

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

Woodrow Wilson, six members of the 3rd Congressional District of Mississippi going back to Congressman Benjamin G. Humphreys, and has witnessed events such as the roaring 20's, the space race, the civil rights movement, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the rise of modern technology. Mr. McDonald shares a birth year with famous singer Frank Sinatra and fellow Mississippian Muddy Waters.

Mr. McDonald has lived a wholesome life with family and his community, working hard and investing in a career with The Kroger Company. In the 1980's, after a stint in Ohio, Mr. McDonald moved back to Louisville to live in his home community.

Mr. McDonald was recognized as the oldest living man in America following the passing of Edwin "Ed" George Martin of Lehigh Acres, Florida, on July 24, 2026, at the age of 111 years and 159 days. On November 1, 2026, Mr. McDonald will celebrate his 111th birthday. He will be turning 111 on November 1st. I am honored to recognize Mr. McDonald for his long life and amazing legacy.

I wish Mr. McDonald the best and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

CELEBRATING CLAY HIGH
SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Clay High School as they mark their Centennial Anniversary. Part of the Oregon City School District, Clay High School opened its doors to its first class of freshmen on September 13, 1926.

Public education is a partnership between students, educators, families, and the communities they call home. The students in the classroom today are the leaders who will change the world tomorrow. For a century, Clay High School has helped prepare generations of young people to meet that responsibility, with nearly 23,000 graduates receiving their diplomas since the school first opened its doors.

Named for Jeremiah Clay, on whose farm the school was built, Clay High School has grown from a small school serving its first freshman class into a thriving, comprehensive high school. The school seeks to develop and care for the whole student, offering a range of technical programs, honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, and a College Credit Plus Program. Its 27 varsity sports teams and numerous extracurricular activities give its students a place to connect, grow, and learn outside of the classroom. Through its commitment to rigorous and relevant education, strong relationships, and a culture of excellence and growth, Clay continues to prepare students to become engaged, adaptable citizens.

Please join me in offering heartfelt congratulations to the teachers, staff, and community members who have invested in the success of Clay High School, its many students, and the entire City of Oregon. This milestone reflects a century of dedication and commitment by

countless individuals. As Clay High School celebrates 100 years of tradition and achievement, I am so proud of the work being done to expand educational opportunities for young people in Oregon, and across Lucas County and look forward to the many accomplishments still to come.

Go Eagles. Onward.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO GRADY EMERSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Fort Worth Christian's Grady Emerson, who was the second overall pick in the 2026 MLB Draft, selected by the Tampa Bay Rays. During an impressive senior season, he was named Gatorade National Player of the Year and Baseball America's High School Player of the Year, leading Fort Worth Christian to the TAPPS Division II state championship game. He became the fourth Dallas-Fort Worth area high school player selected in the top 10 of the MLB Draft this century. Additionally, he became the second high school player in the history of USA Baseball's Golden Spikes Award to be named a semifinalist, joining MLB superstar Bobby Witt, Jr.

Grady Emerson also made history as the first player to compete on multiple USA Baseball 15U and 18U National Teams, earning three gold medals. Recognized for his exceptional hitting, athleticism, and overall skill, he is regarded as one of the top high school prospects in recent years.

I congratulate Grady. North Texas is cheering him on in his next chapter.

HONORING GREATER NEW GUIDE
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 remarkable congregation in my District, Greater New Guide Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it celebrates more than a century of worship, education, and service to our community.

The New Guide Baptist Church was organized by a small group from the Scotlandville area under the leadership of Reverend Ike Kelly. This group eventually moved to North 19th Street in 1914.

After the death of Reverend Kelly in 1915, Reverend L.C. Crier led the flock until 1921. Reverend Thomas A. Levy was called to pastor the church in 1922 and concentrated on building a new facility. In 1930 the new facility was erected, and the church was called the Greater New Guide Baptist Church. Reverend Levy led the congregation until his death in 1946. Reverend Joseph H. Freeman was elected as pastor in July 1946, and under his leadership many new committees and ministries were formed.

As the membership flourished, Reverend Freeman envisioned a larger house for wor-

ship. As plans were being drawn for a new facility, news of an available building was received. The Relocation Investigation Committee was formed and subsequently toured the Fairfield Baptist Church. The majority returned with a favorable report, and the Greater New Guide Baptist Church moved to the new location in 1974.

Soon after settling in, the Guided Learning Center was established in 1974. After many years of growth and development, the center was renamed The Greater New Guide Learning Academy.

Financing the operational budget was always made possible through pledges and fundraisers. In the early 1980s, however, the church resolved to become a tithing church. Blessings were abundant, and in 1981, seven years after moving to the new location, the church's mortgage was retired.

Reverend Freeman died on June 10, 1985. Reverend Isaiah J. Webster, a former member of Greater New Guide, was elected as pastor in October and installed on February 16, 1986. This was another banner day for the Greater New Guide family. Again, the congregation was blessed with a leader who shows an interest in people, especially the flock over which he had been placed, a forceful teacher, and a staunch administrator.

The membership increased from five hundred members in 1985 to over twelve hundred members. With the growing attendance, the need for an additional service was realized, and on Sunday, November 4, 1990, the eight o'clock morning worship service was instituted.

In 1989, the church acquired property on North Acadian Thruway, formerly the old National Food Store. The property was formerly called the Greater New Guide Plaza and housed the Learning Academy and the Clothes Closet. Today, this property is referred to as the Greater New Guide Christian Education and Family Life Center. The mission of the Center is, Empowering people, advancing families. In addition to housing the Clothes Closet and Library, this facility is used for Sunday school classes, financial training, new members classes, and other classes that promote Christian discipline and growth.

The church supports weekly adult and youth Bible classes, averaging two hundred fifty persons weekly. The Sunday School averages two hundred ninety in weekly attendance, and classes are available for all age groups. The church is also very involved in the life of the youth congregation and supports youth retreats and many other activities.

Greater New Guide experienced tremendous spiritual and numerical growth through the teaching of Reverend Webster. He retired as leader of this flock on December 30, 2022. Reverend Mark C. Thomas was elected as Acting Pastor effective January 2023, and he has continued the spiritual teaching and leadership set forth by the past leaders of Greater New Guide. His emphasis is on the love of Christ and the holistic needs of church members as well as the citizens of the community.

The congregation welcomes those who join it, and two programs were instituted that make for an easy transition. The adult New Members class was established August 3, 1986. The class meets for five sessions where Christian-based doctrines are emphasized. The classes assist the members in understanding God's will for their lives while equipping and encouraging members to use their spiritual gifts.