first cornerstone dates to January 9, 1916. Members sacrificed their time and resources to sustain the growing church, including the women of the Deaconess Board, who prepared and sold Saturday suppers to raise funds. Rev. Heedly served for approximately 16 years until his death in 1932. Rev. Matthew W. Rivers became the second pastor in 1932, and under his leadership the church was remodeled and a second cornerstone was laid on January 9, 1942; he served faithfully for 11 years until his death in 1943. On December 12, 1943, Rev. Robert Douglas Thomas became the third pastor and began a remarkable 45-year pastorate, with particular emphasis on developing children and young people through choirs, Sunday School, Baptist Training Union, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Youth-in-Action, youth encampments, and mission ministry. His decades of leadership helped shape generations of Progressive members until his death on November 9, 1988.

Rev. Joseph James Mitchell became the fourth pastor on April 19, 1989. During his tenure of approximately 11 years, Progressive established a Children's Church, organized evangelistic teams that ministered throughout the neighborhood, acquired additional property, purchased a church van, and expanded opportunities for Bible study. Following his resignation in September 1999, Rev. Everett G. Parker, Sr., provided spiritual leadership through June 2000. In June 2000, Rev. Melvin Ray Rushing, Jr., was called to lead Progressive, bringing a renewed commitment to discipleship, fellowship, and evangelism, along with a new vision and mission statement. During his leadership, the Men's Ministry was organized, the sanctuary was remodeled, the parsonage was refurbished for outreach purposes, and the youth ministry was reorganized and strengthened. Rev. Rushing served faithfully until his transition from labor to reward on September 5, 2021, after which Rev. Kendall Fieling, a devoted friend of Pastor Rushing and the Progressive family, provided leadership from September 12, 2021, until September 18, 2022.

A new chapter began on September 19, 2022, when Progressive welcomed its sixth pastor, Elder DeAndre M. White Sr., of Cleveland, Ohio, who was formally installed on January 15, 2023. Under Pastor White's leadership, the church has continued building on the foundation laid by generations before it while expanding its ministry for a changing world. Progressive has made significant improvements to its sanctuary and ministry infrastructure, including new media and livestreaming capabilities, an upgraded sound system, renovated ADA-accessible restrooms, improvements to its kitchen and fire-suppression systems, and electronic giving options, along with the development of additional ministries, including Impact Ministry, HBO Ministry, and Church Security Ministry. The church has also expanded its digital presence through its website and social media platforms, allowing its ministry to reach beyond the walls of the sanctuary, and Pastor White has appointed a new generation of deacons to serve and lead alongside him.

From a small group of faithful believers willing to work late into the night to build a place of worship, to a congregation now using modern technology to carry the Gospel beyond its walls, Progressive Baptist Church's story is one of faith, sacrifice, perseverance, service, and progress. For more than a century, the church has remained rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ while continuing to grow with each generation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Progressive Baptist Church, Pastor DeAndre M. White, Sr., and the dedicated congregation for more than a century of faithful service and leadership in Baton Rouge.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KENTUCKY STATE TROOPER HAYDEN PHILLIPS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, the Kentucky Congressional Delegation mourns the loss of Kentucky State Trooper Hayden Phillips, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on the afternoon of September 28, 2026.

Trooper Phillips leaves behind a loving wife, Jordan; three young sons, Kason, Knox, and Konnor; loving parents, Homer and Robin: dedicated colleagues in law enforcement; and a Commonwealth that will forever be indebted to him for his sacrifice.

A native of South Central Kentucky, Hayden Phillips dedicated his life serving the people of Kentucky, first as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, then as an officer with the Glasgow Police Department and Russell Springs Police Department. According to his family, Trooper Phillip's lifelong dream was to serve our Commonwealth as a Kentucky State Trooper, a dream he ultimately achieved, joining the force in 2023.

Trooper Phillips was assigned to Kentucky State Police Post 3, selflessly serving the citizens of Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Simpson, and Warren Counties. Our community was no doubt a better place because of Trooper Phillips' willingness to protect and defend his fellow Kentuckians.

In the few short days since his passing, Kentuckians from all walks of life have come together to express their heartfelt sympathy and mourn the loss of this Kentucky hero. The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America will forever be grateful to Trooper Hayden Phillips for making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our community. His family, friends, and loved ones will always remain in our prayers.

