

Community Update with Mayor Nickels

01-17-2010

“The Manitowoc Company In New York!”



This past week I was on a personal vacation with three close friends of mine. We decided to take a trip out to New York to see Buffalo (the site of the original buffalo wing!) Albany, the capital city, and finally New York City. While touring downtown New York City in Manhattan we came across the site of the World Trade Centers. Currently the entire block is being re-built with new buildings and a park dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. While looking at the site and construction going on I saw something to my amazement. You cannot imagine the excitement on my face when I saw 3 large, red, Manitowoc cranes assisting in the re-building of the World Trade Centers. I was awe-struck for several reasons. First, Manitowoc's name was ascending the streets of New York City for millions to see on a day-to-day basis. Second, it was amazing to see the Manitowoc Company, a local company, assist in the re-building of what was once a tragedy, to what is becoming a great memorial to New York and our entire Country. It was great to see our hometown company's product doing its job 1,000 miles away. Not to mention, of course, the Kohler sinks and Manitowoc Ice Machine at our hotel. You can view the pictures I took of the cranes at either www.manitowoc.org, under the Mayor's page, or check them out on the City of Manitowoc's facebook page.

This upcoming week I will be attending the annual U.S. Conference of Mayor's meeting in Washington D.C. The organization was created in 1932. In 1932, 14 million people were unemployed, lines stretched for blocks in front of soup kitchens, homeowners were unable to pay taxes, veterans were selling apples on street corners, and the nation's cities were close to bankruptcy. Responding to the appeals of mayors, Congress created a \$300 million federal assistance program for cities, marking the first time in the nation's history that federal relief was provided directly to cities. In a dramatic White House meeting, a committee of three prominent mayors convinced President Herbert Hoover to sign this desperately needed municipal assistance bill.

A few months later, on the eve of the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the Mayflower Hotel just a few blocks from the White House, the charter of the Conference of Mayors was written.

This is no different than the times we are facing now. With the billions of dollars now available to municipalities through stimulus monies and other resources from the Federal Government, it is imperative that I attend this meeting and seek every possible opportunity which presents itself for the City of Manitowoc. The Mayor's will be personally meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House, along with several of his cabinet members. Along with that, several workshops will be held regarding the stimulus money in particular, along with opportunities to sit down with our congressmen and senators to discuss issues at our local level.