

press forward towards their goal of planting 50,000 crape myrtle trees throughout McKinney.

God Bless all your efforts and God Bless Texas. I salute you.

HONORING ALEXANDER R.V.  
BATTLES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander R.V. Battles. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex helped bring awareness to his local blood bank after receiving a blood transfusion himself that saved his life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander R.V. Battles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GEORGE LES, THE OAK  
LAWN CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE'S BUSINESS PERSON OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2014*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Les, a longtime restaurateur and community institution in Oak Lawn, Illinois. For the last 40 years, Mr. Les and his brother, Angelo, have run the famous Les Brothers restaurant at 87th Street and Ridgeland Avenue. On January 18, Mr. Les was recognized by the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce as its "Business Person of the Year."

Mr. Les embodies the quintessential American success story. In 1968, when he was just 10 years old, he came to the United States with his family from Greece. He grew up in Chicago's Marquette Park community, landing his first restaurant job bussing tables at age 12. In 1974, he and Angelo went to work for their father, Bill, when he opened the original Les Brothers at the same Oak Lawn location the restaurant is at today.

Anne Marie Casey, past president of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, noted in her remarks before Mr. Les was awarded "Business Person of the Year" that Les Brothers is an "Oak Lawn institution" and "a place where George treats every customer that comes into his business like they are friends and family, even if they are first-time customers."

Through hard work and perseverance, Mr. Les has opened other Les Brothers restaurants in Hickory Hills, New Lenox and Homer Glen—all in Chicago's south suburbs.

Mr. Les and his family are active in all of the communities they serve, sponsoring and supporting many local causes and events. In Oak Lawn, he is particularly passionate about Westside Baseball, the league his sons Bill and Jim played in growing up.

THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP  
RUDOLPH W. MCKISSICK, SR.

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2014*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., the Pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church.

For over 50 years, Bishop McKissick has served the Bethel community as its pastor. But previous to that, he helped the community as a choral member, music director, and Deacon prior to being called to succeed Rev. Robert Wilson in 1966 as Bethel's tenth pastor.

Throughout his tenure, Bishop McKissick, Sr.'s exemplary teachings and spiritual guidance have inspired more than fifty servant leaders to accept God's calling to the ministry. Among them is his son Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr., Co-Pastor, Bethel Baptist Institutional Church. In addition, Bishop McKissick, Sr., demonstrating his commitment to meeting and supporting the ever-changing needs and growth of congregants, has established more than fifty ministries. A Christian Mission (The Help Center), marriage ministry, church basketball league, youth retreats, and missionary outreach program are among the initiatives long recognized for its innovation and excellence. Most notably and characteristic of the passion Bishop McKissick, Sr. and his wife of forty-nine years, Estelle Williams McKissick, share for education, is B.E.S.T. (Bethel Enhancing Students Totally) Academy, a program established in 1993 to support the academic needs of elementary and secondary students. Under their leadership, B.E.S.T. has become a valuable resource earning Bethel recognition as an approved summer school site for Duval County's most academically challenged students.

This high level of commitment to quality education is evident throughout Bishop McKissick, Sr.'s journey, as evidenced by his own educational achievements and affiliations. Bishop McKissick, Sr. holds a bachelor's degree for Edward Waters College (EWC) and has received training at a number of other leading institutions including Tuskegee Institute, the Music Institute, the Music Institute of Columbia University, Princeton University and Luther Rice Seminary. He also has conferred doctoral degrees from EWC and Bethune Cookman University. He has held membership on a number of boards and commissions including appointment to the first Board of Trustees at the University of North Florida, the Jacksonville Urban League, the YMCA James Weldon Johnson branch, and The Help Center. Bishop McKissick, Sr. has launched partnerships across the globe with Bethel's adoption of churches in South Africa and Panama.

He was chosen by Fresh Ministries to participate in a 1999 tour of South Africa, and a tour of Turkey, hosted last year by the Amity Turkish Cultural Center.

Recognized as a community stalwart, Bishop McKissick, Sr. has earned a host of awards and accomplishments. A few include recipient of the 1992 Humanitarian award presented by the National Conference for Christian and Jews; City of Jacksonville's Human Relations Award; National Association for Equal Opportunity Award; Bernard Gregory Servant Leader Award; and the Meritorious Leadership Award presented by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. In September 2011, was elevated to Bishop of Marriage and Family in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

A member of the NAACP and Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr. is married to Estelle Williams McKissick and they have one son, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr. (Kimberly) and three grandchildren; Jocelyn, Janai and Joshua.

Bishop McKissick gave his final sermon as Senior Pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church on Sunday January 5, 2014. He ended the sermon saying "there is no more powerful congregation than this congregation. For 175 years, God has blessed this church."

"Lord bless you and keep you . . ."

Thank you, Bishop McKissick. May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD M.  
MURPHY

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2014*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edward M. Murphy as he steps down after a decade as Chief Executive Officer of The MENTOR Network—a national network of local health and human services providers based in Boston, Massachusetts—and assumes the role of Executive Chairman. Ned has dedicated his career to leading public and private sector organizations that provide quality-of-life enhancing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, children at-risk and their families, and people with brain and spinal cord injuries—including our nation's wounded warriors. In particular, in response to the establishment of the Veteran's Health Administration Assisted Living Pilot program by this body, Ned's leadership was instrumental in The MENTOR Network's development of innovative programs to serve Veterans with brain injury in the communities of their choosing.

Ned began his career working with young offenders in community reintegration programs and was appointed commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services in 1979. This began a sixteen-year period during which he held senior positions in state government, including commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and executive director of the Health and Educational Facilities Authority. After a successful career in the public sector, Ned moved on to the non-profit and private sectors, where among his notable accomplishments, he founded Alliance Health, before joining The MENTOR Network as CEO in 2004.