

Rouge Parish, preserving a rich tradition that honors both its immigrant roots and its commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to recognize Sacred Heart of Jesus, Reverend Johnson, and the devoted congregation for their remarkable contributions to Baton Rouge. The church's legacy as a beacon of hope, education, and community will continue to make a lasting impact for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING STOUT STREET FOUNDATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stout Street Foundation on their 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, the Stout Street Foundation opened its doors as a safe, supportive home for Coloradans battling addiction. For the past five decades, it has provided hope, stability, and a real pathway to lasting recovery. What started as a small recovery house in Denver has grown into one of Colorado's most trusted long-term residential treatment communities, offering recovery services, workforce development, counseling, and peer support to individuals working to rebuild their lives.

Today, the Foundation serves more than 400 individuals each year through its therapeutic community model, which emphasizes accountability, life skills development, and lasting personal growth. Over the last 50 years, its work has helped over 10,000 Coloradans achieve lasting sobriety, reconnect with their families, and return to their communities with renewed purpose and genuine opportunity.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Stout Street Foundation on its 50th anniversary and wish the organization continued success in its important work for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF DR. LEVON ALDON LEBAN

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of a remarkable humanitarian, community servant, human rights activist, and my fellow Kappa Alpha Psi brother, someone I considered to be a dear friend, the late Dr. Levon Aldon LeBan. His commitment to social justice transformed Louisiana and had a profound impact on this entire Nation. A United States Army veteran, minister, and retired educator, he served the New Orleans Parish Schools for over 20 years, with multiple accolades—including "Teacher of the Year." He was not a man who loved power, but he deeply understood the power of LOVE, and his light impacted those both near and far.

A seventh-generation Louisianan, Dr. LeBan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is a

graduate of the public school system. He completed undergraduate studies at Southern University and A&M College and Southern University at New Orleans, earning a B.S. and B.A. degree, respectively. He earned a Master of Science degree from Prairie View A&M University in Texas, a Master of Social Work degree from Southern University at New Orleans, and a Master of Divinity from Bethel Bible College. He also earned a Doctor of Theology degree from the American College and Theological Seminary. He received a Doctor of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry, honoris causa. He completed additional studies at the University of New Orleans and the University of Maryland, College Park. While at Maryland, he participated in a study with the U.S. Agency for International Development to examine socio-economic systems in Puerto Rico, USA. Twice selected as a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. LeBan studied in Zimbabwe in 1995 and the Republic of South Africa in 2000. His travels in Africa also included Swaziland, Zambia, and Mozambique.

In 1979, he was employed as a Researcher by Texas A&M University in Waller County and served for over twenty years with Orleans Parish Schools. He was elected "Teacher of the Year" at Washington High, Cohen High, and Walker Middle Schools. He also taught at San Jacinto College (Texas), the University of Maryland, and Tulane University Graduate School of Social Work. As a member of the American Association of Suicidology, Dr. LeBan supervised the crisis hotline for the Volunteer and Information Agency for several years, then founded the Crisis Institute of Mediation, Intervention & Training—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. He has written over 80 journal articles and papers, many of which were featured in the "Africa Rising" section of a New Orleans publication, the Louisiana Weekly. Dr. LeBan also published: "Masonic Silk Stocking—History of a Louisiana Lodge," and "History of the New Orleans Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc." He served as the Historian for the Southwestern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, covering New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Dr. LeBan most recently served as the President of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) for District 1 (Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes). In 2024, received the prestigious LRTA "Name of Fame" Medallion in Houma, Louisiana.

As a citizen soldier, Dr. LeBan served five years in the United States Army. In 1986, he was selected as "Soldier of the Year" for the 122nd Army Reserve Command (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas). He served several years as an instructor with the 4152nd USAR School and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal with Four Oak-leaf Clusters. He served as the first African American President of the Alliance for Good Government, Orleans Chapter.

In 1983, he was licensed and ordained as a minister of the gospel and served seven years as Senior Pastor of "Walk in the Light" Interdenominational Church and three years as Associate Pastor of "Jesus Never Fails" Ministry of New Orleans. He is the first African American to serve as the Disaster Spiritual Care Louisiana Regional Lead for the American Red Cross. Dr. LeBan also serves as a Chaplain with the Association. He is a member of

the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee and the National Disaster Spiritual Care Leadership Cadre.

Though an accomplished researcher and skilled writer, he supervised a crisis hotline in our city, established intervention strategies for handling crisis situations, and led spiritual care for the American Red Cross in Louisiana—aiding victims of natural disasters. Dr. LeBan has completed numerous humanitarian deployments with the American Red Cross, assisting individuals and families impacted by disasters throughout Louisiana since 2016. Some of his humanitarian efforts around the country include Wildfires in Maui, Hawaii; Typhoon in Guam, United States of America; Atmospheric Floods in San Jose, California; Hurricane Michael in Macon, Georgia; Oil Rig Tragedy in Port Fourchon, Louisiana; Tornado in Little Rock, Arkansas; Atmospheric Floods in Vallejo, California; Hurricane Fiona in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Tornado in Mayfield, Kentucky; Flash Flooding in Central Tennessee; Floods in Eastern Kentucky, Texas; Mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas; Tornado in Southern Kentucky; Hurricane Harvey in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Houston, Texas; Floods in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Tornadoes in the Metropolitan New Orleans area. He currently serves as the first African American Louisiana Lead for Disaster Spiritual Care and Community Engagement/Partnerships with the American Red Cross.

A life member of the NAACP since 1979, he has held various offices at the local and state levels and was thrice elected the Louisiana State Conference Vice President. Dr. LeBan was currently serving as the 5th elected President of the New Orleans Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)—the oldest affiliate of SCLC in the Nation at the time of his passing. In 2019, the SCLC New Orleans Chapter was selected as the Interleban SCLC Chapter of the Year, please see hyperlink below: <https://sclcnola.org>.

