

to work hard for the greater good. The Pelham community which I represent has no doubt been strengthened by the work of Kathie O’Callaghan, who has done so much not just to help her fellow Pelham residents, but also people from all over the world.

A Pelhamite for over 30 years, Kathie is a visionary who has broken conventional barriers and applied her talents to a wide range of charitable causes that have truly made a difference. Kathie’s most recent accomplishment is being the Founder & President of Hearts and Homes for Refugees, an innovative grassroots non-profit that supports U.S. Department of State designated agencies in welcoming, protecting and advocating for refugees resettling in U.S. communities. Inspired by the crisis in Syria, Kathie created a group to advocate for resettlement in Westchester County. HHR is now comprised of 400 volunteers that welcomed the first refugee family to Westchester County: a Syrian family of six that was resettled in Pelham. In 2018, Kathie led HHR in creating the Westchester Refugee Initiative, a county-wide coalition to support and grow the network of over 20 community and interfaith organizations and 1,500 individuals who support the welcoming movement in Westchester. Under Kathie’s leadership, the Westchester Refugee Initiative’s volunteers continue to welcome and advocate for new refugee arrivals and supports refugees who are already in the country and need of help.

Beyond her incredible work with refugees, Kathie has also been an integral part of the formation of the Friends of the Pelham Library; a Member of the Rotary Club of the Pelham; an In-Home Hospice Volunteer at Jansen Hospice & Palliative Care; a Pelham Manor Volunteer Firefighter; a Member of the leadership team of Huguenot Memorial Church; a Lector at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church; and was an honoree at the 2017 Pelham Woman of Distinction event.

Kathie has done it all, and the work she has done in Pelham is nothing short of inspirational. This year, the Pelham Civics are honoring Kathie at their 2018 Dinner. They could not have picked a more deserving honoree. Congratulations to Kathie O’Callaghan on this tremendous honor.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
BARBARA HAYMS WEISS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman, Barbara Hayms Weiss, who was born on March 15, 1931 in Chicago and passed away on July 21, 2018, in Palo Alto, California. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Paul.

Barbara and Paul lived in Los Altos Hills and Palo Alto where they raised three children. They supported Jewish causes, arts organizations, and Democrats, especially women candidates.

Barbara earned her B.A. in Sociology from San Jose State University in 1976 at the age of 45. She then completed her M.S.W. with a focus on gerontology in 1981 from U.C. Berkeley. She worked at Little House in Menlo Park and joined Paul’s auto dealership, Key Chev-

rolet, as a Dealer-Academy trained potential successor, and helped run the agency until they sold the business in 1988. Barbara was also Board President of the Jewish Community Center of Palo Alto.

Barbara and Paul moved from their large home in Los Altos Hills to a condominium in Palo Alto, where they continued, via their Donor Advised Fund at the San Francisco Jewish Federation, to support causes that were important to them. They enjoyed frequent trips to Santa Fe, New Mexico for the Opera and SWAIA Indian Market, where they collected stunningly beautiful Pueblo pottery.

According to Barbara’s son Mark, his parents “just wanted America to continue to give opportunities that they got and wanted to back the right people to accomplish that.”

Barbara leaves her son Mark Weiss of Palo Alto and his wife Terry Acebo Davis; Linda Weiss Moulding of San Carlos and her husband Mark Moulding, Rick and Nancy Weiss of Los Altos Hills, and her grandchildren Aaron and Jon Lipinski of San Carlos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Barbara Weiss, a patriot, a mother and a highly accomplished woman. I will always miss her, as will all those who were privileged to know her and admire the values she lived out so faithfully over a lifetime.

HONORING SISTERS’ JOURNEY AS
THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sisters’ Journey as they mark the 20th anniversary of this remarkable organization. A faith-based breast cancer support and advocacy group, Sisters’ Journey began as a personal journey and continues today as a labor of love.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer, Linda White-Epps felt the fear and frustration so many do when facing breast cancer. She knew she needed to heal not only her body but her soul and searched for others who could relate to what she was experiencing. It was through this search that she educated herself on the disease as well as the health disparities that existed. African-American women are statistically more likely to die from breast cancer than other ethnic groups and they are diagnosed at younger ages and often with a more aggressive form of the disease. Linda also met more women than she ever imagined that were experiencing similar journeys and that there was an unspoken but agreed to code of silence that needed to be broken. It was from all this that Sisters’ Journey was born.

