

EVA VANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eva Vang for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Eva Vang is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eva Vang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eva Vang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN WASEM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Wasem, a veteran and distinguished physician in my district who passed away last month.

John Richard Wasem graduated from Decatur High School in 1941 and then went on to serve in the United States Army in Germany during World War II. Upon his return, John earned his degree from the National College of Chiropractic in 1952 and worked as a chiropractor in the Decatur area for decades.

Ask anyone in the Decatur community, and they would say that Dr. Wasem is most remembered for his years of attending the Decatur Annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon. For 65 years, Dr. Wasem was a familiar face at the event, which honors those who enrich the community and who have given generously of themselves to make Decatur a better place to live. He was a living example of what makes Decatur special.

The annual luncheon is an opportunity to give thanks for blessings. Dr. Wasem was certainly one of those blessings. Without his attendance, I am positive that this year's event won't be the same. I am grateful for his many years of dedication he has shown the community.

He was an inspiration to those that knew him. His legacy at the Decatur Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be remembered by many. I know he will be deeply missed. My prayers are with his wife, Alice, their children and many grandchildren during this difficult time.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 168
DEDICATION

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their Post in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Justin L. Vasquez for his service to our country in the United States Army.

Justin Vasquez was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado and grew up in Manzanola, Colorado until he joined the Army in August 1997. Mr. Vasquez was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was Killed In Action in Baghdad on June 5, 2005, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. SSG Vasquez was deployed twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His friends say he will be remembered for the morale he brought to his unit, for his love for his family, and dedication to his work. Ultimately, he paid the highest price in service to our Nation.

I believe that America's brave men and women in uniform are the nation's greatest assets. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost thanks and honor for their service and sacrifice.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the Vasquez family and my gratitude to all the Veterans of Post 168 for their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their post in memory of SSG Justin L. Vasquez.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Fallen American hero Marc Lee Allen who was KIA August 2, 2006. He inspired his Brother In Arms Chris Kyle to write his book, American Sniper. Last week on March 20th would have been Marc's 40th birthday. The graveyards are filled with magnificent selfless heroes like Marc. The ones who have given That Last Full Measure for all of us over the years. He was the first Navy SEAL to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Brothers In Arms knew him as a strong patriot, a fierce competitor, a loving husband, and a faithful Christian. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM
By Albert Carey Caswell

The First
The First In Freedom
The First in light
In every war,
in every battle,
in every fight,
there are always those who must be the first
to die

Which brings such heartache and tears of
sorrow to loved ones' eyes
Whose brave hearts must burn bright
Who we all need this night
So all at speed, so all in sight
Those brave hearts who fight the fight
Who bring their light
Who evil must fight
Who leave all they love to over evil rise
above
And lie down their most precious lives.
As up in Heaven the Angels cry
And don't ask why?
All in their most patriotic hearts comprised
And for all their Brothers In Arms ready to
die
As did you Marc all in your most magnifi-
cent heart comprised

As realized
Was such a heart of gold
To all our children must be told
To carry with us as we grow old
And for you Marc,
Heaven a place so holds
When, in that moment of truth be told
As it was you Marc who gave us the proof
with your lessons of gold
All in what is in a hero's heart to know
And so, made up of so
As into the line of fire you'd go
All in that Selfless Book of America's Who's
Who to know
Who but for the greater good gave all they
could
That last full measure,
for surely there can be no greater treasure
As you became the first Navy SEAL in this
war to lose your life,
And oh how Marc your loved ones and Broth-
ers will miss you so,
But, they will hear you on the wind
And when they awake they will feel your
presence next to them,
as overnight watching over you they have
been.

And when there comes a gentle rain,
you will feel our Lord's tear wash down upon
you to ease your pain
Until, one day up in Heaven together you
will all again
And you won't have to cry no more
The first to fight
The first to die
With tears in eyes we now ask why?
As like you Marc its upon our faith we must
rely
Sadly, because Freedom is not Free
But, only bought and paid for by you and all
of these
Who are the first to die
Could we?
Would we?
In the moment of truth would we up to new
heights so rise?
SEALED with a kiss
And now we lay your sacred body down to
rest
We pray for you and your family our Lord to
bless.
At Ease my son,
for you are one of America's Best
Who are The First In Freedom,
who all of us bless.
Amen.

IVY VICORY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ivy Vicory for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ivy Vicory is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ivy Vicory is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ivy Vicory for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LEE SCHULZ

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lee Schulz, Chief Executive Officer of IndependenceFirst in Milwaukee. Lee Schulz is retiring from IndependenceFirst in April, 2018 after serving in this position for over 32 years. He has led the organization with dedication, passion, enthusiasm and motivation.

