

Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Before joining NCIS, Mr. Elswick held assignments of increasing responsibility with several government agencies including the Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Library of Congress and the Department of Homeland Security. Continuing his career at NCIS, Mr. Elswick held the leadership positions of Deputy Assistant Director for Planning and Evaluation, Assistant Director of the Manpower, Planning and Support Directorate, Chief of Staff, and retiring after serving as the Assistant Director of the NCIS Administration and Logistics Directorate.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of David L. Elswick. Words alone cannot express our gratitude for his service. May God bless him and his family as they transition into retirement.

HONORING ROB GIORDANO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 22, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Sheriff Rob Giordano on the occasion of his retirement. Sheriff Giordano has served with distinction over the course of his twenty-two-year career in law enforcement and was the leader the public needed during one of our region's most destructive wildfires to date.

Born in Concord, California, Rob Giordano was working as a mechanic when he felt a calling to join law enforcement. He began his law enforcement career in 1989, serving as a police officer for the Pittsburg Police Department in Contra Costa County. Seven years later, Officer Giordano moved to Sonoma County to serve as a Deputy for the Sonoma County Sheriff's office. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2003, where he supervised the main office patrol, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, and the Violent Crimes Unit. Sergeant Giordano continued to prove himself as a leader and was promoted to Lieutenant only three years later, where he managed the Investigations Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau, among others. Lieutenant Giordano was promoted again in 2012, this time to Captain of the Field Services Section. In 2014, after eighteen years with the department, Captain Giordano was promoted to Assistant Sheriff.

By August of 2017, Assistant Sheriff Giordano was promoted to Interim Sheriff when the seated sheriff stepped down for health reasons. His status as Sheriff was made official by the Board of Supervisors shortly thereafter, and he was appointed to serve the remainder of the previous Sheriff's term. Sheriff Giordano never sought the role, and in fact, he pledged to not seek election to the position following to the term's conclusion. He wanted to ensure continuity for the department and the public prior to the next election. However, Sheriff Giordano probably didn't expect was that within two months, his leadership signifi-

cantly changed the way the community engages with the Sheriff's Office.

On October 8, 2017, one of the most destructive fires in California history caused in Sonoma County. Upon receiving the news, Sheriff Giordano and his team sprung into action, not only saving lives but actively communicating with a frightened public. To many watching the events unfold from afar, Sheriff Giordano became the face of the community, holding press conferences daily while the fires were still being contained. His actions as a communicator, along with the office's increased use of social media not only helped calm a community in shock but also saved lives by sharing critical information in a timely manner. By the time the fires were contained, many called for Sheriff Giordano to forgo his initial pledge and seek election to continue on as the county's Sheriff. Sheriff Giordano remained committed to his pledge and instead focused on getting the Sheriff's Office ready for the transition to new leadership while continuing to build good will between the department and the public.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Giordano's law enforcement career is a sterling example of leadership that prioritizes service to the public above personal gain. Over the course of his time with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, he has not only improved the performance of the divisions and units he has overseen, but has also greatly improved the way the community engages with law enforcement. Therefore, please join me in honoring Sheriff Giordano on the occasion of his retirement and wishing him success on his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROY DOUGLAS AND SHIRLEY ANN MALONSON OF HOUSTON, TEXAS ENTREPRENEURS, PHILANTHROPISTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS WHOSE LIFETIME OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HAS ENRICHED OUR NATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 22, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Roy Douglas and Shirley Ann Malonson, two great Americans in the City of Houston and Harris County, Texas, whose entrepreneurial talents and zeal over the past three decades has raised the consciousness of Houston's African American community to the life-changing potential of the free enterprise system and created thousands of jobs in the Acres Home Community located in my congressional district and Houston Metroplex.

Acres Homes, once considered the South's largest unincorporated black community, is south of Aldine and ten miles northwest of downtown Houston in Harris County. It developed around the time of World War I, when landholders began selling off home sites in plots big enough to allow small gardens and maintain chickens or farm animals. The town derived its name from the fact that land was sold by the acre and not by the lot. The first settlers came from rural areas, attracted by the community's inexpensive land, low taxes, and the absence of city building standards. Residents dug wells and built sanitary facili-

ties, but conditions in the settlement subsequently declined. When the city of Houston approved a plan to annex the area and install water and sewer lines, Acres Homes was a 12½-square-mile, heavily wooded, and dispersed slum settlement lacking transportation and educational facilities. Although 90 percent of the residents were homeowners, the majority of the housing stock was substandard.

