

neighbors often saw him practicing his golf swing in his front lawn.

John Gibson also had 18 years of service with the Capitol Police. A friend of his recalls that just a few days before the shooting, John told him he had never had to draw his weapon on the job. Forty-two years old, he had three children, and was a native of Massachusetts.

Friends recall John's ardent love for his Boston sports teams—the Bruins, the Red Sox, and U Mass basketball.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were the first Capitol Police officers to die in the line of duty. As we honor them today, we also honor the hundreds of brave men and women of that force who put their lives on the line to protect this House of democracy.

To the casual tourist, Capitol Police officers may just seem like friendly people who stand guard at the doors. But in truth, they are an elite, highly trained force charged with a critical mission. In moments of crisis, when not just lives but our very system of government is threatened, they stand ready at the front lines.

We saw again on September 11, 2001, how the Capitol can be a target for terror. And we saw again the bravery of the Capitol Police, who rushed into the building to rescue others when most of us were busy rushing out.

As my friend, the majority leader, a former Capitol Police officer himself; certainly know, police work is both an honorable job and a dangerous one.

In fact, in the 10 years since the loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, 24 peace officers in my home State of Kentucky have also been lost in the line of duty. If there is no objection, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KENTUCKY PEACE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, JULY 24, 1998–JULY 24, 2008.

Regina Woodward Nickles
 Joey Tremayne Vincent
 Jason Wayne Cammack
 William J. Collins Jr.
 Billy Ray Walls III
 Charles Brown Morgan Jr.
 Samuel Wilson Catron
 Howard Callis
 Ray B. Franklin
 Eddie Mundo Jr.
 Douglas Wayne Bryant
 Robert T. Hansel
 Steven Lloyd Hutchinson
 Larry Dale Cottingham
 Peter Alan Grignon
 Roger Dale Lynch
 Elmer Kiser
 David George Whitson
 Jonathan Kyle Leonard
 Ronnie K. Jones
 Garry Randy Lacy
 Randy Wells
 Anthony Sean Pursifull
 Joe E. Howard Sr.

Mr. McCONNELL. So today the U.S. Senate remembers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We are grateful for their

heroic sacrifice. And we say a prayer for their families, who we embrace as we would our own.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DELMAR WHITE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise because a son of Kentucky who joined the Kentucky National Guard has been lost in service to his country. SSG Delmar White of Wallins, KY, was tragically killed on September 2, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while he was on patrol in Iraq. He was 37 years old.

Staff Sergeant White had been stationed in Iraq for less than a week. For his valor in uniform, he received numerous medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

For anyone who wonders how those who loved Staff Sergeant White will remember him, the words of his wife, Michele, leave no doubt.

"He went out a hero," Michele says. "He was a hero before he went to Iraq, in my book. . . . He was a fantastic person that everybody loved."

Born in Illinois, Delmar—or Dale, as his friends called him—was raised in Wallins, a small town in Harlan County, KY, in the southeastern corner of my State. He graduated from James A. Cawood High School there. He eventually moved to Lexington, KY, heart of the Bluegrass Country.

In Lexington, Dale worked as a corrections officer for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. He also worked at the University of Kentucky, where he met Michele—the woman who would become his wife.

There was an instant attraction between the two. Their first date was to a local carnival, where Dale showed off his athletic prowess for Michele by winning some stuffed animals. Or maybe he had his old training to thank—Dale was a former U.S. Marine of 4 years who had served in Desert Storm.

Dale was proud of his service, and in 1998, he chose to enlist again, this time with the Kentucky National Guard. But he didn't do anything without first talking to Michele, by that time his wife. He was concerned she wouldn't want him to go. He shouldn't have been.

"You are military and always will be—do it," Michele told him in support.

One Labor Day weekend, Dale was in Cincinnati with the Guard, working crowd control for a local event. Michele tells us that an older man walked up to him and asked, "Why would you wear that uniform?"

At that moment, a little boy approached Dale and stretched his hand up to him. The boy said, "Mr. Soldier, can I shake your hand?"

After Dale shook the boy's hand, he looked the man right in the eye and said, "That's why."

Clearly, Dale was proud to serve his country, and confident in his mission.

As Michele says, "He was military 100 percent."

Of course, there was a lighter side to Dale. He loved the outdoors and the go-cart track, where he was so aggressive he was known as "the Competitor." He liked a good video game, especially one that involved shooting at something and honing his target skills.

Most of all, he was a devoted father to his two children, daughter Shelby and son Seth. He would plan special game nights for them and other children. Dale had previously served as a youth minister, and he told Michele that was something he was interested in doing again. He also hoped to serve with a fire department in the future.

Dale was deployed to Iraq in August of 2007 with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, based out of Carlisle, KY. He left an impression on his commanding officer, CPT Robert S. Mattingly, among others. This is what Captain Mattingly had to say:

There is a line that we are familiar with that says we will "cheerfully obey the orders." That was Delmar White for certain.

Captain Mattingly said: he was an excellent [non-commissioned officer], who led by example and never asked anything of his soldiers he wasn't willing to do himself.

Captain Mattingly added: Delmar White was loved by everyone in the battery and will be terribly missed by all.

Dale talked to Michele and his children over the Internet the day before the bombing that took his life. Son Seth was so small all he could do was bang on the keyboard, but Dale would always write back, "hey buddy," so Seth knew he was there.

During the funeral procession to Dale's burial in Camp Nelson, KY, Michele was overwhelmed at the people lining both sides of the street to pay their respects. Police cars and fire trucks stopped as police and firemen stood, solemnly saluting or with their hands on their hearts.

At the service, bagpipes played "Amazing Grace," and there was a 21-gun salute. Three helicopters flew overhead as the American flag that had covered Dale's casket was folded and given to Michele.

Mr. President our thoughts are with Staff Sergeant White's family after his tragic loss. We are thinking of his wife, Michele; his daughter, Shelby; his son, Seth; his brothers, Robert and Doug; his sister, Tressa Fisher; his mother, Hazel White Blincoe; and many other beloved family members and friends. Dale was predeceased by his father, Perry White.

Mr. President, this U.S. Senate rises as one today to salute Staff Sergeant White's service, and to honor his sacrifice. The legacy he has left for his family, friends, neighbors, and a little boy in Cincinnati—who only remembers him as "Mr. Soldier"—will live on. And that is a legacy that his loved ones can cherish forever.