

care within their community and we are proud to have the East Harlem Council for Human Services serving us.

CONGRATULATING REV. DR. MICHAEL L. PFLEGER ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRIESTHOOD

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my congratulations to Rev. Dr. Michael Louis Pfleger, the Senior Pastor at Saint Sabina Church in Chicago on his 40th Anniversary of the priesthood. I am sincerely thankful for the forty years of his devotion to community service and endless effort in fighting social injustice.

Michael Louis Pfleger was ordained a Catholic Priest for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago on May 14, 1975 and since 1981 has been Pastor of the mostly African American Parish of Saint Sabina, a Catholic church in Chicago's Auburn Gresham Neighborhood. His uninterrupted tenure in just one neighborhood is normally unheard of in a diocese where Pastors usually serve for only six to twelve years. When he was appointed to his present position, at the age of 31, he became the youngest Pastor in Chicago Archdiocese. Under Pfleger's leadership, Saint Sabina has established an outstanding social service program including job programs, conflict resolution, Employment Resource Center, a Social Service Center, and also an elder home.

Father Pfleger has adopted three sons, and led efforts to curb drug and alcohol use, especially among teenagers. He has led protests of all kind, encourages people to register and vote, take positions on all kind of controversial issues, always on the side of the people. He has fought against the proliferation of hand guns and held regular lecture series at Saint Sabina featuring individuals like Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Al Sharpton, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Dick Gregory, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Reverend Joseph Lowery, Harry Belafonte and others. He has called out disrespectful rappers, embraced salvation for prostitutes, defied the Cardinal and pushed for the Ordination of women as Priests. Michael Louis Pfleger, a man among men, a Priest among Priests, a force for good, a friend to humanity, my brother and a Servant of God.

#### ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, May is Asthma Awareness Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus and a senior member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Health Subcommittee, I want to take this opportunity to bring attention to asthma's prevalence in the United States, as well as what must be done to control its growth.

Asthma is one of the most serious chronic diseases in the U.S., affecting almost 26 million Americans and nearly 7 million children. It can cause shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, chest pain, and even death.

In my home state of New York, asthma takes a particularly heavy toll—especially in my hometown of the Bronx. About 390,000 children and 1.4 million adults in New York have asthma. The total cost of asthma-related hospitalizations in New York in 2007 was a staggering \$535 million. The Bronx, where I was born and raised and am proud to represent part of, has one of the highest rates of asthma-related emergency room visits in all of New York.

These statistics are even more alarming when looking specifically at minority and low-income populations. Children from poor households are twice as likely as their more affluent peers to be diagnosed with asthma. In addition, asthma rates among African American children increased by 50 percent between 2001 and 2009.

Asthma's prevalence costs children and adults dearly with regard to quality of life. However, it carries an economic cost as well. The direct medical costs of asthma treatment, coupled with absences from work and school, result in losses of more than \$56 billion annually. Children additionally suffer academically, as asthma causes about 14 million student absences each year.

While asthma can be treated and managed, it is too often not managed properly. Asthma sufferers require regular check-ups, asthma management plans, and access to both maintenance and fast acting inhalers. People with persistent asthma must be tested for allergies so they can learn what triggers might cause an asthma attack. Furthermore, environmental triggers in homes and schools, such as mold, dust, animal dander, pests, toxic chemicals, and excessive moisture must be eliminated.

Congress must also work to reduce asthma rates. A little over five years ago, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act, which prohibited insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, like asthma. While this was a terrific stride, more efforts are needed here in Washington.

I have been a strong supporter of the Centers for Disease Control's National Asthma Control Program, which helps states implement systems to monitor and treat asthma. This Program's work has resulted in a \$23.1 billion decline in asthma health care costs since 2001. In addition, deaths related to asthma have dropped by 24 percent since the Program's inception in 1999. Earlier this year, I wrote a letter asking appropriators to fund the National Asthma Control Program at \$30.6 million in Fiscal Year 2016.

While financial support for this Program is vital, we cannot rely on funding alone to solve the problems that asthma causes. We must continue to increase awareness of preventative measures to help people manage their disease. In addition, we must work collaboratively across sectors to address the burden that asthma creates.

