

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CALVIN RETTIG BEING NAMED HANCOCK COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SSgt. Calvin "Cal" Rettig, who has been named Hancock County Veteran of the Year. This honor recognizes Cal's decades of service to his family, community, and the Nation.

Cal was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944, where he trained for a frontline unit. He was tasked with detecting the enemy and relaying intelligence back to the artillery. His unit was initially sent to the Philippines to begin night patrols. Following the bombing of Japan, his group occupied Tokyo, where Cal served on security and police patrol as a staff sergeant until his release in 1946.

Cal married his wife, Bernice, on the day he returned home. The two of them had met in 1941 and dated until he left for the war. They were married for sixty-five years. They raised three children, and their family has since grown to include twenty grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren.

After his discharge, Cal built two full careers. From 1948 to 1966, he managed the Farm Bureau lumber yard. After the lumber yard, he spent the next twenty-two years at Whirlpool as a mold setter. He also farmed 340 acres throughout both careers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating SSgt. Rettig on being named the Hancock County Veteran of the Year. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the devotion and compassion that Cal has for his community, and I thank him for his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING COLLINS KVAMME

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

HONORING NEW PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the rich history and enduring legacy of New Philadelphia Baptist Church, a pillar of faith, family, and community in Slaughter, Louisiana.

In 1960, a dedicated group of community members—Marshall Sanford, Mary L. Turner, Lucille Cain, Nimrod Sanford, Fannie Franklin, Henrietta Rogers, Beatrice Sanford, David Sanford, Ada Jones, and Elizabeth Fields—donated 1.5 acres of land at 9027 Sanford Lane for the creation of a house of worship. Their generosity laid the foundation for what was originally called Philadelphia Baptist Church No. 2, later known as New Philadelphia Baptist Church.

Founded in that same year by Solomon Franklin and Nimrod Sanford, the church's first pastor was Reverend D.E. Major, who faithfully led the congregation from 1960 until his retirement in December 2006. Under Reverend Dr. Major's leadership, New Philadelphia established numerous ministries, installed an indoor baptismal pool, remodeled the choir stand, and constructed an annex that included a pastor's study, kitchen and dining area, bathroom, and nursery or classroom space. The church also purchased a 16-passenger van to ensure members could attend services and church functions.

The Trustee and Deacon Boards in the church's early years were comprised of Brothers Marshall "Dude" Henderson, James Holliday, Johnnie Hughes, Alonzo Sanford, Henry Sanford, Johnny Sanford, Marshall Sanford, Purley Sanford, Robert "Bud" Sanford, Cleveland "C.L." Spann, H. Wallace, Eugene Watson, and Henry Williams Sister Celestine W. Sanford served as Church Clerk, and Sister Rosella Davis served as Assistant Clerk.

In March 2006, the church received an additional .42 acres of land donated by Deborah, Leslie, and Jeanelle Schmidt. Following Reverend Dr. Major's retirement, he served as Pastor Emeritus until 2012.

In December 2006, Reverend Theodore Major became the anointed pastor of New Philadelphia Baptist Church. His tenure has led to the construction of a new pastor's study, the expansion and revitalization of various ministries—including the Sisterhood, now the Women's Ministry—and the establishment of a Community Educational Organization and a building fund. In February 2008, Deacon Freddie Holliday sold .38 acres to the church,

bringing the total campus area to 2.30 acres. Additional accomplishments include the construction of two new bathrooms at the church entrance, the establishment of a Youth Usher Ministry (revived in 2026), and the founding of a Male Chorus.

In 2017, New Philadelphia Baptist Church was officially registered with the Secretary of State as New Philadelphia Baptist Church of Slaughter. The following year, the church expanded again, adding an administrative office and the Dr. D. E. Major Learning Center, connected by Sanford Hall. In 2022, the church updated the flooring in the Sanctuary, Annex, and Kitchen, and purchased a new copy machine and computer. The next year brought the addition of a new piano and television monitors. In 2025, the church received a fresh coat of paint and purchased a new organ.

New Philadelphia Baptist Church is proudly affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the East Feliciana Ministers Conference, and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

For more than six decades, New Philadelphia Baptist Church has grown in membership, ministries, and outreach—remaining firmly rooted on the land donated in faith and love in 1960. Today, it continues to serve as a Christian family united in purpose, committed to spiritual growth, and devoted to the principles upon which it was founded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Philadelphia Baptist Church for its outstanding contributions to the community and for its steadfast mission of worship, service, and fellowship.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO AIRPORT CITIES VFW POST NO. 10454

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Airport Cities VFW Post No. 10454. They have proudly served veterans and families across Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake, and Keller for over 50 years. Chartered on October 14, 1975, with 64 charter members, and now grown into a thriving organization of nearly 300 members.

