

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

Union, Bible Class, Laymen's Auxiliary, Vacation Bible School, After School Study and Tutoring programs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie Troops, Hospitality, First-Aid and New Members Training Committees, Puppet Ministry, Mission and Elderly Care Ministries, Kitchen Ministry, and the Pastor's Aide Committee, while increasing the congregation's participation in the National Congress of Christian Education, the National Baptist Convention, and the Fourth District Baptist Association. Under his leadership the church's mortgage was retired in 1985 after only seven years, and the membership grew abundantly and steadily. Brother John H. Brown, Jr., was appointed Chairman of the Board following Deacon Butler's passing, followed briefly by Reverend Donald Hunter and Brother Wash Robinson, who also served briefly under the church's present pastor. Reverend Emmitt Spurlock, Sr., was called home on January 13, 1998.

After fervent prayer, the congregation named the Reverend Keno M.L. Spurlock, Sr., its third pastor in 1998. Under his guidance and care, the congregation has rededicated itself to Christ and to the service of others, striving toward its goal of "the mark of a higher calling" and trusting in Philippians 4.13. His assistants include Reverends Eddie Bradford, James Banks, and Darrell Riley, and Ministers Mark Edwards, Robby Mitchell, and Barry Follins, and under his leadership the physical structure has been remodeled and brought into the age of technology. The late Brother Felton Brown served as Chairman of the Deacon Ministry until his health failed and was named Chairman Emeritus; Brother Charlie Jarrell, Jr., is the present chairman, joined by Brothers Aaron Butler, Larry Bowman, Jesse Taylor, John Robinson, Donald Taylor, and Kevan Hills. Brother Jesse R. Taylor chairs the Trustee Ministry, with present members Brothers Carl Pearson, Aaron Butler, Larry Bowman, Charlie Jarrell, Jr., Donald Taylor, and John Alex, and Sisters Beverly Carter, Gwendolyn Scott, Rosalind Scott, and Juanita Horton. Brother Taylor also chairs the Finance Ministry, with Sisters Carol Joseph and Linda J. Montague serving as secretaries. The late Brother Albert Daigne, Sr., served as church treasurer for many years until 2014, when Brother John E. Robinson, III, was elected treasurer in July 2016. Sister Rosalind Scott serves as the present Sunday School Superintendent, assisted by Brother Larry Bowman, and Brother Charlie Fisher, Jr., serves as musician and music director, with Brother Zedrick Comena on drums, assisted by Brother Courten Bowman and Minister Barry Follins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Greater Beach Grove Missionary 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 DR. CHANDRAMALLIKA
BASAK

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I use to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dr.

Chandramallika Basak, a neuroscience professor and researcher at University of Texas at Dallas who's on a mission to protect seniors' memories.

Dr. Basak studies how cognitive and physical training, from targeted exercises to meditation, can slow cognitive decline in older adults. She's best known for pioneering the use of video games as brain training for seniors experiencing mild cognitive aging.

Her research sparked a startup, Neuroflight Inc., founded with support from UT Dallas' Big Idea Competition and the Darrell K. Royal Alzheimer's Research Fund. The company's patented brain training game helps boost memory, focus, and cognitive vitality—and is already partnering with local assisted living facilities like Belmont Village.

In 2026, Dr. Basak was named University Innovator of the Year at the Texas Innovation Conference. She is now working on a consumer app to bring Neuroflight's brain training to everyone.

HONORING MAJOR KELSIE D.
HOVENDEN

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Kelsie D. Hovenden, United States Marine Corps. For the past three years, Major Hovenden has served with honor and distinction as a Congressional Fellow and Appropriations Liaison Officer for the Department of the Navy Appropriations Matters Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), representing the needs of our Marine Corps before the United States Congress.

During her time as a congressional fellow, she gained an immersive, behind the scenes understanding of the legislative process and the critical work of funding our Nation's defense. Her sharp intellect, dedication, and deep understanding of national security and budgetary policy were immediately apparent and proved to be an invaluable asset.

Upon completion of her fellowship, Major Hovenden seamlessly transitioned to one of the most strategically consequential billets for the Marine Corps, serving as an appropriations liaison officer. In this role, she conducted daily engagement with members and staff, ensuring that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood. Her expert navigation of the congressional appropriations process and her steadfast advocacy ensured vital funding for our Marines across multiple fiscal years. Her work was instrumental in supporting the largest budget in Marine Corps history, securing over \$57 billion in annual resources. This funding was essential to advancing the Marine Corps Force Design initiatives, enhancing operational readiness, and ensuring our Marines have what they need to meet any challenge.

Furthermore, Major Hovenden played a central role in preparing Marine Corps senior leaders for congressional testimony, official visits, responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, and coordinated and led congressional and staff delegations. These visits al-

lowed my colleagues and me to see Marine Corps capabilities firsthand and gain a deeper appreciation for the resource requirements of the force.

Mr. Speaker, Major Hovenden's performance has been characterized by the upmost professionalism, strategic insight, and steadfast commitment to her duty. She has personally strengthened the Marine Corps' credibility on Capitol Hill and ensured the corps' priorities were clearly communicated. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending Major Hovenden for her service to our country and wish her and her family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY BECK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

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

HONORING FAIRVIEW 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 resilient congregation in my district, Fairview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it marks more than ninety years of faith, perseverance, and rebuilding in the face of adversity.

Fairview Baptist Church was organized in 1934 under the leadership of the late Reverend R.H. Hall. The first meeting was held at the home of Sister Ida Edwards, and after organizing, church services were held at New Bethel Baptist Church on Matilda Street until the congregation could locate a building of its own. That same year, the congregation purchased property on the corner of South 13th and Louise Streets, where its forty-four members, a group of hardworking, dedicated, and determined people, built a wood-frame building. The church began to increase its membership and moved steadily forward.

On December 18, 1947, the Lord called Reverend R.H. Hall to his eternal rest, and Reverend M.J. Hubbard was elected as the new pastor on February 20, 1948. Under Reverend Hubbard's leadership, membership continued to grow, and the congregation worked to raise money for a better building. In 1951,