

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE MOREAU  
COMMUNITY CENTER

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Moreau Community Center for its outstanding service to New York's 21st District.

Founded in 1977, the Moreau Community Center in South Glens Falls serves the residents of Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties. The Center is one of the largest human service agencies in the area, and seeks to meet the multigenerational needs of the community in a compassionate and inclusive environment.

To fulfill this mission, the Center offers a wide variety of quality programs, activities, volunteer opportunities, and services which support youth, seniors, and the community at large. The Center runs an emergency food pantry that serves more than 80 families each month, and operates a clothing thrift store run by volunteers. I applaud the good work of the Moreau Community Center, particularly in light of the fact that April is National Volunteer Month.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Moreau Community Center for its dedication to bringing our community together. We commend its incredible service, and look forward to its future endeavors.

HONORING REV. DR. STEPHEN W.  
POGUE

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue. Rev. Pogue was the Guest Speaker honored at Messiah Baptist Church Men's Ministry, Man of the Year 2018 on Saturday, March 31, 2018. I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge him regarding this honor.

Rev. Pogue was born in Roselle, New Jersey where he was a graduate of Cranford High School. He later joined the United States Air Force then graduated from Nyack College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science.

After Nyack College, Rev. Pogue graduated from Alliance Theological Seminary where he received the Masters of Divinity Degree, and then later received the Doctor of Ministry Degree in preaching from McCormick Theology Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. Rev. Pogue went on to serve as Pastor of the Greater Hood Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Harlem until September 2006, and later became the Co-Founder of the Hip Hop Church in Harlem. Rev. Pogue also served as the Pastor of The Greater Cooper A.M.E. Zion Church in Oak-

land, California in addition to being a member of the California Conference. Then, in November 2012, Rev. Pogue was appointed Pastor of The Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church in my district, where he inspires parishioners every day in Mount Vernon.

Outside of the church, Rev. Pogue is also quite active in the community. He is a member of the Westchester Human Rights Commission, the Mount Vernon Public Safety Commission, the Trustees Board of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and is the Mount Vernon Police Department Chaplain.

Of course, for all his fine works, Rev. Pogue's greatest passion is family. He is married to Iris Pogue and they have three wonderful children, Stephen, Stephany, and Deanna.

Rev. Stephen Pogue is a pillar in our and every community in which he has served. His work has been an inspiration and it is my honor to congratulate him on receiving this wonderful recognition.

HONORING MINISTER RICHARD  
THOMPSON

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true community leader, Minister Richard Thompson. Minister Thompson was honored as Messiah Baptist Church Men's Ministry, Man of the Year 2018 on Saturday, March 31, 2018 and I too want to acknowledge him on the occasion here.

Minister Thompson was born in South Port, North Carolina, and attended Narrow Way Bible College, which is affiliated with New York Theological. He has been a member of Messiah Baptist Church in Yonkers, NY for over 40 years. At Messiah, Minister Thompson is blessed to serve in a variety of ways, including as Minister, Deacon, Co-Chairman of the Trustee Ministry, Sunday School Teacher, and was responsible for the Operation Bread Basket for needy families for many years. He is also the Spiritual Enrichment Chairperson, always ministering to those in need of a word from God.

At a time when the Church was without a Pastor, Minister Thompson planned and conducted worship services, developed sermons, planned the Church's music, gave advice to parishioners and guided the religious interests of the Church, helping it to grow. He also communicated with the congregation through announcements by writing all the bulletins; he did it all. Minister Thompson also visits members in homes, nursing care facilities and hospitals, and he set up an Alcoholics Anonymous Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorder program for those seeking help. In addition, he also held the position as Custodian for the church.

Minister Thompson is a very special individual, and it is my honor to recognize him

today. Congratulations to him once again on being named Man of the Year 2018 at Messiah Baptist Church.

HONORING CHARLES THOMAS  
BLACKNALL

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of hard-work and integrity in our community, Charles Thomas Blacknall. Charles was honored as Messiah Baptist Church Men's Ministry, Man of the Year 2018 on Saturday, March 31, 2018. I'd like to acknowledge him and his great work on the occasion.

Charles was born in Franklinton, North Carolina and attended the Franklinton Public High School. He then moved to Yonkers following the completion of his high school education. At the age of 21, Charles became a member of Local 3 Electrical Union (EBEW) and was employed by Phelps Dodge Copper and Wire Company as a machine operator for more than eight years.

As a proud union member, Charles worked a wide array of union jobs. Following his time at Phelps and Dodge, he was assigned to Edison Price Lighting Company as a shipping and receiving clerk for 8 years. His next assignment was with Kliege Brother Electrical and Lighting as a Craftsman Painter for eight years.

In 1992 Charles left Local 3 and accepted a position as a Concierge in White Plains, where he worked until retirement in 2004.

Outside of work, Charles was very active in the community. He volunteered his time with multiple groups, including as a member of the Yonkers Branch of the NAACP, the National Action Network (NAN), Messiah Baptist Church Bible Study Class, and Messiah Baptist Church Men's Ministry. Charles was also very active in youth sports, and particularly enjoyed being a Volunteer Coach with the Commerce Community Center Youth League Basketball in Yonkers.

Of course, Charles' true passion was always his family. He and his wife have four lovely children, Lashanda, Nicholas, Marcus and Thomas, and he was blessed with five grandchildren Arzane, Alexis, Zarius, Lee Lee, and Mariah.

Charles Thomas Blacknall is a special member of our community and his life serves as an inspiration to us all. It is my honor to congratulate him on receiving this wonderful honor, and to thank him for all of the tremendous work he has done on behalf of his community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.