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR: AMANDA JENKINS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Amanda Jenkins as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As a devoted and resilient member of the community who has endured eight years without stable housing, Amanda works for Contra Costa County's Coordinate Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) program to provide resources to people experiencing homelessness in the Richmond area. Amanda, a mother of five and grandmother of seven, originally faced homelessness after she made the difficult decision to leave an abusive relationship. Despite facing difficult circumstances, Amanda remained committed to supporting the people around her, establishing the Castro encampment, protecting her neighbors, and sharing resources with her community. She has also remained a fierce advocate for her community, sparking key dialogues between government agencies, homelessness task forces, and people living in unhoused communities. Today, through her work for the CORE program, Amanda engages with and helps stabilize people experiencing unsheltered homelessness through consistent street outreach. She is also attending school to become a Community Health Worker. Amanda is not defined by the years she spent without housing, she is defined by the community she protected, the trust she built, the promise she kept, the people she continues to serve, and the hope her life now gives to others. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Amanda Jenkins for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING JULIUS LITTMAN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mr. Julius Littman, a lifelong community leader in South Florida, entrepreneur, philanthropist, veteran, beloved son, husband, father, neighbor and friend.

Mr. Littman spent more than twenty-two years in public service as a Councilman and Vice-Mayor of the City of North Miami Beach. His service to the community extended beyond City Hall. For more than twenty-three years he served as Executive Director of Stop Hunger Incorporated, feeding over 27,000 low income families and individuals in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties monthly.

His support of the arts was a driving force behind the North Miami Beach Arts Theater, which in 2004, was renamed the Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater.

In addition to serving his community, Mr. Littman also served his country as a Captain in the United States Air Force in World War II.

Mr. Littman was born in South River, New Jersey, on May 2, 1923. He is survived by his long time companion, Tatyana Kats; daughter Phyllis Diskin and her husband Jonathan; sons, Paul and Gregory; grandchildren Jack, Harrison, Jeremy, Gabriel and Olivia.

Please join me in honoring the late Mr. Julius Littman for his commitment, dedication and service to our community and our country.

HONORING NEW ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a congregation whose history is both inspiring and revealing, and whose significance today is as enriching as it was when the church began in 1919 in the Benevolent Hall on Peach Street under the leadership of the late Rev. Octave Mitchell of Addis, Louisiana. The early membership consisted of 59 people, formerly members of Macedonia Baptist Church, and the site on which New St. John stands today was purchased by its members with $1,500 received from Macedonia Baptist Church.

On October 31, 1921, Rev. Mitchell was officially elected pastor. That same year, a congregation of 54 members began erecting a concrete block church at a cost of $9,600. When funds ran out before the building was complete, two dedicated members, the late Brother Isom Smith, Chairman of the Deacon Board, and the late Sister Janie Spears, Chairman of the Deaconess Board, mortgaged their homes to secure the additional funds needed. On November 6, 1921, all debts had been paid and the church was dedicated to God. It was in this church that the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Association had its beginning. Among the early officers of the church were Brothers Isom Smith, Ike Cage, Henry Williams, Oscar Jackson, John Stafford, James Green, Robert Franklin, Otis Criss, and Willie Locks, and Sisters Janie Peterson, Malou Cage, Janie Spears, Lucinda Green, Millie Woods, Frozene John, Anna Johnson, Margaret Simms, Julia Lews, Alice Johnson, Rosa Smith Brown-Locks, Josephine Smith, and Willie Bell Monget.

In August 1928, Rev. E.D. Billoups was called to the pastorate, and under his leadership the membership grew. In 1930, the church building was remodeled, with twenty feet added and a study built for the pastor at a cost of more than $5,000. Rev. Billoups later observed major defects in the walls of the building and influenced the membership to work toward a new church. After several years of raising funds, construction of the present two-story brick church began in 1950, and it was completed and dedicated to God in October 1951. By April 1954, the church was free of all debt. In 1959, the membership purchased four lots southeast of the church for parking at a cost of $20,000, and in May 1960, construction began on an Educational Building, The Billoups Center, which provided classrooms, an office, and restrooms and was completed the same year. An additional story was added a few years later to provide space for recreation, larger meetings, and other church activities.