I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that adults and children across the United States can live healthier and more successful lives.

CHRISTOPHER BOULANGER

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Christopher Boulanger as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

Christopher will graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 28, 2015.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Christopher's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass on what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Christopher and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Christopher embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Christopher my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF THE FALLEN HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember all those brave and heroic men and women of the Armed Forces who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our country.

Each May, veteran and service organizations come together to hold events around the country to demonstrate their gratitude to current and former men and women in uniform and their families for their service to our country.

The month of May is a time when a grateful nation acknowledges and affirms the debt owed to those brave men and women who risked their lives to preserve the freedoms we too often take for granted.

It is important that we recognize and celebrate the tremendous role military personnel have played across the globe.

Texas is home to more than 130,000 active military personnel and more than 1,600,000 veterans, 30,000 of which are from the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

It has been an honor to represent these constituents and I am extremely proud of their service.

As we acknowledge our former, current and future military men and women, it is essential that we provide them with the resources necessary to help wounded warriors, veterans, and their families' transition to civilian life.

That is why I was proud to cosponsor and help shepherd to passage H.R. 1344, Helping Heroes Fly Act, that was signed into law in 2013 and which facilitates expedited passenger screening at airports for service members who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families.

I also introduced H.R. 76, the “Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2015,” which provides strong incentives for employers to hire, retain, and employ veterans in positions that take maximum advantage of their skills and experience.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I recognize by the name the 53 brave men and women from my home city of Houston, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and gave the last full measure of devotion to their country.

They are: Krystal Fitts, Jorge Luis Velasquez, Cody Norris, Jacob Molina, Pedro Maldonado, Edwardo Loredo, Matthew Catlett, Zarian Wood, Andrew Roughton, Edgar Heredia, Joshua Molina, Steven Candel, Scott McIntosh, Orlando Perez, Jeremy Ray, Benjamin Garrison, Rodney Johnson, Matthew Medicott, Alan Austin, William Edwards, Eric Salinas, Danny Soto, Roy Jones, Terrence Dunn, Hector Leija, David Fraser, Benjamin Rosales, Kenneth Pugh, Alberto Sanchez, Walter Moss, Michael Robertson, Howard Babcock, Timothy Roark, Ivica Jerak, Phillip George, Keith Mariotti, Clinton Gertson, Dexter Kimble, Jesus Leon-Perez, Thomas Zapp, Eric Allton, Andrew Houghton, Juan Torres, Pedro Contreras, Adolfo Carballo, Scott Larson, Leroy Sandoval, Armando Soriano, Keelan Moss, A. Esparza-Gutierrez, Tomas Sotelo, Brian Matthew Kennedy, and Brian Craig.

God bless them. And may God bless the United States.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR MORRIS SHEPHERD

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual for his dedication to the State of Texas. I would like to congratulate and thank Major Morris Shepherd for his hard work and his passion for service. I would also like to applaud his retirement.

Major Shepherd has diligently served as Deputy Director for the Dallas Independent School District’s Office of the Director of Army Instruction. His commitment spans many years, beginning with his commission as an Infantry Officer in 1974 from Prairie View A&M University. His service record reflects the hard work, resolve, and passion that he continues to embody and practice to this day.

Since his initial commission, Major Shepherd has progressed through the ranks. Following his graduation as an Airborne Ranger and a Distinguished Military Graduate he attended the United States Infantry Basic Officer’s Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He first served in the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, and then served in the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. Major Shepherd also served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Alcorn State University, as a Project Officer, as a Director of Plans, Train-

ing, and Mobilization, as a Logistical Planning Officer for the 1st Cavalry, as an Executive Officer 15th Forward Support Battalion for the 1st Cavalry Division, and as a Director Resident Training Detachment. He finally retired from the U.S. Army after more than 18 years of service. Following his first retirement, Major Shepherd joined the Dallas Independent School District in 1995 serving as the Senior Army Instructor for Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. During his tenure he has received many notable recognitions and awards. From serving the country to serving his community, Major Shepherd’s accomplishments have been well noted and appreciated.

