

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

communities by bolstering the economy, aiding our schools, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations. I am proud to see the libraries in Pueblo and Mancos celebrated on a national platform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Colorado's Third Congressional District it is my privilege to honor the Pueblo City-County Library District and the Mancos Public Library for their work as leading library institutions in our state. I have visited the libraries many times and the staff there are true professionals who deserve this recognition. We are thankful for their continued efforts to improve the lives of those living in the Third Congressional District and I stand with all Colorado in thanking them for their work.

HONORING MAYOR SERAFINO
NOLLETTI OF LOGAN, WEST VIR-
GINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Serafino Nolletti and to celebrate his ten years of public service to the city of Logan, West Virginia. I am proud to present him with the key to the city of Logan to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the city and residents of Logan, West Virginia. For the last decade, Mayor Nolletti has dedicated his career to improving his community and showcasing all the city has to offer through events such as the annual Freedom Festival. He has also improved the lives of the people of Logan through his support of vital infrastructure and economic development projects that have helped transform Logan's economy. Because of his work, the people of Logan have a town and a mayor they can be proud of and count on to be on their side.

I congratulate Mayor Nolletti for receiving this prestigious award and for his continued service to the people of Logan and West Virginia. He is a great Mountaineer that represents the best of West Virginia.

CLARIFYING A SPEECH FROM
MARCH 17, 2016

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2016, during the 114th Congress, I intended to say:

"Mr. Speaker, today there are a lot of legal arguments and talk. I want to make sure the American people listening at home and watching at home know exactly what we are talking about here today.

"I want to talk about somebody whose life is on pause, waiting for the DAPA program to clear the courts. The brief that the Republicans are seeking to file is the exact opposite. It is saying that DAPA cannot occur. And this gentleman and his family, several of whom are Colorado constituents of mine—just to put a human face on it—show what DAPA means for so many families across our country.

"Mr. Edin Ramos of Colorado—he is pictured there next to his three lovely kids and his wife—is a native of Honduras. He has been in the United States for over 13 years. His kids are American citizens, were born here, don't know any other country. He fled his home country to avoid persecution and extortion at the hands of local, corrupt officials and gangs.

"He is married to a U.S. citizen. They have three young children together. He is a very successful business owner in Colorado. He and his wife employ 12 people. They make investments in their local community. Many rely on them for jobs, for the services they provide. Yet, the lack of any peace of mind prevents families like Edin Ramos' from reaching their full potential.

"Every day his kids come home from school, and his wife worries over something as minor as a taillight being out or a speeding ticket, that Mr. Ramos could find himself in detention for an indefinite period of time, removed from his family, or even deported to another country which he doesn't have any ties to.

"I would also like to talk about the case of Ms. Mercedes Garcia. Mercedes is a long-time resident of my hometown, Boulder, Colorado. Her life has been greatly affected by the arbitrariness of an immigration system that is immoral and has lacked meaningful priorities.

"She has been in the United States for close to 20 years. She is the mother of three American children, U.S. citizen children. But you know what happened? Her husband was removed from the United States in 2011 over a traffic citation, forcing her to be the sole provider for her three children.

"Now, Mercedes is undocumented herself, and she fears contact by immigration authorities on a daily basis. DAPA was a ray of hope for her. What DAPA would do is provide Mercedes with a meaningful level of certainty, the ability to legally seek employment, the ability to provide her family with expanded opportunities here in the U.S., and would help make her American citizen children as successful as they are able to be.

"Her children are just as American as you or me, Mr. Speaker, as is anyone born in the United States. Don't they deserve to have their mother help them succeed with all the great promises that this country offers? Why can't we give that certainty to their mother?

"DAPA is a legal, commonsense, lawful exercise of discretion. It is consistent with the actions of Presidents, both Democratic and Republican, for decades. It directs, very simply, with the limited amount of enforcement resources we have in the Department of Homeland Security, that we want to focus on removing undocumented immigrants who pose a threat to public safety or national security—not Mr. Ramos, not Ms. Garcia. We want to remove those who represent a danger or a threat to our country.

"To somehow misfocus those limited resources on tearing apart families instead of going after criminals would put the American people at risk. The President has acted to make the American people safer by ensuring that our limited law enforcement resources are focused where they will have the biggest impact.

"These policies are very simple. They create a process for low-priority enforcement immigrants who come forward, submit to a back-

ground check, register, be able to get a provisional work permit, and work legally. It enhances our public safety and national security.

"Yet we hear people from the other side saying: Well, this is something Congress should have done. I agree. This is something Congress should have done. You know what? It is not my fault Congress didn't do it.

"I have talked about immigration every week and every month here on floor of the House. I cosponsored a comprehensive bill. I signed a discharge petition last Congress to try to bring it forward. Yes, I agree.

"You know what? Congress didn't do it, Mr. Speaker. And that is on the Republican majority that Congress failed to act.

"So the President moved forward with the legal authority he has and that Republican and Democratic Presidents in the past have used to say that Ms. Garcia is not the same risk to this country as a dangerous criminal.

"It is common sense, and it is about time that we move forward with and DACA.

"I reserve the balance of my time."

BELEN TZINTZUN CHAVEZ

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 Belen Tzintzun Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Belen Tzintzun Chavez is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Belen Tzintzun Chavez 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 Belen Tzintzun Chavez 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.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RED BLAZER
MEN'S CHORUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the historic Red Blazer Men's Chorus, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary during the 2018 Red Blazer Varieties. Over the past seven decades, the nearly 400 members of this group have touched the lives of many in our community and beyond with their talents.

In 1948, the Red Blazer Men's Chorus, formerly known as the Amherst Glee Club, was founded as part of the Amherst Adult School community education program in conjunction