

A TRIBUTE TO DOUG ARMSTRONG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Doug Armstrong for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

As a Senior Fire Medic for the Des Moines Fire Department, Doug Armstrong is dedicated to the welfare of his community on a daily basis. In April of last year, while enjoying an off-duty dinner, Mr. Armstrong noticed an elderly man choking on a piece of meat. Upon seeing the man in distress, Doug wasted no time successfully performing the Heimlich maneuver to avert the life-threatening situation. Even while off-duty, his quick thinking and professional response left an entire community grateful for his actions. Whether on or off the job, Doug is an example that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Armstrong's actions that earned him the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Doug on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL ALFORD

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Michael Alford, who has recently been recognized as this year's TIME Automobile Dealer of the Year.

The TIME Dealer of the Year award is presented to an individual who displays both professional excellence and dedication to serving the community. Mr. Alford has exemplified both of these characteristics as the president of Marine Chevrolet Cadillac in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where he resides with his wife Alicia and their three children.

Before becoming involved with the automobile industry, Mr. Alford enjoyed a successful career in banking. After purchasing Marine Chevrolet Cadillac from his father-in-law in 1997, he successfully applied many of the skills he had acquired in banking to his new

position. Under Mr. Alford's leadership, sales at Marine Chevrolet Cadillac have nearly doubled.

Mr. Alford's expertise positively impacted not only his car dealership, but also his community. The presence of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Onslow County causes the population to fluctuate often, and Mr. Alford has worked regularly with government officials since 2007 to alleviate the negative consequences of these changes. He also served North Carolina as a member of the Board of Transportation.

Mr. Alford has been a blessing to the residents of Eastern North Carolina in many capacities. His success at Marine Chevrolet Cadillac has allowed him to become a leader in Onslow County, a position in which he has excelled. I am grateful for Mr. Alford's service and pleased to have him recognized by the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER HONOREES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicholas Turturro, Jack Garcia, Tyree Bacon, Christine Levinson, the Honorable BILL PASCRELL, Jr., the Honorable Lenin Voltaire Moreno Garcés, Jose Zhanay and Norma Delgado as they are honored by the National Police Defense Foundation. Each of these distinguished honorees has made significant contributions to the law enforcement community.

Man of the Year honoree Nicholas Turturro has portrayed police officers in a positive light as an actor. He worked on "NYPD Blue" as Detective James Martinez for seven seasons and currently plays Sergeant Anthony Renzulli on "Blue Bloods." He earned two Emmy nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his role on "NYPD Blue." In addition to his law enforcement roles on these television dramas, Mr. Turturro has made appearances in several movies and other television shows.

Lifetime Achievement Award recipient SSA Jack Garcia (Ret) served with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for 26 years. He served as an undercover FBI Agent for 24 years, working on over 100 operations against domestic and foreign organized crime groups, corrupt politicians, corrupt police officers and drug dealers. SSA Garcia also helped with National Security Investigations and national and international terrorism cases. He serves as a member of various organizations, including the FBI Agents Association, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI and the NYPD Honor Legion among many others. Today, SSA Garcia utilizes his vast expertise as a lecturer as well as Managing Director of security firm Pathfinder Consultants International, Inc.

Valor Award honoree Lt. Tyree Bacon is a New York State Court Officer. During the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Lt. Bacon rescued a woman from Tower Two as it collapsed and killed 3 of the responders. He has

received numerous commendations for his heroic actions, including the Medal of Excellent Service and Medal of Valor from New York State and the Senior Court Officers Association. In addition to his service as a court officer, Lt. Bacon is an Ocean Beach Police Department officer and Lieutenant of Islip Volunteer Fire Department Ladder Company One. Lt. Bacon also dedicated 20 years of service to the United States Air Force Reserve, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant.

Profiles in Courage Award recipient Christine Levinson is the wife of Robert Levinson, retired FBI Supervisory Special agent who was kidnapped in Iran while there on private investigation business. Since his disappearance on March 9, 2007, Mrs. Levinson has dedicated her time to finding her husband. She has met with several officials, including President Obama, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and FBI Director Robert Mueller to impress upon them the importance of the case. She also travelled to Iran with one of her sons and met with Iranian officials in an effort to locate SSA Levinson. Mrs. Levinson continues to search tirelessly for her husband.

Legislator of the Year recipient Congressman BILL PASCRELL, JR. is currently serving his ninth term as the Representative for New Jersey's 9th Congressional District. Mr. PASCRELL is a supporter of firefighters and veterans, authoring the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (F.I.R.E.) Act and fighting for Purple Heart eligibility for victims of traumatic brain injury. He is also an advocate for police officers, creating the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and has fought to continue the program. Mr. PASCRELL served honorably in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve.

Humanitarian Award honoree Lenin Voltaire Moreno Garcés has served as the Vice President of Ecuador since 2007. As a paraplegic, Vice President Moreno advocates for those with disabilities. His work on behalf of the disabled community has earned him several recognitions, including a nomination for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

One of two Member of the Year honorees, Jose Zhanay is the National Police Defense Foundation's (NPDF) Delegate to Ecuador. He immigrated to the United States from Ecuador when he was 16 years old and worked his way up to opening his own jewelry company at the age of 21. A member of the NPDF since its founding, Mr. Zhanay has worked to help Ecuadorian children and U.S. police officers in need of medical assistance. He also dedicates his time to various other organizations and has received numerous commendations for his work.

Another Member of the Year honoree, C.O. Norma Delgado (Ret.) served as a Corrections Officer for the New York Department of Corrections for 16 years. A native of Peru, Mrs. Delgado has worked hard in pursuit of the American Dream. She worked various jobs and attended Bronx Community College in pursuit of a nursing degree and became employed at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx. Her venture into law enforcement service began on the advice of NPDF Director Joseph Occhipinti. Mrs. Delgado is the recipient of the National Police Defense Foundation Special Achievement Award and the New York City Department of Corrections Hispanic Society's Roberto Clemente Award. She currently serves as the Administrator of the Operation Kids program of the NPDF.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nicholas Turturro, SSA Jack Garcia (Ret.), Lt. Tyree Bacon, Christine Levinson, the Honorable BILL PASCRELL, the Honorable Lenin Voltaire Moreno Garcés Jr., Jose Zhanay and C.O. Norma Delgado (Ret.) on their recognition by the National Police Defense Foundation and thanking them for their immeasurable contributions to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS HAMILTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Travis Hamilton for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

To be named a Hero of the Heartland, Travis Hamilton of Johnston dedicated himself to helping sick children through charity and a touching tale of personal sacrifice. Travis is the Director of the Guns-N-Hoses Hockey event, an annual hockey game pitting Des Moines-area police against fire department and EMS employees to raise money for local charities. In the two years Mr. Hamilton has

coordinated the event, it has raised \$50,000 for Children's Cancer Connection and Make a Wish Iowa. Travis also coordinated the event Transplant for Trae to raise money for his son, who needed a kidney transplant at only 17 months old. Travis was able to raise over \$20,000, and he ultimately donated his own kidney to Trae. Through his examples of true selflessness, Mr. Hamilton continues to change lives and be a leader that our State can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hamilton's actions that earned him the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Travis on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.