

RETIREMENT OF STEVEN NIAMONITAKIS

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Steven Niamonitakis for his outstanding career in the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

As a graduate of John Jay Criminal College, Steven always knew that he wanted to serve in law enforcement. Entering the Service in June 1988, he started his career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Eastern District of New York. He would go on to serve his entire career in the Eastern District. During his 30-year career, Steven has seen and done it all. From transporting and processing prisoners to arresting fugitives and handling international extraditions, he became one of the most experienced Marshals in the USMS.

Some of Steven's career highlights include his service on the John Gotti trial and the court hearings for Juan "El Chapo" Guzman. Furthermore, he was a valued investigator in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, and his assistance has been vital to combatting the scourge of drugs that have infected countless lives. Additionally, Steven has been crucial in battling copyright violations of movies by securing numerous assets involved in these crimes. As his long career comes to an end, I am certain that Steven will enjoy spending his retirement with the people he loves most: his wife, Alane, and his two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Steven Niamonitakis on his tremendous career in law enforcement. Due to people like him, our nation is safe, strong, and secure. I am grateful for his service and wish him a very enjoyable retirement.

RECOGNIZING PROCTER & GAMBLE AND MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Procter & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries for their efforts to help the flood victims in southern and southwest Ohio.

Much of my district in the Ohio River Valley faced widespread damage from flood waters. Following heavy winter rains, the Ohio River surged to its highest level in over two decades. The river that serves as the namesake and lifeblood of my state endangered many of the communities along the river bank.

I'm grateful to all those who answered the call to serve: our law enforcement officers, first responders, and state and local government officials, who led the efforts to contain damage and begin the relief efforts.

In southern Ohio, we have been blessed to have volunteer organizations and private citizens who have come to the aid of flood victims, and who know how to be most helpful. In this, Procter & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries are outstanding examples of private partners uniting their resources to provide immediate relief in their communities.

From personal care to cleaning supplies and laundry services, Procter & Gamble's donated products were an invaluable help to those displaced by, or battling, flooding. Matthew 25: Ministries has been a local leader, offering critical support to victims and disaster relief volunteers.

Matthew 25: Ministries and Procter & Gamble were among the only entities to respond to the disaster in their communities. Dan, a flood victim just across the river in Kentucky, said that when he received a Procter & Gamble bag with a handwritten note inside, he "realized that someone cared about me when I had nothing."

Procter & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries didn't have to be there, but they were. They are an example of the strong and generous spirit of the people of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, these two organizations have demonstrated that they are truly good neighbors and good citizens. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I'd like to thank P&G and Matthew 25: Ministries for coming to the aid of flood victims in southern and southwest Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TYLER COUNTY DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

HON. BRIAN BABIN
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Tyler County Dogwood Festival.

Since 1940, Tyler Countians have paid tribute to the glories of spring and the lovely dogwood tree by creating each year a growing and more beautiful Dogwood Festival. In 1938, Judge James E. Wheat, founding father of the Dogwood Festival, called a meeting of the state's leading officials near the Polk and Tyler County line in hopes of enlisting help in promoting the completion of U.S. Highway 190. The men and women that attended the meeting were so impressed with the beauty of East Texas that Judge Wheat came upon the idea of creating an annual event that would focus attention on the area and bring people to see it. The first festival was held on April 6, 1940 with nearly 300 people in attendance.

The second festival, held in 1941, was first to introduce a pageant with a historical theme. Each pageant is still given a theme to this day. There were no festivals during the years of World War II, 1942 through 1945. The third festival was held in 1946 and they have continued to be held on the first Saturday in April.

Over the decades, the Dogwood Festival has grown and expanded bringing several thousand visitors from across Texas and out of state to help East Texans celebrate springtime. Due to the increasing number of horseback riders who were coming to the county seat of Woodville, TX to join in the Dogwood parade, it was decided they would have a weekend of their own. The first Tyler County Dogwood Festival Western Weekend was held on March 23, 1968. Thousands of trail riders travel to Woodville on horseback and wagon to participate in Western Weekend and strive to preserve the heritage of the East Texas cowboy. Eventually, Western Weekend expanded to include a rodeo and western dance.

The Dogwood Festival has been a proud tradition for Tyler County for over half a century. The focus has always been on preserving the history and heritage of Tyler County while paying tribute to the natural beauty East Texas has to offer. I am proud to call this county my home and am excited to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Tyler County Dogwood Festival with its 2018 festival, "Diamonds and Dogwoods—75 Years of Memories".

ALLYSA BUCKNER

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 Allysa Buckner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Allysa Buckner is a student at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Allysa Buckner 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 Allysa Buckner 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.

NOMINEES FOR THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, Colorado and the Mancos Public Library in Mancos, Colorado. Both libraries were nominated among 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. In addition to being a finalist, Pueblo City-County Library District was awarded one of the 10 medals that are presented annually.

The medal is the highest national honor for museums and libraries. They are recognized for their outstanding contributions in the areas of education, civic life engagement, advanced workforce development, and enrichment of cultural and lifelong learning opportunities.

Due to the strong leadership of Jon Walker, the Executive Director of the Pueblo City-County Library District and Lee Halberg, the Executive Director of the Mancos Public Library, both libraries make a variety of valuable resources and programs available to the communities they serve, which has helped to enrich the lives of many living in their respective communities.

Libraries and museums have historically served as vital resources within our nation's