

**ERIKA STROUD NAMED TEXAS'S
BEST TRAINER**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Public Safety Dispatcher Erika Stroud for being named Texas's best trainer by the Texas Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the Texas National Emergency Number Association.

As a public safety dispatcher, Erika's quick decisions can make the difference between life and death in emergency situations. When training Sugar Land's public safety dispatchers and answering emergency calls, Erika holds herself and her team to the highest standards and ensures that recruits are ready to help folks in need no matter the time, day or night. She is also a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, which ensures that our dedicated first responders have access to critical mental health resources.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Erika Stroud for this award. I thank her for her commitment to keeping our Sugar Land community safe.

**CELEBRATION OF THE FORTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY OF KANSAS CITY**

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. As a leader in nonprofit homebuilding, Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to ensuring suitable and affordable housing for all. Since its creation, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City has improved hundreds of lives in six counties of the Greater Kansas City area and the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. Wholly devoted to establishing stability and security in the community via improved housing, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City provides tools to build self-reliance and lightens the burdens many homeowners face. Through these programs, they create opportunities for families to invest in their future and thrive.

John and Mary Pritchard founded Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City in March of 1979, now the seventh oldest branch of Habitat for Humanity International. In their first year, the Pritchards, with the aid of board members, local churches, and community groups, purchased seven properties which they turned into homes. The Middlebrooks, Habitat's first homeowners, moved to the corner of Linwood and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and were able to pay zero-percent interest on their mortgage for twenty years. The hard work of volunteers, families, and community members have allowed Habitat of Kansas City to continue building, renovating, and renewing over 700 homes in their forty years in the area.

Building off their success in constructing homes, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City

created ReStore, a retail store which sells donated home furnishings and construction material to families trying to renovate their homes at an affordable price. Additionally, they built their House of Abraham in 2003, an interfaith endeavor between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in the Greater Kansas City area. It seeks to promote understanding between faiths by having adherents work together to build and restore homes. Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City also established the HOPE financial literacy program which assists Habitat homeowners with long-term credit and budgeting.

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is just one branch of an international organization, which aids people across all 50 states and 70 countries. Habitat International was founded in 1976 and has helped more than 22 million people due to their core belief that housing should be accessible to all. Habitat for Humanity constructs and restores homes, and then counsels families on investments and finances to help them keep their homes. When a family can afford a safe and stable home, they can then invest in other needs such as health care or the education of their children. Habitat for Humanity creates a ripple effect throughout communities, not only providing a safe shelter, but also a prosperous and strong future for families. They are champions for one of the core values of our country—opportunity for all, regardless of income or background.

Madam Speaker, please join me, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and those around the nation in honoring the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. Their commitment to bettering the community through building and restoring houses for families in the region is admirable and worthy of our recognition.

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF HULL, TEXAS**

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Hull located in east Liberty County, Texas.

On July 19, 2019, a group of dedicated Christians met in a home for the purpose of organizing the First Baptist Church of Hull, Texas. On July 24 of the same year, Mr. S.E. Beavers donated two lots of land for a church site. Mr. Beavers was later elected as a Trustee of the church and his widow was the last surviving of the fourteen charter members. The original church building was built from lumber salvaged from the neighboring abandoned sawmill community of Budconner.

On January 4, 1956, the church voted to construct the present auditorium, which was completed in 1957 and dedicated on August 31, 1958. The original frame of the church building was used for several Sunday school classrooms until the current education building was completed on December 13, 1969. In January of 2012, First Baptist voted to build a Family Life Center.

Over the years, the church's resiliency has been tested through several natural disasters:

the flood of 1994, Hurricane Ike in 2008, and Hurricane Harvey in 2017 each caused considerable damage to First Baptist's property. Hurricane Harvey inundated it with several feet of water, wiped out nearby Hull-Daisetta Elementary School, and caused considerable damage to much of the surrounding community.

During the aftermath of Harvey, the damaged Family Life Center at First Baptist served as a distribution center for supplies and provided meals for first responders, disaster relief crews, and local residents. Each time the church was damaged, church members, aided by groups like the Texas Baptist Men's (TBM) Builders, have rebuilt. To date, the parsonage has been restored and work on the sanctuary and education building is ongoing.

In addition to being on the receiving end of mission efforts following natural disasters, individuals and groups from First Baptist Church, Hull have been missionaries at home and abroad. The church has made several trips to bring the Gospel to the people of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. They have also aided in many construction mission projects, conducted numerous Vacation Bible Schools for children and young adults residing in the surrounding community, and have been active at the East Texas Baptist Encampment in Newton, Texas.

Throughout the past century, the First Baptist Church of Hull has had twenty-seven pastors. Although most have been "full-time," some have been bi-vocational. On October 19, 1919, Rev. R.L. Nash was called to be the first pastor on a part-time basis. The first full-time Pastor, Rev. R.W. Lindsay, began serving First Baptist on September 26, 1920. The first deacons were elected on May 29, 1921. The church is actively seeking a pastor at this time.

On July 20, 2019, my brothers and sisters in Christ at the First Baptist Church of Hull will celebrate 100 years of delivering God's word to the people of Hull, Daisetta, and the surrounding communities. The Lord has used this historic church as an amazing witness for a century, and I am privileged to have such a place of worship in my district.

**COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUN-
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WAVERLY ROTARY CLUB**

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Waverly Rotary Club.

In 1919, the Waverly Rotary Club was established under the sponsorship of the club in Elmira, New York. As they elected their first President, Hart Seeley, this newly founded branch of Rotary International made a commitment to service in their community.

The Rotary International motto is "Service Above Self," and Waverly Rotary has embodied that principle over one hundred years of supporting community service projects. The Waverly Rotary Club is a proud sponsor of a strong Student Exchange Program that was established in 1951. For decades they have fostered positive international relationships for