

children; fourteen grandchildren; his sister, Roseleen; and a large extended family.

Massachusetts is stronger because of people like Jack Houton—people who spend their lives quietly showing up, serving their communities, and leaving things a little better than they found them.

I extend my deepest condolences to Jack's family and all who loved him. I thank my friend Jack for a life of service, friendship, and purpose.

Fair winds and following seas, my friend.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO CLAYTON AND ELLEN
KERSHAW

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Clayton and Ellen Kershaw, who have been named the 2026 University Park Citizens of the Year in recognition of their commitment to serving others and making a lasting impact on their community and beyond.

This award honors University Park residents who enhance the city's quality of life, often through service, generosity, and leadership. Since the launch of Kershaw's Challenge in 2011, the Kershaw's have supported vulnerable and at-risk children in Dallas, Los Angeles, Zambia, and the Dominican Republic by providing hope, resources, and opportunities for a brighter future. Through Kershaw's Challenge, the couple has used their platform to empower communities and create opportunities for children and families in need.

Clayton, a graduate of Highland Park High School and a former pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, has also been recognized for his humanitarian efforts with the Roberto Clemente Award. Together, Clayton and Ellen continue to inspire others through their dedication to creating meaningful change.

HONORING GREATER KING DAVID
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful congregation in my District, Greater King David Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it marks more than a century of worship, Christian education, evangelism, and community service.

Greater King David Baptist Church was established in 1922 after a division within New Light Baptist Church. Originally located on Crane Street, the church began with approximately thirty-two members and was led by its founding pastor, Reverend Willie Wheeler. In 1925, the congregation adopted the name King David Baptist Church to distinguish it from another church with the same name. As the congregation grew, a larger church building was completed on Crane Street in 1947, followed by the construction of an educational building.

In 1973, the church began construction of a new facility to accommodate its growing membership and expanding educational programs. The new church on Blount Avenue was completed and consecrated in 1975, at which time the congregation officially adopted the name Greater King David Baptist Church. The church continued to expand its ministries and community outreach, including establishing an Inner-City location on Harry Drive in 1995. Greater King David Baptist Church has maintained a longstanding commitment to worship, Christian education, evangelism, and community service in Baton Rouge.

Greater King David Baptist Church is led today by Reverend Dr. John E. Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Greater King David Baptist Church for more than a century of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL
STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversaries of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's (N.C. A&T) 100th homecoming and the 125th football season for the Aggies.

The Aggies' homecoming is known as "The Greatest Homecoming on Earth." Each fall, tens of thousands of N.C. A&T alumni join students, faculty, and Aggie fans in a weeklong homecoming celebration. The university traces its homecoming tradition to 1926, when Aggies began gathering around football, fellowship, and alumni engagement. The 100th anniversary homecoming celebration includes a parade, an alumni concert, a stepshow, a coronation, a tailgate, and a game against Elon University on October 31, 2026.

The centennial celebration also coincides with the 125th season of Aggie football, which dates to 1901 when N.C. A&T played its first game against Livingstone College. There have been many great moments in the team's history including: 11 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championships and undefeated season in 2017. N.C. A&T has also produced 39 NFL players, including one hall of famer and 3 Superbowl champions.

I am proud to support such a talented and historic program. I am inspired by what N.C. A&T accomplished and I cannot wait to see what they will achieve in the next 125 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today honoring the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University on its 100th homecoming and 125th football season.

RECOGNIZING REMARKS OF RABBI
DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at

the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah. And are a reflection of his views:

The major celebration of the Jewish Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah (The New Year 5787) and Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement) are enhanced by a probing and provocative volume of the quality of To Be A Jew Today (A New Guide to God, Israel and the Jewish People) New York: Farrar Strause and Giroux. The recent book by Noah Feldman, the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law as well as chair of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University where he is the founding director of the Julius-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli law.

Feldman raises fundamental and foundational issues that are at the heart of contemporary Jewish identity that all thoughtful and concerned Jews from throughout the wide spectrum of Jewish affiliation and practice along with those on the periphery of active Jewish life, would find both meaningful and purposeful to wrestle with. Additionally, Feldman's profound scholarship is not of the dry type, rather perks intellectual curiosity while appealing in a clarion call to a big tent approach, to pause and reassess core Jewish themes in conversation with one who shys from being authoritative. "In the course of writing this book, I intentionally have not flagged what I think is now in it. My goal in that isn't to make what I write seem obviously true. It's to allow you, the reader, to use your own reaction to gauge and solidify what you think, not what I think. You can certainly read this book by arguing with it. I read a lot of books this way, and it often works for me. If you want, however, you can also read this book not argumentatively but introspectively—the way I wrote it.