Linda began with a calendar created to break the silence among women of color with twelve women sharing their stories of hope and survival. Twenty years later, nearly two-hundred and fifty courageous women have given hope and inspiration to women and their families facing a breast cancer diagnosis. Sisters’ Journey has grown and become an invaluable resource of support and advocacy.

Monthly support groups meetings are held at a church parish hall; events include annual survivor cook-outs, a Christmas Party, and a Mother/Daughter “know your family history” brunch; and educational outreach programs include beauty shop chats, participation in community parades, as well as school programs for children from elementary through college. And, of course, there is the annual Pink Tea, an event which has grown to include hundreds of family, friends, and supporters, where the annual calendar is revealed.

Linda White-Epps survived for twelve years before succumbing to a recurrence in 2003. Sisters’ Journey and her legacy was carried on by her mother, Phyllis White, until her passing in 2010. Today, it is Linda’s daughter, Dawn White-Bracey, who carries on this labor of love. The celebration of Sisters’ Journey’s 20th calendar is not only a wonderful milestone for this incredible organization, but a celebration of the on-going legacy of Linda White-Epps and her remarkable journey. I consider myself fortunate to have known and worked with Linda, Phyllis, and now Dawn, and I am honored to call them friends. It is with the greatest admiration and my heartfelt congratulations that I rise today to extend Dawn and the Sisters’ Journey family my very best wishes as they celebrate this very special occasion.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLIVE BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Olive Branch Baptist Church was formed in 1893 when a small group of parishioners separated from Zion Baptist Church and formed Zion’s Chapel. Under the leadership of Dr. John Armistead, Zion’s Chapel was established in a nearby facility called Copeland’s Hall and attracted worshippers two Sundays each month.

By 1897, membership had grown so large that a new and larger location was necessary. With assistance from their mother church, Zion Baptist Church, Zion’s Chapel was able to purchase an older sanctuary, previously known as Olive Branch Methodist Church. With the guidance of Reverend H.W. Chiles, the new church was renamed Olive Branch Baptist Church.

It is impossible to commemorate the 125th anniversary of this historic church without recognizing former pastors. Reverend H.W. Chiles served as the first pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the Sunday School, the Home Mission Circle and the Senior Choir was established.

In 1905, Dr. H. L. Barco took the helm. During his 11-year tenure, the church did very well financially and was able to pay off the church’s mortgage. In addition, he organized the Foreign Mission Circle and the Senior Usher Board.

Olive Branch Baptist Church’s first male auxiliary was established in 1918 when Reverend A. S. Hoard was installed as the third

pastor. The auxiliary was responsible for installing the bell that still sits inside the belfry today.

Despite the absence of a pastor from 1926 to 1928, Olive Branch Baptist Church continued to grow. During these years, the church purchased land adjacent to the church grounds to serve as a parking lot and cemetery.

Beginning in 1928, Reverend J.W. Shaffer served as Shepherd of the flock. During his five-year tenure, Olive Branch Baptist Church continued to attract local residents and spread the good word of God.

Reverend Lamar Sharp served as the fifth pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church. He was a resident of Norfolk, Virginia, and traveled to preach on the first and third Sunday of every month for 27 years. Due to poor health, Reverend Sharp retired in 1963 and his nephew, Reverend James Benjamin Sharp, was chosen as the sixth pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church.

During Reverend James Sharp's pastorate, on January 5, 1986, Olive Branch Baptist Church suffered a fire. God's grace provided that little damage occurred to the sanctuary, however the congregation was forced to relocate to another church during the four-month repair.

Reverend James Sharp retired on December 31, 2000, after serving 37 years. Upon his retirement, the members of Olive Branch Baptist Church presented him with the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

From 2001 until 2003, Olive Branch Baptist Church was once again without a pastor. However, after a three-year search, the pulpit Search Committee chose Reverend Ernest L. Reid as their seventh pastor. He was Olive Branch Baptist Church's youngest pastor and gave new life to the mission of the church.

Olive Branch Baptist Church's current pastor is Reverend Michael L. Williams. Reverend Williams was installed on March 30, 2014 and is the eighth pastor in Olive Branch Baptist Church's 125 years of service to the Portsmouth community. His vision for the church is simple—Bridge the Past; Bless the Present; Build the Future. Over the four years that he has served as pastor, Reverend Williams has revitalized the Men's Ministry and Nursing Ministry and formed the Women's, Culinary and Mentoring Ministries. Through these organizations, Reverend Williams, along with Olive Branch Baptist Church's congregation, is continuing to build a church that worships, witnesses and serves with a spirit of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, as Olive Branch Baptist Church celebrates this historic milestone, its congregation can take pride in an inspiring 125 years of fellowship, worship and service. I would like to congratulate Reverend Michael L. Williams and all the members of the church's congregation on this joyous occasion, and I wish them many more years full of growth and prosperity.

