

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HORSES FOR HEROES

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Army Sergeant Curtis Davis returned to America from his last deployment in a wheelchair. He thought he would never be able to walk again. However, he was welcomed back with open arms by his family and friends who told him that wasn't so. Sergeant Davis did not immediately have the physical ability to get back into the active father role of running around with his kids or participating in physical activities that our military men and women dream of doing when they return from serving overseas.

Today, Sergeant Davis is back up on his feet thanks to Horses for Heroes, a program located northwest of Georgetown, Texas, dedicated to improving the lives of injured veterans. Prior to becoming involved with Horses for Heroes, Sergeant Davis could not balance on his own two legs and was unable to walk without a cane or crutches. And after several rides on a horse, his life has improved. He can now walk. He has also learned peace and a therapeutic connection to a horse.

Just like Sergeant Davis, there are several service men and women who were injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. Some of them were physically injured, others were emotionally injured. Horses for Heroes has helped heal these men and women who risked their lives for our freedom. The organization has created a special environment where our injured veterans have gone for support, recovery, and inspiration, all on a horse with a veteran at their side. Improved balance, motor skills, speech, morale, and well being are only a few of the benefits of Horses for Heroes treatments.

Post-war life is a difficult adjustment. It is great to see a local Texas organization investing in the physical and emotional lives of our American heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

MS. DONNA E. PALERMO

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna E. Palermo, president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, who received the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. Maternal and Family Health Services is a non-profit health and human service organization working to improve the health of Pennsylvania women and children.

The Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award is named in honor of

former Luzerne County Commissioner and long-time employee of Maternal and Family Health Services, Rose Tucker. Ms. Tucker dedicated her life to public service and acted as a health advocate and champion for women, children, and families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The award is presented to someone who exemplifies those same qualities.

Ms. Palermo has had a distinguished career with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. She began as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the chamber's 120-year history to serve as president. In June 2013, she will celebrate 25 years with the chamber.

Ms. Palermo has committed years of service to her community. She holds leadership positions on numerous boards including chairman of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, chairman of the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and secretary of the Mountain Council of Governments. Ms. Palermo serves the community on additional boards such as Greater Hazleton Partners in Education, Hazleton General Hospital, Leadership Hazleton, Luzerne County Community College Advisory Council, and the YWCA PEARL committee.

Ms. Palermo has been a successful leader for the community. She led efforts to form a health insurance and energy program through a partnership of 17 chambers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She helped to initiate a Farmers Market in downtown Hazleton as well as a Women's Networking committee in partnership with the Hazleton YWCA and Leadership Hazleton. Ms. Palermo was recognized in 2002 as one of the top 25 women in business by the NEPA Business Journal.

Having worked with Ms. Palermo on economic development and community service projects in the Hazleton area, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Ms. Palermo approaches each task with enthusiasm and optimism and keeps a level head even when situations become tense. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to work alongside Ms. Palermo on numerous projects in the Hazleton area, and I look forward to working with her on future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community. It is an honor to recognize her service, and I congratulate her on receiving the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. I thank Ms. Palermo for all that she does for our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and I wish her continued success in the future.

HONORING JOSEPH STACHON'S  
HOMECOMING AS ILLINOIS VFW  
STATE COMMANDER

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph J. Stachon as Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 welcomes him home following his installation as Illinois VFW State Commander. As a decorated veteran, a dedicated citizen, and a loyal patriot, Mr. Stachon continues to serve his community and his tireless dedication deserves our recognition. I am especially proud because he is the first VFW State Commander from the 3rd Congressional District.

As a young man, Mr. Stachon enlisted and served our nation honorably in Vietnam as a Green Beret in the United States Army. As a combat rifleman in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, he was deployed from October 1968 until he was wounded in action, coming home in a full body cast in May 1969. On the battlefield his sacrifices earned him a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, as well as a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Mr. Stachon also served for 30 years in the Chicago Police Department. On patrol, Mr. Stachon would occasionally encounter dangerous and difficult situations. In these instances, he was pragmatic and effective, quickly neutralizing any danger for both civilians and officers. He was known for his calm temperament and his reliability, and his commitment to the force and his fellow policemen was well-known and unwavering.

A Gold Legacy life member of the VFW Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 in Oak Lawn, Illinois, Mr. Stachon has served in all chairs including Post Commander ten times and All-State Commander four times. He has also served the Department of Illinois in many offices and is involved in several civic organizations.

Described by his friends as dependable and honest, Mr. Stachon is also a devoted family man who has been married to his wife Barbara for 43 years. Together they have raised two sons, Joseph Jr. and Jon, and a daughter, Julie. He enjoys spending his free time with his children and his four grandchildren: Anthony, Michael, Joseph, and Michelle, as well as his son-in-law, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Marie.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Joseph Stachon on his installation and homecoming as Illinois VFW State Commander.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.