

their dedication to providing the next generation with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century.

The 2014 Manufacturing Expo is poised to be the most successful to date, and I am so proud that these partnerships are happening in and around the Tenth District.

WILLIAM GRASER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Graser for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. William Graser is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Graser 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 William Graser for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. PEARL RILEY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Pearl Riley and I join her family members and friends on April 6, 2014, in commemorating this special centenarian birthday.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1914, and raised in Alsuma, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. Pearl and her husband, the late Alonzo Riley, Sr. were married for 50 years and raised eight children. She is the grandmother of twenty two; great grandmother of thirty nine; and great, great grandmother of fourteen. One of Pearl's great loves in life, in addition to her family and gardening, was the church. Throughout her life, she was a regular teacher of both children and adults in Sunday school, drama, arts and crafts, and choir. She also served as her church's President of the District Missionary Society and was a member of the Deaconess and Mother's Board. Outside the church, Pearl was an active member of her community working as a volunteer for voter registration and serving as a community representative.

Pearl Riley has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, the following speech has been delivered to audiences at various veteran service organizations and veteran events in Kansas by a brave young lady named Kristin Stowers who lives in the Big 1st District of Kansas that I represent. After hearing twelve year old Kristin Stowers deliver her remarks on her family's experience with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I wanted to share it with my colleagues in Congress. We could all learn a tremendous amount about sacrifice, commitment, and perseverance from this young lady's remarks.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

(By Kristin Stowers of Hutchinson, Kansas)

It is hard to realize that these amazing people that gave up their lives to save and protect our nation and its people are gone. . . . It makes you see that life is not just a fairy tale ending that we were taught as children, we were taught that it was going to be okay in the end. We now realize you can't win every battle you enter. Some don't make it home to their families, but you have to say to yourself. We were put to the test to complete life a way that we see fit and once you have completed your mission, you wait patiently in your favorite place that you have always found comfortable. Where you wait to see your family that has not yet completed their missions. I know it is hard to coop with what you are going through I had to deal with it, but in a different way.

My mother had a brain tumor and had to have surgery on my first day of kindergarten and had a stroke later on. Our house caught on fire in my fourth grade year and we had to live in a hotel for three months. My father was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and we as a family have to deal with the others sufferings each day. In the last few months we have discovered many other things have gone wrong in our relationship with each other causing more pain than intended. We have not gotten the chance to talk to each other about our problems at home and since the VA does not implement family counseling in their facilities, but they do have spouse counseling. Having said that, I would like to say that the injuries affect the whole family not just the spouse.

PTSD is like a black hole, you get sucked in without even knowing what is happening around you. Your hoping that tomorrow will be better than today, but still hoping that when you come from school or work that the stress has not overcome them and they are laying in their chair. . . . Silent. . . . Dead. With the help of the VA it is still progressing, but still worse than before. It makes me think that he is floating away in a bubble, but God will not leave him without a fight. To this day he is in a battle with PTSD and the prize of the battle is him and us. . . . His family and friends. We are hoping that he wins, but you never know what the outcome will be. That is why we are all here. Every person in the world with PTSD is in a battle. Some lost and some still lead victorious and I trust him to be victorious.

All I ever wanted is for the pain to end and many of you may be thinking the same thing, and I know this is over used but it will

heal with time. I will promise you that it will get better even if it doesn't look like it. Just think they want you to carry on with your life even if it is looking grim at the moment. It takes guts to take that chance that you will never see your smiling family that on the inside is torn from your choices, but know that they are the right ones.

It makes me realize that I will not have a perfect life and no one ever will with our missions, and the people that finish theirs when you're not ready to let go of the memories that you had together. The memories that will and have impacted your world and will leave a crater that you have to live with and have to move on even if you can't. The thoughts and the people will ever be imprinted in our minds and will never leave because the pain will always be demanding. People always think that war is just a thing that can be stopped on the spot, but they don't know the aftershock of the explosion that is a death or an injury that is fatal.

The people that saved us from ourselves and different countries that are or was threatening us. They saved us and our nation from danger and the problems of life. Heroes and Inspirations are these people that risked their own life to save the people that are going to change a million lives or just a few. Humans like this are my inspiration and I hope to be just like them; they changed a thousand people; a thousand points of views on life; and a twelve year old girl that is striving to be an inspiration just like them later on in life.

Many young people have their favorite bands and/or actors as their people to look up too, and sure I have my own but I have many leaders in my life some I can't name but they changed my life no matter what they did to protect me, my family, and my neighbors. They will be remembered as the ones that grew up as the kids that were big hearted and the ones that were strong and brave. The reason we are here is these people wanted to save us and that is what they did and they bought us time.

Time to spend thinking of ways to buy us more time. These warriors spent their lives saving their family and friends and their generations and so on. These are the people that are my heroes and my saviors at the time of need and always will be.

STEPHANIE McDANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie McDaniel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie McDaniel is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie McDaniel 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.