

Christian education, and service to the Baton Rouge community.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church is led today by Pastor Andra Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Carmel Baptist Church for more than seventy-five years of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's vote due to a lower back injury. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; NAY on Roll Call No. 287; NAY on Roll Call No. 288; NAY on Roll Call No. 289; YEA on Roll Call No. 290; NAY on Roll Call No. 291; and YEA on Roll Call No. 292.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MARK E. CALLAHAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following eulogy, which was introduced by Raymond D. Larson on behalf of his dear friend, Nolan W. Callahan. Nolan gave this eulogy for his father, Mark E. Callahan. The eulogy encapsulates an extraordinary life of an everyday American, husband, and father. Delivered on February 1, 2018, the eulogy commemorates a life defined by resilience, warmth, and an unwavering love for his fellow man. More than a tribute, it serves as a timeless guide on how to live life, urging us to laugh hard, look at the stars and feel small, and dedicate ourselves to making others brim with joy. It is one of millions of stories of the American Experience made possible by the will, determination, and perseverance of Mark E. Callahan.

First of all, thank you all for being here. Looking out today I see Mark's close friends and family all gathered to celebrate his life, and it's an honor to address you all, as you were the reason that Mark fought as hard as he did against his illness. I especially want to thank the clergy and staff here at Saint Patrick's and Saint Anthony's, as well as the staff at Newkirk & Whitney funeral home. You all helped give my father a beautiful ceremony and you've helped my family and I garner a sense of grace and closure. Thank you.

I believe it was in the middle of summer in 2013 when Mark suffered an accident that severely damaged his right eye. After countless procedures and surgeries, he ended up losing a majority of his vision, rendering him all but blind in one eye. It was later that year, in December, when he got the fateful phone call that brings us all together today, over four years later. Yet, a while after being diagnosed with his cancer, Gary McKeone, who was one of Mark's friends, organized a party for him with the help of Sully's Café of East Hartford and a few other

coworkers. The Gazette, a local newspaper, heard that the jolly good fellow was having drinks raised to his name, and naturally sent a reporter to cover the event. My father was a very popular man. Days pass, and soon enough I see the edition of the paper that had the article about Dad. And I'll never forget the headline. It was a quote from Mark, and it simply said, "I feel like the luckiest man in the world." The luckiest man in the world. This was after losing half his vision, while in the midst of staffing off a terminal disease, and he was the luckiest man in the world. I believe that almost everyone in the world, myself included, would have given up if they were dealt the hand Dad was, but not him. Instead he thrived. He didn't merely say that he felt like the luckiest man in the world, he truly believed it, and lived that way: every day a celebration and every moment a new memory waiting to be had.

While I was writing this I had a hard time deciding which stories to share with the congregation today that might illuminate the kind of man my father was. It wasn't difficult because there weren't enough stories to choose from, just the contrary. I sat for hours running through my mind, thinking of the things he did, as well as the lore I've heard from his family and friends of his colorful past. I thought maybe I could talk about his endless quest for knowledge, perhaps tell you all of the time he had a question about space and decided the best and only way to get to the bottom of things was to pick up the phone and call NASA. (They didn't help at all. They were only concerned with finding out how on earth he had gotten their number.) Or, maybe I could try to explain his spontaneous and fun loving nature, and tell you all about the time he gave Tiny Tim a ride to one of his shows in one of Uncle Kevin's flower shop delivery vans. That's a true story, but not one that would adequately describe the man he was. Instead, when I think about my father I think about two things; his unfaltering love for his fellow man, and his sense of humor.

Years ago when I was a boy, Dad used to take Molly, Rose and I to Terry pool on Saturday mornings to swim. This was a dream come true for us, an Olympic sized pool all to ourselves in the dead heat of summer. We would cool off while Dad took care of maintaining the pool, which would open up a few hours later to the public. Needless to say, every time we got the opportunity to go to work with him, we would always pounce on the opportunity. Now, one night he and I were coming back from the beach when he suddenly realized that he had left a pump on at the pool, and he told me that we needed to stop by Terry so he could turn it off. When we got there, I stayed in the car as he walked into his pump room, affectionately called "The Cave". When he came back out, he was preceded by two people, pool hoppers as he called them, soaking wet wrapped up in towels. Dad came out right behind them, shook their hands, locked the pool, and got back in the car.

