

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

2006, tragedy struck when the sanctuary burned, but through prayer, perseverance, and the support of the community, the church was restored and officially reoccupied in October 2007. Pastor Burris's vision was for Israelite to own most of its block on Thomas H. Delpit Drive.

After Pastor Burris's passing in 2009, Rev. Donald R. Sterling, a "native son" of Israelite Baptist Church, took up leadership in 2010. Under his guidance, the church acquired additional properties for parking and future expansion and officially amended its charter to Israelite Missionary Baptist Church of South Baton Rouge.

Today, under Reverend Sterling's leadership, Israelite continues to serve as a beacon of faith, holding steadfast to the divine guidance and spirit of obedience that characterized its founders, and providing a spiritual home for worship and service to God in the Baton Rouge community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Israelite Missionary Baptist Church for over a century of faithful service, and in wishing Reverend Donald Sterling and the congregation continued blessings for generations to come.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO CHIEF KEVIN RICHARDSON**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Chief Kevin Richardson, the longtime Coppell Fire Department Chief. Earlier this year, he officially retired after years of public service to our North Texas community. Chief Richardson joined the department in 1993 and since his promotion to Fire Chief in 2006, the fire department has been performing at an unprecedented level of excellence.

Under his leadership, two new fire stations were built, the department achieved and maintained the highest Public Protection Classification rating from the Insurance Services Office, and every firefighter in the department became certified as an emergency medical technician. As Coppell experienced rapid growth, Chief Richardson ensured the fire department grew stronger. The Coppell mayor, city council members, and firefighters have expressed their immense praise for him.

I thank Chief Richardson for his leadership of an exceptional fire department and decades of public service. His work has saved lives and kept the Coppell community safe. We wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HERBERT DIXON

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 Herbert Dixon, a legendary golfer and longtime Bartow resident who passed away at the remarkable age of 106.

Herbert's love for golf began early. He started caddying at the Bartow Golf Course at just 14 years old and taught himself the game by practicing on the course at night during segregation.

He went on to become a pioneer in professional golf, winning 63 tournaments in the United Golf Association, including the National Negro Open Championship. Herbert also served our country in the U.S. Air Force and earned recognition in multiple halls of fame.

As a lifelong golfer myself, I can certainly appreciate a man who spent more than nine decades around the game. Herbert was still hitting his age into his later years and became a true legend in Bartow and throughout the golf community.

Living to 106 is remarkable enough. Doing it while leaving behind a legacy like Herbert's is something truly special.

My condolences are with his family, friends and all those who knew him. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY REINICK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

**HONORING FAITH AND HOPE
MINISTRIES**

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Faith and Hope Ministries, located at 9943 E. Tampa Dr. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish. Founded in 2007 by Rev. Felton J. Thomas, Sr., Faith and Hope Ministries has faithfully served its community for 9 years, a number symbolizing divine completeness and the fulfillment of God's promise. In 2007, God gave Pastor Thomas a vision for the ministry that would unfold over ten years. In 2017, the Lord revealed it was time for the vision to come to fruition, leading to the search for a church home among nearly 100 buildings.

From this extensive list, only two calls were returned: one discouraging, and one from Ms. Marie Reado at Any Occasion Banquet Hall, who graciously offered her space. On May 7, 2017, Faith and Hope Ministries officially

opened its doors there at 10565 Florida Blvd. After 6 months, Sister Michelle Scott introduced the ministry to its second home at 1913 North St., where the first service was held on October 8, 2017.

The onset of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 brought unprecedented challenges, mandating a halt to congregational worship in March. Despite this, the church continued to fellowship by phone, remaining encouraged and steadfast in faith. When churches were able to reopen in June 2020 with social distancing, Faith and Hope Ministries joyfully reunited in worship, persevering even as many churches, businesses, and families could not. In November 2021, circumstances led to the farewell of the second church home, but the congregation adapted by returning to the phone line for Sunday services and Thursday Bible Studies.

In December, Pastor Thomas, after meditating and expressing the desires of his heart to God, received a call from Mr. Eddie Vosper, bringing the ministry back to worship at 2127 Beaumont Dr. on January 2, 2022. Since its inception, Faith and Hope Ministries has ordained deacons, deaconesses, teachers, and evangelists, baptized many, distributed school supplies yearly, launched a feeding program for the homeless, established a clothes closet, participated in the Black Voters Matters initiative to educate and assist community members in voting, canvassed communities to spread voter knowledge, provided transportation to polling places, implemented prayer services, and partnered with Southern University to offer workshops aimed at crime prevention.

Beyond Louisiana, the ministry's "Georgia crew" feeds the homeless, distributes school supplies, provides gas stipends, and passes out clothing to those in need. Currently, Faith and Hope Ministries counts 80 members, not including adopted members, faithful visitors, friends who support the ministry, or those joining by phone from across the United States. Through continual prayer and faith, the ministry is poised for growth so that God's word will reach even more people.

As previously stated, the number nine represents completeness and fulfillment of God's promise, and Faith and Hope Ministries stands as a testament to that promise. The congregation looks forward with excitement to the next steps, having witnessed countless miracles since the ministry's inception. To all who hear my voice, whether present physically or joining by phone, be prepared to witness the miracles God will bring forth from this place and to share in our prayer by attending.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Faith and Hope Ministries Church as we celebrate almost 10 years of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings for the years to come.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO GUS CABARCAS**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Gus Cabarcas, a veteran who served as a Combat