

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BUILDING IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the new United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) building that is being dedicated on March 30, 2016 in Florida's Fourth Congressional District. Thanks to several years of dedication and focus on the common goal of maritime safety and border protection, both offices can now operate in one building. This achievement means a safer and more secure First Coast, through an efficient and effective USCG/CBP operation.

The road to this achievement has been a long one. USCG and CBP personnel are tasked with keeping our waterways safe and our borders secure. However, since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2003, these agencies were never provided adequate office space and were forced to consolidate.

Later in 2007, CBP/USCG Senior Guidance recommended the construction of a new joint CBP/USCG facility in Jacksonville. The idea of a one-stop shop for maritime security would streamline and improve joint field operations while also reducing facility costs.

Acquiring this building was no easy task because local CBP and USCG had to clear the hurdle of a heavy bureaucratic process. As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, I kept a close eye on the process on Capitol Hill. Thanks to the continued leadership of the local CBP/USCG offices, the goal of this facility was never abandoned.

Now, with personnel, assets, and more importantly, strategic capabilities all headquartered in one building, the facility will serve as the cornerstone of maritime security for years to come. The center is immensely important to a community like Jacksonville, and I am honored to have played a role in acquiring it.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF PARKER JAY MILLER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joel Miller and his wife, Megan Bel Miller, on the birth of their son, Parker Jay Miller.

Parker was born on Friday, March 11, 2016, at 7:04 p.m. Joel and Megan welcomed Parker, their pride and joy, into this world weighing in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces and 20 inches in height.

With Joel, my Legislative Counsel as his father, and Megan, also a former Capitol Hill staffer, as his mother, I trust Parker will have a bright and successful future ahead of him.

Joel has been an integral part of the legislative operation in my office with his understanding of complex policies yet humble and sincere character. I am thrilled to witness him in his new and most important role yet, a father. I have no doubt that Joel and Megan will be wonderful and inspiring parents, who are devoted to their son's well-being.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Miller and Bel families.

HONORING AZIZ MEMON

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Staten Island resident Aziz Memon's endless commitment to rid the world of polio.

Born in modern-day Mumbai, India to Pakistani parents, Aziz has always been a very self-motivated and socially-aware individual. This former Staten Islander is the very definition of altruism. From his first job teaching senior citizens at the age of thirteen, he has risen to become the Chairman of the Kings Group, a conglomerate of six companies in industries ranging from textiles to property development. In 1995, Aziz joined Rotary International, a global network of volunteer business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian services and works towards a better and more peaceful world. He served as President of the Rotary Club of Karachi in Pakistan from 2003 to 2004, as well as Governor of Rotary International District 3270, Pakistan and Afghanistan from 2007 to 2008.

Aziz has dedicated much of his time to eradicating polio in Pakistan, a country where the virus has been declared a national emergency and a global public health emergency by the Pakistani government and the World Health Organization, respectively. In the face of threats from the Taliban, which has banned polio vaccination and murdered those who have dared to defy them, Aziz has courageously continued his work to improve the lives of those less fortunate. He is currently the national chairman of Rotary International's Pakistan Polio Plus Committee. He has facilitated the opening of several health centers and has provided financial support to families of fieldworkers killed by the Taliban. He has received several awards in recognition of selfless dedication, including the Pride of Performance from the President of Pakistan and the Regional Service Award from Rotary International.

Mr. Speaker, Aziz Memon's dedication to serving humanity and improving the global community is the essence of a model humanitarian. I thank him for all of his great work and I am proud to honor this great man who has consistently put others before himself.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RICHARD J. DONOVAN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed public service career of

Mayor Richard J. Donovan. Mayor Donovan has faithfully served his community for forty-four years and is a pillar in the Village of Minoa community.

Mayor Donovan attended Potsdam High School and graduated from Central City Business Institute, where he met his wife, Phyllis. Mayor Donovan and Phyllis moved to Minoa in 1971 and raised two children together.

Mayor Donovan began his public service career in 1972 as a volunteer with the Minoa Fire Department and as an EMT. In 1990 Mayor Donovan won his first term as Trustee on the Minoa Village Board, continuing to serve as Trustee for 14 years. Mayor Donovan served for 8 years as Deputy Mayor of Minoa before being elected Mayor in 2004.

Mayor Donovan has dedicated his career to public service serving on many local committees and organization boards. Mayor Donovan is the immediate past president of the New York Conference of Mayors and also serves as a member of its Task Force Mandate Relief Committee. Mayor Donovan also served as the past president of the Onondaga County Mayors Association. Mayor Donovan serves on multiple local committees and previously served on many local, county, and state-wide committees, including 20 years of service with ESM Youth Sports and 13 years on the Town of Manlius Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Donovan was instrumental in the construction of the St. Mary's Baseball Field where he initiated and chaired the construction of the field.

Without question, Mayor Donovan has been an influential member of the Village of Minoa and Town of Manlius community and I know the community is deeply grateful for his lifetime of service. I congratulate Mayor Donovan on his long and distinguished career, and wish him a happy retirement with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF S/SGT GERALD V. ALDRICH II

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the accident which tragically claimed the lives of former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and thirty-four others two decades ago. Among the casualties that night was S/SGT Gerald V. Aldrich II of the United States Air Force. S/SGT Aldrich perished while in service to his country, and though we may never fully comprehend the grief felt by his mother, Hazel Aldrich Wattles, his wife, Petra, his two sons, Timothy and Joshua, and his sister, Sherry Roley, they may rest assured that they have my heartfelt condolences on their loss and the appreciation of a grateful nation.

S/SGT Aldrich, who grew up in Louisville, Illinois, graduated from North Clay High School with high honors, and turned down more lucrative job offers for a career in the Air Force, died on Good Friday, April 3, 1996. So it only seems appropriate to look to the Bible for strength. Psalm 46:1 tells us that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble."

Let S/SGT Aldrich's loved ones know they are in my thoughts, and I pray that his sacrifice shall never be forgotten.