He proceeded to tell me what had happened. Apparently, when he walked into The Cave, he could hear distinct voices and splashing coming from the water. He walked out to the deck, and saw two people: a father and a son. Upon their seeing him, they jumped out of the pool and began to climb the fence, assuming my dad would call the police or chase them out or something like that. I'm sure that's what most people would do in his situation, but not my father. Instead, he asked them to get down off the fence because he was afraid they might hurt themselves on the way over. He introduced himself and offered them towels, and asked why they were there. It turns out the man was trying to teach his son how to swim, and

couldn't afford the entry fee to the pool during regular hours. My dad, hearing this, made a deal with them; that he would let them into the pool during regular hours for free so long as they didn't try to hop the fence again. A laugh and a handshake later, a deal was struck and abided by. I don't know why, but that sentiment stuck with me forever. Help your fellow man. Regardless of the circumstances, if someone is in need of help, provide.

My father was also, without a doubt, the funniest man I've ever met. At any party or event, the seat next to him was always the best seat in the house. His sense of humor was discrete and dry, his laughter contagious, and his wit razor sharp while somehow also benevolent. He never laughed at anyone, only with them. If he decided he wanted you to laugh, within minutes you'd be gasping for air and drying your eyes. Him being a master of the craft of comedy, he could take any situation and turn it into the hardest you've laughed all week. It was a showing of his love, he genuinely only wanted people to have a good time, even if it meant putting a cheese doodle in each nostril and staring at you until you noticed. He was a man who enjoyed creating laughter more than he enjoyed laughing himself, a sentiment that was dramatically increased whenever he was surrounded by family.

Now, there aren't words that can describe how much he loved his family. His brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, children and wife were his entire world. These are the people he lived, and ultimately fought for. His time on earth was brief, but he provided a bounty for all who knew him. I think about everything he gave me, and at the end of his life I realized the greatest thing he ever gave me was this family, the people sitting in this very church. He gave me the world through all of you, and my sisters and my mother.

I sometimes wonder, when he walked into Michael's Bakery and proposed to the woman standing behind the counter, if he knew at the time that he was in fact asking the strongest woman in the world to marry him. Mom, the care and affection you provided for Dad not only in the past four years, but during the entirety of your marriage has changed my definition of love. Your complete selflessness and awe inspiring dedication to his well-being is nothing short of miraculous.

I'll leave you now asking you to live the way Mark did, let his life be an example of how to be happy. Laugh hard and often. Unconditionally love not only your family and friends but the strangers you meet on the way. Dedicate yourself to the mission of making others brim with joy. Read a book and share it. Look at the stars and feel small. Get a running head start and dive headfirst into the ocean. Rise with the Sun. Drive with the windows down. Eat pancakes before they get cold. Go to a wedding and dance all night. Hug your children. Work hard. Call NASA. Take a nap in a bath of sunlight. Hug a dog. Be honest. Fight for what you want. But most of all, live in the moment and smile for every second of it.

RECOGNIZING STEVE ART

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Steve Art on his retirement from the City of Wheat Ridge and to thank him for 15 years of dedicated service to the community.

Since 2011, Steve has played a pivotal role in shaping the economic future of Wheat Ridge, serving as both the Economic Development Manager and the Executive Director of the Urban Renewal Authority. Since his first major project, which brought a Sprouts Farmers Market to the area, Steve has worked tirelessly to build strong partnerships with businesses, developers, and community leaders. His commitment to redevelopment and his talent for attracting new investment have helped guide Wheat Ridge into a new chapter of economic vitality.

Thanks in large part to Steve's efforts, Wheat Ridge has grown into a thriving, sustainable suburban community with accessible public transportation, vibrant businesses, and improved amenities for residents. Steve's legacy will be represented in his final major project, the Clear Creek Crossing, which will bring new opportunities and continued growth to Wheat Ridge for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Steve Art on his outstanding service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ASHLEA QUINONEZ

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, Ashlea Quinonez. Ashlea is a North Texas native and accomplished leader with an impressive career in politics, government, and healthcare. She was recently appointed as Regional Administrator for Region VI of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, she will be based out of Fort Worth, and represent Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arkansas.

Ashlea's interest in politics began when she was just seven years old when she helped stuff envelopes with campaign letters for a family friend that was seeking county office. A graduate of Texas A&M with a B.S. in Political Science, she went to work for former Senator Phil Gramm. Her career has led her to working for a North Texas political party, running a district office for a member of Congress, and working in government relations for the Memorial Hermann Health System. Through her service on numerous boards and task forces across Texas, Ashlea has left a lasting impact on our communities across the state.

I congratulate Ashlea on her new role and thank her for her continued commitment to serving others in North Texas and across the country.

HONORING SHILOH MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished church in my District,

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which has served this community for more than 150 years, with a history rooted in faith, service, education, and community advancement.