From the military to the educational system, his fraternity, philanthropy, and ministry, Levon's life was one of service to his community. I thank Dr. LeBan's family for letting him be a part of our lives. I thank Dr. LeBan for his extraordinary contributions. His legacy will live forever and continue to light our paths toward a more just society. We salute the life and legacy of this dear man of God and send our deepest condolences to his family.

HONORING ST. MARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding church in my District, St. Mary Baptist Church, for serving as a fixture in Baton Rouge, Louisiana since its founding in 1929. From its humble beginnings in a wood-framed cottage, the church grew steadily, establishing its first sanctuary and expanding into a vibrant campus that now anchors the neighborhood.

Over the last several decades, St. Mary Baptist Church has evolved into a major institution, offering impactful ministries that meet

the needs of Baton Rouge families. Its prison outreach program extends hope and support to those incarcerated, while dedicated nursing-home ministries bring comfort to elders throughout the community. In 2004, the church launched the Clothes Closet, providing essential clothing to neighbors in need and strengthening its tradition of practical service.

Today Reverend Conway Knighton helps carry on the mission of promoting positive change and advocating for justice by collaborating with local organizations, such as Together Baton Rouge, to address issues affecting the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to recognize St. Mary Baptist Church, Reverend Knighton, and the congregation for nearly a century of hope, compassion, and service. Its enduring legacy reflects a steadfast commitment to uplifting families and neighborhoods across Baton Rouge, making a lasting impact that will inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING ALDIN
MEDNOLUCANIN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aldin Mednolucanin for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aldin has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Aldin, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aldin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aldin Mednolucanin on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
LARRY L. LENTZNER

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sergeant Major Larry L. Lentzner, a United States Marine whose extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty during the Vietnam War exemplify the highest ideals of the United States Marine Corps.

While serving with Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines near the Que Son Mountains in the Republic of Vietnam, then Staff Sergeant Lentzner and his fellow Marines were ambushed by a North Vietnamese Army force that significantly outnumbered their unit. Staff Sergeant Lentzner was struck by enemy fire and suffered devastating wounds to both legs.

Despite his injuries, he continued returning fire and directing his Marines, even as he peri-

odically lost consciousness. Staff Sergeant Lentzner underwent multiple surgeries and extensive reconstruction of both legs. Determined to return to duty, he defied his medical prognosis and taught himself to walk again. Sergeant Major Lentzner would go on to honorably serve our Nation and the Marine Corps for another 25 years.

It is my privilege to recognize Sergeant Major Lentzner for his distinguished service to the United States. I extend my deepest gratitude to him, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary service and sacrifice.

HONORING BETHEL AFRICAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great church in my District, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located on South Blvd in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Established in 1867 by free Black men during the Reconstruction era, Bethel AME Church stands as one of the oldest pillars of faith and community in South Baton Rouge.

The church's founding in the aftermath of emancipation marked a powerful milestone in the history of African American civic leadership. Throughout the turbulent years of Jim Crow and the civil rights movement, Bethel AME Church served as a sanctuary for hope, resilience, and justice, providing a forum for community advocacy and spiritual upliftment.

Bethel's significance within the AME denomination is longstanding, including hosting the unveiling of a U.S. Postal Service Black Heritage stamp in 2016 to honor AME founder Richard Allen and serving as a proud site for the Louisiana AME Annual Conference. These moments underscore the church's vital role in preserving and celebrating the heritage of the AME tradition.

Today, Bethel AME Church continues its legacy of service through ongoing outreach, including food distribution programs that support families in need across Baton Rouge. Its commitment to compassion and community remains unwavering, reflecting the enduring spirit of those who founded it more than 150 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to recognize Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for its historic leadership, dedication to faith, and steadfast service to South Baton Rouge. May its legacy of worship, resilience, and outreach inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS LYNN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chris Lynn for his years of service at Seniors Resource Center and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Chris Lynn has dedicated his career to treating older adults with dignity, respect, and

the support they deserve, making a lasting difference across Colorado. As President and CEO of Seniors Resource Center, he has been a compassionate and thoughtful leader, guiding one of the Jefferson County community's most impactful senior services organizations.

Since 1978, the organization has built a legacy of being a comprehensive, community-based provider delivering in-home care, adult day programming, care management, and other essential services to thousands of seniors and their families. Chris's leadership reflects a deeply personal investment in ensuring older adults are supported with independence, stability, and access to the resources they need to thrive.

Chris has been a strong voice in Colorado on issues such as unstable funding, service accessibility, and the growing demand for aging services, consistently emphasizing the real human impact behind policy decisions. He serves our community in many capacities, including on regional advisory bodies like the Jefferson County Commission on Aging and the Denver Regional Council on Governments. He also supports mission-driven organizations such as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Colorado Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Courageous Faces Foundation. Through advocacy and action, Chris has never lost sight of the challenges faced by seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, while helping expand essential services such as food distribution and coordinated care.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Chris Lynn and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 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 NAY on Roll Call No. 295.

HONORING THE GREATER NEW
GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater New Galilee Baptist Church, a cornerstone of faith and service in the Scotlandville community of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Founded in the 1960s, and currently led by Pastor Dr. Mark A. Litt, Sr., this remarkable church has continually uplifted generations of families.

Greater New Galilee Baptist Church has been a pillar of the Scotlandville community for generations, with its roots on Wilbur Street going back to the 1960s. Since 1967, when the congregation secured property and financed the construction of its church and educational building, the church has served as a beacon of hope, providing a lasting center for