

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

service to raise support. Rev. York, Rev. Dr. Francis Williams, and Presiding Elders Rev. Willie G. Johnson and Rev. W.M. Bryson organized the service, and generous support arrived from across Zion—including the A.M.E. Zion Home Missions Department, the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Seeds of Faith offerings, Louisiana Conference churches, and family and friends. Their contributions nearly overnight cleared the path toward securing a physical church property.

Following extensive discussions and prayer, the Trustee Board authorized Rev. York and Attorney Addison to purchase a historic church building located at 2364 Thomas Delpit Drive in South Baton Rouge. The purchase was completed on July 31, 1996. The building was renovated, incorporated as Faith A.M.E. Zion Church, Inc., and dedicatory services were led by Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett.

Faith A.M.E. Zion Church soon blossomed as the first and only A.M.E. Zion congregation in Baton Rouge. Its ministries expanded through the faithful leadership of Rev. York, the dedication of members, and the talents of Mr. Reginald Stewman, the church's first full-time musician.

Under Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr., the Faith congregation embraced a new vision—to find a larger house of worship to meet the needs of a growing membership. That vision became reality on February 1, 2010, with the acquisition of a 9,000-square-foot church building located at 3919 Groom Road in Baker, Louisiana. Renovations occurred in phases, and despite construction still underway, the congregation entered its new church home on February 6, 2011, with Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., officiating the dedication.

Faith continued to grow, hosting the 152nd Session of the Louisiana Annual Conference in 2016. Soon afterward, the 2016 Baton Rouge flood devastated the church building, bringing more than 6 feet of water through the sanctuary. The congregation united to rebuild, receiving support from across Zion and worshipping at Ebenezer Baptist Church until renovations were complete.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Faith adapted again—moving worship, Bible study, and meetings online from March 2020 through April 2021. Easter Sunday of 2021 marked its joyful return to in-person worship. Faith now worships both in-person and virtually.

Faith's ministry continues to grow. In June 2025, the church fully paid off the mortgage on its Groom Road property. On January 25, 2026, Faith celebrated its 30th Church Anniversary and the burning of the mortgage in a service officiated by Bishop Anthony N. Witherspoon.

Rev. York's leadership has nurtured many associate ministers over the years, including Rev. Charles Evans, Sr., Rev. Mark Green, Rev. Michelle L. Madison, Rev. Walter Harrison, Rev. Charles Magee, Minister Reginald Stewman, and the late Rev. Dr. William Simon. Today, the ministerial staff includes Rev. Patricia Johnson, Father Daniel Hopkins, Rev. R. Sheree Miller, Rev. Sonya Felders, and Sister Perphyria Kador.

Mr. Speaker, Faith A.M.E. Zion Church proudly proclaims its identity as 'A Radical Church for A Radical World.' Its family remains committed to expanding its ministry while keeping steadfast focus on carrying out God's mission—to spread the Gospel, make

disciples, and provide love, knowledge, inspiration, and refuge to all who are in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Faith A.M.E. Zion Church for its three decades of worship, service, sacrifice, resilience, and visionary leadership.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO J.J. PEARCE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM

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, the J.J. Pearce High School swim team. They demonstrated the power of community by rallying behind a mission to support their custodian Van Hua Le. The team learned that Le was experiencing health issues which left him out of work for weeks, and they felt called to use their talents to support him.

To help, the swim team organized a Swim-A-Thon, inviting friends, families, and neighbors to pledge donations for laps completed. By the end of the event, they had swam over 4,000 meters and collected \$18,000 for their custodian. Their kindness did not stop there. Afterwards, the team gifted Van Hua Le with a new car and bicycle to assist with his six mile commute and set up a GoFundMe campaign for him as well.

I thank the J.J. Pearce High School swim team for showing North Texas what it means to lift one another up in difficult times. Their compassion inspires us all.

RECOGNIZING NEHEMIAH ALLI- ANCE'S 52-DAY REBUILD INITIA- TIVE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nehemiah Alliance's 52-Day Rebuild Initiative which begins on sundown September 10th and lasts until sundown on November 1st.

Modeled after the Biblical account in the Book of Nehemiah where Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls in 52 days, the Rebuild Initiative is a national spiritual movement that calls on people of faith to unify in extended prayer, fasting, repentance, and intercession for the renewal of the United States and the rebuilding of its spiritual walls.

There is no better time to call for taking up this task than the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. As we continue celebrating the 250th birthday of our great country, I am reminded of the great fortune we are all afforded from our First Amendment, especially our Freedom of Religion.

As the highest-ranking woman in Congress, and as a person of deep faith, I wake up every day determined to fight for these continued freedoms.

May God Bless all of those who are participating in this Initiative, and may God continue to Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JAYLYNN ROBINSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

HONORING ISRAELITE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Israelite Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1841 Thomas H. Delpit Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Established in May 1915 by Rev. Sidney W. Clark and a devoted band of Christians, the church began in a cottage house on Tennessee Street. Through the prayers and dedication of its early members, land was purchased from Robert Hart on Texas Street, now Thomas H. Delpit Drive, the site where the church stands today.

Despite humble beginnings and many challenges, Rev. Clark and his congregation persevered, making numerous improvements and additions. In 1936, plans were made for a brick building, but instead, funds were used to remodel the existing structure. Rev. Clark faithfully served until his health declined in 1940, appointing Rev. R. D. Green to carry on. After Rev. Clark's passing, Rev. Green became the church's second pastor in 1942 and led another remodeling. Under his guidance, new ground was purchased, and a brick building was constructed and completed on December 5, 1952. The church flourished under his leadership.

When Rev. Green's health failed, Rev. Jesse Davis was brought in and became the third pastor in 1958. Rev. Davis oversaw a third remodeling, expanding the pulpit, choir stand, seating, kitchen, dining area, and adding choir rooms, a new office, and a larger pastor's study, as well as acquiring a Baby Grand Piano and a distinctive outdoor bulletin board. This renovation was completed in 1976. Rev. Davis served until 1987, after which Rev. Louis Hardy and Rev. Ronald T. Williams led until Rev. Charles Lee Burris, Sr. was elected as the fourth pastor in 1988.

Under Pastor Burris, the church reached new heights, including the addition of a fellowship hall in 2001, property purchases for parking, and improvements to the sanctuary, culminating in a fourth remodeling in 2005. In