When Lee Schulz assumed this position in 1986, IndependenceFirst was a small organization of seven people with an annual operating budget of \$260,000. Under his guidance, the agency grew to 106 in-house staff and 1,600 Personal Care Workers with a budget of \$31 million. Lee Schulz has developed several innovative programs while at IndependenceFirst, such as: the statewide Women and Abuse Program; Alternative Financing Program, Home Ownership Program; the Try a Gadget Resource Center; and the Personal Assistance Program. He also led the relocation of IndependenceFirst into its current, owned facility which is a model of accessibility. I have had the opportunity and pleasure to utilize the IndependenceFirst's facility on many occasions; it is a welcoming environment for all.

Mr. Schulz has served several terms on the National Council for Independent Living's (NCIL) Board of Directors, served on the State Independent Living Council (SILC), co-founded Wisconsin's Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC), served on several research and training center advisory committees on disability related issues, and served on several local non-profit board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lee Schulz for his unwavering commitment to uphold IndependenceFirst's mission to effectively facilitate the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Under his leadership, this multi-dimensional agency, IndependenceFirst, has assisted thousands of individuals with disabilities to live with dignity and independence. Next year, IndependenceFirst will celebrate their 40th year anniversary, without Lee Schulz at the helm but we know he has left a legacy of strong leadership there. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lee Schulz.

HONORING PASTOR RONALD G. TONEY, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, community activist and an outstanding Man of God, Pastor Ronald G. Toney, Sr., who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. An anniversary worship service was held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the church located at 1180 Bartlett Street in Macon, Georgia.

Pastor Toney was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the union of Mr. Elijah and Mrs. Mary Toney. He graduated Cum Laude from Morehouse College in 1985 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Religion and a minor in Psychology. Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he furthered his studies at The Interdenominational Theological Center and Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Toney received the most important calling in his life in 1976 as a minister of the gospel. He served as assistant minister at Greater Galilee Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before serving as assistant pastor of Damascus Baptist Church in Milwaukee from 1979 to 1981; associate minister of Antioch Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia from 1981 to 1985; and pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Thomson, Georgia from 1985 to 1993. On April 11, 1993, he answered the call to serve the Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, where he has served for the past twenty-five years. Under Pastor Toney's leadership, the foundation of the church and the size of the congregation have grown tremendously.

Although Pastor Toney's official title is Pastor of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, he quickly realized that a true minister of the gospel must take the ministry to the people. Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Pastor Toney has paid his rent and he has paid it well. Under his leadership, the church has created and grown ministries that have accomplished this very important purpose. These ministries include: Love's Attic, Community Thanksgiving, Community Scholarship, Angel Tree, and the church's Evangelism Ministry. The church also has community partnerships with the Macon Rescue Mission and Ingram/Pye Elementary School. He is founder and President of Ministry Addressing Neighbor Needs Abundantly, Inc. (MANNA), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of people that live in the Barlett Crossing/Cherokee Heights Community—one of Macon's most economically disadvantaged communities. He is an active member of many other religious-affiliated and other community-based organizations where he continuously pours his time and energy into his community, including: Haitian Empowerment of Life Project (HELP); Co-Founder and President of Gifts of Grace Foundation; Second Vice Moderator for Union Baptist Missionary and Educational Association of Middle Georgia; Foreign Mission Director for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia;

First Vice President of the Sixth District for General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia; and an Instructor for the Congress of Christian Education. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Crisis Line Safe House, the Family Counseling Center, and Living Waters Recovery Home for Women.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Pastor Toney has gone far in life because his everlasting faith in the Lord is vivid testimony of His greatness to all whom he encounters. His love and commitment to Christ is reflected in his compassionate leadership, which makes him a guiding light within the community. He is an humble man who always puts himself in the shoes of others. It has been said that, "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with two hands, but climbs the ladder of this life with one hand and reaches back with the other." Pastor Toney has always climbed the ladder of life with an eye towards helping others to reach their full potential, both spiritually and socially.

Pastor Toney has achieved much in his life but none of it would be possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Patricia, their children, Jason, LaTai, Ronald, Jr., and Erika; their nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the congregation of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest congratulations to the Pastor Ronald Gene Toney, Sr. A man of great accomplishment, he is an outstanding mentor and strong leader, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God who climbs "Jacob's Ladder" on a daily basis to make this world a better place to live for all of God's children.

RECOGNIZING THE GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL LADY COUGARS FOR WINNING THE TAPPS CLASS 5A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Grace Community School Lady Cougars on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A Basketball Championship.

The team finished this season with a most impressive 27–6 record, managing an undefeated 6–0 standing in their district. There was no doubt the Lady Cougars would be a powerful force in Texas and a basketball team with which to be reckoned.

The path to the championship found the Grace Community team defeating the number one ranked team 42–41 in the semi-final game.

Then, the Lady Cougars faced off with the team from Corpus Christi Incarnate Word to