

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.

RECOGNIZING JORGE MARIO ART
DECKER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jorge Mario Art Decker for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

HONORING GREATER BEACH
GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic congregation in my district, Greater Beach Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it marks more than a century of faith, family leadership, and service to our community.

The congregation was organized on August 18, 1920, in the home of its founder and first pastor, the late Reverend Noah Charles Chinn. A small group of Christian men and women met for prayer, and from this assembly Little Beach Grove Baptist Church was formed. Its founding members were Brothers Willie Chinn, Jeff Chinn, Sam Chinn, Shedrick Chinn, and Norris Smith, and Sisters Delilah Chinn, Sallie Chinn, Minnie Chinn, Emma Lemons, Lula Hives, and Emmie Benton. Sister Sallie Chinn, mother of Reverend Chinn, served as the church's first Mother, succeeded by Sister Dollie Butler, then Sister Julia Butler until her passing in 1992, and then Sister Emma Starks, after whose passing in 1993 the position was retired. Brother Shedrick Chinn served as the first head deacon, succeeded by Brother Allen Butler, Jr., and Sister Emma Lemons served as the first head deaconess, succeeded by Sister Mary Julia Quiett, a position likewise retired upon Sister Quiett's passing.

As membership increased, the small congregation outgrew Reverend Chinn's home, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit the members rented a small house across the road to accommodate more worshippers. Following the church's first revival, membership continued to grow, and in 1927 the young church began to spread its wings. During this period Reverend Chinn organized the Usher Board in 1926 and a Choir in 1932. The late Brother Bernard Freeman served as the first Usher Board president, succeeded by Brother

Thomas Hudson, Jr., who served until being called to serve his country; Brother James Wilson succeeded him and served twenty-six years, followed by Brothers Thomas Guerin, Jr., and Joe Thomas, and Sisters Elouise Thomas, Joyce Taylor, Beverly Carter, and presently Sister Debra Tatman. Brother C.C. Stewart served as the first musician and choir director, succeeded over the years by Sisters Dorothy Jackson, the late Juanita Turner, Joyce Howard, and Linda Spurlock, the late Brother Lafayette Harrison, Jr., who served twenty-six years until 1996, Brother Alfred Williams, Brother Horace Polk, the late Brother Craig McKinley until 2015, and Minister Chris Plant, who served briefly. It was reported that people walked from miles around to hear Reverend Chinn preach, and he baptized many souls from surrounding communities including Scotlandville, Dixie, Zion City, Brookstown, Birdstation, and the Comite area.

Through divine providence, the growing congregation purchased a plot of land on Hooper Road, where the church was built. In 1930, an addition extended the pulpit and increased the size of the church. Brother Thomas Hudson, Sr., organized and served as the first Sunday School superintendent, succeeded by Brothers Johnny D. Brown, Sr., Allen Butler, Jr., Jesse R. Taylor, Thomas Guerin, Jr., and Thomas Hudson, Jr. In 1943, the original building was demolished and a larger structure built on the same site under the supervision of Mr. Foot Chinn, who was unable to complete the project; the work was finished by Brother Allen Butler, Jr., and Brother Mack Hudson. Sisters Hester Taylor and Virginia "Ginny" Hills served as the first sponsors of the young people's choir, reportedly walking young members through the fields from Zion City to the Hooper Road location. Sister Yvonne Benton Bradford, Brother Henry Scott, Jr., and Brother Johnny D. Brown, Sr., reorganized the youth choir in 1947 under Pastor Chinn's leadership, and were succeeded over time by the late Sisters Mary Stone, Viola McGee, Johnny M. Holiday, Lois Guerin, Elouise Thomas, and Judy Scott, then Sister Beverly Carter, and presently Sisters Joyce Taylor and Dontina Taylor.

