

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

spirit and dedication that has defined NNI since 1996. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating this anniversary. We thank them for making the Northland a stronger, safer, and more connected place for future generations of residents and families and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO CHIEF C.J. ALEXANDER**

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, C.J. Alexander as the new Fire Chief of the Addison Fire Department, stepping into the role after seven years with the department after serving as the Assistant Chief. With over 24 years of experience in fire and emergency medical services, Chief Alexander brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the department. Before joining Addison, he held leadership roles in Farmers Branch and Allen and spent more than a decade teaching fire and EMS courses at Collin College. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to protecting our North Texas communities.

Surrounded by colleagues, friends, and community members at his sweating-in ceremony, the strong turnout reflected the respect and trust he has earned throughout his time serving Addison. He is known for his commitment to public service and for preparing teams to respond when it matters most.

RECOGNIZING IRA ARORA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

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

**HONORING GREATER MOUNT
CARMEL 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 venerable congregation in my

district, Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church in the Scotlandville community of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it celebrates more than a century of faith, fellowship, and service.

Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church's founding dates back to 1919, led by major movers for a new church in Scotlandville. They were Jenkins Johnson, J.S. Jones, I.S. Powell, Jake Spears, and Wesley Gaines. Initially, the services were held in Odd Fellows Hall with the Reverend Netters officiating. When the membership reached about thirty in 1920, the first sanctuary was erected. The first home of the church was constructed of cypress planks and measured forty by sixty feet at a cost of three hundred ninety dollars. Ernest O'Connor was the builder. The building was situated on the present site, consisting of two lots; one was purchased by the congregation for ninety dollars, and a local citizen, Mr. A.R. Bacon, donated the second.

In 1925 and 1926, new pews were installed and weatherboard siding was added. Spearheading the financial drives to accomplish these improvements were two of the founders, Jake Spears and Jenkins Johnson. The names of Eddie White, Dudley Smith, and Annie Watkins were added to the list.

The second period, which extends from 1939 to 1951, has been labeled the Building Period, a building of physical structure and a building of congregational membership. The second edifice to house the membership and its activities was constructed in 1939. In addition to Pastor Brown, the movers were Henry Franklin, Sr., Jessie Early, Foster Reese, Sr., J.E. LaBoye, George Lewis, W.H. Johnson, Obie Vernon, Fred Davis, and Granville Haggood. The cost of the new facility was five thousand dollars, and Mr. Henry Christenterry was the contractor.

In 1949, J.E. LaBoye provided leadership for an expansion of the physical plant. Renovation costs were three thousand dollars, and W.S. Devall was the contractor. It was in 1951 that the name of the church was changed to the Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Under the pastoral leadership of Reverend K. Edward Popleon, the congregation was led into a new annex, identified as the Educational Wing of Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church. The new facility provided four offices, three restrooms, five classrooms, one fellowship hall with a kitchen that accommodates groups of fifty, one hundred, or two hundred, three spacious foyers, ample storage areas with furnishings, and a choir room with robe storage.

Other additions to the main building include a new baptistry, a hallway enlargement, a Lord's Supper preparation area, and an area for ushers. Furniture and furnishings for the new facility cost sixteen thousand dollars. Raymond Honore of Down South Construction was the general contractor, and Lonnie Wilkinson was the architect. Additional property was purchased on February 18, 1986. Today, Greater Mount Carmel is pastored by Pastor Cleo Lowe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church for more than a century of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO JESUIT DALLAS LACROSSE**

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, the Jesuit Dallas Rangers lacrosse team, as earlier this year they won the 2026 Texas High School Lacrosse League Class AA State Championships.

Fueled by championship grit, and a never-quit mentality, the Rangers battled through adversity and upset higher-seeded opponents on their way to bringing home the state title. Senior goalie, Gabriel James, was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player after making 11 saves against the Highlanders, and Senior David Atwell earned the Offensive MVP and Senior Jack Steinbach was the Championship MVP.

Congratulations to Coach Chris Surran, the players, coaches, and families on securing the program's fifth state championship and continuing a tradition of excellence both on and off the field.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF OLGA
MONTES**

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Olga H. Montes for 27 years of dedicated service to the City of Combes.

Since first being elected to the Combes City Commission in 1999, she has devoted herself to strengthening her community and improving the quality of life for its residents. During her tenure, Combes has grown from a small town into a thriving city with new businesses, programs, and services for families and seniors.

Ms. Montes always understood that public service extends beyond holding office. She has worked to ensure families have the support they need, providing Thanksgiving meals, clothing for children, and celebrations for local youth.

Beyond the City Commission, Ms. Montes has also made a lasting impact by mentoring young women interested in public service. Her guidance and encouragement have inspired the next generation of leaders in South Texas.

After nearly three decades, Ms. Montes plans to retire from the Combes City Commission at the end of her current term. Her retirement marks the conclusion of an extraordinary chapter, but her legacy will endure in the hearts of the families she helped uplift and the city she helped build.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my deepest gratitude to Olga H. Montes for her decades of leadership and commitment to the people of Combes. South Texas is stronger because of her contributions, and I wish her continued health, happiness, and success in the years ahead.