

NEWS RELEASE

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REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act

Springfield, Mass., April 9, 2018 – For decades, REALTORS® – members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) – have supported a free, open market that embraces fairness and equal opportunity for all buyers and sellers. Members of the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley strongly support the Fair Housing Act, legislation first passed in 1968 and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status and national origin. In Massachusetts, there are additional protected classes. REALTORS® adhere to a strict code of ethics which includes equal opportunity in housing.

This year, REALTORS® from the Pioneer Valley will join REALTORS® across the country to embark on a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act to raise awareness for fair housing issues.

“REALTORS® continue to recognize the significance of this important act and reconfirm our commitment to upholding fair housing law, as well as our commitment to offering equal professional service to all in their search for a home or property. REALTORS® work hard to build strong communities and neighborhoods where all people can live and prosper,” said Edward Alford, President of the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley.

Over the years, NAR has developed educational information on diversity and fair housing laws, programs and resources that have helped educate REALTORS® across the country on the importance of inclusive housing practices and the promotion of diverse homeownership.

“Fair housing protects the American Dream of homeownership for all citizens, and REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley looks forward to commemorating the anniversary and supporting the development of healthy and diverse communities,” said Kelly Bowman, President Elect of REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley.

The REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act through a *Real Estate Minute* segment on WWLP’s, *Mass Appeal* televised program and an article in *House Hunter* magazine and local media news. A Fair Housing class was held during

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the Association's 25th Annual Education Fair & Expo held on April 3, 2018 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® (MAR) has provided best practices for compliance with laws at the federal and state level as well as offering continuing education classes for REALTOR® members.

NAR is celebrating the 50th anniversary in a variety of means including a commemorative video, stories from REALTORS®, anniversary flyer and poster, Fair Housing Act publications and print and banner ads. Read the details about the [Fair Housing Act](#) and learn about the additional [protected classes](#) in Massachusetts.

About the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley:

Organized in 1915, the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley is a professional trade organization with more than 1,700 members. The term REALTOR® is registered as the exclusive designation of members of the National Association of REALTORS® who subscribe to a strict code of ethics and enjoy continuing education programs.

Mission:

To advance professionalism within our real estate community and to protect private property rights through education, advocacy and the REALTOR® Code of Ethics.

