

Daniel Smith became pastor and expanded the rear of the church to include a kitchen, dining area, and two choir stands before his death in 1942. Reverend Edward Brown began his service in 1942 and led the purchase of pews, an organ, and songbooks. He initiated interior renovations and established a pastor's salary and a building fund. Reverend Brown resigned in 1958, and Reverend Joseph R. Williams succeeded him, bringing strong leadership that resulted in modernization of the building and significant organizational growth.

Under Reverend J.R. Williams's leadership, numerous auxiliaries and programs were created, including the Lena S. Johnson Scholarship Fund (1969), Male Chorus (1990), Mass Choir (1992), Summer Enrichment Program (1993), After School Tutorial Program (1995), and the Gospel Drill Team (1999). The fellowship hall was enlarged in 1993, and land was purchased to expand parking. After Reverend Williams's passing, Reverend Dale W. Flowers was elected pastor in September 2000. His administration brought sanctuary and office renovations, new furniture and equipment, a church van, and expansion of church property. Pastor Flowers also established a library, a bi-annual health fair, and new ministries such as Married Couples, Singles, Drama, and Youth Ushers Ministries, along with the institution of Hallelujah Night and New Members classes.

Mr. Speaker, New Sunlight Missionary Baptist Church continues to thrive through its outreach programs, including free Saturday breakfasts for the homeless, dependency counseling, literacy programs, youth and teen rap sessions, and expanded family-centered activities. Renovations to the inner sanctuary and vestibule, installation of a drum stand and shield, and acquisition of additional property demonstrate the church's commitment to growth and service. Operational improvements include deacon member assignments, creation of a church website, computerization of financial and membership records, and the addition of an 8:00 a.m. worship service. Through witnessing, praying, and relying on the Holy Spirit, New Sunlight Missionary Baptist Church continues its mission of winning souls for God's Kingdom.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HEROS MRS. DILLEN, MRS.
HENSLEY, MRS. EIMERS, AND
MRS. LANDOLFA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heros, Mrs. Dillen, Mrs. Hensley, Mrs. Eimers, and Mrs. Landolfa at Forest Vista Elementary School in Flower Mound. In their classrooms, they foster a welcoming environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to learn. Through their dedication, they support both academic growth and the confidence of their students.

At Forest Vista Elementary, they go above and beyond to ensure that every child feels seen and supported. Their impact was especially meaningful during Purple Up Day on April 15th, also known as Military Child Day,

when they wore purple to honor military children and presented a student with a special recognition certificate. This heartfelt gesture demonstrated their deep understanding of the sacrifices military families make and their commitment to celebrating the strength and resilience of their students. Their actions reflect the best of what our North Texas schools offer, including creating a classroom community, and encouragement at the foundational stages of a child's education.

I thank Mrs. Dillen, Mrs. Hensley, Mrs. Eimers, and Mrs. Landolfa, for their unwavering dedication to their students and for the meaningful difference they make every single day at Forest Vista Elementary School.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SCOTT C. CUNNINGHAM ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott C. Cunningham, who is retiring from the House of Representatives after 25 years of exemplary service.

Upon graduation from Emory University, Scott relocated to Washington, D.C., to begin his career as a Legislative Assistant for the Honorable Pete Sessions, a Member from his home state of Texas. Scott's hard work, problem-solving skills, and can-do attitude quickly made him a valued member of Congressman Sessions' staff.

In 2007, Scott took his talents to the office of another Texan, the Honorable Kenny Marchant, serving in multiple capacities from Policy Advisor to Deputy Chief of Staff over the next fourteen years. During his last two years with Mr. Marchant, Scott was a Senior Advisor and the designated liaison to the House Ethics Committee. After Mr. Marchant's departure from Congress, Scott continued to serve the House by joining the office of Congressman Scott DesJarlais as a Special Assistant.

In 2021, Scott joined the Office of General Counsel (OGC) as its Director of Administration and Member Services. Scott took on new tasks and responsibilities with aplomb and immediately became an indispensable part of the OGC team. It would be impossible to list all his contributions, but among them, he has taken the lead role relating to all aspects of office management and administration, including the office budget and computer systems, and was very often the first point of contact for a Member office when interfacing with OGC. During his time with OGC, Scott displayed an admirable level of dedication to serving Members, Officers, and employees of the House, proving to be remarkably trustworthy and utterly fearless when faced with novel, sensitive, and difficult matters. Scott's unwavering resolve and commitment to the House as an institution and OGC's particular role within that institution was always evident, as was his ability to find a solution to seemingly any problem.

