

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to call, in room 362, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. W. J. Bryan Dorn (acting chairman of the committee) presiding.

Mr. DORN. The committee will come to order.

We have with us this morning a very distinguished witness, and I am going to ask Congressman Bill Ayres, who is a truly distinguished and great member of this committee, to present our distinguished visitor and witness to the committee.

Mr. AYRES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to say that Congressman Adair of Indiana and Mrs. Heckler of Massachusetts have called and regret very much they cannot be here this morning, Mr. Chairman. They have requested that the statements be sent over to their office immediately so they will have the benefit of what I consider one of the finest leaders of veterans' organizations that our country has known.

Mr. Chairman, it has been my privilege to know our distinguished guest this morning for a number of years. This is indeed a proud day for Ohio. Our distinguished guest does not live in my congressional district. He lives in Congressman Bow's district. However, his hometown of Alliance, Ohio, is only 20 miles from my hometown.

The gentleman of whom I speak is none other than Anthony J. Caserta, an Ohio businessman from Alliance, who was elected national commander of AMVETS at the 23d national convention of that organization in Hollywood, Fla., last August.

Our commander is affectionately known to those of us who have had the privilege of being associated with him for quite some time as Tony. He not only has proved himself a dedicated public servant but his work in behalf of the veterans has been second to none.

For the past several years he has served AMVETS as the president of the AMVETS National Service Foundation, which administers all charitable activities of the organization. In 1965 the National AMVETS at their meeting and convention voted him the AMVET Man of the Year Award, the highest honor the organization can bestow on a member.

I am proud this morning to be a member of AMVETS, to be a Member of the Congress, to be a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, but I am equally proud to present to you the national commander of the AMVETS, the Honorable Anthony J. Caserta.

Mr. Commander, you may proceed in any way you see fit.