

Box, Basket Bonanza, Cooking at Eva's Village in Paterson, and a Health Ministry providing information and assistance. The church is also very well known for its annual social events consisting of a St. Patrick's Day Celebration, an Oktoberfest Celebration, and a "Breakfast with Santa" that aim to bring families and friends together to enjoy the holidays. With the help of Msgr. Tom Coletta, St. Patrick Parish has become a sister church to Our Lad of Victories Parish in Paterson. The Catholic places of worship have garnered a shared spirituality through combined Masses, retreats, ministry training, and youth activities.

St. Patrick Parish is recognized as one of the strongest religious institutions in Morris County. Having encountered much adversity through the years, the members of the Parish have always been able to guide themselves through the hardships with their strong bond of community and unwavering faith. The St. Patrick Catholic School has provided the Chatham Catholic community with an excellent opportunity to obtain education and faith for young men and women of the community.

Former St. Patrick pastors: Bishop Dominic Marconi of Newark, Monsignor Ronald Amandolare, and Monsignor John J. Carroll frequently celebrate mass with the church to honor its parishioners and their departed, good friend Father Edward Hinds. This collaboration has been led by current pastor, Father Robert Mitchell. The contagious, unbreakable connection can be defined by Father Mitchell's description of the members of his parish: "All who find a home at St. Patrick's share a common bond that unites them through joys and sorrows, challenges, surprises and the success and failures of life. This makes real the wisdom of our founding members and the generosity of those who followed." Through this message, the community has built long-lasting relationships.

Mister Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in congratulating the Saint Patrick Parish as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA GOLDEN SOROR MAGGIE
PARRISH WILLIAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Golden Soror Maggie Parrish Williams of the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for fifty years of service to this great sisterhood. A reception will be held in her honor on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Columbus Community Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Born in Swainsboro, Georgia to the late Ruben and Anna Gibbons Parrish, Mrs. Williams is the eighth of thirteen children. She graduated with honors from Emmanuel County High School in 1961 and went on to attend The Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. While a student at Fort Valley State, she participated in the Drama Club and Chorus, all while maintaining an above average GPA. As a sophomore, she was initiated into the Alpha Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on November 10, 1962.

After graduating from Fort Valley State in 1965 with a Bachelor's degree in Science in Education and minors in Science and Mathematics, she was awarded the National Science Foundation grant to continue her studies at the University of Detroit, where she earned a Master's of Art in the Teaching of Mathematics in 1971. Her still unquenched thirst for knowledge and education led Mrs. Williams to complete additional coursework at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia.

In 1965, Mrs. Williams worked as a Mathematics teacher at Pineville High School in Valdosta, Georgia. In 1967, she moved to Columbus, where she worked as a Mathematics teacher at George Washington Carver High School. In 1969, she met the love of her life, the late Mark A. Williams, and they were married in 1970. They were married for over 41 years.

Mrs. Williams continued her service to the Muscogee County School District as a Mathematics teacher at Kendrick High School, Rothschild Middle School and Spencer High School. She retired in 2002 after 37 years of devotedly teaching and mentoring young adults and children.

While teaching in Muscogee County, Mrs. Williams joined Gamma Tau Omega, a graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in 1972. She has faithfully supported and made various contributions to sorority activities and events such as city-wide tutorial programs, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, and Founder's Day. Mrs. Williams has supported scholarships and awards for deserving high school seniors in Columbus and surrounding areas through the chapter's foundation, SISTERS, Inc. She has also served on the Archives, Leadership, Programs and Heritage committees. Through the years, she has made generous donations to the chapter, including donations she made in the 1970s toward the purchase of the first Gamma Tau Omega sorority house on Broadway, and other chapter-owned properties in Columbus.

In addition to her work and service through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Mrs. Williams has been a devoted member of First African Baptist Church in Columbus for well over 41 years. She has served and still serves in many ministries, including the General Mission Society, the Senior Choir, the Deaconesses, the Budget and Finance Committee and Rebekah Mission Circle, where she served as Secretary for nine years. She has achieved the status of "life member" in several organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Fort Valley State University National Alumni Association, Inc., and the Georgia Teachers of Mathematics. She is also a member of the Muscogee County Retired Educators Association, the Georgia Retired Educators Association, United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, and the Urban League.

The presence of Alpha Kappa Alpha is evident in Mrs. Williams' family. Her only daughter, Monica Williams Smith, followed in her mother's footsteps and was initiated into the Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha at Valdosta State University in 1996. Her sister-in-law, Marguerite Parrish, and four nieces, Yvonne Prater, Vanessa Parish, Tiffany Parrish and Bakia Parrish, have also all been initiated into the great sisterhood.

Mrs. Williams lives by the following words: "Our God has done great things for all people

and we should strive to love more and continue to help each other through Jesus Christ Our Savior."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and woman of faith, Mrs. Maggie Parrish Williams, as she is honored for her fifty years of dedicated service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Columbus, Georgia community.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL D.
FEZZEY'S COMMITMENT AND
SERVICE TO THE GREATER DETROIT AREA OF MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor long time philanthropist and community advocate Michael Fezzey for his deep commitment and years of service to the Greater Detroit area. I've had the honor of knowing and working with Mike for many years.

Currently, Mike Fezzey is the president of Huntington National Bank's East Michigan region. Prior to joining Huntington, Mike was the president and general manager of WJR-AM radio. In addition to leading WJR from 1994 through 2010, he also launched and ran Radio Disney Detroit programming for ABC.

