

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2016, I was incorrectly recorded as voting "Nay" on H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016. I wish to reflect my intentions on roll call No. 591, as a "Yea" vote.

## HONORING JOHN D. PRIDNIA

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John D. Pridnia, loving husband, proud father and grandfather, and pillar of our community.

In search of a better life for his family, John moved to Northeast Michigan becoming a small business owner. Over the next 10 years, he became a successful businessman, passionate about building, developing, and creating new ideas, businesses, and adventures.

After raising his three children, he looked to a life of public service. He served two terms as a State Representative and two terms as a State Senator where he served as the Chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee. Passionate about promoting business, encouraging tourism, and promoting conservation, John was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Upon retiring from the legislature, John married his wife of 19 years Lisa Dailey. Living in the small community of Port Austin, their family grew to include five beautiful grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In the close-knit community of Port Austin, John was passionate about beautifying and developing the harbor and waterfront, creating spaces the entire community could come together and enjoy, such as a thriving local farmer's market.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that the tradition of giving back to our communities is something that makes our nation unique, one that makes this country the greatest in the world and this was a spirit that John embodied throughout his entire career and life. More importantly, he has served as an example for future generations, instilling in them the importance of giving back to the communities and country who have given us all so much.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring John for his lifelong contributions to the 10th District of the great State of Michigan, our children, and the future of this country.

## IN HONOR OF SENATOR ANDREW MAYNARD UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank an outstanding public servant for his

many years of service to my home state of Connecticut. For ten years, Mr. Andrew Maynard has served as State Senator for the state's 18th Senate district, which includes Griswold, Groton, Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, North Stonington, Sterling and Voluntown. His retirement at the end of his term will conclude a distinguished career of public service that began at the local level many years ago as a borough warden in the Town of Stonington. Andy has been a powerful voice for southeastern Connecticut, earning the respect of both Democratic and Republican colleagues and serving as the Deputy Majority Leader for the Senate Democrats since 2011.

Andy currently serves as chair of the Transportation Committee, and a member of the Internship and Program Review & Investigation Committees. He also served as chair of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and a member of the Environment Committee. Andy's unwavering advocacy for our region's natural resources and tourist attractions brought to life the long-delayed Thames River Heritage Park and secured millions of dollars for expansion at the Mystic Seaport, our nation's leading maritime museum. Andy understood the integral role of tourism, not only within the state, but within our region. It was this understanding that guided his leadership as he fought to secure the crucial funding need to dredge the Mystic River and spearhead the Connecticut Treasures program.

Our region will miss Andy's advocacy on the floor of the State Senate, but I am sure he will remain a strong and respected voice in his community. A true gentleman, Andy brought a thoughtful, civilized tone in his campaigns for office and his bipartisan camaraderie which characterized his style in office. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Andy for his tenure as an accomplished public servant, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

## ALL IS BRIGHT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Armed Forces and Their Families on this Christmas and Holiday Season, with a poetic tribute by Albert Carey Caswell. Let us remember their selfless sacrifice, and give a prayer of thanks for those who are separated by death and distance this Christmas.

Silent Night

Holy Night

As a magnificent hero lays down their life all is Bright

As our Lord smiles at their light all is Calm  
All is Bright

Way up in heaven where your soul took flight!  
Round Yon Virgin Mother and Child

While, all in her tears your Mother so remembers your smile  
Holy Infant so tender and mild

As once all in your Mother's arms the while  
Now sleep in heavenly peace my child

As your war is over my Daughter, my Son

Silent Night

Holy Night

As your family and your loved ones so miss you this night  
Silent Night

But, your new battle has just begun

As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my Daughter my Son  
All is Calm

All is Bright

And we will hear you on the wind

And we will sleep in Heavenly Peace

As we awake knowing you are watching over us as where you've been  
Until, we meet you once again in heaven where all is bright

And your Brothers and Sisters in Arms will live a good life

For you their best friend by remembering your light  
Silent Night

Holy Night

All is Calm

All is Bright

All because of The Men and Women of The Armed Forces, and Their Families who fight the fight

All is Bright

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Amen

## PROTECTING VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL CHOICE ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement in support of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016. I will be unable to submit my recorded vote but I fully support this legislation that ensures that veterans will not be unwittingly exploited by deceptive recruiters.

H.R. 5047 is a bipartisan bill that reinforces our commitment to the success of our service members, on and off the battlefield. The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to supply all information regarding articulation agreements to service members who wish to use their VA education benefits. The bill will inform service members, in advance, if and how they can transfer credits and avoid unwittingly misusing their VA education benefits.

In 2010, Congress passed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act which expanded educational benefits to include more service members and allows them to use their benefits to receive not only traditional degrees but also apprenticeships, vocational training certifications, and on-the-job training. This expansion was vital in providing access to a variety of educational platforms but some for-profit institutions focused on recruiting and scamming service members out of their benefits. H.R. 5047 provides education career counseling to make sure service members are informed of their options.

## RECOGNIZING ROB AUSTRIAN AND MONICA MOSIMANN

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rob Austrian and Monica Mosimann for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the Fall of 2016.

The work of this young man and woman has been exemplary, and I know they will