

Mrs. Casas met her husband, Victoriano Casas, at a church festival in Benavides. Together, they built a loving home and raised five children: Hilda Doris, Norma, Maria Isabel, Victoriano Jr., and Jose Daniel. Over the years, their family has grown to include 14 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren, with another on the way. Mrs. Casas has the remarkable privilege of witnessing the strength of the family she helped build across many generations.

Mrs. Casas has also spent a lifetime sharing her talents with her community. Whether sewing and quilting, tending her garden, baking and cooking for those she loves, or preparing Pan de Campo with her husband and family for local festivals, she finds joy in bringing people together. A lifetime member of the Catholic Daughters at Saint Francis de Paula Catholic Church, she faithfully supports her parish through quilt donations, fundraising, and service.

For 106 years, Mrs. Casas has shown what it means to live a life grounded in faith, strengthened by family, and enriched by service to others. Her long life is not only an extraordinary milestone, but a tremendous blessing.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Mrs. Maria M. Casas on the joyous occasion of her 106th birthday. I join her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, extended family, and many friends in celebrating a truly remarkable life, and I wish "Nana" continued blessings, happiness, and the love of her family as they honor this very special day.

RECOGNIZING PEACEWORKS, INC.

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peaceworks, Inc. on 40 years of important work serving domestic violence survivors in rural Colorado mountain communities. Since 1986, Peaceworks, Inc. has offered advocacy and support to survivors of intimate partner violence in Colorado. The nonprofit has provided nearly 2,000 nights of shelter since its original establishment in the spare bedroom of a Park County Commissioner, who took on the need she saw in her town.

Forty years later, Peaceworks, Inc. has become a critical resource, providing shelter, counseling, and educational services across Jefferson and Park counties as the only domestic violence shelter in a 2,800-square-mile region within these mountain communities.

Through its 24/7 SafeLine, Mountain Peace Shelter, mobile and non-residential advocacy, Community Wellness Program, and prevention outreach, PeaceWorks, Inc. addresses both immediate safety and the long-term impact of trauma. With its SafePet program, Peaceworks, Inc. is one of the few domestic violence shelters in the state that allow survivors to bring their pets when seeking services. Under the leadership of Executive Director Sabrina Fritts, the organization has worked tirelessly to address trauma and promote healthy relationships through communal wellness sessions and educational outreach.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Peaceworks, Inc. on 40 years of serving and advocating for survivors and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AT UT DALLAS

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, University Emergency Medical Response at UT Dallas. The University Emergency Medical Response (UEMR) of the University of Texas at Dallas was recently recognized as the Collegiate EMS Organization of the Year for 2025 at the National Collegiate EMS Foundation Conference.

Since being founded in 2017 by just two students, UEMR at UT Dallas has grown into an award winning team of over 90 volunteers who are certified as EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and paramedics. These volunteers answer over 500 emergency calls, support over 65 events each year.

In addition to keeping the campus community safe, UEMR provides training to over 350 students annually through EMT and paramedic courses. With their seventh recognition, we are happy to celebrate their commitment to keeping the UT Dallas community safe.

HONORING NEW LIGHT 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 New Light Missionary Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, founded and organized in 1895 by the late Reverend Tony Scott—a sugar cane farmer, devoted husband to Cecily Scott, and father of nine children. Reverend Scott's vision for an institution of worship was realized on a tract of land in East Baton Rouge Parish, where, with the help of P.H. Handy, S.T. Davis, and H. Warner, a church building was erected. From this humble beginning, Reverend Scott carried out his calling to preach, teach, and lead God's people. A charter for New Light Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1935, reflecting the congregation's growth from a one-room wooden structure to a strong and faithful community.

A devastating storm in 1910 destroyed the original church, forcing its reconstruction on the east side of the railroad tracks on Crane Street in Scotlandville. Years later, the church moved to its present location on Blount Road. After Reverend Scott's passing in 1921, pastoral leadership continued under the late Rev. R.W. Ball and, beginning in 1923, Rev. J.P. Handy. In 1927, after fervent prayer and consultation led by Sister Cicely Scott, Reverend Noah C. Chinn was elected pastor. Under his

divinely inspired leadership, the church was rebuilt in 1955, and several associate ministers served faithfully alongside him. Despite limited financial resources, the pioneers of New Light Missionary Baptist Church remained steadfast, and the church prospered by keeping the Lord first in all things.

In August 1965, Reverend Dr. H.B. Williams became Acting Pastor and was officially elected Pastor that December following Reverend Chinn's passing. Through his God-given vision, the church completed its Community Outreach Center in 2002, expanding efforts to reach, teach, and serve the North Baton Rouge community. Additional ministries were established, including the 4-K Karing Kitchen & Kloth Klostet, a computer lab dedicated in loving memory of Cherlyn Ann Fugler-Young, and the 4CLTP technology program. The center also hosted medical research studies that benefited the community. Mrs. Wilma Williams, Dr. Williams' wife, played an essential role in organizing ministries such as the Nursing Guild, Sisterhood, and recognition days for students. Together, their extraordinary partnership strengthened New Light's mission for decades.

Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 2005, Dr. H.B. Williams installed Dr. Gil H. Wright as Pastor, marking a historic moment as the pastoral mantle was passed with grace and unity. Under Dr. Wright's leadership, New Light Missionary Baptist Church continues to thrive—purchasing a 15-passenger van, remodeling facilities, retiring the loan on the community center, and strengthening marriage ministry, new member engagement, and communication through announcement monitors. As New Light marches forward, pointing souls to Christ, Dr. Wright's dedication, prayerful leadership, and decades of faithful service remain evident in every facet of ministry. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring New Light Missionary Baptist Church for its rich legacy, enduring faith, and unwavering commitment to God's work in the Baton Rouge community.

