

CELEBRATING THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP LESTER LOVE AND PASTOR FRAN LOVE OF THE CITY OF LOVE

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Co-Pastor couple, Bishop Lester Love and Pastor Fran Love.

Bishop Lester Love is the Lead Pastor of the City of Love. He possesses unique leadership skills, and yet, widely recognized for his ability to organize a team of people, energize them to accomplish any challenges that are set before them, and provide them with strategies for implementation. Bishop Love was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 1, 1965, and currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. He received his license to preach in 1989, and was ordained on May 1, 1992 under the administration of Bishop of the Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On December 22, 1997, then interim Pastor Love of Greater Antioch presented his first message. One year later in April of 1998, both the Co-Pastor couple were installed as Pastors. In July 2005, he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He began his leadership as the Lead Pastor of the Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in 1993.

Bishop Love, always seeking to make the Word of God as clear and relevant as possible, was asked constantly about the meaning of the word "Antioch". The Bible states that Antioch was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called Christians because of the love that they showed to one another and to the community at large (Acts 11:26). Thus, in 2009, the name Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church was changed to The City of Love. Pastor Fran was elevated to the office of Prophet in August 2022. Currently, the membership has exceeded 2,000 active members.

Bishop Love has published several books including Synergy, Catching the Mantle and The Art of Armor Bearing: God's Blueprint for Effective Servanthood, which quickly became the "how to" book for leadership and excellence in service for churches and corporations. His latest book "Whatever It Takes" encourages us to maximize our potential.

His many talents also include singing. He was the featured soloist on the CD "Where Love Abides," which won the Big Easy Award (New Orleans' version of the Grammys) for Best Gospel Artist. He has also garnered national attention for his YouTube "Love Songs" clip, which has millions of views.

Bishop Love has served as the host of the Essence Music Festival Gospel Tribute for several years and daily radio host on WBOK for "The Lester Love Show." He's been crowned "The Voice of Hope" by many and this title is fitting of Lester Love—Senior Pastor of The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lester Love's messages of hope, positive thinking and empowerment are sustaining

and motivating both young and old across the country. His motto "Living the Good Life" encourages us to "Think Bigger, Dream Bigger, Live Better."

Although Bishop Love's leadership abilities have been recognized across the globe, in addition God has sent him on a mission to fulfill his calling to teach and train the people of God on how to effectively serve the men and women of God.

Prophet Fran Love serves as the Co-lead pastor with her husband, Bishop Lester Love, at The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a devoted wife and dedicated mother, Prophet Fran is listed among the most influential and socially engaged women of our time. Bishop Love and his wife Fran are the proud parents of three girls, Joy, Faith, and Angel Love.

From pulpits to street pavements, Prophet Fran's commitment to providing relief to the social issues affecting all mankind birthed the ministry of Daughters of Life and Love (DOLL) and nonprofit Love 365 where she leads an effort that cares for those suffering from a lack of food and homelessness.

Prophet Fran's kinetic faithfulness for a victorious living is deeply rooted in biblical principles. The totality of her essence firmly stands on her confession from James 1:4: "I am perfect, I am complete, wanting and lacking nothing." Boldly leading revolutionary ministries, this award-winning humanitarian, spiritual leader, scholar, and actress is devoted to influencing people into higher levels of unity, forgiveness, fulfillment, and purpose.

After meeting in college, Lester and Fran Love were an immediate "can't miss" couple. Thirty-one years and three daughters later, this couple is still flowing together. Bishop Lester and Pastor Fran Love lead The City of Love Church, a loving, vibrant experience with its heart entrenched in New Orleans, LA. The Loves are touted by local and national organizations and media for their philanthropic community work. Through the church, they lead LOVE365, a community outreach organization that has fed upwards of 2,000 homeless and hungry people at the Salvation Army, Duncan Plaza and the Hollygrove Community per week. Bishop Love and Prophet Fran have been a part of the Essence Festival Celebration for several years.

Prophet Fran also leads a women's empowerment group, "Fridays with Fran". Together they were inspired to create The I AM Prayer Journey, designed to lead people into a simple, yet deeper relationship with God. The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have them as spiritual leaders to so many. I am proud to call them friends for over 25 years. What a blessing to have spiritual friends, a Bishop and prayer warrior throughout my political career. I am forever grateful for their friendship, love, and guidance as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate them on 25 years of spiritual leadership, and may they see many more years serving individuals across the country.

RECOGNIZING KATHY BABB'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of a constituent from my district, Kathy Babb. Kathy will be retiring after more than 50 dedicated years of public service to the residents of Haycock Township as a Township Supervisor.

Kathy Babb's service to Haycock Township dates back to the 1970s in which she tirelessly worked to maintain the natural beauty of the township. As a result of her efforts, today Haycock Township boasts over 6,000 preserved acres and is home to Bucks County Park, Lake Towhee, and State Park, and Lake Nockamixon. Consistently throughout her years in public service, Kathy was nominated by her fellow board members to lead the Board as Chair given her natural leadership skills.

She also served as President of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials and eagerly contributed to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials. Her dedication to local government will always be appreciated by the community and her legacy of public service will live on for future generations.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN HOWARD MCKINNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Howard McKinney, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and our nation is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During his service, CPT McKinney served in Georgia, Louisiana, and Vietnam where, as a Captain Infantry Platoon Leader, he led soldiers directly into combat during several enemy engagements. His accomplishments did not go unnoticed with his many awards including a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal.

