

Pharmacists - Members Of Parliament/Election Candidates

Chev. Joseph Borg, K.M., Ph.C., L.P.

In this year when we have just had a General Election for the selection of Members of Parliament I think that it is fit and interesting to give hereunder the names of our past and present fellow-Pharmacists who honoured our Profession by serving in past Council of Government, Legislative Assembly or Parliament or who have tried hard to do so.

1. Joseph Vassallo, Ph.C. (1879-1953), who was the **first** elected in the General Election of 1915 as Representative for the 2nd district when he was given 203 popular votes. He again contested the 1924 General Election with the Democratic Nationalist Party for same 2nd district and obtained 43 votes and was not elected.
2. Alfred Gera de Petri, Ph.C. (1873-1946) in 1921 was a Candidate for the 1st division or district with the Constitutional Party getting 8 votes and was not elected; he contested the 1924 General Election with same Party in same district when he obtained 23 votes and was again not elected; he again contested the 1927 General Election with same Party in same district obtaining 684 votes and was elected (**third** in order of time). He again contested the 1932 General Election with same Party in same district when he obtained 673 votes and was elected in a casual election when the Hon. Professor Robert V. Galea, A.&C.E. vacated his post. Pharmacist Gera de Petri again run for election in 1939, same Party same district, when he obtained 1743 votes but with negative result.
3. Archangelo Agius, Ph.C. (1880-1964) contested the 1921 General Election with the Constitutional Party in 3rd district and obtained 383 votes but was not elected. He again contested in 1924 in same district with same Party getting 122 votes and was not elected. In 1932, again with the Constitutional Party in the 1st district for the Senate he obtained 102 votes with negative result.
4. Francis Bonello, Ph.C., (1873-1942), contested the 1921 General Election in the 5th district with the "Unione Politica Maltese" getting 151 votes but was not elected.
5. Leo Portelli, Ph.C. (1894-1942), contested the 1921 General Election also in the 5th district with the Malta Labour Party and obtained 572 votes and was the **second** Pharmacist elected to Parliament. He contested the 1924 election this time as Independent in 5th district when he got 100 votes and was not elected.
6. Joseph Muscat, Ph.C. (1893-1950), contested the General Election of 1924 with the Constitutional Party in 3rd district and obtained 176 votes and was not elected. In 1927 with the same Party in same district he obtained 721 votes but was not elected. In 1932 with same Party in same district he obtained 1595 votes and was elected (**fourth**) in a casual election when the Hon. Colonel A. Sammut, C.B., C.M.G. relinquished his seat.
7. Paul Sacco, M.P.S., contested the 1927 General Election with the Constitutional Party in the 5th district, obtaining 60 votes and was not elected.
8. John Raimondo, B.Sc., Ph.C. (1917-1963), contested the first post-World War II General Election of 1945 with the Malta Labour Party in 1st district (when Malta and Gozo formed 2 districts) and obtained 2366 votes and was elected (**fifth**). He again contested in 1947 with same Party in 2nd district (when both Islands formed eight districts) obtaining 2259 votes and was co-opted when the Hon. Dr. Arthur Colombo, M.D., elected from the 4th and 5th districts relinquished one seat. He also contested the General Election of 1950 this time with the Malta Workers Party both in the 1st district where he obtained 27 votes and was not elected and in the 2nd district obtaining 549 votes with similar negative result; in 1951 with the same Party in 3rd district getting 415 votes and was not elected; he also contested in 1955 with the Malta Labour Party in 2nd district getting 587 votes and was not elected.
9. George Borg Barthet, Ph.C., contested the 1947 General Election in 1st district with the Democratic Action Party and he obtained 140 votes and was not elected.

10. John Gatt, Ph.C., contested the 1947 General Election in the 2nd district with the Nationalist Party and obtained 198 votes and was not elected; in 1950 with same Party in 4th district getting 482 votes but again not elected; again contested in 1962 this time with the Democratic Nationalist Party in 2nd district obtaining 93 votes and was not elected.
11. Emmanuel V. Attard Bezzina, Ph.C., contested the General Election in the 3rd district of 1947 with the Malta Labour Party when he obtained 2117 votes and was elected (**sixth**), that of 1950 obtaining 2026 votes and was elected for the second time, that of 1951 obtaining 2186 votes and was again elected to Parliament, that of 1953 getting 2328 votes and was elected, that of 1955 getting 2225 votes and again elected in a casual election when the Hon. John J. Cole, elected from 3rd and 4th districts, relinquished his 3rd district seat, that of 1962 in the 4th district getting 2686 votes and was elected, that of 1966 when he obtained 2325 votes and was again elected, that of 1971 when he obtained 2269 votes but was not elected, again in 1976 in 3rd district (when both Islands were divided into thirteen districts) obtaining 2650 votes and was elected for the record number of eight times. During 1971-1976 the Honourable Emmanuel V. Attard Bezzina was Speaker of the Maltese Parliament and subsequently Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Germany 1976-1984.
12. Gaetano Farrugia, Ph.C., contested the 1947 General Election under the auspices of the Nationalist Party in the 5th district and obtained 418 votes and was not elected, with the same Party and in the same district in 1950 getting 629 votes but again was not elected, and that in 1951 getting 163 votes with the same negative result.
13. Robert Tua, Ph.C., contested the General Election of 1950 with the Malta Labour Party in the 1st district and he obtained 164 votes but was not elected.
14. Edgar Micallef, Ph.C., B.Pharm., contested the 1950 General Election with the Constitutional Party in the 5th district, obtaining 169 votes with negative result.