On September 17, 1952, the church was incorporated and recorded in the East Baton Rouge Parish Circuit Court, with articles established to remain in place for ninety-nine years, and it was at this time the congregation adopted the name Greater Beach Grove Missionary Baptist Church. In 1953, the church was rebuilt in the Zion City community on Ford Street; Mr. Zeke Brown drew the plans under the direction of Brother Allen Butler, Brother Robert Stone laid the brick pillars for the foundation, and Brother Butler completed construction. Around 1957, the frame building was remodeled and enclosed in brick, and the first cornerstone was laid by the St. John Grand Lodge. The deacons serving at that time were Chairman Allen Butler, Jr., and Brothers Melbert "Preacher" Black, Johnny D. Brown, Sr., Severe Sims, Thomas Hudson, Sr., Elvin Hudson, Nathaniel Scott, Isaiah Norwood, Thomas Guerin, Sr., Thomas Guerin, Jr., Gabe Foster, Jr., Hosea Curry, Sr., and Hosea Curry, Jr. Trustees included President Eddie Williams and Brothers C.B. Robinson, Willie Green, Charlie Wright, and Monroe McGee, with several members serving in dual capacities. Sister Edna Perry served as church secretary, and Hosea Curry, Jr., as church treasurer, succeeded by Brother Gabe Foster, Jr.,

and then Brother Thomas Guerin, Jr. Sister Mary Brown preceded Sister Perry as secretary, and Brother Jesse R. Taylor and Sister Bernice Freeman succeeded her, followed by Sister Gussie R. Tansey; Sisters Freeman and Tansey served more than twenty years until 1977, later assisted by Sister Linda Jones Montague as church clerk.

Reverend Chinn gave his life to the church, praying and ministering there for more than forty years until his health failed. He remained the congregation's leader even during his illness, kept informed by his head deacon, and was remembered as a beloved community pastor. Reverend E. Lloyd Johnson shepherded the flock during Reverend Chinn's illness. On November 26, 1965, Reverend Chinn was called from labor to reward, a day of great sorrow for the congregation. In April 1966, Brothers Demas Martin, Jr., James Foster, and Thomas Guerin, Jr., and Sisters Juanita Turner, Viola McGee, Pearl Henry, and Elouise L. Thomas were elected to the Trustee Board, and the process of electing a new shepherd was undertaken under the leadership of Trustee Board President Eddie Williams and Deacon Allen Butler, Jr. In June 1966, with the assistance of the Fourth District Baptist Association, led by the late Reverend Dr. E.D. Billoups, Reverend Emmitt Spurlock, Sr., was elected the church's second pastor.

The late Reverend Emmitt Spurlock served as pastor for thirty-three years, guided by his motto: "We are saved to serve and not to sit." He initiated many new programs and oversaw the remodeling and improvement of the church's physical structure. In 1968, additional lots were purchased, and in 1978 plans for a new sanctuary and education wing were drawn and submitted to Chairman Butler and the Deacon Board; the Trustee Board was reorganized, and Reverend Spurlock appealed to the membership for five-hundred-dollar donations, with Allen and Julia Butler, Emel and Julia Quiett, Henry and Lillian Scott, Bernice J. Freeman, and Beverly J. Carter and Linda J. Montague among the first to commit. In March 1979, the new building and parking lot were completed and dedicated, and the second cornerstone was laid by the Grand Lodge. Officers at that time included Chairman of the Board Allen Butler, Jr., and Brothers Thomas Guerin, Jr., John H. Brown, Jr., Johnny D. Brown, Sr., Hosea Curry, Jr., Willie Paul, Emel Quiett, Sr., Wash Robinson, Larry Spurlock, and John Pope. Trustee President Jesse R. Taylor succeeded Brother Williams, joined by Brothers Earnest Johnson and Albert Daigre and Sisters Beverly J. Carter, Linda J. Montague, Doretha Johnson, and Elouise M. Thomas. Sister Doretha Johnson served as church secretary and Brother Albert Daigre as treasurer, succeeding Brother Guerin, while Sister Linda J. Montague was officially named the church's clerk and announcer. Brothers Willie Patterson and Matthew King were among the congregation's most supportive laymen during construction. The building's mortgage was burned on November 5, 1989, during the church's sixty-ninth anniversary celebration.

Believing the whole church membership should work together as Christians united in love, Reverend Spurlock implemented the Junior and Young Adult Usher Boards, Junior Deacon and Deaconess ministries, Sunday School Teacher's Study Hour, Baptist Training