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 cjty 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.