Though the book is designed with a lofty and a bit presumptive goal as "A New Guide to God, Israel and the Jewish people," "It does reflect the author's own respect for high academic standing and his heavy stake in reaching out for a Jewish world in much disarray spiritually, socially and politically with the shaking events he mentions of October 7 offering an urgent backdrop as a uniting Jewish factor. Thus it is not happenstance that he refers to the "Guide of the Perplexed" by the recognized giant Jewish thinker of all times, the medieval Moses Maimonides, who reached out to his own perplexed generation confronted and challenged by Greek, Islamic and Pagan influences while attempting to secure and anchor an authentic Jewish response and identity without imposing his own perspective. Yet he aroused the ire of the rabbinic establishment who called for banning his book but might have resulted, surmises Feldman, in the Talmud's burning by the Church in Paris in 1242.

The "New Guide" offered by the author is his own attempt to follow on the Maimonidean model with reaching to his own perplexed times in a way that clarifies without setting himself up as the supreme arbiter of such an imposing agenda of discourse. "One initial aim of this book is to chart a map of contemporary Jewish lives and ideas, a map the reader can use not to identify bad Jews but to explore and appreciate the many different ways Jews can be and think and experience. It can be used as a field guide to Jewish people and ideas as they exist today, and as they are being transformed for the future."

Feldman's embracing and inclusive approach focuses on the notion that a "bad Jew" which is common, including the author, to how Jews feel in relation to their demanding heritage regulating Jewish conduct, is in fact alien to Judaism. Given the trying circumstances of the historical Jewish experience, including forced mass conversion of

Jews in the medieval era, the rabbis' impulse was not to add misery to fellow Jews caught up in extraordinary painful dilemmas of life and death issues but to allow them a continued sense of belonging, though not in practice, to their eternal Jewish covenant, with perhaps hope that their oppressive condition might be altered. The concise and clear Talmudic dictum, "An Israelite though he has sinned, is an Israelite," speaks volumes of paramount Jewish inclusivity promoted by the author as a continued key principle for a wide pluralistic system. Feldman proves for the sake of it or plain survival, he is an iconoclast, criticizing the State of Israel for not admitting Brother Daniel—the Polish Jew who converted to Catholicism in the Holocaust's harrowing circumstances—under the Law of Return. It does contradict a hallowed rabbinic instruction though secular Israel's decision was ironically influenced by its religious establishment. Indeed there is a blurring of the religious and national poles in Jewish identity.

Jewish survival as a tiny minority of some 16 million Jews in a global population of 7.6 billion is a salient factor, not lost on Feldman, which only strengthens his gentle yet forceful argument for a wide framework for Jewish affiliation and acceptance in an age characterized by global natural and man-made threats to human survival along with radical questioning concerning the applicability and relevancy of all things Jewish. Surely the author's "openness" attempting to overarch the denominational Jewish divide which risks overreaching, would find fierce opposition from traditionalists lacking his spiritual audacity and courage for the sake of vital Jewish survival in face of assembling mighty odds with modernity diminishing long held claims such as heralded theme of Jewish chosenness which the author fully probes as he does with all that he skillfully analyses. Feldman regards Jewish chosenness as a major factor in entrenched antisemitism, "This chosenness, I am suggesting, is a provocation to anyone not so chosen, because it amounts to the claim that the Master of the Universe has chosen me and not you."

As he points out, there is solid grounding as in the universal proclamations of the prophet Amos, to tone down the double edge sword of exclusive chosenness giving rise to a Baruch Goldstein, an American physician who committed the infamous massacre in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs that houses a mosque. "He was a Modern Orthodox Religious Zionist who had been educated at a high school nearly identical to mine. His actions had shaken my belief structure like no other event in my life, before or since." The author concludes his uniquely engaging book with a theme that runs throughout, namely that characterizing any Jew as "bad" is contrary to the hallmark of traditional Jewish inclusiveness, and counterproductive to the cause of Jewish survival and vitality. He raises as an example the complex saga of Elisha ben Abuyah, the Other, as a case in point highlighting multifaceted Jewish thinking which errs toward acceptance of the Other in our own Jewish midst. He finds it kin to Jacob's wrestling encounter with God's messenger. "That struggle-embrace with God lies at the heart of this book. It lies, I have tried to show, at the heart of the Jewish past, the Jewish present, and the hoped-for and possible Jewish future, which we pray to be able to create. It can, I believe, explain and engage and guide the ongoing encounter between God, Israel, and the Jewish people."

