

John De Block - NOAA Federal

From: John De Block - NOAA Federal
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:21 PM
To: _NWS SR BMX
Subject: Fwd: FW: [!Info!] Out of the office reply Re: Birmingham NWS FO

Another letter of support from a long time fan of our office.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:FW: [!Info!] Out of the office reply Re: Birmingham NWS FO
Date:Mon, 9 Sep 2019 17:23:48 +0000
From:John Paul <jpaul@ecarls.org>
To:John.DeBlock@noaa.gov <John.DeBlock@noaa.gov>

Mr. DeBlock:

As Mr. Darden is out of the office, I am forwarding this to you. I hope that you will forward it to your colleagues in the Birmingham office with the esteem of myself and many, many Alabamians and former Alabamians. Thank you for your service.

John Paul Myrick

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From: John Paul
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 12:16 PM
To: 'neil.jacobs@noaa.gov' <neil.jacobs@noaa.gov>
Cc: 'steven.cooper@noaa.gov' <steven.cooper@noaa.gov>; 'chris.darden@noaa.gov' <chris.darden@noaa.gov>; 'kevin.cooley@noaa.gov' <kevin.cooley@noaa.gov>; 'john.d.murphy@noaa.gov' <john.d.murphy@noaa.gov>; 'mary.erickson@noaa.gov' <mary.erickson@noaa.gov>; 'louis.uccellini@noaa.gov' <louis.uccellini@noaa.gov>
Subject: Birmingham NWS FO

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Dear Dr. Jacobs:

You are supposed to be a scientist and not a politician.

I am livid over the fact that you led the charge against the Birmingham Forecast Office Staff of the National Weather Service (NWS) for putting out correct information regarding the path of Hurricane Dorian in the interest of public safety. The actions of the current NOAA leadership in reference to this matter have undermined the efforts of these dedicated individuals who have protected Alabama for decades, not to mention the reputation of the NWS and NOAA itself in particular.

The Birmingham Field Office of the National Weather Service has valiantly served Central Alabama for over 100 years. They are up day and night when needed to insure the safety of Alabama residents. You likely

wouldn't know, but officials affiliated with this office sat at their radar console during the 1973 Brent tornado while their building fell apart around them as the tornado made a direct hit insuring warning meteorologists had the information they needed. That kind of dedication is standard operating procedure for the Birmingham office and always has been. As a child, I regularly remember, as a child, the voice of J.B. Elliot and others telling us where storms were and the actions we needed to take. He, Brian Peters and others were the epitome of professionalism. I worked with them and others as a volunteer with our local emergency management in the 90s, and later as a historian writing a history of tornadoes in Cullman County, Alabama. I was always treated in a professional manner with kindness, dignity, and respect. Most importantly, I thank Birmingham Forecast Office staff for giving me warning which saved my family's life and thousands of others during the 2011 Tornado Outbreak which damaged my home and destroyed my neighborhood near Cullman, Alabama.

As far as I am concerned, these professionals and those currently on staff are beyond reproach and are scientists of the first caliber. It appears many in NOAA leadership could learn a lot from them

Shame does not begin to describe the feelings you should be feeling regarding these dedicated professionals. Not only do you owe them an apology, but you also owe an apology to the American people for forgetting ethics for the sake of political expediency. Trying to play nice is one thing; but throwing professionals to the fire without regard to ethics or their First Amendment rights is another.

John Paul Myrick

CC. Mr. Chris Darden, MIC, NWSFO Birmingham
Mr. Steven Cooper, Director, NWS Southern Region
Mr. Kevin Cooley, Director, NWS OPPSD
Mr. John Murphy, NWS Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Mary Erickson, NWS Deputy Director
Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, NOAA Assistant Administrator and NWS
Director
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