

to work, helping candidates at the national, state, and local levels. His influence on Alabama politics extended far beyond any single election or campaign, and many who have served our state benefited from his friendship, advice, and experience.

But politics was only one part of Joey's life. He was deeply involved in his community, serving organizations including the Homewood Library Foundation, City Stages, the Birmingham Irish Cultural Society, the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex Authority, and the Vestavia Hills Civitan Club. During his service on the BJCC board, he was involved in a transformative period for the complex that included its renovation and the development of Protective Stadium and the Coca-Cola Amphitheater.

Those who knew Joey personally will remember much more than his professional accomplishments. He was a storyteller, a historian, a cook, an outdoorsman, and someone who simply enjoyed bringing people together. Some of his happiest times were spent at Sanders Farm in Greenville, surrounded by family and friends, often gathered around a fire with a pot of his homemade camp stew. He was generous with his time, his friendship, and, as many people across Alabama can attest, his homemade pepper sauce and salsa.

Joey never forgot where he came from, and he remained a strong advocate for the outdoors, wildlife conservation, hunters' rights, the Second Amendment, and the conservative principles that guided him throughout his life.

Above all, Joey loved his family. He leaves behind his wife of 30 years, Luanne; his children, Holton and Anne Heaton; his granddaughters, Poppy and Honey; his sister, Linda; and a large extended family and countless friends who will miss him greatly.

For me personally, it is difficult to say goodbye to someone who has been a friend for virtually my entire political career. Joey was part of Alabama politics for decades, but his legacy cannot be measured simply by campaigns won, candidates elected, or projects completed. It is found in the friendships he built, the people he helped, the stories he told, and the memories he leaves with all of us who were fortunate enough to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Joe "Joey" Columbus Sanders, Jr., and in extending our deepest condolences to Luanne, his children and grandchildren, and the entire Sanders family. I am grateful to have called Joey my friend, and I know his presence will be deeply missed across Alabama.

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS AND KAZAKHSTAN'S ENDURING CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL SECURITY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the International Day Against Nuclear Tests and recognize Kazakhstan's enduring contribution to world peace and security.

August 29, 2026, marked 35 years since Kazakhstan's historic decision to close the

Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. In tribute to that decision, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously designated August 29 as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests in 2009, drawing global attention to the devastating human and environmental consequences of nuclear testing. Similarly, on September 8, Kazakhstan and its Central Asian neighbors will mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

The consequences of nuclear testing are deeply understood in both our countries. More than one thousand U.S. nuclear tests exposed servicemembers, workers, and downwind communities in Nevada and throughout the West to radioactive fallout. At Semipalatinsk, 456 Soviet nuclear tests between 1949 and 1989 exposed approximately 1.5 million people and left a lasting human and environmental toll. The Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement, which united citizens affected by nuclear testing in Kazakhstan and the United States, helped generate the public momentum necessary to end testing at the site.

After inheriting the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan voluntarily relinquished those weapons and chose security through diplomacy, international cooperation, and nonproliferation policy. The United States was a close partner in this historic transformation. Through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, our countries eliminated weapons and delivery systems, dismantled nuclear infrastructure, sealed test tunnels, and secured dangerous materials in the former Soviet Union. Project Sapphire alone removed nearly 600 kilograms of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan quickly translated its national commitment into a regional security framework. In 2006, the five Central Asian states signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in Central Asia at Semipalatinsk. The Treaty remains an important pillar of regional stability and the global nonproliferation regime, transforming a former center of nuclear testing into a symbol of arms control cooperation. Kazakhstan has continued to put these principles into practice. It hosted two rounds of P5+1 negotiations with Iran in 2013 which led to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, supported implementation of the 2015 nuclear agreement, and now hosts the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant. Kazakhstan's commitment to denuclearization and stability demonstrates how the credibility earned through disarmament and reinforced by decades of cooperation with the United States can help address one of today's most difficult nuclear challenges.