This irresistible and indispensable treasure trove of wisdom and guidance from a teacher par excellence who cares deeply about the Jewish future while not mincing words, is a most welcome new source for discourse, dis-

cussion, study and growth. It is indeed a gift to both Jews and non-Jews for our perplexed and perplexing times. We remember the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with the Jewish New Year coinciding this season.

HONORING DIXIE THE PRAYING DOG

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Hoosier canine that has brought comfort and joy to thousands of people across our great Nation.

Dixie the Praying Dog is best known for her therapy work serving veterans and children.

She has brought joy to almost every Indy Honor Flight, visited VA Hospitals, military ceremonies, nursing homes, schools, disaster response sites, etc.

Thousands of veterans and their family members have met Dixie and had the opportunity to see Dixie "pray," bark, and receive pets.

Alongside her owner, Brian Calvert, Dixie has become a powerful symbol of patriotism and unconditional love, proving that extraordinary acts of service can come from the most unexpected heroes.

Dixie's simple act of laying her paws together has become an unforgettable image of hope for people facing life's greatest challenges. I thank Brian and Dixie for bringing comfort to people everywhere they go.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CORPORAL JOSHUA SWISHER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake Police Department Corporal Joshua Swisher. He was recently honored with the Meritorious Conduct Award, the department's second-highest honor, recognizing his exceptional courage and lifesaving actions in the line of duty.

Corporal Swisher was recognized for his response to a vehicle fire on State Highway 114, where he helped rescue a driver trapped inside a burning vehicle. After the car caught fire, Corporal Swisher acted quickly, breaking the window and pulling the driver to safety before the car became fully engulfed in flames.

His bravery and commitment to protecting others reflect the dedication and service our first responders provide to our communities every day. I thank Corporal Joshua Swisher for his courage and service to North Texas.

HONORING ROSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic church in my District, Rose Hill Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it celebrates more than 140 years of faith, fellowship, and service to the people of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Built on the foundation of love, Rose Hill Baptist Church continues to spread the Gospel. For over a century, Rose Hill has remained faithful to advancing the kingdom of God and bettering its surrounding communities.

In 1882, Reverend Byrd founded Rose Hill Baptist Church by purchasing land from Mr. Johnson Davis in the amount of fifty dollars. Mr. Davis originally desired to donate the land; however, Rose Hill members insisted on purchasing it. Seventy-one years later, on Friday, October 16, 1953, the church was officially incorporated as Rose Hill Baptist Church of Baton Rouge.

After seventy-six years of spirit-filled worship, the original edifice of Rose Hill Church deteriorated to the extent that a new building was needed. In 1958, Rose Hill moved from its original location and built its new home on Greenwell Springs Road. The new location included both a church sanctuary and a cemetery. The Rose Hill Church cemetery is still in existence today.

On Sunday, October 6, 1985, Rose Hill expanded its ministry efforts by moving from Greenwell Springs Road to its present location.

Upon the unexpected passing of Pastor Campbell in 2004, the congregation's present leader, Pastor Danny M. Donaldson, Sr., inherited the ministry through the election process. Innate to his character, Pastor Donaldson exudes quintessential leadership while preaching a life-changing Word.

As a yielded vessel, the Lord has allowed Pastor Donaldson to substantially grow the ministry of Rose Hill Church. Pastor Donaldson adamantly believes in the transformative power of Jesus Christ and seeks to tell nations of Christ's unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Rose Hill Church for more than a century of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

HONORING THE OLDEST MAN ALIVE IN THE UNITED STATES, MR. MAJOR JEWEL McDONALD

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 111 years of Mr. Major Jewel McDonald of Louisville, Mississippi. Born in 1915, Mr. McDonald has witnessed generations of history in his lifetime. Mr. McDonald has lived through two world wars, twenty different Presidents going back to President