

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.