

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 magnificent 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 Brothers 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.