

CONGRESSMAN MATT GAETZ
FLORIDA'S FIRST DISTRICT



NEWS RELEASE

226 S. Palafox PL., 6th Floor, PENSACOLA, FL 32502
Phone: (850) 479-1183 Fax: (850) 479-9394

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Kavontae Smalls
(850) 503-1382

Congressman Gaetz to Honor Carnegie Medal Recipient from Gulf Breeze

Thursday, January 25, 2018 | 9am CT

Congressman Matt Gaetz will present the Carnegie Medal to David Hammond of Gulf Breeze, FL for saving a woman from burning in her home.

David Hammond, 64, saved Stephanie Wright, 47, from burning as her home caught fire on July 28, 2016. As Wright dialed 9-1-1 seeking help with the fire, she also called her landlord, Hammond on another phone. Hammond overheard her tell a dispatcher she could not breathe. Quickly springing into action, Hammond rushed to her burning home. He rammed his body into the glass sliding door and crawled his way to Wright's location to save her. He dragged Wright to the doorway then collapsed. Police officers took Wright away from the house as firefighters arrived on scene. While not burned, Wright suffered from smoke inhalation. Hammond was also treated for inhaling smoke.

The Carnegie Medal is given throughout the United States and Canada to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. 57 awardees were announced in 2017 and 9,971 awardees have been announced since the Pittsburgh-based Fund's inception in 1904. Commission Chair, Mark Laskow said each of the awardees or their survivors will also receive a financial grant. Throughout the 113 years since

the Fund was established by industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, \$39.4 million dollars have been given in one-time grants, scholarship aid, death benefits, and continuing assistance.

Hammond is one of 18 awardees throughout the United States and Canada to receive the Carnegie Medal for acts of extraordinary heroism.

Immediately following the Carnegie Medal presentation, Congressman Gaetz will visit Bennett Russell Elementary, Milton High and Hobbs Middle Schools. The Congressman will conclude his day in Milton with Mobile Office Hours meeting with constituents to discuss a variety of issues important to them.

The media is invited to cover the Carnegie Award Presentation and scheduled school visits afterwards.

Santa Rosa County Board of County Commission Chambers | 9:00am

6495 Caroline St, Suite M, Milton 32570

Bennett Russell Elementary School | 10:00am

3740 Excalibur Way, Milton 32583

Milton High School | 11:15am

5445 Stewart Street, Milton 32570

Hobbs Middle School | 12:30pm

5317 Glover Lane, Milton 32570

For more information, please contact Digital Director, Kavontae Smalls (850) 503-1382.

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