HONORING DR. RICHARD BATES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THUNDER BAY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Dr. Richard Bates on his retirement from Thunder Bay Community Health Service. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Bates has dedicated himself to improving access to quality healthcare for the people of Northern Michigan while exemplifying compassionate leadership and an unwavering commitment to rural communities.

A graduate of Alma College, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dr. Bates has served Northeast Michigan for more than twenty-five years as both a trusted physician and respected healthcare leader. During his tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Thunder Bay Community Health Service, he expanded access to care by growing the organization's services, including the launch of its Women's Health program, ensuring more families throughout the region received the care they deserve.

Beyond his leadership within the clinic, Dr. Bates has been a tireless advocate for Community Health Centers, regularly traveling to Washington to champion the needs of rural healthcare providers. He has led discussions with my office on behalf of health centers across our region and has been a valued partner in advancing policies that strengthen healthcare access for the people of Northern Michigan. His dedication to delivering quality care has also touched countless families, delivering thousands of babies throughout Northeast Michigan over the course of his medical career.

Although retiring from his role as Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Bates will continue serving patients as a part-time clinician to assist with Thunder Bay's expanding women's health services, ensuring his experience and passion for medicine will continue to benefit our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Dr. Richard Bates for his extraordinary service, leadership, and commitment to improving the health and well-being of Northern Michigan. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him, his wife Cheryl, and their family many years of health, happiness, and continued success.

RECOGNIZING FRANK BARNES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Barnes, faculty member of Red Rocks Community College, for his service to our community.

Frank has been an essential part of the Red Rocks Facilities department for nearly a decade, serving the campus with dedication and compassion.

He started his career serving our country in the United States Air Force from 1981 to 1988, and continued working for the public as a civil engineer before joining Red Rocks Community College in 2016.

Those who have worked with Frank at Red Rocks Community College know him for his hard work, reliability, and generosity. In addition, my staff has appreciated his support and reliability with our Congressional Art Competition over the last four years. Though Frank will be deeply missed within the Red Rocks Community, his retirement is well-deserved.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Frank Barnes on his time with Red Rock Community College and sincerely thank him for his service to our country and the Colorado community. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIEF DANIEL COMEAUX

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 Daniel Comeaux. Daniel Comeaux is the new Chief of Police for the City of Dallas, bringing more than three decades of law enforcement experience to North Texas.

Chief Comeaux began his career with the Houston Police Department in 1991 before joining the DEA, where he eventually served as the Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Field Division. Over his 33 years of service, he has led major operations across the country, including along the Southern border, and achieved significant results, such as a 40 percent reduction in overdose deaths in Laredo, Texas. He is an experienced leader known for his collaborative and community-focused approach.

I congratulate Chief Comeaux, and welcome him to North Texas. I wish him the very best as he takes the helm of the Dallas Police Department and leads it into a new era of service and excellence.

HONORING MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a venerable congregation in my district, Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it marks more than 165 years of faith, fellowship, and service to our community.

Mount Zion First African Baptist Church was founded in 1858 by Pastor Isaac Palmer, a Black minister, and Pastor John Brady, a White minister. The organization included eight others, of whom only three names were recorded: Henry Strong, Silas Green, and Martha Hinton. Throughout the following years, Mount Zion extended its hand to many pastors who all contributed to bringing non-believers to Christ, increasing the membership, and obtaining great church recognition both locally and nationally, allowing the congregation to grow by leaps and bounds.

However, there was still work to do. Dr. T.J. Jemison became pastor in June 1949. During the early years of Dr. Jemison's pastorate, he led many movements in the Baton Rouge community for the betterment of all citizens,

especially the Black community. Because of his work in the community, the church began to grow larger in membership, and many young people were found in church each Sunday. While participating in many community activities, Pastor Jemison began the building program.

On the first Sunday in June 1954, the Mount Zion First Baptist congregation moved from the old church facility and marched into the new one. The new church building was one of the first of its kind in the city of Baton Rouge. Dr. Jemison was voted Pastor Emeritus on Sunday, September 21, 2003, and subsequently retired as pastor of Mount Zion on October 5, 2003. Pastor Jemison served fifty-four years of dedicated leadership.

In February 2007, Mount Zion issued the call of the pastorate to Dr. René F. Brown, former pastor of Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Lawrence, Kansas. Pastor Brown now serves as the eighth pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church. Pastor Brown came in with a clarion call, preaching the Word of forgiveness and reconciliation. Led by the Holy Spirit, Pastor Brown began to redirect the church's focus toward family, introducing Men's, Women's, Seniors', Singles', Couples', and College Ministries. He also brought with him the church's current theme, "Opening their Understanding . . . Boasting in the Cross."

As the congregation works toward magnifying God's presence through prayer and worship, communicating God's Word through evangelism and discipleship, and spiritually educating the membership through ministry and stewardship of time and talent, it aims to empower God's servants to grow toward spiritual maturity, and to engage in fellowship and understanding of the church, home, community, and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mount Zion First Baptist Church for more than a century and a half of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFFERSON SHREVE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 284, S. 307 and YEA on Roll Call No. 285, S. 32.