For the past five decades, Post 10454 has faithfully served the community through civic involvement, volunteer service and charitable contributions, and has provided stability and bonds of friendship that have strengthened the Cities of Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake and Keller, and Texas. The Post has ensured its presence at the annual Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Day Remembrance Service.

We thank them for their unwavering service and support of our North Texas community for over 50 years.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT
JERRY WOOTEN

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of First Sergeant Jerry Wooten, who dedicated decades of his life to serving our country and shaping the next generation of leaders.

First Sergeant Wooten served 20 years in the United States Army before continuing his service as the JROTC instructor at Mulberry High School for more than two decades.

To generations of cadets, he was known simply as "First Sergeant." He taught his students the same values that guided his own life: discipline, integrity, service and leadership. Those lessons stayed with them as they went on to serve in the military, attend college, build careers and give back to their communities.

First Sergeant Wooten lived a life of service, and our community is better because of the example he set.

My condolences are with his wife, Carol, their two children and all those whose lives he touched.

First Sergeant stood the watch faithfully. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM
HENDERSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

HONORING IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Scotlandville, Louisiana, a congregation whose deep roots and lasting legacy reflect decades of faith, service, and devotion within the Baton Rouge community.

Immaculate Conception Parish began as a mission of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Baton

Rouge, where the Josephite Fathers expanded their evangelization efforts into the Scotlandville community. Mass was first celebrated in Scotlandville in October 1946 at the Cook movie house. Archbishop Rummel later purchased land for a permanent church, which was built by parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Parish and dedicated in 1953.

The Scotlandville mission grew steadily and was officially elevated to the status of an independent parish on June 21, 1958, with Father P. Francis T. Carney, S.S.J., serving as its first pastor. From its earliest years, the parish became a place of worship, spiritual fellowship, and community strength for Baton Rouge's African American Catholic community.

Throughout its history, Immaculate Conception Parish has continued to build ministries centered on worship, youth religious education, service, and fellowship. Its facilities include a church, rectory, activity center, and a parish ministry building that houses a food pantry—demonstrating the parish's sustained commitment to addressing community needs.

The Josephite Fathers served Immaculate Conception Parish from its founding until 1983, when the Jesuits assumed pastoral responsibility. Under both orders, the parish has continued its long tradition of evangelization, community service, and spiritual leadership.

Today, Immaculate Conception Parish remains a steadfast presence in Scotlandville—an enduring symbol of faith, service, and hope. The parish continues to uplift families, strengthen the community, and honor its historic legacy as a place of worship and outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Immaculate Conception Parish for its remarkable contributions to Baton Rouge, and for its unwavering dedication to faith, fellowship, and community service throughout its storied history.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MOFFITT SERVICES

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Moffitt Services, out of Fort Worth, who stepped up this January when the winter storm brought dangerous conditions to North Texas.

Working around the clock, Moffitt crews navigated icy roads to deliver fuel for generators, along with water and other critical supplies to nursing homes, hospitals, and organizations in need across the region. Their efforts helped ensure generators stayed running and essential services remained online for patients and residents who rely on them.

Their work didn't stop when the ice melted. As conditions continued to improve across North Texas, Moffitt Services shifted to assisting with cleanup efforts, helping to remove fallen trees and storm debris.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE VETERAN COMMAND
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT MAX-
WELL GRINDSTAFF AS SEP-
TEMBER 2026 VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Chief Master Sergeant Maxwell Grindstaff for his distinguished service in the United States Air Force and his community. It is my privilege to honor him as our September 2026 Veteran of the Month.

CMSgt Grindstaff enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1987. He began his career in Security Forces before retraining in communications and computer operations. Throughout his military career, he served in Michigan, the United Kingdom, New York, North Dakota, California, Missouri, Texas, Utah, Ohio, and Afghanistan, taking on increasingly senior leadership roles.

In 2010, CMSgt Grindstaff served as Command Chief in Kabul, Afghanistan. He later served as Command Chief at Hill Air Force Base in Utah and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio before becoming Command Chief at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado in 2014. He retired in 2017 after three decades of distinguished service, earning numerous honors including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medals.

Today, he continues his service with the Department of the Air Force in a civilian capacity, leading industry engagement and stakeholder management to support major Air Force modernization efforts. CMSgt Grindstaff is a family man and an active member of his community. He and his wife, Millie, are proud Lapeer natives who have raised three daughters and welcomed five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Command Chief Master Sergeant Maxwell Grindstaff has dedicated his life to serving our nation and community. Through his military service, leadership, and ongoing commitment to the community, he exemplifies honor, courage, and selfless service. It is my great honor to recognize his service and accomplishments by naming him our September 2026 Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING JACI HEMERDA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

Jaci 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 Jaci, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jaci's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.