

strong ethical standards, improved friendship among college women, as well as to identify and develop solutions to issues that prevented young women from accessing higher education. With the motto of "Service to All Mankind," the sorority quickly took root in campuses and communities across the United States.

In the early years following its inception, the members of AKA engaged in endeavors that both assisted with access to and maximizing of the higher education experience for women of color. By the time AKA celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1933, the sorority had grown into a national organization with over 500 members in 104 chapters from across the United States. Among AKA's first achievements were the creation of a \$2000 scholarship to increase the ability of talented young women to financially afford college and an engagement with the NAACP to remove social barriers that prevented equal access to college education.

As the decades passed, AKA continued to expand both its membership and the scope of its community programs. In support of their sorority's mission to make higher education more accessible, the members of AKA took frontline roles in the Civil Rights movement and the President Johnson's War on Poverty. In addition to its Emerging Young Leader Initiatives, which provides middle school aged girls with leadership development and enhanced academic opportunities, AKA and its members began to tackle issues of community health, poverty and environmental justice. To support healthier communities, AKA started an asthma prevention program to help families identify and treat childhood asthma before it impacts the educational experience. In fulfillment of AKA's mission, its members undertook the creation of programs to empower their communities with information on the impact of environmental issues affecting them, setup health care forums targeted to women's issues and continue to partner with international leaders like UNESCO to end hunger and poverty across the globe.

Today, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is a thriving global organization with over 200,000 members worldwide across hundreds of chapters and has affected the future of thousands of young women. AKA's members have been part of key social movements that have seen our nation and the world move closer to equality on all fronts. I thank the members of the Metro Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for their tireless dedication and service to Greater Detroit region and congratulate them on celebrating another great milestone in their history. I am proud to represent so many strong and talented Alpha Kappa Alpha women and I wish them well in their future endeavors as they continue making a remarkable impact on communities around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF MONSIGNOR
THOMAS BANICK FOR 50 YEARS
OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A
CATHOLIC PRIEST

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Monsignor Thomas Banick, who

after 50 years of service to the Catholic Church and his community, is retiring. Monsignor Banick was ordained by Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor on December 18, 1963, in the Church of St. Ignatius in Rome. A day later, he celebrated his First Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In 1964, he was awarded the Degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology by the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Shortly thereafter, Father Banick returned to the United States and celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Family Church.

Monsignor Banick was first assigned to Holy Ghost Church in Olyphant as an assistant pastor, where he took up residence after serving as an interim assistant pastor for the summer of 1964 at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church in Dunmore. In 1967, he was transferred to Gate of Heaven Parish, where he served as assistant pastor until September 1969. From then until 1978, Father Banick held the position of Professor of Theology, Director of Spiritual Life, and Director of Music at St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton. During this time, he also served as Lecturer in Religious Studies and Theology at the University of Scranton, Lecturer in Liturgical Music at Marywood College, Chairperson of the Music Commission of the Diocese of Scranton, and Director of Music at St. Peter's Cathedral. Father Banick engaged in further studies at Fordham University and Woodstock College in New York, the University of San Francisco, and the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, where he was awarded a Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1973.

In 1976, he took up residence at Marywood College and was appointed the first Director of the Office for Continuing Education of Priests by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, the sixth Bishop of Scranton. In September 1976, at the request of the Board of Bishops of the North American College, Bishop McCormick released Father Banick for service to the College as Director of the Advising Program and Director of Music. A year later, he was named Vice Rector of the College, a position he held until 1985. While in Rome, he was also Assistant Professor of Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Before leaving Rome to return to the Diocese, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II, on May 28, 1985.

After returning to Pennsylvania, Monsignor Banick was appointed to his first pastorate at St. Mary's by Bishop James C. Timlin on September 4, 1985. Since then, Monsignor Banick served faithfully as Pastor of St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre for 28 years. Soon after becoming pastor, he established a Pastoral Team to assist him in the pastoral leadership of the large downtown church and in the ongoing ecclesial renewal inaugurated by the Second Vatican Council. St. Mary's Parish Center, constructed in 1995 to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's founding, provided much needed space for parish ministries and activities, including a Religious Education (CCD) Center, a Music Center and a Reception Hall.

During his pastorate, Monsignor Banick served on the Presbyterian Council of the Diocese of Scranton. He also held membership in ecumenical, inter-faith, and community groups, including the Catholic Youth Center of Wyoming Valley, the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, the Inter-faith Council of Wyoming

Valley, the Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, and the Inter-faith Resource Center for Peace and Justice. Monsignor Banick was Chairperson of the Mayor's Task Force on Alcohol and Drugs in Wilkes-Barre, and was Vice-President of VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods) which operated the shelter for homeless in the Wilkes-Barre area. He also served on the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and the Catholic Theological Society of America, and the Board of Directors of the United Way of Wyoming Valley. He also presided over the Board of Directors of the King's College/St. Mary's Early Childhood Learning Center, located at St. Mary's, which he founded in 1995 with Father James Lackenmeir, CSC, President of King's College.

Recently, Monsignor Banick also became pastor of St. Joseph's Slovak Church and St. Therese Church when the reorganization plan of the Diocese of Scranton consolidated them into St. Mary's Church to form Our Lady of Fatima Parish on June 27, 2011.

Today, I am proud to honor Monsignor Banick for a lifetime of devotion to improving his community, serving the Church he loves through priesthood, and positively touching the lives of countless citizens of Northeast Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. "BOB"
MAGEE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community are exceptional. Lake Elsinore has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Robert E. "Bob" Magee is one of these individuals. On January 25, 2014, Bob will be honored as the 2013 "John Packman Award" recipient at the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Gala.

Each year, the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce awards one individual the John Packman Award. This individual is selected based on the criteria that they have given the highest level of service to his or her community in the past year. After evaluating all that Bob has done for our community, it became clear how worthy he is of this honor.

Bob was born and raised in the thriving city of Sacramento, California, to Ed and Lynn Magee as one of four children. Bob went on to graduate high school after his family moved to the sunny Southern California city of San Diego and later attended San Diego State University (SDSU), where he earned his degree in Public Administration with an Emphasis in City Planning. Bob's thriving career began when he interned for Assemblyman Larry Stirling's 77th District Office and later with the Planning Department of the City of Santee during his years at SDSU. Following these experiences, Bob's passion for public service ignited. His first job out of college led him to follow this passion to Lake Elsinore, where he