

Section 8 voucher commitments to address the burden of rising rent. Several other units have more than two bedrooms to meet the needs of multigenerational households, which has been an option long missing from the local housing landscape.

One of the most notable features of this project is the inclusion of indoor and outdoor play areas for children, facilities that are too often overlooked in affordable housing developments. Alongside these play spaces are private entrances, accessible layouts, and culturally relevant design elements all chosen to support daily life, connection, and communal care.

Please join me in recognizing the residents, advocates, and partners who made Wadaag Commons possible.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warmly welcome the spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox Church, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C.

The longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the history of Christianity, the Ecumenical Patriarch will arrive in the United States this month to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize. This prestigious award will be presented in recognition of his "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world, bringing together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

Guiding the world's 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians since his election in 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a powerful voice for our common responsibilities to one another—our shared obligation to defend the freedom, dignity, and wellbeing of our neighbors and of future generations.

I am especially grateful for the impact his leadership has had on Orthodox Christians across the United States, particularly the more than 600 families at St. Demetrios Church in Weston, Massachusetts. For decades, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has had the deepest respect of the American people and of this institution—an abiding admiration reflected in Congress' decision to award him the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Today, the Ecumenical Patriarch continues to bring together people of all faiths in the pursuit of peace, mutual respect, and a future more worthy of our children. I join my colleagues in commending his invaluable work, and I proudly join my Orthodox constituents in welcoming him back to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present for the following vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224, on Passage of H.J. Res. 104.

HONORING BOB NEWHART

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Bob Newhart, TV star and comedian.

In 1972, The Bob Newhart Show premiered and catapulted Bob into a new tier of critical acclaim, adoration, and commercial success. Known for its dry humor and heart, The Bob Newhart Show drew millions of viewers into a Chicago-based story about a psychologist and his clients and friends. With incredibly strong ratings and significant praise, the show ran for six seasons, leading to his other acclaimed show, Newhart. Through these efforts, Bob connected with homes and families through his extraordinary storytelling skills. He was described by coworkers and friends as kind, funny, and intellectual, and is remembered as humble and warm despite his fame.

Before reaching comedic stardom, Bob graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a bachelor's degree in business management. He then served two years in the Army during the Korean War and held jobs in accounting prior to recording the comedy album that won him Album of the Year at the 1961 Grammys, "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart". Bob had a love of philanthropy and used his comedic talents to emcee at various benefits from childhood cancer to Scleroderma research. He was adamant about using his career and success for the benefit of others and showed the world how important that mission was to him by raising \$350,000 for the National Children's Cancer Society.

Bob was a true Chicagoan and proved that through the exposure he gave the city in his show as well as his enthusiastic support for the Cubs. The city is proud to honor his life and legacy through renaming the street by the Edgewater condominium to "Bob Newhart Way". Thanks to him, this building is one of the most recognizable in Chicago, appearing in The Bob Newhart Show's opening credits for 142 episodes.

The city of Chicago and the whole country have lost an incredible figure who shaped modern comedy and sitcom TV, and he will be dearly missed. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and friends, and he will be remembered by the lives that he touched through his work and philanthropic efforts. I am forever grateful to Bob for shining a light on this incredible city and showing us it means to be a true legend.

HONORING CLAY COUNTY FLAGS FOR HEROES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2025, the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise will once again raise "Flags for Heroes," a moving sea of hundreds of American flags honoring the men and women who lift our communities every day.

In Clay County and across Northeast Florida, we remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and we salute the heroes who still answer the call: first responders, service members, veterans, teachers, nurses, and the quiet volunteers who serve without fanfare. Each flag carries a name, a story, and a promise that we will never forget.

I commend the Rotarians, sponsors, and families who make this commemoration possible, and I invite neighbors to walk among the flags, reflect, and thank a hero in their life. America is strongest when service is celebrated, and sacrifice is honored.

I thank the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise for reminding us of who we are. Let's go get them.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM E. "BILL" BALLOU

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of William E. "Bill" Ballou. Bill was dedicated to sharing the Gospel and will be remembered for his love of family and his service to his "Heavenly Father."