It is hard to imagine a congressional staffer much finer than Scott, who embodies the true spirit of public service. Scott has been an irreplaceable member of every team on which he has served. He has been a kind and thought-

ful coworker to all, treating everyone from the Members to the maintenance staff with the utmost respect and kindness. As scores of current and former colleagues can attest, Scott is the kind of coworker who makes the workday better for everyone with whom he comes into contact. It is no exaggeration to say that he has become a fixture of the House community over his years on the Hill. Indeed, it is practically impossible for Scott to go anywhere on the Hill and not run into at least one person who wanted to stop and catch up with him. Scott is always eager to share his passion for all things aviation and travel, being a frequent wedding guest, and of course rooting for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams, especially when it comes to the sport of curling. Scott's convivial and welcoming presence on the Hill will be sorely missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with him.

It will be hard to imagine the House without Scott. Every day for the past 25 years, Scott has served the House with dedication and enthusiasm. Regardless of the task assigned, Scott will always find a way to accomplish it—a quality that will continue to serve him well in all future endeavors. On behalf of the Office of General Counsel and the entire House community, I thank Scott for his decades of service and wish him a joyous and relaxing retirement among his many friends, family, and former colleagues whether here in Washington, in Texas, or around the world.

RECOGNIZING CALEB ABDELNOUR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

Caleb 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 Caleb, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Caleb's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING NEW CREATION
CHRISTIAN CENTER

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge New Creation Christian Center of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a ministry birthed from a divine vision God gave Pastor Cross J. Richard, Sr. in 1999. The instruction was clear: 'Teach My people to fully trust God through His Word.' This mandate became the foundation and guiding direction of the ministry. Pastor Richard, a Vietnam War veteran

and Bronze Star Medal recipient, opened New Creation on April 22, 2000, with five members, holding services in his home with his wife, Sis. Lois Richard. God soon multiplied the membership, blessing the church with faithful believers devoted to the vision.

As the ministry grew, Pastor Richard sought a permanent home. In 2001, God directed him to 1934 Scenic Highway. After discovering the property was indeed for sale, Pastor Richard purchased it, and New Creation began renovating the building—an effort requiring over a year of prayer, work, and faith. On November 17, 2001, the congregation held its first service in the new sanctuary. In 2000, the church met Sis. Agnes Mbonyinkebe and her family, who became an integral part of New Creation. In 2005, Pastor Richard, Sis. Lois, and Sis. Agnes traveled to Rwanda, where Sis. Agnes reunited with family displaced by genocide. This journey sparked a global mission that has resulted in the planting of seven churches in Rwanda and support for construction of a new sanctuary completed in 2019.

God continued expanding New Creation's impact. In 2005, the church purchased 7.74 acres on Oak Villa Boulevard for \$506,000—property that appraised for nearly double the purchase price. In 2010, the George L. Harris School of Ministry opened, teaching believers how to hear the voice of God. The land was paid off in the same year. On September 16, 2012, the Holy Spirit led New Creation to plant a new location at Perkins Rowe Cinemark Theater, known affectionately as the 'Church with the Smell of Popcorn.' With campuses at Scenic Highway, Perkins Rowe, and Rwanda, New Creation became one church in three locations. Preparations for a new sanctuary began in 2020, marking a new phase of growth.

Mr. Speaker, in 2025 New Creation Christian Center entered a new season of leadership as Pastor Cross J. Richard Sr., and Sis. Lois Richard transitioned the pastorate to their son, Senior Pastor Joseph Hollins, and Leading Lady Casey Hollins. Today, as New Creation prepares to complete a nearly four-million-dollar campus expansion in 2026, the ministry continues advancing its mission locally and globally. From a living room gathering to three campuses and international outreach, New Creation Christian Center stands as a testament to faith, obedience, and God's provision. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this church for its steadfast commitment to teaching God's people through His Word and serving communities around the world.

HONORING THE HONORABLE ED HARBISON, DEAN OF THE GEORGIA STATE SENATE, FOR THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man I have known, admired, and leaned upon for the better part of my life in public service—the Honorable Ed Harbison, Dean of the Georgia State Senate, who gave thirty-four years to the people of the Fifteenth

Senate District. The community he served for a lifetime gathers once more to say thank you Mr. Speaker, some men are handed a title. A rare few are handed a trust. Ed Harbison was handed a trust, and he never once set it down.

