

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, Eduardo Loredo, Matthew Catlett, Zarian Wood, Andrew Roughton, Edgar Heredia, Joshua Molina, Steven Candelo, 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR
MORRIS SHEPHERD

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.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD DOMINION BAR ASSOCIATION

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, Fredric 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, Helivi 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

full participation of all in the life and bounties of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation as a whole.

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S
GEOTHERMAL INDUSTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California's Geothermal Industry as we celebrate Geothermal Awareness Month. It is important to recognize the success of existing geothermal facilities in California and the great value in promoting the development of new geothermal power, one of California's greatest natural resources.

Geothermal energy is an excellent source of clean, renewable energy that supports thousands of jobs across our district and state. Not only does the production of geothermal energy boost our economy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, it provides counties with important royalty payments which they use to pay for important priorities like public safety, road maintenance and law enforcement. Furthermore, geothermal energy is critical to California's renewable and low carbon energy goals.

Geothermal energy is locally produced and boosts rural economies through jobs, royalties, tax payments and more. While in development, a geothermal power project will employ hundreds of individuals during construction and post-construction, more than most other renewable technologies. I am proud to represent The Geysers, which lies beneath the surface of Lake and Sonoma Counties, employs 300 full-time employees at Calpine, fifty full-time employees at the Northern California Power Agency's two Geysers power plants and more than 150 contractors. The Geysers is also the largest taxpayer in both Sonoma and Lake Counties.

Geothermal power benefits communities across the state, while providing important environmental benefits. In the south, The Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative, a plan to save an important source of water and minerals in the state, can add up to 1,700 megawatts of low-impact, cost-competitive geothermal energy to the State's power grid. In the north, the Geysers maximizes the economic and environmental benefits of the resource, and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the equivalent of removing almost half a million cars from the road, meaning cleaner air for local towns and cities.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize May 21, 2015 as Geothermal Awareness Day and honor California's Geothermal Industry for ensuring that new and existing geothermal power is part of a diverse and sustainable energy mix now and in the future.

CELEBRATING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF JOSEPH HOUCK

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Joseph Houck, who retires after 30 years with the Summit Fire Department including seven years as Fire Chief and Director.

Chief Houck obtained an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Fire Science Technology from Union County College. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and also completed the New Jersey's Certified Public Manager Program and received a Bachelor of the Arts Degree in Public Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Chief Houck started with the Summit Fire Department in 1985 as a volunteer firefighter and became a career firefighter in 1987. Due to his dedication and skill he became a recognized leader in the department and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1995, Battalion Chief in 2000, Deputy Chief in 2005 and Chief and Director in 2008. In addition, Chief Houck served as a New Jersey State Fire Instructor and was the City of Summit's Fire Official.

During his accomplished tenure, Chief Houck achieved a number of significant accomplishments in service to the City of Summit and in the name public safety. The Summit Fire Department was accredited by the Center on Fire Accreditation International—the only Fire Department in the state to earn such recognition—and the Department's reputation for professional and timely service improved under his stewardship. He managed numerous disaster responses, including Hurricane Sandy, and was a vital part of the City's emergency management team. His insight, guidance and experience proved extremely valuable during challenging times.

Chief Houck has also been a member of the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association and has been its liaison to the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Emergency Services Sector, a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and served on its Emergency Management Committee working on interstate mutual aid plans.

I wish Chief Houck many years of happiness in his retirement spent with his wife, Irene, and his children. I thank him for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRUCE
FARRIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of a local Fresno icon, Bruce Farris, who passed away on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at the age of 88.

Bruce was born on March 25, 1927, in Coldwater, Michigan, to Ross and Ruth Farris. At the age of four, with the Great Depression limiting jobs, the family gathered their belongings and drove to California in their Hudson

Essex automobile. They settled in Reedley and three years later moved to Fresno. There, Bruce attended Daily Elementary School, Hamilton Junior High, and graduated from Fresno High School in 1945. At Fresno High, Bruce played baseball, basketball, and most importantly, during his senior year, he wrote for the Fresno High Owl.

Following high school, Bruce attended Fresno State College for two years where he played basketball and wrote for the Daily Collegian as a reporter and an editor. After college, he worked for the Fresno Guide and the St. Louis Cardinals organization. At the age of 21, he was hired by the Fresno Bee. His career began by reporting on Fresno State athletics, and later expanded to a broader range of sporting events. What distinguished Mr. Farris from other reporters, and what made his career so impressive, was his enthusiasm for his job and his love for all sports. Additionally, Mr. Farris was unbiased and fair, making it a point to report objectively.

While working at the Fresno Bee, Bruce worked with a secretary named Barbara Harper, whom he married in 1955. Bruce and Barbara had three children, Greg, Nancy, and Sandra. They raised their children in a home on First Street, and opened their door to many, from people from church, to neighborhood kids, and friends, relatives, and foreign exchange students. Everyone was welcome in their home at any time.

In 1997, Mr. Farris was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame after decades of covering Fresno State athletics. Afterwards, Mr. Farris went on to report for the Fresno Bee as the newspaper's outdoors and golf writer. He worked at the Fresno Bee for 23 years before retiring in December 2002. Bruce had a truly amazing 52 year long career.

According to his daughter Nancy, Mr. Farris was defined by his faith, love of family, and love of sports, three things which led him to be such a great man. Mr. Farris' loss is heartbreaking for Fresno, and his passing will be felt by the many friends that he has gained throughout the years. Everyone that knew Mr. Farris describes him as a kind man who truly cared for others, and who was respected by everyone who had the honor of knowing him.

Mr. Farris' wife, Barbara, died in 2007. He is survived by his one son, Greg, two daughters, Nancy and Sandra, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild on the way. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the wonderful life and distinguished career of Bruce Farris. Mr. Farris' passing is a loss to our community. While his presence will be greatly missed, his legacy will continue through his writing.

MATTHEW GOELLNER

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. Matthew Goellner as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

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