A native of Detroit, Mike's service to the community has been broad based with particular emphasis on improving the region's philanthropic giving and the image and reputation of Southeast Michigan. He has served on a number of boards including Cornerstone Schools, New Detroit, the Children's Center, Habitat for Humanity, the Detroit Economic Club, the Parade Company, For the Kids Foundation, Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit and Forgotten Harvest. Mike is the former chair of the Detroit Regional Chamber's marketing committee and former president of the Detroit Advertising Association.

In his role with WJR, Mike earned the prestigious Peabody Award from the University of Georgia and the Neil Shine award for philanthropy in journalism. He and his wife were awarded the John Dingell Heroes for Babies award in 2010 and were the Michigan Arthritis Foundation's Tribute to Excellence honorees in 2011. Mike also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Central Michigan University and was named a John Aldinger Honorary Professor by Michigan State University in 2008.

In his current position at Huntington Bank, Mike Fezzey was instrumental in creating a public private partnership that included Huntington Bank, the city of Hamtramck, state officials, the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors and the Michigan Association of Home Builders. This partnership produced a \$50-million initiative to complete construction of 104 homes around Hamtramck. This initiative fulfilled the federal court-ordered construction of 200 single-family homes that stemmed from a decades-long racial discrimination lawsuit. Under Mike's leadership, Huntington Bank was the only financial institution to help resolve this oldest housing discrimination lawsuit in America.

As I close, I can say with confidence that our community is a better place thanks to the ongoing, selfless service of people like Michael Fezzey. His leadership in the area of housing has earned the admiration of those throughout Southeast Michigan and I am pleased to recognize that leadership today in the United States Congress.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS AN ENTITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY OF DIWALI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the House Resolution Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, as an entity of the United States Postal Service, should issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the holiday of Diwali. I am proud to be joined in this effort by my colleagues Congresswoman Grace Meng and Congressman Ami Bera.

This House Resolution urges the United States Postal Service to issue a stamp in honor of the holiday Diwali. Meaning "row of lights," Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, the awareness of one's inner light, the dispelling of ignorance, and bringing peace and joy through the awakening gained from this higher knowledge. Also marking the beginning of the Hindu New Year, this festive and important Indian holiday is observed in America, and across the globe, by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and Buddhists.

But despite the significance of this holiday, the United States Postal Service has yet to merit Diwali with the same recognition as other major religious holidays for which stamps are issued such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Eid.

As one of the world's oldest religious holidays, Diwali has survived political, economic and social changes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the victory of light, goodness, knowledge and truth. It is long overdue that we honor this significant holiday with a postage stamp of its own.

BALTIMORE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago, history was made in the City of Baltimore. On January 23, 1968, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III—my brother—watched over the swearing-in of his appointee, Reverend Marion Bascom Jr., as the Baltimore City Fire Department's first African-American Commissioner.

Alongside his colleague and partner in the cause of equality, Konstantine Prevas, Commissioner Bascom took the oath of office. In a single act, he changed the face of the city's public servants and heroes—becoming, in his words, "the first black man to wear a white hat in the Baltimore City Fire Department." In a single moment, he altered the course of local history. In the years to come, he and his fellow members of the Board of Fire Commissioners would do more than become a model of racial harmony; they would advance the professionalism and effectiveness of Baltimore's firefighters.

Though progress was slow at times—though a history of segregation and bigotry and racism still weighed heavily on the shoulders of Commissioners Bascom and Prevas and others—these leaders fought, step-by-step, to ensure that Baltimore's force of firefighters would exemplify our highest ideals of equality and our highest degree of excellence.

Under the leadership of Commissioners Bascom and Prevas, the Baltimore City Fire Department gave African-American members of its ranks a fair hearing—listening and responding to their concerns about living and working conditions, and unfair treatment in areas of discipline, assignments, training, and promotions. It formally recognized the Vulcan Blazers, Baltimore's chapter of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters.

To enhance its service to the city, the department expanded community outreach efforts and helped create a new unit in the City Hospital to deal strictly and exclusively with fire victims and their injuries—and today, City Hospital still stands as the first and only burn center in the state of Maryland.

The Board of Commissioners oversaw the land acquisition, zoning, historic preservation, and construction of what's now called Steadman Station—located in the heart of downtown Baltimore and once considered the busiest station in the nation.

Today, the Baltimore City Fire Department is defined by the legacy of Commissioner Bascom: by fairness, equal rights, professional action, and a wholehearted devotion to public safety. No longer beset by racist policies; no longer held back by the scourge of segregation; no longer deterred by a past of Jim Crow—all because a mayor had the vision to appoint commissioners based on their merits, not simply their race, and all because his appointees had the courage to promote a future of progress.

Our family takes pride in its association with this extraordinary era of history for the people of Baltimore. My father, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., oversaw the desegregation of the fire department. My brother appointed its first African-American Commissioner. Together, they created a department that reflected the diversity and character of the community it served and protected.

Today, 45 years after Commissioner Bascom took his oath, we can all be proud of this legacy. We can take inspiration from the acts of our predecessors. We can pledge to advance our heritage of opportunity, our commitment to fairness and justice, and our promise of equality for all.

HONORING THE 2013 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. Many are veterans and Academy graduates. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.