Mr. Speaker, we should recognize Kazakhstan not only for its historic decisions, but also for the responsibilities it continues to assume. Its example proves that nonproliferation is not an abstract aspiration, but a practical instrument of national security and diplomatic problem-solving.

I urge the Senate to ratify the Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which the United States signed in 2014. This step would reinforce American nonproliferation objectives and recognize the obligations Kazakhstan and its neighbors have upheld for two decades. I also urge Congress to repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment and

establish permanent normal trade relations with Kazakhstan. This outdated Cold War-era restriction bears no reasonable relationship to modern trade relations with Kazakhstan, its partnership with the United States, or its extraordinary contribution to global nuclear security.

Kazakhstan has demonstrated that disarmament can strengthen sovereignty and national security. The United States should recognize this unprecedented record not only with words, but through concrete action.

RECOGNIZING TIM MILLER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tim Miller, who is retiring from his service to our community as a Drawing, Painting, and Graphic Arts Instructor at Golden High School.

For more than 20 years, Tim has inspired generations of students through his creativity, dedication, and leadership. His positive outlook and ability to encourage and challenge students have left a lasting impact on both the students of Golden High School and the art community in Colorado.

During his time teaching, Tim has consistently gone above and beyond for his students. He has regularly taken them on field trips to assisted living homes, the Children's Hospital, the Denver Indian Center, and the Denver Rescue Mission to inspire them through art in the Metro Denver community. Tim's commitment to his students has been evident in everything he has done—including obtaining a bus driver's license to ensure his students would continue to get these meaningful experiences while cutting down on costs and logistical hurdles for the school. These opportunities have challenged students artistically and taught them compassion, service, and connection.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Tim Miller on his retirement from Golden High School and sincerely thank him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIEF JUSTIN BALL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Chief Justin Ball. Dallas Fire-Rescue has named a new fire chief, Justin Ball, a veteran of the department with nearly three decades of service to North Texas.

Chief Ball began his journey with Dallas Fire-Rescue in 1997, and has worn many hats throughout his time with the department, starting as Firefighter Paramedic, to Executive Assistant Chief of Operations, and most recently serving as the Interim Chief, before being named as Chief permanently. Through dedication, leadership, and commitment to public

service, he earned the trust of the department, city leadership, and most importantly, the people of North Texas.

I congratulate Chief Justin Ball on his well-deserved new role. His leadership and commitment to keeping our communities safe is appreciated by Texas-24 and all of North Texas.

HONORING BEACON LIGHT
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a vibrant congregation in my district, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and to recognize the ministry of its pastor, Eric A. Williams, on behalf of the people of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Pastor Williams attended Delgado Community College and Southern University at New Orleans, where he majored in Business Management. God allowed him to be one of the first of many instructors at the Darryl S. Brister College and Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1995, Pastor Williams humbly submitted to the call of God for his life, under the leadership of his pastor, Bishop Darryl S. Brister, Apostle and Overseer of Beacon Light International Ministries. He was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1996, and on January 31, 1997, he was ordained as Elder.

On April 29, 2007, a historical transition occurred for the Family of Light, when Elder Eric A. Williams and Lady Iris J. Williams were installed as Pastor and First Lady of Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge. Under Pastor Williams' leadership, Beacon Light has undoubtedly become a true beacon of light in the Baton Rouge community.

Intercessory Prayer, Light of Praise Dance Ministry, Greeters and Ushers Ministry, Media Ministry, Homework Assistance Program, Frontline Warriors Men's Ministry, Jewels of Light Pre-teen and Teen Female Ministry, School Mentoring Program, Evangelism, Hospitality, Healing and Recovery, Parking Lot, Marriage Ministry, and New Members Ministry are just a few of the ministries and programs initiated since Pastor Williams' assignment began at Beacon Light of Baton Rouge.