GIRL SCOUTS ARE TODAY'S
LEADERS—SUSAN SOH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are three important traits that leaders young and

old should have: courage, confidence, and character. The three C's is a good name for them. These traits are the foundation of what the 2.6 million Girl Scouts worldwide use to make a difference. Out of the 2.6 million girls and adults, there are 1.8 million girls, and thousands are chosen every year as Gold Award Girl Scouts for their dedication to improving the communities that they serve. Out of these thousands of girls, only ten young leaders are chosen as National Gold Award Girl Scouts. This honorable distinction is reserved for those girls who have taken an idea and turned into concrete results that will have effects on the local, national, and global levels.

Well Mr. Speaker, part of the district I represent in Houston, Texas happens to be home to a recently awarded National Gold Award Girl Scout, Susan Soh. Susan is helping to change the lives of others around the world with her Gold Award project, Leer a Mi (Read to Me). Susan learned of children in Guatemala who spoke only their local Mayan dialect, and not the official language of Spanish. Because of the language barrier, children were struggling with literacy in upon entering primary school. After recognizing this was a serious issue, Susan answered the call to action.

Life changing effects have been made for children in Guatemala thanks to Susan's efforts and her partnership with Guatemala SANA. By bringing in Spanish speakers to record audiobooks, building a library, and creating language programs, almost no stone has been left unturned to help the local children excel in their schooling. Real results have been made in the community.

Over 400 children visit the library every month and are scoring above their reading levels when they enter primary school. Because of the success of this idea turned to actionable plan, Susan has made sure the results continue for years to come.

Susan, along with the other National Gold Award Girl Scouts, were recognized this month at the United Nations in New York City. I applaud her for answering the call to action. She has demonstrated true leadership with the three C's at the forefront of her efforts: courage, confidence, and character. Her work as a Girls Scout shows that she is a leader in our city, state, country, and around the globe.

And that's just the way it is.

EDMUND A. WALENS, JR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sargent Edmund A. Walens, Jr., of Gloucester City, New Jersey for his service to our nation.

Edmund A. Walens, Jr. was a graduate of Gloucester High School. He then, entered the United States Air Force in June, 1952. He was unable to finish the basic training due to the Korean War, the Airforce needed Aircraft Mechanics and he was immediately transferred to the Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

He served at Savannah Georgia refueling planes, then the 307 Bomb Wing, Okinawa Island, in Japan. In 1953, the Korean Armistice

Agreement was signed, this ended the Korean War.

After ending the war Mr. Walens was assigned to the 98th Bomb Wing and shipped statewide though his time he served in New York, Texas, and then he received an honorable discharge in 1960 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Walens has been married for sixty years and has four children. Additionally, he served as a volunteer firefighter for nine and a half years and was in the New Jersey National Guard for fourteen years, receiving an honorable discharge in 1991.

Mr. Walens also was the overseer in designing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3620, Donald "Doc" Doherty Veterans Museum. The museum has artifacts that date back to the 1600's, and has been around for the community's enjoyment for fourteen years.

Mr. Speaker, Edmund A. Walens, Jr. is the living embodiment of the "Greatest Generation." I ask you to join me in saluting and thanking him for his service to our country.

HONORING FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH 165TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize a spiritual institution in my district that this year is celebrating its remarkable 165th anniversary.

First Baptist Church in Bronxville is a warm, friendly community of Christians comprised of people with a diversity of cultural and racial backgrounds. First Baptist is a Christ-centered Church that seeks to relate Biblical messages to contemporary practical life experience. As a member of the American Baptist Churches, USA, the church is also affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1854 as The First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon and was located for eighty years on the corner of Second Avenue and Second Street in Mount Vernon. In 1970 the congregation chose to move to our present location, 407 New Rochelle Road because of its central location, convenient to the nearby towns and villages where most of our members live—Bronxville, Crestwood, Eastchester, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Tuckahoe, and Yonkers.

The beautiful modern church building houses the Sanctuary which can accommodate more than 300 people, and The Fellowship Hall which is used for the Sunday Church Coffee Hour, special church programs and conferences, church dinners, socials and Youth meetings and activities.

The contributions made by First Baptist Church and its congregation to our community for 165 years cannot be over stated. I want to congratulate Reverend Lamont Granby and the entire First Baptist family on this wonderful occasion.