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March 15, 2025

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Confirmation of Gadyaces S. Serralta as Director of the United States Marshals Service

Thank you for considering my heartfelt endorsement of Marshal Gadyaces S. Serralta for the role of Director of the United States Marshals Service.

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Grassley, and Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to convey my unwavering support for the confirmation of Gadyaces S. Serralta as the next Director of the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

I appreciate the chance to introduce myself; my name is Monica Schlagel. I have been a law enforcement wife for the past 30 years and have 20 years of experience in an administrative role at the United States Attorney's Office. The interplay of my personal and professional experiences has reinforced my belief that strong leadership is essential for achieving meaningful outcomes, particularly in the field of federal law enforcement and prosecutions.

While my husband, Ron, was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic as the attache for the USMS, our country was struck by the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). After a three-month evacuation back to the United States, Ron returned to his post in the Dominican Republic. Subsequently, on or about November 2, 2020, Ron was infected with the virus. After a brief hospitalization in the Dominican Republic, the State Department determined that Miami, Florida, was the closest district with hospital availability. Due to the severity of his illness, Ron was transported via air ambulance and subsequently placed on a ventilator for 68 days.

This became a life-changing event for me and our four adult children—Amanda, Christopher, Ron Jr., and Nicholas—as well as for Ron's parents, Ron and Grace. The emotions and fears we experienced can only be understood by those who have faced similar situations.

Travel arrangements were facilitated by the Chief of the USMS International Investigations Bureau (IIB), and I arrived in Miami on November 16, 2020. I did not know what to expect, as I had never encountered anything like this before. From the moment I landed at Miami International Airport, I was greeted at the exit of the jet bridge by Marshal Serralta and four Miami-Dade police officers, who provided a cart to transport me through the terminal to retrieve my baggage and then to the vehicle that would take me to Miami South Hospital to reunite with Ron. This was entirely orchestrated by Marshal Serralta, who represented the United States Marshals Service with integrity, respect, compassion, and sincerity. I was welcomed in his district with a level of hospitality that went above and beyond the call of duty. He remained actively involved in Ron's dire medical situation until our departure from his district on February 18, 2021, without interfering with the detail put in place by the IIB at headquarters.

I firmly believe that Marshal Serralta is a principle-centered individual who possesses all the necessary qualities to restore greatness to the United States Marshals Service. Most importantly, he not only focuses on operational success but also prioritizes the well-being of his colleagues. By leading with empathy and understanding during difficult times, he fosters a supportive environment that enhances trust, boosts morale, strengthens teamwork, and ultimately contributes to a more resilient agency. This quality is especially important in law enforcement, where personnel often encounter high-stress situations and emotional challenges.

During our 98-day stay in Miami, Marshal Serralta and his wife, Monica, provided my children and me with a sense of family, compassion, and support. This exemplified the qualities of a true leader who can lead with heart while maintaining the integrity and professionalism of the United States Marshals Service. Our crisis occurred during a time filled with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's celebrations, which brought many emotions and sadness as we were away from our home and family, who were unable to travel due to fears of contracting the illness.

During this challenging time, Marshal Serralta and his wife, Monica, sincerely and compassionately opened their home to us. While we respectfully declined their invitation to spend the holidays with their family, we gratefully accepted an invitation for a meal that they graciously provided. Their humble home and family truly reflect who they are, both personally and professionally. Their steadfast commitment to family and those around them is genuine, motivated only by the goodness that comes from within. Marshal Serralta and his wife, Monica, are truly remarkable individuals who are impossible to forget. They have demonstrated the true meaning of a law enforcement family, and they will forever be in our hearts and prayers. Our family will always be grateful to the Serralta family for their unwavering support.

Sincerely,



Monica M. Schlagel

"Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you."
Deuteronomy 16:20