

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.

Huff, Sr., for more than fifteen years of faithful service to District 3, and for a lifetime of quiet, sacred work on behalf of families in their darkest hours. May God bless him, his wife Charonda, their sons, their grandson, and the city that is better because Bruce Huff answered when he was called.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO NORTH TEXAS PATRIOT
GUARD RIDERS

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 Hero, the North Texas Patriot Guard Riders. They are a dedicated volunteer organization that honors the service and sacrifice of America's military members, veterans, and first responders. At the invitation of families, the group attends funeral services for fallen heroes across North Texas, participating in an average of 35 missions each month. Their members come from all backgrounds, some are veterans themselves, and while many ride motorcycles, others drive cars or trucks. What unites them is a shared commitment to showing respect for those who served our country and communities.

The Flag Line is their most revered symbol, embodying the Patriot Guard Riders' values of honor, appreciation, and respect. When asked, they display American flags outside funeral homes and at burial sites to pay tribute to these heroes. The North Texas Patriot Guard Riders provide these services at no cost, exemplifying the spirit of service, patriotism, and community that represents the very best of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING ZAHRA AMAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

Zahra has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Zahra, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Zahra'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 Zahra Aman on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MOUNT ZION ON THE
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 Mount Zion Baptist Church on the Hill, a congregation whose foundation dates back to August 1898, when the late Reverend Herman Morrison purchased the church property and became its first pastor. The church branched from Mount Zion Baptist Church in the Field and began with worship services held in a tent on the Noble Tract. Early officers included Brothers Hoarse Richardson, Norse Evening, King Hills, and Ben Rowe, along with Sisters Elizabeth Beach, Nancy Rowe, and Emma Hughes. The first church building served not only as a house of worship but also as one of the earliest schoolhouses in the area. Over time, the church was rebuilt on Highway 37 at Redwood Creek, continuing its mission to serve God's people in the community.

Following Reverend Morrison's tenure, Mount Zion was blessed with pastors including Reverend Addison Barber, Reverend Henry Smith, Reverend Ball, and Reverend Earnest Harris, all of whom served faithfully until their passing. After many years, the original church was remodeled with the addition of a secretary's office, choir stand, and a bell installed in the new belfry. During these early decades, members traveled on horseback, wagons, and on foot to attend worship services—demonstrating unwavering faith and devotion. In March 1965, young Brother Emmitt Spurlock, Sr. was installed as pastor. Under his leadership, the congregation agreed through prayer to construct a new church building. In 1983, the old structure was torn down and replaced with a modern building, including a baptismal pool, dining hall, fellowship space, and new restrooms.

Mr. Speaker, the newly constructed Mount Zion Baptist Church on the Hill was completed in February 1984 under Reverend Emmitt Spurlock's leadership. Though some advocated relocating, the congregation rebuilt on the historic site. The pastor, officers, Miss Mount Zion, and members marched from Vince's Grocery to the church for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and first communion service. Reverend Spurlock served faithfully for thirty-four years until departing this life in January 1998. One year later, in February 1999, his son Reverend Gus Charles Spurlock, Sr. was elected, ordained, and installed as pastor. Reverend Dr. Gus C. Spurlock, Sr. has continued the legacy of faithful leadership for twenty-six years, honoring the historical significance of the church's roots, including the nearby Port Hudson battlefield, a pivotal Civil War site.

Mr. Speaker, Mount Zion Baptist Church on the Hill remains a steadfast symbol of faith, resilience, and community. From its founding in 1898 to its reconstruction in 1984 and continued leadership under Reverend Dr. Gus C. Spurlock, Sr., the church has endured trials while standing firmly upon the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Today, Mount Zion continues serving the spiritual needs of its congregation and the greater Baton Rouge region, honoring its historic legacy and embracing its future

with unwavering commitment. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Mount Zion Baptist Church on the Hill for more than a century of devoted service to God, community, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

HONORING THE NORTHLAND
NEIGHBORHOODS, INC. (NNI) ON
ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI) on its 30th anniversary. For three decades, NNI has demonstrated what can be accomplished when neighbors come together under a shared commitment: to make a community a better place for all who live there.

Since its founding in 1996, NNI continues to play a crucial role for those living in the Northland, covering a diverse range of efforts to build upon the foundations of their community. One key way this has been done is by supporting vulnerable homeowners through the Home Repair Program. The program, which allows homeowners to cover potentially costly repairs at critical moments, allows neighbors to maintain their community pride and lessen the possibility of deterioration or vacancies of communities.

As a result, homeowners can directly invest in their future as members of their streets and subdivisions. These efforts have culminated in \$1.4 million dollars spent on 103 home repairs in the last year. Whether it be a plumbing issue, roof leaks, or the thousands of other home repairs that can occur and start to snowball, the Northland knows it can turn to NNI for help.

In celebrating this milestone, it is worth focusing on how NNI has kept residents connected and engaged over the past three decades. NNI's engagement through public meetings and service has been directed at the chief cornerstone of what makes communities strong and unique, providing a shared space for people to unite and share their concerns and beliefs. Your continuous advocacy and core mission has demonstrated the significant impact of housing and its role in constructing a healthy community. Local progress begins in the homes where the lives of those young and old unfold. NNI has shown that its commitment to the people they serve is enduring and strong no matter their stage in life, from being brought home from the hospital, buying one's first house, to new families introducing children into the world.

Commemorating these 30 years of service, we must recognize the people who have made NNI's accomplishments possible. To the leadership, contractors, and community partners, thank you for your contributions that have placed the voices of the Northland at the center of all you have done. Their dedication represents the time, energy, and talents of an organization built in service to others.

As the Northland continues to grow, your work will have played no small part in what makes the area special. I am confident that the new opportunities and new challenges that this growth brings will be met by the same