As a result of his being instrumental in the works of God Almighty, the membership of Beacon Light of Baton Rouge has flourished from several hundreds to several thousands within a short number of years. His congregation describes his life as a living testimony, and calls him a living miracle.

Pastor Williams is an exceptional leader in ministry, as well as in the Baton Rouge community. He gives in many capacities as it relates to people and the community. He is truly a spiritual father and guide to many members and non-members alike, and his members describe him as the most down-to-earth person and the best pastor on this side of Heaven.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge for its years of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation God's continued favor in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 2026, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call No. 291, the Northeast Lobsterman Protection Act of 2026.

HONORING JUDGE STEPHEN KOURI
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Stephen Kouri on his retirement after nearly 24 years of distinguished service as a judge on Illinois' Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Kouri has dedicated more than three decades to serving Peoria and Central Illinois. A graduate of Spalding Institute and the University of Illinois College of Law, he practiced law for 20 years before being elected to the Tenth Judicial Circuit in 2002.

During his time on the bench, Judge Kouri served communities throughout Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, Stark, and Tazewell Counties and was the Circuit's longest-serving judge at the time of his retirement. Throughout his career, he earned a reputation for his fairness, sound judgment, professionalism, and strong work ethic.

Judge Kouri's commitment to public service extends well beyond the courtroom. He served on the Peoria City Council from 1993 to 1997 and has held numerous leadership roles with civic, charitable, and Catholic organizations throughout the Peoria area. He also played an instrumental role in bringing the IHSA boys basketball state finals to Peoria and helped establish "Access the Experience," which provided young people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in state finals activities.

I congratulate Judge Kouri on his retirement, thank him for his many years of service to Central Illinois, and wish him and his family all the best in this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING DOMINICK BRETON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dominick Breton of Wheat Ridge for his impactful contribution to small businesses and the community of Wheat Ridge. Leaving behind a legacy of kindness, Mr. Breton passed away on June 18, 2026.

Fondly known as "Mr. Wheat Ridge," Dominick was a beloved contributor to our community, participating in events, service projects, and business advocacy. Dominick served as president of the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce for over seven years and was a member of Kiwanis for nine years.

Dominick had an inspirational gift to mobilize his neighbors and community members to help with projects or initiatives to benefit the community. Through his dedication, he made a deeply positive impact on our community.

During his final months, Dominick persevered through his work with the same strength and passion. Though he will be missed, his legacy of service lives on in the many lives he touched.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Dominick Breton for his impact and thank him for his contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and beyond. We will remember him fondly as Wheat Ridge carries on his mission.

HONOR TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO
DR. BRAD HUNT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dr. Brad Hunt. After 35 years in public education, including eight years as Superintendent of Coppell ISD, Dr. Brad Hunt is set to retire at the end of the school year. Starting as a teacher at Coppell High School in 1990, he went on to serve as principal and then superintendent. His leadership has helped shape Coppell ISD into one of the most respected school districts in Texas.

Dr. Hunt has inspired generations of students, supported countless educators, and left a lasting mark on every campus in the district. His dedication to student success and his vision for excellence have touched thousands of lives, and his impact will be felt for years to come.

I thank Dr. Hunt, for his incredible service, his belief in our North Texas students, and his commitment to Coppell. We wish him the very best in his next chapter.

HONORING ANTIOCH FULL GOSPEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a resilient congregation in my district, Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it commemorates eighty-five years of faith, perseverance, and service to our community.

Antioch Baptist Church was established in the year of 1941. The church started with four members in a society hall under the leadership of Reverend Ed Smith. Its first church was built in 1942. The church purchased property for sixteen hundred dollars in 1961 and built its second church in 1962. The founding pastors that paved the way for Antioch to be such a strong church, and for it to still be standing today, are Reverend Ed Smith, Reverend Willie Smith, Reverend Leonard Smith, Reverend E. B. Robertson, Bishop Eugene Harris, Reverend Robert Gross, and Pastor George Spears.