Bill was born April 8, 1939, in Sterling, Texas, and he later attended Baylor University where he met his wife, Avonnell Bolton. God blessed Bill and Avonnell with 52 years of marriage—a marriage that was focused on Christ and their family of two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill was a devoted Baylor alumni and sought to give back to the University that not only gave him an education but also brought Avonnell into his life. Bill served as a lifetime member of the Baylor Alumni Association, was a former member of the Baylor Development Council, and endowed a scholarship in a memory of Avonnell at the School of Education.

Bill will always be remembered for his dedication to sharing the message of salvation through Christ. Bill served Christ passionately with his lifetime of service in churches in Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia. Bill also served in leadership positions in multiple Baptist Associations and led revivals as far away as New Zealand.

One of Bill's favorite passages to use when sharing the gospel was John 14:6: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Bill left a strong, Godly heritage to those who will walk this Earth after him. I am honored to remember his lifetime of service, and I am thankful for the incredible family he leaves to carry on his legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN HISTORIC ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (LHSAA)

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to humbly honor and celebrate the heroic accomplishment of the Saint Augustine High School 1975 Football Team, proudly located in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, of which I represent in Louisiana.

From 1951, its first year as a Catholic high school in New Orleans, through the mid-1960s, St. Augustine excelled in three major varsity sports: football, basketball and track and field. But the school, opened under the administration of New Orleans Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel, was relegated to competing in the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Organization (LIALO) during the closing era of segregation.

Its principal, Josephite Father Robert Grant, wanted more for his athletes. He wanted them to compete against the city's other Catholic schools, who were members of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. His first attempt came in 1962 when Father Grant wrote to the principals of the five schools—Jesuit, St. Aloysius, Holy Cross, De La Salle and Redemptorist—asking them to compete against St. Aug on an interscholastic sports level. He thought that would be possible because the Archdiocese of New Orleans had already desegregated its elementary schools.

No one accepted the invitation. But there was one reply, by De La Salle principal, Christian Brother Cassian. It was painfully blunt: "Father, personally, I am not one to rush into situations which may not be to my advantage and to those associated with me. For years, I have refused to play certain high school teams on the basis that there was nothing to gain by such competition. This is how I feel about your request to play De La Salle. Time may change my attitude."

Mr. Clarence Jupiter, who would go on to become a top administrator at Xavier University, championed the cause by asking why St. Augustine and Xavier Preparatory, which competed in major boys' sports, were not allowed to play their white Catholic counterparts? These institutions developed All-Americans and future pros and perform exceptionally well. Yet the fans never saw these schools compete against the other five. On the surface, little was happening to change the situation, but Father Grant was tirelessly working behind the scenes.

In June 1964, Fr. Grant notified Archbishop John Cody that he would seek admittance to the LHSAA, to establish athletic relations with the other Catholic high schools in the archdiocese. He also notified those schools of his plan, asking them to include St. Aug on their basketball, baseball and track and field schedules for the 1964–65 school year.

Father Grant had no delusions that LHSAA Commissioner T.H. "Muddy" Waters would greet his request with open arms. And he was right. Jesuit principal Father C.J. Stallworth, who had served on the LHSAA executive

committee for seven years, said he would do what he could to assist St. Augustine, but added it would be helpful to him to have Sister Madalena of Xavier Prep also apply for admission to bolster his request.

Father Grant faced resistance from other Catholic schools, whose coaches set the athletic schedules. The Catholic League coaches ignored the two LIALO schools when they set the schedules for 1964–65. The CYO tournament and Knights of Columbus track meet also kept their events segregated.

At the January 1965 annual meeting, the LHSAA denied St. Augustine's membership request but amended its constitution to allow LHSAA and LIALO schools to compete against each other.

A year later, Rummel, Shaw and Cor Jesu were admitted by a two-thirds vote of LHSAA principals; St. Aug was not. Although the local Catholic school principals voted to admit the school into their district by a 5–3 count, the vote of LHSAA principals numbered 11 years, 185 days. The rest is history.

St. Augustine gained entry through a federal court suit in 1966, the CYO allowed St. Augustine and Xavier Prep to compete in its tournament, and the Knights of Columbus ceased running its annual track and field meet.

On Friday, December 12, 1975, in Strawberry Stadium, located on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana in Hammond, Louisiana, the Saint Augustine High School Purple Knights achieved their first state title in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA)—the all-white athletic league that St. Aug integrated through winning a Federal Court case in 1967.

