

Mr. Reed was a beloved father of one and husband of Mrs. Alisha Reed. A native of New Orleans and a graduate of St. Augustine High School and Louisiana State University, his passion for the law became paramount when he earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University. With much perseverance and enthusiasm, Mr. Reed soon delved into the challenging world of criminal cases at the Orleans Parish Criminal District Courthouse, where he once clerked. He was also a proud member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC), the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Reed was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do. We are forever grateful to Mr. Reed for his eternal impact and we keep his friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Morris Reed, Jr.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NIRDESH
OSWAL FOR RECEIVING THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S CRITICAL
LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nirdesh Oswal of Sugar Land for earning a State Department Critical Language Scholarship.

Nirdesh is a student at the University of Texas at Austin and one of only 550 students to receive a scholarship. Over the summer, he traveled to Nizhny, Novgorod in Russia where he was immersed in the Russian language and culture.

The Critical Language Scholarship is a merit-based award that gives American students the opportunity to study one of the fifteen critical languages to our nation's world engagement abroad. It aims to help students increase their fluency in the language they are studying and learn more about the culture surrounding it.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Nirdesh. He earned this incredible achievement through his hard-work and dedication to his studies. Nirdesh has made Sugar Land and TX-22 very proud.

**IN RECOGNITION OF BATTALION
CHIEF ROBERT K. BROOKS**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief Robert K. Brooks as he retires after 35 years of dedicated service to the Flower Mound Fire Department. Over the course of his career, he demonstrated continued commitment to the Fire Department by preserving the safety of citizens in Denton County and by educating future generations about the importance of fire safety.

Mr. Brooks began his career as a dedicated volunteer firefighter in January of 1983, earning a position as a paid firefighter in 1984. His continued service to the Fire Department resulted in a promotion to Shift Lieutenant and service as the Department's Emergency Medical Service coordinator. In addition to his duties as a firefighter and paramedic, Mr. Brooks played an integral role in the development and supervision of the Department's Safety and

Fire Education Team as well as the clown program.

In 2014, Mr. Brooks received the honor and responsibility of serving as the Training Battalion Chief for the Flower Mound Fire Department. In this position, he undertook the task of instructing 112 certified firefighters and mentoring new recruits. Throughout his service as Training Battalion Chief, he served as a leader and role model to all firefighters of the department.

In addition to his duties at the Fire Department, Mr. Brooks never hesitated to invest time educating local youth. For over 15 years, Mr. Brooks conducted engaging fire safety programs for Flower Mound and Highland Village elementary school children while dressed as Smokey the Bear. In addition to portraying Smokey himself, Mr. Brooks wrote the scripts. As a commendation for his investment in children's education, he was twice awarded the Flower Mound Fire Department Educator of the Year award. His service-orientation ultimately also earned him the Rotary Vocational Service Excellence Award in 2018.

From his entry into emergency response as a volunteer firefighter to his current position as Battalion Chief, Mr. Brooks dedicated his life and career to the safety of his community. Thanks to his encouragement and commitment to education, his influence not only challenged young firefighters to become reliable and competent defenders of public safety, but also encouraged children to learn of fire dangers and implement safety plans. The quality of life and community safety Flower Mound residents enjoy today is a tribute to Mr. Brooks' dedicated leadership, determination, and work ethic. It is my honor to recognize Battalion Chief Robert K. Brooks for his public service and for the role model he leaves for future responders to follow.