

CELEBRATING THE LIFETIME OF EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OF JESSE BERNARD BILBERRY, JR.

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I join former Congressman Cleo Fields and the entire Baton Rouge community today in honor of Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr. Rev. Bilberry has spent the entirety of his life dedicated to educational and community development. Revered as a trailblazer throughout his lifetime, Rev. Bilberry most recently retired after 34 years of pastoral service at Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

Rev. Bilberry was born on May 12, 1929 in Marion, Louisiana the oldest of ten children of Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Sr. and Joe B. Bilberry. He was baptized at the age of 14 at the Bloomberg Grove Baptist Church in Farmerville, Louisiana. Rev. Bilberry went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University and A&M College. An Army veteran, Rev. Bilberry was honorably discharged from the United States Army after serving from August 18, 1951 to July 21, 1953.

After Rev. Bilberry's return from the Army, he went on to marry Verta Lee Hamilton on December 23, 1953. The couple has one daughter, Cassandra Gail.

Rev. Bilberry began a new chapter in life after marriage that started his esteemed trajectory in educational and community development. He began his career as the principal of Tensas Rosenwald High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana from 1956 to 1969. During this time, he completed his Master of Education from Louisiana State University in 1957. He was also awarded the Human Rights Award for Creative Leadership in Education in 1968.

In 1969, Rev. Bilberry took his talents back to Southern University where he served as the Freshman Complex Director until 1971. He then implemented and directed the inaugural Office of High School Relations at Southern from 1971 to 1973. The following year, Rev. Bilberry was promoted to Director of Admissions of Southern University, where he served this role until 1984.

During his early years as Director of Admissions for Southern, Rev. Bilberry first became acquainted with Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1975. He was later ordained a Deacon and asked to serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. By 1981, he became an Associate Minister.

Rev. Bilberry retired from Southern University and the State of Louisiana in 1984. That same year, he accepted the pastorate of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church. Rev. Bilberry continued his studies of the church and graduated from Christian Bible College in 1988 with a Master of Theology and a Doctorate of Theology in 1990.

Throughout his lifetime, Rev. Bilberry has received numerous awards and recognition, including Minister of the Year in 1989 from the Early Risers Kiwanis Club, two-time recipient of the M.S. Tally Walk on the Water Award from the Department of Christian Education in 1991 and 1992, and the Frontiersman Award

from the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. in 1993 for his work leading a mission trip to Dominica, West Indies.

Rev. Bilberry has also dedicated his time to a plethora of scholastic and service-oriented organizations, including the Southern University and A&M College Board of Supervisors, supervisor and instructor for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and a member of East Baton Rouge Parish Ministers Conference, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Society.

Rev. Bilberry's trajectory in leadership continued as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Crestworth Learning Academy, President of the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Association, and State Director of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Rev. Bilberry has led a life of exemplary service, leadership, and compassion that has resonated throughout the entire Baton Rouge community and the state of Louisiana. His lifetime body of work should be well known and celebrated not only by those he has influenced throughout the years, but by all who seek to make a difference in this world through the vocation of ministry and education.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and work of Rev. Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr. and wish him luck in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING DR. STEPHEN BASH ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Stephen Bash for his retirement. Dr. Bash currently serves as Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Cardiology, in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria.

Dr. Bash has had a long and distinguished career as a doctor. He graduated from Indiana University Medical School in 1967 and began his medical career with an internship at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Dr. Bash then returned to Indiana where he completed his Pediatric Residency and a Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Academia has also been an important aspect of Dr. Bash's career as he worked as an instructor at the Fort Wayne Family Practice Residency and an assistant professor at the University of Illinois. Additionally, Dr. Bash served our country honorably as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy and was a visiting cardiology consultant for the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Bash is part of several professional societies and has received several awards for his work. I would like to wish Dr. Bash well as he begins his well-earned retirement and thank him for his many contributions to medical research.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Dr. Stephen Bash that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dr. Stephen Bash on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

MIGUEL GARCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miguel Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Miguel Garcia is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miguel Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miguel Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY HOSPITAL EARNS 'A' RATING

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital for earning an 'A' rating from The Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grade.

Memorial Hermann Katy was one of only 855 hospitals in the United States given an 'A' rating from the Leapfrog Group, a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harmful incidents among patients in their care. By consistently striving for and achieving excellence, Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital has set the bar high for hospitals around the country.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital for being recognized with an 'A' rating along with 855 other hospitals across our great nation. Thank you for your dedication to providing quality care to our Katy community.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOUIS J. GOODMAN, PH.D., CAE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Louis J. Goodman, Ph.D., CAE, as he retires after 22 years at the helm of the Texas Medical Association.

In his role as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Goodman has