Mr. Emmanuel Attard Bezzina Ph.C.



15. Francis-Xavier Muscat, Ph.C. (1889-1960), contested the 1950 General Election with the Constitutional Party in the 6th district and he obtained 131 votes and was not elected.
16. Joe Bondi, our fellow-Pharmacist, of Gozo, contested the 1951 General Election when he was still a student, with the Nationalist Party naturally in the 8th Gozo district. He obtained 368 votes but was not elected. Joe graduated B.Pharm. in 1953.
17. George Galea, B.Pharm. (1931-1963), contested the 1962 General Election with the Nationalist Party in the 8th district of his birth-place Gozo, when he obtained 2244 votes and was elected (**seventh**), but died after about one-and-a-half years later when Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, LL.D. (who had contested the 6th district getting 939 votes and was not elected) was co-opted to fill his vacant post.
18. Francis (Sur Cikk) Ellul, Ph.C., (1883-1964), contested the 1953 General Election with the Progressive Constitutional Party for the 6th district and obtained 143 votes and was not elected.
19. Frances Galea, Ph.C., contested the 1962 General Election with the Democratic Party in the 1st district and she obtained 43 votes but was not elected.
20. William Felica, Ph.C., contested the 1962 General Election with the Democratic Nationalist Party in the 2nd district and obtained 329 votes but was not elected.
21. Eric C. Mizzi, Ph.C. (1906-1980), contested the 1962 General Election under the auspices of the Malta Labour Party for the 2nd district, obtaining 148 votes but was not elected, again in 1966 when he obtained 531 votes but was not elected, and also in 1971 when he obtained 347 votes and was not elected, and in 1976 in the 3rd district obtaining only 28 votes with again a negative result.
22. Dante Bonnici, Ph.C., contested the 1962 General Election with the Democratic Nationalist Party in the 5th district and obtained 41 votes and was not elected.
By the way, his son Michael, an Assistant-Apothecary since 28.5.63, a former student of mine, contested this year's General Election with the Nationalist Party in the 6th district getting 2,996 votes and was elected to Parliament: Prosit Michael.
23. Sciberras Joe Philip, B.Pharm., contested the 1966 General Election under the auspices of the Malta Labour Party in the 8th district when he obtained 567 votes but was not elected; he again contested with same Party for same district in 1971 when he obtained 712 votes and was not elected; the General Election of 1976 in 7th district obtaining 839 votes and was not elected and in the 9th district obtaining 1,991 votes when he was soon elected (**eighth**) in a casual election as Dr Patrick Holland, LL.D. vacated his post in this district as he had been also elected from the 10th district; that of 1981 in the 7th district where he obtained 3,221 votes and was elected (and in the 8th district obtaining 1,195 votes but was not elected). In 1985 he was promoted Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the Departments of Water and of Ports.
Pharmacist Joseph Philip Sciberras in this year's General Election contested with same Party in the 7th district where he obtained 955 votes and the 9th district getting 1,030 votes but was not elected in the casual election in the 7th district, created when Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, LL.D., who was successful in the 1st and 7th districts, vacated the latter, even though he obtained 1,364 votes; but was elected from the casual election created in this same 7th district by Hon. Joe Debono Grech, who was successful in the 7th and 8th districts, and this time our friend Joe Sciberras obtained 1,542 votes. Prosit Joe.
24. Tony Nicholl, B.Pharm., contested the 1971 General Election with the Malta Labour Party in the 7th district and obtained 395 votes and was not elected.
Tony contested this year's General Election with the same Party in the 10th division and obtained 1,733 votes and was elected (**ninth**) in the casual election created when the Hon. Leo Brincat, who was successful in the 9th and 10th districts, vacated this second Sliema-Gzira district and Tony obtained 1,946 votes which carried him to victory. Prosit Tony.
Tony Nicholl was born in Sliema on 23rd March 1947, studied at the Lyceum and at our University whence he graduated B.Pharm. in 1968. He married Greta nee' Micallef Eynaud and they have three children: Patrick, Nicholas and Elisa.