

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

against top student teams from across the state, these talented students demonstrated mastery in grilling, presentation, and time management to take home the highest honor.

Through countless hours of preparation, the Dragon Pit Masters have built a program that emphasizes leadership, collaboration, and excellence both inside and outside the competition. Representing the Southlake community with pride, these students continue to set a high standard and inspire others through their achievements.

Congratulations to Carroll's Grand Champion Team, Preston Inouye—12th Grade, Darien Kawai—11th Grade, Caden Roberson—12th Grade, Cruz Paredes—10th Grade, and Ryan Vu—12th Grade.

HONORING ROSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge 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.

RECOGNIZING TOBY ADAMS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

Toby 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 Toby, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Toby'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 Toby Adams on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING COUNCILOR BRUCE H. HUFF, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a full heart to pay tribute to a friend of more than fifty years, and a man who has spent his entire life standing beside families on the hardest days they will ever know. On December 31, 2026, Councilor Bruce H. Huff, Sr., will conclude more than fifteen years of distinguished service as City Councilor for District 3 of the Columbus Consolidated Government. Columbus will be poorer for his leaving and richer for his having served.

Mr. Speaker, I did not meet Bruce Huff at a ribbon cutting. I knew the Huffs long before there was a councilman among them. I knew his father, Charles E. Huff, Sr., and his mother, Malinda H. Huff—people of quiet dignity who built something in Columbus that money cannot buy and politics cannot manufacture. I have watched this family for half a century—through funerals and weddings, through campaigns and crises. When you have known a family that long, you stop grading them on their best day; you know what they are like on their worst day. And I can tell this House that the Huffs of Columbus, Georgia, are the same people in the daylight that they are in the dark.

Bruce is the middle son, and the second-generation owner of International Funeral Home. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to understand what that means in a Black community in the American South. The funeral director is not merely a businessman. He is the first to arrive when the worst thing has happened. He is the one who comes at two o'clock in the morning, who sits in the kitchen with a widow who does not yet know how she will pay for anything, who makes certain that a mother who had very little in this life is carried out of it with dignity. Bruce Huff has done that work for decades—not for applause, and often not for payment—because his father did it before him.

That work shaped everything else. Bruce graduated from Hardaway High School in 1975 as an honor student and three-sport letterman, then earned his degree from Florida State University in 1980, lettering four years in baseball. Then he came home. Sitting with grieving families, he saw a need no one else was meeting. So, he became a licensed insurance agent, founded Huff's Insurance Service in 1987, and in 1992 merged it with the family funeral home so that no family would be left choosing between a decent burial and next month's rent. In 1996 he earned his degree from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service. To this day he works side by side with his brother, Charles E. Huff, Jr., carrying forward what their parents began.

Mr. Speaker, a man who has spent his life burying his neighbors comes to public service with a different set of eyes. When Bruce Huff took his seat on that Council, he already knew District 3 by heart—every street, every corner, every family. For more than fifteen years he did the patient, unglamorous work of making his district a place where people could live well and not merely be laid to rest.

The list is extraordinary. The Fort Benning Gateway at I-185 and Victory Drive. The Brown Avenue Bridge. The Follow Me Trail. Streetscapes on Wynnton Road, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and on Fort Benning Road. The I-185 interchanges at Custer Road and at Cusseta Road. The Buena Vista Road Spiderweb and Corridor improvements. A new Spencer High School. The Muscogee County School District Athletic Complex. Hundreds of millions of dollars—but Mr. Speaker, Bruce Huff never talked about the money. He talked about the child who could finally walk to school on a sidewalk, the grandmother whose street no longer flooded, the young man who could reach a job because the road finally went through.

And he gave himself away outside the Council chamber, too—at St. James AME Church, where he served on the Trustee Board; in Columbus State University's Teen Achievers Program; as president of Sally Little League, where he taught somebody else's boys how to hold a bat and how to lose with grace; in the Delta Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated; and in Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, Electric City Lodge No 322. He was named Mortician of the Year by the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioner Association in 2009—though every honor I have handed him felt small next to what he had already given.

Mr. Speaker, none of it would have been possible without his family. Bruce is married to Charonda D. Huff, who has carried the weight of public life alongside him. They are the proud parents of two sons, Anthony and Bruce, Jr., and the doting grandparents of Denim. I want that grandson to know something one day, when he is old enough to read these words in the permanent record of the United States Congress: your granddaddy spent his life carrying other people's sorrow so they would not have to carry it alone.

Bruce, you have wiped away a great many tears in Columbus, Georgia. Allow an old friend to shed a few on your behalf. You have earned your rest. But knowing you, I do not expect you to take much of it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring Councilor Bruce H.