

Emily 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 Emily, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Emily's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr/Sr High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Emily Flores on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING
MACHINE**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Light the World Giving Machine, which returned to North Texas this past holiday season, turning generosity into action across our communities. These red vending machines allow donors to give meaningful items, like warm clothing, meals, medical supplies, and even livestock, to local and global charities serving those most in need.

The Giving Machines ensure that 100 percent of every donation goes directly to charity, with all operating costs covered. In 2024, Giving Machines placed in three North Texas cities helped raise more than \$600,000, proving once again that when North Texans come together, the impact is powerful and far-reaching.

**HONORING THE LOUISIANA EAST
FIRST JURISDICTION**

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the history of the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction in Louisiana, a legacy built on devotion, perseverance, and the unwavering faith of its founding fathers and mothers.

Louisiana East First Jurisdiction history began in the early nineteenth century when Elders E.D. Smith and C. Coleman traveled to southeast Mississippi preaching the doctrine of holiness. These pioneers were not focused on establishing a church; instead, they spread the message of holiness and fostered what became the Holiness Movement. Among their converts were brothers Henry Feltus and James Feltus, Sr. of Centerville, Mississippi. Though initially opposed, the brothers were soon converted and became staunch supporters. The acceptance of holiness in Mississippi occurred in 1907.

In 1910, Elder Henry Feltus began pastoring new converts of holiness at a gathering in Baton Rouge called the Railroad Avenue Church. Later that year, the founder and General Overseer of the Church of God in Christ, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, journeyed to Baton Rouge and preached the doctrine of ho-

liness. After hearing Bishop Mason's powerful and anointed teaching, Henry and James Feltus received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

However, the Feltus brothers were still serving under Overseer Elder E.D. Smith, who taught an erroneous doctrine that saints would never die a natural death unless they had sinned in some way. The brothers rejected this teaching and invited Bishop Mason to enlighten Elder Smith regarding the so-called 'never die doctrine.' When Bishop Mason came to New Orleans in 1913 to address the doctrine, Elder Smith did not receive the correction. Consequently, the Feltus brothers chose to follow Bishop Mason. This moment marked the beginning of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Louisiana.

From that point forward, the Church of God in Christ operated as one jurisdiction under Elder Henry Feltus. Bishop Mason appointed him State Overseer and appointed Mother Eliza Hollins as State Mother. Known for her strict discipline and distinctive black attire, Mother Hollins strongly influenced women's ministry throughout the jurisdiction.

As membership grew, Overseer Feltus recognized the need for additional leadership. In 1914, he appointed Elders S. Lazard and C. Ealy as district superintendents. Overseer Feltus passed away in 1920, and Bishop Mason appointed his brother, Elder James Feltus, Sr., as the new State Overseer.

Like his brother, Overseer James Feltus, Sr. founded and developed several churches across Louisiana. Under his leadership, many pastors were appointed to lead assemblies embracing the Holiness Movement. In 1938, Overseer Feltus expanded the jurisdiction by creating additional districts and appointing Elders John W. White, C.B. Norris, and James Edwards as superintendents.

As the Church grew, administrative challenges increased. Out of respect for Overseer Feltus' service, Bishop Mason kept Louisiana as one jurisdiction during his lifetime. After his passing in 1946, Bishop Mason divided the state into two jurisdictions. Elder Seaners Lazard was appointed to lead the churches east of the Mississippi River, while Elder John Walter White was appointed to lead the churches west of the river.

During this period, Bishop Mason began conferring the title of "Bishop" upon those leading jurisdictions. Bishop Lazard led the Eastern Louisiana Jurisdiction for 21 years until his passing in 1967. The brethren overwhelmingly united behind Superintendent Willie K. Gordon, Sr., who had tirelessly assisted Bishop Lazard during his tenure. Bishop Gordon was highly respected for his generosity and his mentorship of many preachers. Under his leadership, the jurisdiction grew significantly.

In 1987, the Eastern Louisiana Jurisdiction was divided into three separate jurisdictions: Louisiana East First under Bishop James E. Gordon; Louisiana East Second under Bishop Joseph A. Thompson; and Louisiana East Third under Bishop Howard E. Quillen, Jr. Later, in June 2001, a fourth jurisdiction—the Greater New Orleans Jurisdiction—was established under Bishop Lindell Benford Brown.

Bishop James Earl Gordon served the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction with profound dignity. He was known for his generosity and loyal support of the national church. His capstone achievement was the purchase of a new, multi-million dollar jurisdictional head-

quarters—a 30-plus acre campus owned by the saints of God. After 27 years of service, Bishop Gordon entered the Church Triumphant.

In 2014, Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr. was consecrated as Bishop of the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction by Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Denson's leadership ushered in a new generation of vision for the 21st century church. With the help of the Lord, the jurisdiction continues to thrive, honoring its past while pressing boldly into its future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction for its historic legacy, its commitment to holiness, and for the visionary leadership that has guided its growth for more than a century.

