

threatened the financial security of other retirees.

Tom Rose was the fiercest and most effective ally I have worked with in my decades-long fight to restore the pensions of the Delphi Salaried Retirees. This is an issue that hit close to home for both of us. I understood how the loss of these benefits impacted families because my father lost his healthcare during the GM bankruptcy after working for General Motors for over 40 years.

Tom has stood at my side throughout this challenging fight, beginning with the initial Congressional investigations following the GM bankruptcy, through the ensuing court battles, through the House passage of the bipartisan Susan Muffley Act, and through this year's introduction of a legislative amendment, backed by the White House, funding the restoration of the pensions for the Delphi Salaried Retirees, which could finally bring closure to this difficult chapter in our history.

It saddens me greatly to know that Tom did not live to see the final outcome of this long and often frustrating battle. One of the great privileges of my life was to be able to work with him, to get to know him, and to become his friend. I can think of no better way to pay tribute to Tom's memory than by carrying on this noble fight and seeing it through to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who knew Tom Rose will not easily forget him, and his influence will certainly be missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this courageous and compassionate man, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ALIZA THARANI

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, Aliza Tharani. Aliza is a Euless native who combines academic excellence with a strong interest in science. After graduating at the top of her class from Colleyville Heritage High School, she began her undergraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University, where she is pursuing a degree in Neuroscience.

Aliza has served as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in both the Mysore Lab, studying brain pathways, and the Jantzie Lab in Neurosurgery. She has also shadowed in transplant nephrology at UT Southwestern, gaining valuable exposure to patient-centered care.

In addition to her academic work, Aliza has given back to the community by volunteering with A Place to Talk (suicide-prevention peer support), serving as a First Aid Attendant with the Jubilee Monument Corp., and participating as a National Alzheimer's Buddies volunteer.

Recognized for her achievements, Aliza is an ISEF Finalist, a National Honor Society Scholarship Semifinalist, and the recipient of multiple awards. Through her scholarship and service, she reflects the values of Euless and serves as a positive example for our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRUCE BURDELL BURKART

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bruce Burdell Burkart of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who passed away on August 27, 2026, at the age of 94.

Born and raised in Doylestown, Bruce dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his country. A graduate of North Wales High School, he was a talented multi-sport athlete and remained connected to his alma mater throughout his life. He later served in the United States Army during the Korean War before building a nearly 27-year career with Georgia-Pacific.

Bruce's commitment to public service was extraordinary. He served as New Britain Borough's first building inspector, tax collector for 24 years, a member of Borough Council, Judge of Elections, and Borough Historian. His service extended well beyond elected and appointed positions, as he helped preserve local landmarks, supported community projects, volunteered at the Mercer Museum, a longtime Red Cross blood donor, and Meals on Wheels advocate. Following his beloved wife's passing, he continued his service in her honor.

Bruce's wit, generosity, and willingness to lend a hand left a lasting impression on those around him. In recognition of his family's contributions to the community, New Britain Borough Council renamed Borough Hall as Burkart Hall in 2013.

Above all, Bruce cherished his family. On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my deepest condolences to the Burkart family and join them in honoring a life distinguished by military service, civic leadership, generosity, and devotion to family. Bruce's contributions to his community will endure, and his memory will remain a cherished part of the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING T.J. MENDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

T.J. 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 T.J., develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to T.J.'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 T.J. Mendez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the 40th Anniversary of Steamtown National Historic Site:

Whereas, established by Congress on October 30, 1986, Steamtown National Historic Site occupies a portion of the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad yard, connecting the site directly to the railroad history that helped build Scranton and shape the industrial heritage of Northeastern Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Steamtown preserves an extraordinary collection of historic locomotives, passenger cars, freight equipment, archives, and railroad artifacts, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to experience the craftsmanship and human stories behind an era that transformed American industry, commerce, transportation, and communities; and

Whereas, Steamtown's mission is to further public understanding and appreciation of the role steam railroading played in the development of the United States, and as the only site within the National Park System where the story of steam railroading and the people who made it possible is told, Steamtown serves as an important center for preservation, education, and appreciation of America's industrial heritage; and

Whereas, the anniversary provides an opportunity to honor the generations of railroad workers whose skill and dedication powered America's growth, as well as the preservationists, National Park Service employees, volunteers, and community members who have worked to ensure that their stories continue to be shared with future generations;

Now therefore, I, Rob Bresnahan, Jr., Member of Congress, do hereby recognize and congratulate Steamtown National Historic Site on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary, honoring four decades of preserving America's railroad heritage, educating visitors, and celebrating the enduring legacy of railroading and the people who helped build our Nation.