On March 7, 1982, Rev. W. Marshall Myles was called to the pastorate. Under his leadership, the church was renovated and redecorated, adding an elevator from the first floor to the sanctuary, more office space, and a commercial kitchen. When Rev. Myles became pastor, the church's ministries included the Deacon and Deaconess Boards, Young Adult and Senior Usher Boards, the Senior, Young People, and Cherubim Choirs, the Missionary Circle, Pulpit Circle, New St. John Laborers, Prayer Band, Pastor's Aid Circle, Trustee Board, Brotherhood, Flower Committee, Sunday School and Baptist Training Union, and the Married Women Fellowship and Service League. Over the years, the church has added many more, including the Department of Christian Education, the Cultural Development Support Guild, Boy Scouts, a Scholarship Fund, Usher Board #3, a Youth Department, the New St. John Boy's Academy, the Senior Wellness Ministry, Sister to Sister Ministry, Social Justice Ministry, Youth Coordinating Council, Vision 2000, Master's Men, Male Chorus, Voices of NSJ, Refreshing and Renewing Bible Study, Youth Ushers, and a Tutoring Program.

New St. John has also looked beyond its own walls. Through the years, the church has held membership in, and given financial support to, the Baptist World Alliance, the National Council of Churches, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the American Baptist Theological Seminary, the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, the Fourth District Baptist Association, and Leland College, strengthening the broader Baptist and faith community of Baton Rouge and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating New St. John Missionary Baptist Church and its dedicated congregation for more than a century of sacrifice, faith, and service to the people of Baton Rouge. May New St. John continue to be a source of inspiration for generations to come.

HONORING EL BUEN SAMARITANO'S 35 YEARS OF SERVING WORCESTER

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this year, El Buen Samaritano Food Program is celebrating 35 years of serving Worcester, Massachusetts, as a key leader in the fight to end hunger and build a more resilient community.

El Buen Samaritano was founded in 1991 by Maria and Osiris Reyes, two incredible anti-hunger champions who wanted their neighbors to have enough to eat. They established a food pantry to provide members of our community with access to emergency food when times are tough. Thirty-five years later, the food pantry continues to provide families, seniors, and all people facing food insecurity with weekly access to nutritious food.

But EBS is so much more than a food pantry; they offer comprehensive support services to provide people with clothing, job opportunities, and health care services. EBS also provides toys for kids to ensure everyone can have a happy holiday season.

Maria and Osiris' passion for serving others inspired their daughter, Mari González, to join the movement. Mari now serves as Executive Director of El Buen Samaritano Food Program, where she continues to provide families in Worcester with better access to basic needs. Mari has also become a leading voice in Worcester advocating for a world where all people thrive.

El Buen Samaritano's work is rooted in love, compassion, and kindness. At the heart of EBS is the idea that every person should be treated with dignity. My wife Lisa and I have had the honor of volunteering with the incredible team at El Buen Samaritano, and their impact on the over 35,000 families who they have served is clear.

Maria, Osiris, and Mari's decades of leadership have improved our city in unimaginable ways. I'm grateful for their tremendous contributions and look forward to continuing to partner with them as we fight for a future where the needs of all people are met and no person goes hungry.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. of Laredo, Texas, on his retirement from the Laredo College Board of Trustees after more than six decades of service to higher education and the Laredo community.

Judge Martinez began his career in the classroom. He served as a full-time instructor at Laredo Junior College from 1959 to 1968, returned as a part-time instructor in the spring semesters of 1976 and 1978, and taught Business Administration full time from 1982 until June 1987.

Altogether, he gave roughly 15 years to instruction at the institution now known as Laredo College.

His service to public education continued on the Laredo Independent School District Board, where he served from June 1973 to March 1977. During part of that time, the LISD Board also governed Laredo Junior College.

Judge Martinez was first elected to the Laredo College Board of Trustees in 1988 and served 24 years on that board across multiple terms.

As a trustee, he helped strengthen the college's financial footing and its ability to serve students across Webb County.

His public service extended well beyond education. He served on the Laredo City Council from 1978 to 1991 and as Webb County Judge from 1991 to 2002, leading one of the largest counties in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, few people have shaped a community's schools and colleges as long or as directly as Judge Martinez.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank him and his family for six decades of service to Laredo, and I wish him the very best in his retirement.

HONORING ROTARY CLUB OF DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rotary Club of Davis on their centennial anniversary as they celebrate 100 years of community service.