

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 Readon 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 in 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

Medic in the U.S. Army at Fort Hood before continuing his career of service as a Sergeant with the NYPD. After over two decades in public service, Gus brought his passion for helping others to Combined Arms where he served as the North Texas Regional Coordinator and has been an Organizer for Veteran In Business.

During his time at Combined Arms, Gus worked hard to serve veterans in our North Texas community and connect them with the resources to successfully transition and thrive after military service.

Through his leadership and dedication, he helped strengthen the veterans community across the region. I thank Gus for his continued impact and unwavering support for our veteran community. His dedication is a shining example for us all.

HONORING LENNY COLLINS

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lenny Collins, a Vietnam War veteran, Marine, husband, and devoted member of the Pensacola community.

Lenny dedicated his life to making sure the sacrifices of our veterans, and especially those who never came home, would never be forgotten. After visiting the Moving Wall in 1987, Lenny was inspired to bring a permanent memorial to Pensacola. Through years of determination, he turned that vision into Wall South in 1992, which ultimately became the Veterans Memorial Park we know today.

But Lenny did not do this alone. By his side throughout this journey was his beloved wife, Gloria. For 57 years, Lenny and Gloria shared a life dedicated not only to one another, but to their fellow veterans and the community they called home. Together, they helped build a lasting place of remembrance that has touched countless families and welcomed more than 100,000 visitors each year.

Lenny understood the weight of a name on the Wall and the pain carried by those who served in Vietnam. He took that personal experience and turned it into something meaningful for an entire community. Because of him, generations of Northwest Floridians will have a place to honor our fallen, remember their sacrifice, and teach their children that freedom is never free.

Lenny leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service, love of country, and love for his community. His impact will live on every time a veteran visits Wall South, every time a family pauses at one of the memorials, and every time a young person learns about the sacrifices made to protect our freedom.

My deepest condolences are with Gloria, their daughters, their family, and all of Lenny's friends and fellow Marines. I hope they find comfort knowing that Lenny's life made a lasting difference in the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lenny Collins and remembering a Marine who spent his life ensuring that America would never forget those who gave everything for our country.

RECOGNIZING ISABELLA QUINTERO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

HONORING GORDON-FELTUS- LAZARD CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Gordon-Feltus-Lazard Cathedral Church of God in Christ, located at 8930 Plank Rd. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70811, East Baton Rouge Parish. Established in the summer of 1914 by the late Bishop Seaners Lazard, the church has been a beacon of faith and perseverance for more than a century. Bishop Lazard, a young unlicensed minister at the time, embraced the doctrine of holiness and sanctification preached by the growing African American Pentecostal denomination known as the Church of God in Christ. He was divinely inspired to organize the first Church of God in Christ in Baton Rouge, originally named Railroad Ave. Church of God in Christ and located at 1450 Railroad Avenue.

Recognizing his need for maturity and experience, Bishop Lazard sought guidance from Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, Founder and Senior Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Bishop Mason appointed Bishop Henry Feltus of Centerville, Mississippi, as the first Pastor of the Railroad Avenue Church of God in Christ, widely known as First Church of God in Christ of Baton Rouge. Bishop Feltus also served as the first Overseer of the Church of God in Christ in Louisiana. After Bishop Feltus' passing, his brother James Feltus was appointed Pastor and Overseer, serving faithfully from 1922 to 1946.

Upon the passing of Bishop James Feltus, Minister Senears Lazard, now ordained and experienced, received the pastoral appointment and the Bishopric. Bishop Mason divided the state, appointing Bishop Lazard as Bishop of Eastern Louisiana, overseeing all congregations east of the Mississippi River. Under his leadership, the original church was replaced with a new brick building and renamed Lazard Temple Church of God in Christ. In 1967, following Bishop Lazard's death, Bishop Willie K.

Gordon took over as pastor and Bishop of Eastern Louisiana, leading the congregation at 1450 Myrtle Street. He remodeled the church and renamed it Feltus-Lazard Memorial State Temple.

In 1980, Bishop W.K. Gordon appointed his son, Elder James Earl Gordon, as the next Pastor. Under Elder Gordon's leadership, the church flourished, providing spiritual empowerment for South Baton Rouge and serving as the headquarters for churches of Eastern Louisiana. In 1987, Elder James Earl Gordon was consecrated as Bishop of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Louisiana East. In 2004, the church relocated to North Baton Rouge after acquiring 30 acres at 8930 Plank Road, naming the campus Saintsville—the headquarters for Louisiana East and the home of Gordon-Feltus-Lazard Cathedral Church of God in Christ. Bishop Gordon served as Pastor for 44 years and Prelate for 27 years.

In 2015, Elder Kenneth G. McKnight was appointed as the current Pastor. Under his administration, the church has become a spiritual hub for North Baton Rouge, providing resources to citizens in the capital area and surrounding parishes. Today, Gordon-Feltus-Lazard Cathedral COGIC stands as a thriving instrument of the gospel, reaching the lost and despondent, supporting its parishioners, and partnering for social, political, and economic justice. With 112 years of ministry, the church's legacy continues to serve as a lasting testament to the Church of God in Christ's impact on Baton Rouge and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gordon-Feltus-Lazard Cathedral Church of God in Christ as we celebrate more than a century of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings for generations to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO MAGDA A. HERNÁNDEZ

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, Magda Hernández, she has served as Irving ISD Superintendent for the past eight years and announced her retirement in December 2026. With eight years leading Irving ISD and 34 years in public education, her career reflects a deep commitment to our North Texas students and schools. Hernández began her journey in Irving ISD as a bilingual aide and went on to serve in many roles from a teacher, to Assistant Principal, and District Administrator, before becoming the district's first female Superintendent. Her leadership has made a lasting, positive impact on public education in the Irving community and beyond.

During her time as Superintendent, Hernández has remained focused on helping students succeed and continuing to move the district forward. She has received numerous awards recognizing her outstanding career. Even after becoming eligible for retirement, Hernández chose to continue serving, wanting to help the district continue improving. She has described her time at Irving ISD as one of the greatest honors of her life. We thank Magda Hernández for her commitment to our community and the legacy she leaves behind.