, he then started at the Chicago Police Department, working 12 years in the 12th, 2nd and 14th districts of Chicago. It was that experience and endless training that earned Joe his last 18 years with the forensic division of the Chicago Police Department.

His contribution to his fellow man doesn't stop there. Joe joined Johnson-Phelps VFW Post No. 5220 in Oak Lawn and, when asked, served five times as their post commander. His dedication to his fellow veterans continued as he served as the Third District commander and was a member of the VFW's State of Illinois Ways and Means Committee.

It is fitting this evening that Joseph Stachon be remembered as a loyal brother in the Chicago Police Department, a compassionate comrade to his fellow veterans and last but not least, a devoted husband and father to his wife and family. Joe, you have continually shared your time with many, have accomplished your life's achievements; it is time now to sit back and enjoy these memories with your family.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the lifetime achievements of Mr. Joseph Stachon. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring this fine individual on his great service to our Nation and his community and wish Joseph great things as he celebrates the commencement of a new chapter in his life.

THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are finally considering this crucial Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) extension, which will provide necessary stability for our Nation's economy in a post 9/11 world. I have strongly supported this legislation from the outset, and I congratulate Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for their hard work to bring it to the floor. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important bill.

A stable, secure insurance market is vital to the health of our national economy. More than 4 years ago, the stability of the insurance industry, and all of our Nation's policyholders, were put in jeopardy when insurers and reinsurers lost more than \$30 billion as a result of the 9/11 attacks. After these substantial losses, insurers were unable to make terrorism insurance available, which left many of our Nation's businesses vulnerable to unacceptable risk.

In response, Congress overwhelmingly passed TRIA to provide a temporary, limited Federal backstop in the event of another catastrophic terrorist attack. While we still expect the insurance industry to eventually develop methods for making terrorism insurance available without government support, the market has not yet stabilized to the point where this is possible. Extension of TRIA, which is necessary to prevent the chill of development in our cities, has wide, bipartisan support, and should be enacted promptly.

IN HONOR OF JOHN CASTELLANO,
AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a valiant American soldier who, through no fault of his own, never became an American citizen. 1st Sgt. John Castellano of New York State and California was worthy of becoming an American citizen. I would like to tell you his story.

John Castellano was a native of Sorrento, Italy. He joined the United States Army in 1911. He served with the U.S. armed forces for more than 25 years with honor and distinction. For example, Sgt. Castellano served admirably in World War I and the Pacific Theater of Operations. For his valiant service, he was awarded numerous medals and ribbons, including the "West Indies Campaign" ribbon, the VFW medal, and an award for bravely rescuing a man from drowning on July 21, 1921.

Sgt. Castellano believed that he was a naturalized U.S. citizen by dint of his service to the United States. Unfortunately, through circumstances unknown to us today, he was required but failed to fill out the necessary documents to become a U.S. citizen. As a result, he did not become the American citizen that he always believed he would become. Today, we have members of the Armed Services who assist foreign members of our armed forces to become U.S. citizens. According to recent newspaper articles, foreign soldiers serving with coalition forces in Iraq can become U.S. citizens in less than six months. And it is right to honor those who fight and risk their lives for this great country. Unfortunately, no one was able to assist Sgt. John Castellano, an Italian immigrant, to become a naturalized U.S. citizen so many years ago.

His family lives in my district. Members of the Castellano family learned of this tragedy only in recent years although John Castellano died in 1937. Since they learned of these circumstances, the family has been trying for several years to obtain posthumous citizenship for John. Unfortunately, the law does not allow John to become a U.S. citizen at this late date. Therefore, I am honoring Sergeant Castellano's service to the United States, and want to state for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that his service and heartfelt love for this country is commendable and makes him worthy of citizenship.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the Transportation Security Administration's new security procedures and changes to the prohibited items list.
SD-562

DECEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold closed hearings to examine the nomination of Dorrance Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
SR-222

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Deborah Taylor Tate, of Tennessee, and Michael Joseph Copps, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.
SD-106

DECEMBER 14

9 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's spill

prevention control and countermeasure program.
SD-406

11 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Antonio Fratto, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs, David M. Spooner, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, Richard T. Crowder, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of Social Security Advisory Board.
SD-215

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-106