CPT McKinney returned to Texas after his dedicated years of service. With the extensive experience he acquired with his work with automated tax systems, he started his own business, McKinney E-Systems & Associates, Inc. in Austin. Since retirement from the U.S. Army, he has devoted his time, talents, and resources to family, church, community, and veteran organizations.

I join CPT Howard McKinney's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selflessness. His fearless support and devotion to service before himself makes him a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING MR. OLAJUWON WHITE,
FL-03'S 2023 VETERAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we honor Mr. Olajuwon White as the 2023 Veteran of the Year.

Mr. White currently serves as the Veteran Service Director for Levv County, Florida. In this role he works to help veterans with case-work related to compensation, pension, dependency compensation, burial benefits, educational assistance, and more. In 2023, Mr. White received the 2023 Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce's Veteran Impact Award, the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, and a Levy County Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr. White began his career as a Hospital Corpsman in the United States Navy certified as an independent duty corpsman and surgical technician. Following his military service, Mr. White worked with Alachua County as a Senior Veterans Claims Counselor, working with hundreds of veterans to file claims and lead educational sessions for veterans and their dependents on information from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also has experience working with the VA as a field examiner in Tampa.

We thank Mr. White for his service and sacrifices for our nation and hope that his spirit of service will continue for many years to come. We are thrilled to honor him as our 2023 Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING ARMY CAPTAIN
KIRK R. PROCTOR, JR.

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to recognize Army Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., an exceptional Officer, leader and public servant.

Cpt. Proctor has concluded a year as a member of my legislative team, and within this duration, he has made a real impact on a multitude of defense, national security, and foreign affairs policy initiatives.

His on-the-ground perspective bolstered by my team's analysis—from how the industrial base ties into the operational force, to explaining the evolution of military medicine, and how readiness initiatives intersect with military family quality of life. Furthermore, Cpt. Proctor has inspired colleagues to learn more about the defense industry through his application of institutional knowledge and hard-earned experiences.

Cpt. Proctor's unwavering dedication to my office and contributions to Congress have not gone unnoticed. His commitment to the American people and passion for public service is admirable, and I hope he is offered the most unique opportunities and enriching assignments as he continues his career as an Army Officer. I wish Cpt. Proctor and his wife Sabia

the best of luck as he begins his next assignment as a legislative liaison, and I look forward to seeing him lead in the years to come.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., and I congratulate him as he continues a career of public service within the U.S. Army and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" SHEPLER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Shepler for his years of service to the Mackinaw City community and retirement as President of the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum Board of Directors.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, our country assumed heavy demands on the war materials industry. In order to sustain these increased production needs, the United States Coast Guard icebreaker, Cutter *Mackinaw* WAGB-83, was authorized for construction on December 17, 1941. Until decommissioning, The Mackinaw proved to be an essential facet of the Great Lakes' economy, colloquially becoming known as "The Queen of the Great Lakes." The Mackinaw was essential to the maintenance of the shipping lanes of the Lakes, becoming responsible for over 100 trapped ships being freed from ice blockages or buildups.

Following a long and successful career, the ship began its decommissioning process and the City of Cheboygan attempted to find a suitable home for The Mackinaw. In August of 2004, Mr. Shepler, along with Dick Moehl and Sandy Planisek, founded the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum in order to keep the ship in the Great Lakes. Following its successful development, the renowned icebreaker was decommissioned on July 10, 2006, and was moored at its permanent berth on July 21, 2006. With gratitude to the IMMM board of directors under the direction of Bill Shepler, the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum welcomed its first visitors in the spring of 2007. Visitors can now explore the ship's 62-year history, making their way around the Mess Deck, Engine Room, Captain's Quarters, Sick Bay, Galley, Navigation Room and more.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedicated efforts of Mr. Bill Shepler in preserving our history, and I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement. I'd like to wish Bill and the IMMM all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT DEBBIE ANN NASH-
KING, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to First Lieutenant

Debbie Ann Nash-King, U.S. Army, Retired. Her life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for her nation and Central Texas.

After being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, she attended the Medical Services Corp Officer's course and completed her military tour as the Fort Hood Dental Clinic's company commander. Her contributions didn't go unnoticed as she earned various commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

1LT Nash-King's commitment to service didn't end when she stepped away from the military. She's tirelessly supported her community by volunteering and serving on a broad array of important organizations and groups throughout the region, committing her talents and energies to make the Lone Star State a great place to call home. Currently, she serves as the Mayor of Killeen. Texas and has made lasting contributions to the city that is home to Fort Cavazos. She has been a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty in every step of her life.

I commend 1LT Nash-King's selfless service to the United States Army, her nation, and her community. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to others reflect the traits that make both our state and Nation great. I join her friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements.

OPPOSITION TO S.J. RES. 32, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "SMALL BUSINESS LENDING UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT"

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to S.J. Res. 32. [The Provision on Congressional Disapproval of The Rule Submitted By The Bureau Of Consumer Financial Protection Relating To "Small Business Lending Under The Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Mr. Speaker, the beginning of so many great American stories is built around starting a small business in your family name, becoming a foundation in your local community—making it in America.

Small businesses are major drivers of wealth creation in our overall economy. They account for two-thirds of net new jobs and nearly half of our U.S. economic activity.

For many of them, that dream stalls with going to a bank and getting a small business loan. For many Americans, the sound of their name, the color of their skin, the language that they speak or who they love can doom that dream if a bank says that they are at risk.

This isn't hypothetical. I, too, was born and raised in south Texas, I can tell you that when I go home and I see some businesses that have closed, I ask my family whether it was due to the pandemic, or no demand for the