

CONGRATULATING FULTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR BEING NAMED A PROJECT WINNER FOR THE 2017 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fulton County, Illinois for being named a project winner for the 2017 Governor's Hometown Award due to its excep-

tional recovery efforts following the event of the Canton Gas Explosion.

On November 16, 2016, the town of Canton and County of Fulton were impacted by a natural gas explosion. This tragic incident destroyed one building, damaged 66 buildings, left 12 people injured, and left one person dead. The explosion was felt as far away as one mile. The explosion occurred in downtown Canton and affected many major businesses. However, instead of faltering, the community chose to come together and show what it means to be Canton Strong. In addition to public safety agencies, many volunteer agencies and volunteers themselves helped move

Canton toward recovery. The Canton Chamber of Commerce also kept businesses informed and helped them get up and running again. This community's response minimized the number of residents affected, job loss, and tax revenue loss.

The hard work, perseverance, and community collaboration visible through Fulton County's recovery efforts makes me especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Fulton County, Illinois for being named a project winner for the 2017 Governor's Hometown Award.