HONORING DONALDSON CHAPEL 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 Donaldson Chapel, a historic and steadfast institution of faith whose beginnings trace back to the early years of the twentieth century in the community now known as Easy Town.

In the early 1900s, a group of believers conceived the idea of establishing a church that would serve as a spiritual home for generations to come. The congregation's first pioneer and organizer, Reverend Blackman K. Donaldson, formally established the church on July 21, 1912, naming the new temple Donaldson

Chapel. For 53 years, Reverend Donaldson faithfully shepherded the church, guiding its growth and shaping its role as a pillar in the community. His passing in July 1966 left a devoted body of worshipers committed to carrying forward the vision he had nurtured.

In April 1967, Reverend Freddie Williams of Port Allen, Louisiana, was called to pastor Donaldson Chapel. During his determined and hardworking tenure, the congregation paid off the church mortgage—an achievement that strengthened the church's foundation both spiritually and financially. Reverend Williams served until 1970, when he was called to his eternal reward.

On August 4, 1970, Reverend Charles T. Smith was elected pastor, initiating a new era of spiritual and numerical growth. Under his leadership, the church embarked on two major remodeling projects, first in 1972 and then in 1986, which resulted in new furniture, a new organ, and the purchase of a church van. Reverend Smith also pastored the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, and as Shiloh continued to grow, he made the thoughtful decision to serve one church full time. In May 1997, Reverend Smith concluded his distinguished ministry at Donaldson Chapel.

In July 1997, a familiar face assumed leadership. Assistant Pastor Tommie N. Gipson, Jr., was elected full-time pastor, continuing the legacy of spiritual strength fostered by Pastor Smith. Under Pastor Gipson's leadership, Donaldson Chapel entered the modern era with significant physical and ministry-related expansions. The parking lots were paved, four lots were purchased, and three houses were transformed into educational facilities. Additional improvements included roof repairs, new microphones, and enhanced computer systems for the media ministry. Today, Donaldson Chapel stands as a thriving congregation with more than 500 members.

Pastor Gipson has ensured that Donaldson Chapel remains deeply committed to serving its community. With a strong emphasis on education, children, youth, discipleship, and worship, he has implemented a children's nursery, youth church, children's church, and elevated Sunday School as a top priority. He also established adult ministries such as the

course of study, prison ministry, and clothes closet, among other programs. Under his leadership, the church has become a consistent supporter of Park Elementary School as well as numerous civic and religious organizations.

Looking toward the future, Pastor Gipson and the Deacon Ministry enlisted the expertise of local architect Merald Poche to design a concept for forthcoming Donaldson Chapel facilities. Their forward-looking vision seeks to introduce 21st century buildings that will not only accommodate a growing congregation but also stand as a testament to God's continued movement—breaking chains and performing miracles, one by one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Donaldson Chapel for more than a century of faithful service, spiritual leadership, and community dedication. May its pastor, leadership, and congregation continue to be blessed as they honor their past and boldly pursue the future.

RECOGNIZING BLUE WATER DEVELOPMENTAL HOUSING ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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 Blue Water Developmental Housing as it celebrates 50 years of providing life-changing residential and community-based services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Michigan's Blue Water region.

For five decades, Blue Water Developmental Housing has provided a safe, supportive place where individuals can live with greater independence. Today, across St. Clair and Macomb counties, the organization has grown to include 13 group homes and 19 assisted living homes, often referred to as "Homes for Your Own".

However, Blue Water Developmental Housing offers far more than a place to live. It has created an environment where members are

empowered to become active and valued participants in their communities. Its dedicated staff and caregivers demonstrate unwavering compassion every day, helping those live more independently and providing invaluable support to their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Blue Water Developmental Housing on this remarkable milestone. Its mission reflects the very best of our communities. Every person who has contributed to that mission has made a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and families, and we thank them for their service.

HONORING DR. JIMMY LEE DUNCAN

HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jimmy Lee Duncan, a resident of Salisbury, North Carolina, whose life has been defined by service to our Nation and to the people of Rowan County.

Dr. Duncan began his distinguished career of service in the United States Army, where he served for more than two decades, including during the Vietnam War with the 101st Airborne Division, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. His devotion to serving others didn't end with his military retirement.

Dr. Duncan continued that legacy at home through decades of leadership in his community. Alongside his wife, Linda, and daughter, Susan, he founded Project Light, Rowan County's first full-time anti-human trafficking agency. Through their vision, courage, and compassion, Project Light has grown into a regional force to accelerate the fight against human trafficking.

On behalf of North Carolina's 6th District, I thank Dr. Duncan and his family for a lifetime of service and an enduring legacy that will continue to strengthen our community for generations to come.