Long before he ever rose to speak beneath the Gold Dome, Ed Harbison wore the uniform of the United States Marine Corps. He went to Vietnam. He came home with a Purple Heart and with wounds that no ceremony can undo. I begin there, Mr. Speaker, because everything that followed makes sense only in that light. A young man who was willing to lay down his life for strangers came home and spent the rest of his days giving his hours, his patience, and his heart to his neighbors. For Ed Harbison, service was never a campaign word. It was a scar he carried and a promise he kept.

Mr. Speaker, I know the seat Ed Harbison held, because I sat in it before him. When the people of Georgia sent me to this House in 1993, I left that Fifteenth District seat behind—and I did not leave it to chance. I left it to Ed. For thirty-four years, West Central Georgia has been better for that decision than for almost any I ever made. He became the longest-serving member of that chamber and its Dean, the senator other senators went to when a room needed wisdom, steadiness, and a conscience.

And what he built will outlive all of us. It was Ed Harbison who carried the legislation making Georgia a Purple Heart State, so that no veteran's sacrifice would pass unmarked. It was Ed Harbison who established a separate Veterans Court, so that men and women who had served would be met with understanding rather than indifference. It was Ed Harbison who founded the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame, of which he is himself a proud member. He won a contracting preference for businesses owned by disabled veterans. He fought to see that veterans received fair academic credit for the training and sacrifice of their service. He chaired the Senate Committee on State Institutions and Property, served as Vice-Chairman of the Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee, and led the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. And before any of it, he served his community as a broadcast Journalist, as second vice-president of the Muscogee County School Board, and on the Columbus Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Speaker, if you want the true measure of Ed Harbison, do not look at the headlines. Look at the quiet bills—the ones that never made the evening news. In 2008 he sponsored a law to cut through the red tape that was punishing the children of military families, boys and girls uprooted from state to state through no fault of their own and made to start over again and again. Nobody was marching for those children. Ed Harbison simply saw them, and he wrote a law so that the moving would not cost them their education. He authored the legislation consolidating Chattahoochee County and Cusseta, strengthening the very ground his people stand on. And he fought for the emergency call boxes along Interstate 185 from LaGrange to Columbus—a small thing, Mr. Speaker, until it is your mother stranded on the shoulder of that highway after dark, and then it is the whole world.

That was always his instinct: the traveler in the dark, the soldier far from home, the child

who needed one grown person in his corner. The people of Chattahoochee, Macon, Marion, Schley, Talbot, Taylor, and Muscogee Counties did not merely have a senator who represented them. They had a senator who belonged to them. Ed has said the rule he lived by came from his mother, who taught him to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. For thirty-four years he did exactly that—quietly, faithfully, and without ever needing the credit.

Mr. Speaker, no honest account of this good man is complete without the love that carried him. Ed shared his life and his calling with his beloved late wife, Cecilia, who sustained him through every long session and every hard campaign, and who paid the private price that public service always exacts at home. Though she is no longer with us, I have no doubt she is present in every room where his name is called, and that she looks on him with pride. And anyone who knows Ed Harbison knows what his son, Edward, means to him. Above every title he has earned, every gavel he has held, and every honor he has received, Ed Harbison is a devoted father. The same tenderness he wrote into the law for a stranger's child, he has lived out every single day for his own. A man may give thirty-four years to his state, but the truest accounting of him is the love he gives his family—and by that reckoning, Ed Harbison is a wealthy man.

Mr. Speaker, there comes a moment in every life of service when a man must lay the work down and trust others to carry it forward. Ed Harbison has come to that moment, and he comes to it with his head high and his hands clean. He has called his years in the Senate the greatest honor of his life. Mr. Speaker, the honor was ours. It belonged to every family made stronger, every veteran finally seen, every neighbor who knew that somewhere under the Gold Dome there was a man who would do right by them when nobody was watching.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring the extraordinary life and service of State Senator Ed Harbison. We thank Ed, for the wounds he carries and the country he served. We thank him for the seat he tended and the trust he kept. We thank him for thirty-four years of doing unto others. May God bless him, may God bless the State of Georgia, and may He grant his every good and peaceful day he has so richly earned. Well done, my friend. Well done.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DRAGON PIT MASTERS OF CARROLL ISD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, the Dragon Pit Masters of Carroll ISD. The Dragon Pit Masters have earned the title of Grand Champion at the Texas High School BBQ State Championship, showcasing exceptional skill, teamwork, and dedication. Competing