His passion and drive are commendable. In our rapidly shifting world and fast-paced lifestyles it is always impressive to find someone like Major Shepherd that gives so generously of their time and effort to positively impact the lives of the people of Texas.

As we reflect on all of Major Shepherd’s achievements, it is important to acknowledge that his belief in giving to those around him comes from the genuine patriotism and determination of a remarkable man. I want to express my heartiest congratulations and thanks to Major Morris Shepherd on his outstanding accomplishments, and for his immense contribution to our great country and to the State of Texas.

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RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD DOMINION BAR ASSOCIATION

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**HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Old Dominion Bar Association (ODBA), of which I am proud to be a member. Members will be gathering next week in Glen Allen, Virginia for their annual conference and to celebrate this historic milestone.

The ODBA traces its history to a December 1940 incident where an African American lawyer was asked to move to another section of the law library of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Frederic Charles Carter, Esq. was working in the law library when he was ordered to move to another section because of an alleged new Supreme Court policy limiting African American attorneys to a specific section of the law library. Carter refused to move and the head librarian summoned a police officer to demand Carter see him in his office. Carter later inquired in a letter to the Chief Justice whether the court had indeed issued a new policy relegating African American lawyers to a special section of the law library.

Several months passed with no response from the Court, so Carter began reaching out to fellow African American Attorneys in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including R. H. Cooley, Jr. of Petersburg. Cooley also contacted colleagues in Norfolk, Newport News, and Portsmouth, as well as at the Howard University School of Law, to discuss the need to organize a bar association in Virginia specifically for African American attorneys.

Throughout 1941, Cooley and the following individuals met to organize the ODBA: J. Thomas Hewin, Sr., Roland D. Ealey, James

T. Carter, Frederic Charles Carter, J. Byron Hopkins and Oliver W. Hill of Richmond; W. S. Duiguid of Lynchburg; Martin A. Martin of Danville; Thomas W. Young and J. Eugene Diggs of Norfolk; James Raby of Alexandria; and L. Marian Poe of Newport News.

The organizational meeting for the ODBA was set for April 12, 1942 in Richmond. Twenty-five attorneys attended the organizational meeting where they elected their inaugural officers: Oliver W. Hill, President; L. Marian Poe, Secretary; Martin A. Martin, Vice-President; and James M. Morris (of Staunton), Treasurer.

On May 21, 1942, the new association met again to adopt their constitution and set an annual membership fee of \$4.50. Some balked at the cost which prompted Oliver Hill to include the following message on organization notices: “If you are very, very busy—we need you. If you don’t think you can afford it, you need us.”

As America became increasingly involved in World War II, many ODBA members, including its president Oliver W. Hill, entered military service to fight for our nation overseas. It was during this time that R. H. Cooley, Jr. became the organization’s acting president. Throughout the war, he urged all members to “keep abreast with service legislation in order to aid men and women in uniform and their families in matters pertaining to insurance, dependency allotments and any other phases necessary to solve their perplexing problems.” Cooley also urged association members to help returning veterans, including volunteering their legal services when necessary.

By the war’s end, there were forty-four active members of the association all across the Commonwealth, with local groups of ODBA members established in Richmond, on the Virginia Peninsula, in South Hampton Roads, and in Northern Virginia.

Originally organized to confront a discriminatory policy that offended the personal and professional dignity of members of the Virginia Bar, it has grown into an essential professional organization for African American attorneys practicing law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has not only provided positive professional relationships for its members and trained them to be effective advocates for their clients, but has also broken down barriers to membership and full participation for African American attorneys statewide and in the local bar associations and to their election as judges throughout Virginia. Moreover, its members have led the effort to desegregate America in all areas of public and private life, including education, employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Today, the ODBA continues its strong legacy of pursuing justice and ensuring its member lawyers hold themselves to the highest level of professional skill and conduct. The association holds numerous professional development seminars annually. And its members are very active in other national, state and local bar associations, as well as their local communities in general through community service and active civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, as the Old Dominion Bar Association gathers in Glen Allen next week for its annual meeting, I wish to congratulate the association’s current president, Helvi L. Holland, Esq., and all its members, past and present, on this 75th anniversary and thank them for all that they have done and continue to do on behalf of the legal profession and the