

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.

HONORING DENNIS IOTT ON HIS
INDUCTION INTO THE MICHIGAN
FARMERS HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Iott of Kalkaska County on his induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame and to honor his more than four decades of dedication to Michigan agriculture.

For 45 years, Dennis has worked to build Iott Seed Farms into one of Michigan's premier agricultural operations. Under his leadership, the farm has nearly tripled its seed potato production and now grows approximately 27 million pounds of seed potatoes each year, making Iott Seed Farms the largest supplier of seed potatoes in Michigan. His commitment to excellence has earned him recognition as the 2026 Frito-Lay Seed Supplier of the Year, the 2025 Kalkaska Business of the Year, and the 2024 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Farm of the Year.

Dennis's impact extends well beyond his own farm. As President of Potato Growers of Michigan and Chairman of the Kalkaska Conservation District Board of Directors, he has been a steadfast advocate for Michigan farmers and for responsible stewardship of our natural resources. He has worked with Michigan State University researchers, welcomed students and policymakers to his farm, and participated in field trials that advance agricultural practices strengthening both productivity and conservation. He has also been a consistent voice in discussions surrounding Michigan's water resources, advocating for sound science, responsible management, and continued access to water for farmers.

Perhaps most importantly, Dennis has invested in the people who will carry Michigan agriculture forward. Through mentorship, agricultural education, and years of service to farming organizations and his community, he has generously shared his knowledge with fellow farmers, students, researchers, and the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dennis on this well-deserved honor, thank him for his decades of service, and wish him and his family continued success for many growing seasons to come.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA PILSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

HONORING LOVE ALIVE CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great church in my district, Love Alive Church, located at 4517 Lassen Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Founded in 2013 by Pastor Ronaldo Hardy, Love Alive Church was envisioned as a vibrant, progressive, and multi-ethnic congregation where the next generation could grow in their faith. Pastor Hardy and his team dreamed of electrifying worship, a dynamic presentation, and a church family that would reflect the diversity of Baton Rouge. They felt the calling to plant this church because their generation needed a fresh and engaging spiritual home.

After a year of preparation filled with both challenges and excitement, the initial launch planned for September 2014 was postponed, as they waited for God's timing. On January 11, 2015, Love Alive Church officially opened its doors at the AMC Theater near the Mall of Louisiana. For 14 months, the congregation worshipped there, witnessing God's presence and guidance in every season.

Soon after, God opened the door for the church to move into a building on Jones Creek, where Love Alive began to grow rapidly. The congregation doubled in size for four consecutive years, expanding from one to four services. In 2019, the Lord blessed Love Alive Church with its permanent home on Lassen Drive, where it remains today.

Since settling in its new home, Love Alive Church has continued to flourish as a place of passionate worship, prophetic teaching, and committed discipleship. At the heart of every ministry and outreach is the mission to help people find family, discover purpose, and change the world. Each person who joins Love Alive contributes to this ongoing story, helping carry forward a legacy of faith and community for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Love Alive Church for over a decade of trustworthy service, and in wishing Pastor Ronaldo Hardy and the congregation continued blessings as they pursue their mission and impact lives for years to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO LINDA CUSTARD

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, Linda Custard. She demonstrated generosity and support for our North Texas community, and her alma mater, Southern Methodist University (SMU). Her life reflected a deep commitment to the arts, education, and civic engagement. She sadly passed away earlier this year, on January 22, 2026. Custard began at SMU as

a speech arts student before earning her undergraduate degree from Mills College and later returning to SMU to complete her MBA at the Cox School of Business. She assumed several leadership roles, including serving on the SMU Board of Trustees. She also played a key role in advancing the Meadows School of the Arts and the Meadows Museum, contributing meaningfully to the university and the wider community.

Custard was committed to helping initiatives that advanced the arts and education. She received awards recognizing her leadership and philanthropy at SMU, including the Cox School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award, the SMU Students' Association's Outstanding Trustee Award, the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Mustang Award. She was known for her dedication, influence, and passion for giving back.

We thank Linda Pitts Custard for her service to our North Texas community and the lasting impression she leaves behind.

HONORING NANCY DOW MOODY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nancy Dow Moody and her decades of extraordinary public service as a non-profit leader as she retires from Lifehouse.

Nancy's distinguished career spans more than 40 years in service to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Nancy joined Lifehouse as Director of Services in 1992, bringing with her years of experience in managing programs that support the disability services community. In 2005, she was promoted to Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and in 2008, she assumed the role of President and CEO.

Over the course of her tenure, Nancy guided Lifehouse through transformational growth and inclusion. She expanded services, modernized systems, and developed pioneering programs that improved quality of life for thousands of individuals and families. Nancy championed affordable housing solutions for Lifehouse clients, collaborated on the development of innovative senior living programs, and helped launch the first Supported Living Program in the State of California. Under her leadership, Lifehouse also spearheaded the Marin Autism Collaborative, a key resource linking families, local agencies, and service providers.

Nancy is admired for her steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and genuine commitment to Lifehouse's mission, always drawing upon her extensive background and academic achievements to inform her leadership. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Boston State College and a Master of Arts in Non-Profit Organizational Management from the University of San Francisco, where she graduated cum laude as a Merit Scholar. In 2019, she completed the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Program at Harvard Business School, bringing nationally recognized best practices back to Lifehouse.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to work with Nancy. I can personally