St. Augustine has won state championships in football, basketball and track over the years. Xavier Prep became an all-girls school a few years after joining the LHSAA.

The LIALO became a defunct organization in 1969. Its members joined the LHSAA. Almost every high school in the LHSAA has a mixed enrollment.

Team Roster Included: Virgil Alexis, Michael Ben, Winston Burns, Ken Cobette, Gary Craddock, Oyd Craddock, Charles Cross, Donald Davis, Kurt Davis, Travis Duroncelet, Joseph Evans, Greg Fernandez, Bernard Gaines, Zachary Gaston, Henry Gibson, Derek Gray, Raymond Gray, Marty Griffin, Richard Harleaux, Louis Holmes, Arthur Hunter, Harold Jackson, Walter Lain, Sidney Lawrence, Thaddeus Lee, Stephen McNair, Michael Moody, Keith Moore, Elliot Muhammad (Boisdore), Louis Oubre, Larry Parker, Tyrone Parker, Burnell Quinn, Eric Richard, Victor Richard, Michael Roussell, Tyrone Smith, Gary Washington, Christopher Willard, Alan Williams, Wydell Williams, Rynell Wilson.

Deceased Team Members: Joseph Broussard, Nathaniel Dorsey, John Doucette, Alan Florent, Percy Gibson, Arthur Hagan, Byron Honore, Ronnie James, Jerome Mazique, Alvin Reed, George Robertson, Daryl Smith, Renard Smith, Brian Thompson, Fredrick Thornton.

Coaching Staff: Ronald Arceneaux, Anthony Biagas, Eddie Flint, Daryl McConduit (Deceased), Anthony Simmons (Deceased), Otis Washington—Head Coach (Deceased).

PURPLE KNIGHT DISTRICT & STATE PLAYOFF RECORD

George Washington Carver, 33–0
John McDonogh, 21–0
Joseph S. Clark, 51–0
Jesuit 35–7
Archbishop Rummel, 19–6

Holy Cross, 41–7
DeLaSalle, 33–0
Chalmette, 34–0
Archbishop Shaw, 26–0
Brother Martin, 7–0

STATE PLAYOFFS

George Washington Carver **, 29–8
West Jefferson **, 14–6
South Lafourche, 20–7
Sulphur, 11–10
Covington, 35–13

** First 2 high school games held in the LA Superdome—40k in attendance

The team's historic 15–0 season record not only affirmed St. Aug could excel, but it could dominate in the face of adversity. The team's performance both uplifted the high school and the entire Black community in New Orleans and around the state. The team was ranked No. 1 all season, was first in LHSAA to achieve 15–0 record, and first to play in the Louisiana Superdome. For the season, the team outscored opponents 409 points to 64 points and held opponents scoreless in 7 games. That year, eleven (11) team members received football scholarships to Division 1 Universities. Currently, over 30 athletes have advanced to the National Football League, the largest total than any high school in the United States of America.

Law and Hope are the names of the streets between which St. Augustine High School has been located for 74 years. More appropriate symbols would be difficult to find as so much of this school speaks of Divine Providence. I congratulate the St. Augustine High School Purple Knights, the 1975 Championship Football Team, and those that continue the mission of the Josephite Fathers and Brothers. Rise Sons of the Gold and Purple.

COMMEMORATING THE REDEDICATION OF THE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to commemorate the rededication of the new church edifice the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Today, we also celebrate as they embark on a new journey, under the direction of Reverend Carl B. Thompson, to continue their legacy of ministry in the Town of Abington. I join with the church community in welcoming the Reverend Dr. Jonathan McReynolds to Massachusetts as we mark this momentous occasion in the church's history.

While the Ebenezer Baptist Church was formally recognized in 1871, the church's history began years earlier. Former slaves from the Brandon Plantation in Prince Georges County, Virginia, arrived at Long Wharf in Boston on September 15, 1847. Initially, group meetings for song and prayer service were held in the kitchen of Mrs. Martha Jones. In subsequent years in a hall at 1060 Washington Street, children gathered for Sunday school and adults learned reading, writing and "good citizenship." Mrs. Jones' kitchen prayer services transformed into Sunday evening preaching services with Reverend Randolph, the church's first pastor and founder.

Since its inception, the church has served not only as a house of worship, but also as a