

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.

It is my honor to congratulate Jaci Hemerda on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH 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 St. Joseph Baptist Church. The late Rev. Henry Roan Sr. organized St. Joseph on October 8, 1927. The first building of worship was in a frame house located in the Zee-Zee Gardens neighborhood. The late Randolph Gilmore was the Chairman of the Deacon Board; the late Josephine Hudson served as Mother, and Alice Scott was Secretary. In the year 1939, the church moved from Zee-Zee Gardens to a location at 2424 Tennessee Street.

During the same year, Rev. Roan's health began to fail, and he could not serve the church as he desired and had to give up the pastoral ship. Rev. L. B. Stevenson was called to succeed Rev. Roan in 1939. The Senior Choir was organized on October 8, 1939, and the Senior Usher Board in 1940 under the leadership of Rev. Stevenson who served until 1948.

On October 8, 1948, Rev. Q. T. Ellis was elected pastor and served diligently until 1953. In October 1953, the congregation elected Rev. Isaiah Mitchell as Pastor. Under the leadership of Rev. Mitchell, St. Joseph underwent tremendous spiritual and physical growth. On September 30, 1962, the Church was dedicated as the Greater St. Joseph's Baptist Church.

Rev. Mitchell served St. Joseph well for 34 years and fought hard for beautification, growth in membership, and stability. In 1985, when his health began to fail and would not allow him to travel from St. Francisville to Baton Rouge early on Sunday mornings, Rev. Joseph Davis, Bro. Dewitt Gray, and Bro. Donald Ford carried on for him.

On December 26, 1985, Bro. Donald Ford was elected Assistant Pastor and carried on untiringly until February 16, 1987, when Dr. Lionel Lee, Sr., was elected pastor. Dr. Lee accepted the pastoral ship cautiously yet prayerfully asking God for guidance and a blueprint. Under his leadership, St. Joseph made many noteworthy and significant achievements. Rev. Lee served as Pastor for fourteen years and moved St. Joseph and its body of members onto a mark of higher calling.

On July 25, 2001, Rev. Lionel Lee departed this life. He faithfully preached the Word of God and preached the whole counsel of God, which necessitated many hours of Bible Study and memorization.

On March 23, 2002, the St. Joseph Baptist Church Family elected Rev. Donald Grim as their new Pastor. Rev. Grim was installed on April 21, 2002, and presently remains as Pastor of the St. Joseph Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Joseph Baptist Church for nearly a century of faithful service, spiritual leadership, and dedication to the community. May its pastor, leadership, and congregation continue to receive blessings as they build on

the church's legacy and pursue its future with confidence.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO REV. PAUL RASMUSSEN

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, Rev. Paul Rasmussen, who has served as not only a pastor at Highland Park United Methodist Church, but as a steady presence and trusted leader for thousands of families across our North Texas community for over 25 years.

A fourth-generation United Methodist minister and graduate of SMU's Perkins School of Theology, Rev. Rasmussen's faith-based leadership helped guide one of Dallas's largest congregations.

Even as he transitions from being Senior Pastor, Rev. Rasmussen's message continues to inspire. Through decades of sermons, mentorship, and service, Rev. Rasmussen has left a lasting imprint on our community.

RECOGNIZING ZF AXLE DRIVES
EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR EXCEP-
TIONAL RESPONSE TO A MED-
ICAL EMERGENCY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Scarlett Davis, Matthew De Vriese, Kenneth Alcorn, Keith Dromowicz, Steven Gerald Snider, David Causby, and Jesse Smith for their exceptional response to a medical emergency at ZF Axle Drives in Marysville, Michigan. Their quick thinking, teamwork, and compassion made a meaningful difference when a fellow employee needed help.

These heroes did not hesitate. Each played a crucial role in keeping the response moving quickly and smoothly, from identifying the emergency to preparing for and briefing first responders on the situation.

Their calmness under the pressure of an immensely difficult situation exemplifies the values of teamwork, safety, compassion, and leadership that define Michigan's workplace culture. Moments like these remind us that our greatest strength is our people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing each of these heroic individuals. Their actions certainly saved a life, and I am proud to honor them for demonstrating the very best of ZF Axle Drives and Michigan as a whole.

RECOGNIZING JOSIAH RODRIGUEZ
VEGA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Josiah Rodriguez Vega for earn-

ing the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

HONORING FAITH A.M.E. ZION
CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Faith A.M.E. Zion Church, a congregation whose history reflects vision, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to spreading the Gospel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The origins of Faith A.M.E. Zion Church date to July 1995, when God inspired a new vision for a sanctuary in Louisiana's capital city—one that would usher in a renaissance within the A.M.E. Zion Church and reinvigorate the Louisiana Conference. During that year's Annual Conference, convened at Petty A.M.E. Zion Church in New Orleans, Presiding Bishop Joseph Johnson appointed Rev. Kenneth D. York to establish a new church in Baton Rouge. At that meeting, Bishop Marshall H. Strickland proposed the name that the congregation proudly holds today: Faith A.M.E. Zion Church.

Rev. York, together with a small group of devoted believers, began meeting regularly for prayer and Bible Study to lay the foundation for this new ministry. On January 26, 1996, a pivotal meeting was held at the home of Ms. Abigail Richardson—now Mrs. Abigail York—to formally organize the church. Those present included Rev. York, Rev. Dr. Francis Williams, Ms. Richardson, Mrs. Imogene Williams, Mrs. Queen V. York, Mrs. Dorothy D. Addison, Mrs. Willie Mae Harrison, Ms. Charlene Harrison, Attorney Cassandra Simms, Mr. Dennis Brazier, and Mr. Eric Christian. A Board of Trustees was elected, Ms. Richardson became church secretary, and the first list of prospective members was submitted.

On January 29, 1996, Rev. York presented to Bishop Johnson and the Louisiana Conference a detailed plan of action—including minutes, membership information, and financial and property acquisition assessments—and received full approval for the establishment of the new church.

As Faith A.M.E. Zion Church continued its early development, prayer meetings and Bible Study were held at the home of Mrs. Abigail York. The Trustee Board was revised to meet the growing administrative needs of the local church. Attorney Stephone K. Addison became Chairman, Attorney Cassandra Simms Treasurer, and Rev. York and Mr. Derrick Vernon rounded out the board.

To strengthen the church's foundation, Bishop Johnson requested a special worship