In 1950, Roy Malonson was afflicted with polio that left him with physical limitations, but it had no effect on his vision and drive. His late father, John Curley Malonson, Sr., challenged him by saying, "something is wrong with your leg, but there is nothing wrong with your mind, so work with what you have." At age 7, Roy Malonson was shining shoes in his father's barber shop and by age 13 had opened a woodworking shop. The woodworking company grew to become Roy's Custom Cabinets which later became the Malonson Construction Company which became Malonson Custom Homes and is now the Malonson Company, Inc., one of the largest and best African American custom homebuilders in Houston.

In the early 1990s, Roy Malonson developed new health problems, struck by what has come to be called the "Post-Polio Syndrome." Once again using mind over physical limitation, Roy Malonson overcame and adapted. He retired from his 27-year old building business, reduced his workday, and devoted more time to community service and businesses he could manage. This enabled him to devote and donate more time and financial support to the many educational and community organizations he helped establish, including the Acres Home War on Drugs, the first community war on drugs in the nation.

Roy and Shirley Malonson also founded the Acres Home Citizen Chamber of Commerce, focusing on business, community, and education; the Acres Home Community Development Corp, focusing on housing; the Acres Home Coalition Administrative School, the first charter school in Texas; and in 1994 the Acres Home Center for Business & Economic Development, a non-profit 501(c)(3) which has become recognized as a cornerstone providing leadership, as well as personal and professional development opportunities to small businesses and entrepreneurs in the community.

The Malonsons were the driving force behind Aldine Independent School District Montessori-Magnet Programs, the Lone Star Community College System Victory Center, the Acres Home Multiservice Center, and the Acres Home Police Station.

Roy and Shirley Malonson invested in and uplifted the Acres Home Community by establishing in 1992 Shirley Ann's Black Art & Collectibles Showroom, the largest Black Art & Collectibles Showroom in Texas and one of the largest in the nation. In 1996 they established African American News & Issues, the largest African American newspaper in Texas and one of the largest in the nation. And in 1998, with one mission in mind, to offer and deliver pizza in the African American community, they purchased two Domino's Pizza stores, the South Victory and Ella locations, and had controlling interest in a total of ten locations throughout Houston.

Roy and Shirley Ann Malonson continued their entrepreneurial zeal and commitment to the Acres Home community by establishing in

1998 the Malonson RS Ranch in Harris County; the RS Deer Ranch in Waller County in 2004, one of two African American Whitetail Deer Breeders in the nation; Shirley Ann's Flower Shop in 2013; the RS Deer & Cattle Ranch in Waller County; and Shirley Ann's Black Collectibles & Flowers in 2014. Shirley Ann Malonson is now President and CEO of the Malonson Company.

Roy Douglas Malonson and Shirley Ann Malonson are the proud parents of a daughter, Melanie Nicole Malonson, and the grandparents of Tayler and Caleb.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor two legendary Texas heroes, my constituents, Roy Douglas and Shirley Ann Malonson, who have devoted their lifetimes to creating economic opportunity and development for their beloved Acres Homes community. These two great American trailblazers have made a difference in the lives of thousands of men, women, children and businesses. Their work has brought our nation closer to fulfilling its founding ideals. And it is that work that truly makes America great.

RECOGNIZING THE BETTER CHINATOWN USA LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE 20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 22, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade in New York City organized by the Better Chinatown USA. The Lunar New Year is the most important traditional event celebrated for thousands of years by Asian and Pacific Islanders in New York and around the world. This is a time to pay homage to one's ancestors, enjoy family reunions, great food and other traditions.

The Better Chinatown USA, a community volunteer-based organization, is dedicated to bringing people together and providing services that promote the culture, tradition and contributions of Chinese Americans in New

York. In the aftermath of 9/11, the parade helped launch the economic rebound of Chinatown's small business community. The event started with just 500 marchers and a local Chinatown audience but has grown to encompass more than 20,000 participants, 80 floats, lion and dragon dances, acrobats and marching bands. Today, the parade draws more than half a million spectators from the East Coast and abroad.

Better Chinatown USA has enriched the cultural fabric of my district and New York City. Festivals like these showcase the strength and diversity of our immigrant neighborhoods. That is why I am proud to represent the Manhattan and Brooklyn Chinatown communities.

Madam Speaker, as we mark the Year of the Pig, please join me in congratulating the Better Chinatown USA Lunar New Year Parade on its 20th year anniversary and for its public service to the New York community. I wish them continued success.