The church was organized in 1872 by Reverend George Byrd, with its first house of worship located on Boyd Avenue in the Spanish Town area of Baton Rouge. Reverend Byrd faithfully served as Shiloh's first pastor for thirty-four years.

Following Reverend Byrd's retirement in 1906, Reverend Jack Mitchell became Shiloh's second pastor. During his pastorate, the church moved from its original Boyd Avenue location to 14th Street. As the congregation continued to establish itself in the community, the existing church structure was demolished in 1932 and replaced with a new building on South 14th Street.

As Reverend Mitchell advanced in age, Dudley T. Smith was ordained to the Gospel ministry at his request and served as his assistant. After Reverend Mitchell's retirement, Reverend Dudley T. Smith succeeded him as pastor in 1944, continuing Shiloh's legacy of spiritual leadership and service.

Following the death of Reverend Dudley T. Smith in February 1962, the congregation elected his youngest son, Reverend Charles T. Smith, as pastor in April of that year. His fifty-year pastorate would become a significant period of growth and development in Shiloh's history.

Beginning in the 1970s, Shiloh undertook a major expansion of its physical and educational presence. Between 1972 and 1980, the church constructed its present sanctuary and first educational building on South 13th Street at a total cost of approximately seven hundred thousand dollars, including the land. Demonstrating the congregation's commitment and stewardship, the debt was retired in 1988, seven years ahead of schedule.

Shiloh's commitment to education took another important step forward in 1975 with the establishment of a scholarship program for church members under the leadership of Reverend Charles T. Smith. What began as an investment in the educational aspirations of Shiloh members grew into a program that, according to the church's history, awards more than sixty-five thousand dollars annually.

The church campus continued to grow in 1997 with the completion of a new social, educational, fellowship, and office complex. The one-and-a-half-million-dollar facility included eighteen classrooms, five offices, a library, and a greatly enlarged gymnasium, further expanding Shiloh's capacity for Christian education, fellowship, administration, and community ministry. The debt incurred for the project was retired in 2007.

That same year, Shiloh expanded its charitable reach through the creation of Shiloh's Charitable Foundation, Incorporated. Established in 2007, the Foundation provided another avenue through which the church could address community needs, with areas of focus that include education, economic development, and social services.

After fifty years of pastoral leadership, Reverend Charles T. Smith retired in 2012 and passed away in September of that year. In February 2013, the congregation elected Reverend Fred Jeff Smith as Shiloh's fifth pastor, continuing a pastoral legacy that had extended through his father and grandfather.

Today, Shiloh has grown from the congregation established on Boyd Avenue in 1872 into a church with more than three thousand members and over fifty employees. Throughout generations of pastoral leadership, physical expansion, educational investment, and community outreach, Shiloh has remained committed to its mission as a holistic ministry, to grow, teach, and help others come to know the Shalom, or peace, of God.

From its beginnings in Spanish Town to its present ministry in Baton Rouge, the history of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church reflects more than the growth of a congregation. It is a story of faith passed from generation to generation, investment in education and community, responsible stewardship, and an enduring commitment to serving the whole person and the whole community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for more than 150 years of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation many more years of blessings and growth.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA ENERGY, POWER, AND INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE (CAL EPIC)

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the California Energy, Power, and Innovation Collaborative, or Cal EPIC, for its significant contributions to advance the region's zero-carbon goals, strengthen the local workforce, and establish the Greater Sacramento area as a national hub for clean mobility innovation.

In 2019, four distinguished regional institutions: the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Sacramento State University, and the University of California, Davis, came together to establish the California Mobility Center, now known as Cal EPIC, with a bold and forward looking vision to strengthen the clean energy workforce, foster innovation, and position the Sacramento region as a leader in the clean energy economy.

Cal EPIC has reached another significant milestone with the opening of its Innovation Hub. This 33,000-square-foot research, development, manufacturing, and workforce accelerator brings together cutting-edge technology, hands-on training, and industry collaboration under one roof. The Hub includes dedicated office, classroom, and meeting space; 5,000 square feet for EV technician training in partnership with Rivian Automotive; a 3,500-square-foot manufacturing and prototyping lab; and the 10,000-square-foot Capital Charge Yard, a \$4 million EV charger testing center funded by the California Energy Commission. Through interoperability testing, vehicle-to-grid experimentation, and workforce development, the Innovation Hub is creating new opportunities for innovation, preparing workers for the clean-energy economy, and helping position Greater Sacramento at the forefront of the Nation's transition to clean transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the California Energy, Power,