

Corps, a position he held for five years. He has been honored many times by such diverse groups as the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP, the City of Hope, Fight for Sight, The Urban League, The National Conference of Black Mayors, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the ACLU, the State Department, the Boy Scouts of America, Haddassah International and the Peace Corps.

He has received awards from the Bronx Community College for his work with children, the Albert Einstein Award from Yeshiva University, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors for excellence in the performing arts. He was the first recipient of the Nelson Mandela Courage Award and was honored at the White House with the 1994 National Medal of Arts from President Clinton for his contributions to our nation's cultural life. He has received honorary degrees from City University of New York, Spellman College in Atlanta, Tufts University, Brandeis University, Long Island University, Bard College and most recently Doctor of Humane Letters from Columbia University. In 2010, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation honored Mr. Belafonte with its prestigious Phoenix Award.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Belafonte has devoted his life to the cause of freedom, justice, equality, and human dignity. His has been an important and consequential life. And he is still going strong.

So on the occasion of his 85th birthday, I rise to say Mr. Belafonte: Happy birthday and thank you for your active faith, your lifetime of service, your tireless devotion to human rights and freedom.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH
WILSON PARKS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Joseph Wilson Parks, for his contributions to the State of New Jersey and to our nation. On February 15, 2012, Bishop Parks passed away at the age of eighty-one. As a spiritual leader, mentor, and community servant, Bishop Parks dedicated himself to bettering the lives of others.

Bishop Parks was born on January 7, 1931 in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. He was one of six children of Ernest R. Parks and Lura V. (Barber) Parks. Although he began high school in Wilkesboro, NC, Bishop Parks ultimately received his high school diploma from Harren High School in New York City.

In 1945, Bishop Parks joined the Mt. Olive Fire Baptized Holiness Church in Harlem, New York. At the young age of seventeen, Bishop Parks became one of the first Junior Deacons at Mt. Olive and would later go on to serve as a Senior Deacon for ten years. Bishop Parks was a member of Mt. Olive Fire Baptized for twenty years.

On November 27, 1951, Bishop Parks was drafted into the United States Army. For eight years, he proudly served his country during the Korean War and would ultimately receive an Honorable Discharge.

After returning home, Bishop Parks went on to work in the printing industry for thirty-eight

years. During his time in the printing industry, he was a proud and active member of the Local 1—Amalgamated Lithographers of America.

On January 30, 1954, Bishop Parks married the love of his life Anna B. Harmon Parks.

Bishop Parks went on to graduate from Manhattan Bible Institute in New York City, receiving his Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in 1968. He also received an Honorary Doctorate from Fuller Normal Industrial Institute in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1965, Bishop Parks was ordained as a reverend and appointed pastor of St. Peter F.B.H. Church in Paterson, New Jersey.

In 1973, Bishop Parks and his family moved to Paterson, New Jersey, where he continued to serve his church. Upon moving to Paterson, Bishop Parks became an active community advocate throughout Paterson. Bishop Parks was a member of the Paterson Pastors' Workshop, St. Joseph's Hospital Pastoral Care Team and instituted numerous ministries that benefited the community.

On November 24, 1994, Reverend Parks was ordained as a Bishop of Sounds of Praise Pentecostal Ministries, under the auspices of the Bishop Chandler David Owens, Chairman of the Church of God in Christ.

For those lucky enough to have known Bishop Parks personally, they knew that his family and faith meant everything to him. I know that he will be missed by his children, family, friends, and congregants, but most of all by his wife Anna B. Harmon Parks.

On February 25, 2012 the memorial service and funeral for Bishop Parks took place in our hometown of Paterson, New Jersey. I was humbled to have the honor to speak at Bishop Parks' memorial service. Having known Bishop Parks throughout my career in public service, I can confidently say that his life was a life well-lived.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of truly selfless individuals like Bishop Joseph Wilson Parks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Bishop Park's family and friends, all those whose lives he touched, and me, in recognizing Bishop Joseph Wilson Parks.

McKINNEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
FIRST-RATE EDUCATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate McKinney Christian Academy on 20 years of providing first-rate education to the young people of North Texas.

As the school's mission statement says, "McKinney Christian Academy exists to honor Jesus Christ by teaching students to live biblically through education of mind, body, and spirit." Over the past two decades, it has done just that for hundreds of students.

On the first day of classes back in 1992, just 13 children walked through the doors. Currently, 510 students from pre-kindergarten through the twelfth grade are being served at

McKinney Christian by a devoted, skilled faculty and staff.

In fact, the local paper recently named McKinney Christian's lower school principal, Ms. Debi Sass, and a top-notch teacher, Mr. Jeff Anderson, 2011 Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year for the area.

McKinney Christian is honored to have former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee join them at a special anniversary celebration this month, and while I will be in Washington, D.C. during the occasion, it's a pleasure to welcome the Governor to the Third Congressional District of Texas.

To the McKinney Mustangs—parents, students and teachers alike—congratulations on being a part of such an exceptional institution. Keep up the good work.

God bless you, God bless Texas, and may God continue to bless the United States of America through great folks like you.

TANZANIA MISSION FULFILLS
DREAM FOR CARMEL COUPLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

[From the Monterey Herald, Jan. 22, 2012]

DAVE AND WENDY BANKS TEACH VILLAGERS
DURING PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE

(By Amy E. West)

When Carmel's Dave and Wendy Banks met in the 1960s, they talked about joining the Peace Corps. What they didn't realize was it would take them more than four decades to make it happen.

After marrying, raising kids and retiring, they said to each other, "You know what we talked about long ago? Maybe we should try it."

The retired couple returned to Carmel in 2010 after spending more than two years in Tanzania, educating villagers about HIV prevention, biology and English.

Surprisingly, they integrated well into the Tanzanian culture.

"If you have gray hair, you're in," said Dave Banks, 70, a retired pharmacist.

Their Tanzanian village of about 1,000 people not only respected their elders, but also respected the customs of one another. The village, Maringo, had two major tribes, and Catholic, Muslim and Lutheran faiths lived and celebrated traditions together, which impressed the Bankses.

"I think a lot of places in the world could take an example from Tanzania," said Wendy Banks, 69, a retired teacher.

Tanzanians subsist on less than a dollar a day, and at least 10 percent of the population lives with HIV. The stigma of the disease, especially with women, inspired the Bankses to start a life skills club to teach how to prevent the spread of HIV and brainstorm ways for HIV-inflicted villagers to support their families.

High school students from the club performed skits and raps for the younger school kids, and persuaded even Muslim girls to do condom demonstrations.

Primary education, required in Tanzania, is free, but tuition for high school costs about \$100 a year. Educating boys takes priority over girls, but the headmaster in Maringo worked hard to keep the ratio at 50 percent.

To stay in school, girls commonly find older men to finance their education in exchange for sexual favors. "Babu" Dave and