**COMMEMORATING MR. RICHARD
PHILLIP STROUD SR.'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY**

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor Mr. Richard Philip Stroud, Sr., of Georgia, as he celebrated his 100th birthday on September 9, 2026.

It is without question that Mr. Stroud has led an extraordinary life, one that is a testament to service, hard work, profound Christian faith, and devotion to family. Over the course of a century, he has answered his Nation's call in the United States Navy, contributed to some of our Nation's most important aviation programs, raised a family, and built a multi-generational legacy.

Richard was born on September 9, 1926, on a farm in Bonham, Texas, the eldest son of Coy and Lucille Stroud. His love and passion for the skies began when, as a boy, a Piper Cub airplane landed near his home. After some flight instruction, he made his first solo flight. That momentous occasion would set the course for the rest of his life.

In 1944, with World War II raging across the globe, Richard joined the United States Navy, standing alongside thousands of other servicemembers prepared to defend our country and the freedoms we hold dear. At only 17 years old, Richard qualified for the Navy's flight training program. With the changing needs of the war effort, however, he was instead trained as a machine gunner for the SB2C Helldiver bomber. Sent to Memphis, Tennessee for training, Richard distinguished himself immediately, finishing first in his class and becoming the first sailor in his class to strike all 300 clay targets during his final shooting test.

After the Allied victory, Richard continued his naval training, graduating from flight school and earning his wings as a naval aviator in Corpus Christi, Texas. In June of 1950, when war broke out in the Korean Peninsula, Richard once more answered his Nation's call, serving on an aircraft carrier, participating in patrol operations, and flying numerous missions for more than two years. He accumulated over 500 landings, including one during a Category-4 hurricane, and piloted aircraft, such as the SNJ Texan, the UC-45 Expeditor, the R4D Skytrain, R6D Liftmaster, F6F Hellcat, F4U Corsair, and the TBM Avenger.

After seven years of active duty, Richard served in the United States Naval Reserve for another ten years. In 1952, he began what would be a 62-year career as an aeronautical engineer with Lockheed Aircraft Company in Marietta, Georgia, serving first as a senior design engineer and later as supervisor of the check group, where he oversaw 296 checkers and 40 secretaries, at the height of the C-5 program.

Over the course of his career, Richard contributed to aircraft programs including the B-29 Superfortress, B-47 Stratojet, C-130 Hercules, C-141 Starlifter, C-5, P-3, S-3, F-22, and F-35. His work helped sustain American military aviation across the world. Richard retired in 2015 at the age of 88, completing a career that stretched from the aircraft of the Second World War era to some of the most advanced military aircraft yet produced.

Richard's legacy extends far beyond his military and professional accomplishments. In 1950, he married Dorothy Montgomery Larkins, with whom he raised four children, Phil, Ann, Mark, and Dana. After settling in Marietta, Georgia, the family became deeply involved at Roswell Street Baptist Church, where their Christian faith remained central to their family life.

Following Dorothy's passing in 1971, Richard married Letha and welcomed her four children, Sharon, Andy, Myra, and Penny, into his family. In the decades since, his family has grown to include grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, a 100 birthday is itself an extraordinary milestone, but in Richard Stroud's case, it serves as an example of a life lived in the service of others. From a young boy on a Texas farm fascinated by the sight of an airplane, to a sailor and naval aviator serving his country in times of war, to an aeronautical engineer whose life's work propelled innovation in American aviation for more than 60 years, Richard's life embodies the very best of what it is to be an American.

It is therefore my great privilege to recognize Mr. Richard Philip Stroud, Sr. on the occasion of his 100th birthday. I join his family, his friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, in celebrating this remarkable milestone and I thank him for a lifetime of faithful service to his family, his community, and the United States of America.

May God continue to bless Richard and his family, and may his example of faith, duty, and perseverance continue to inspire generations.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. CHRISTIAN D. MENELEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. MENELEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Prairie View A&M University, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration for its outstanding contributions to higher education.

Prairie View A&M began as an Agricultural and Mechanical College for the "colored youth" with just 8 students. Today, it stands as Texas' second oldest public institution and a leading Carnegie-classified R2 research uni-

versity, enrolling more than 10,000 proud Productive Panthers.

As an exemplary Historically Black College and University, Prairie View A&M is home to numerous distinguished research centers and institutes, including the National Center for Infrastructure Technology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Throughout its history, the University has expanded access to higher education, particularly for underrepresented communities, by fostering an environment of growth, academic achievement, and innovation.

Under the visionary leadership of President Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande, Prairie View A&M has launched its "Journey to Eminence" plan, an ambitious effort to elevate the institution as a premier public historically Black university and a national model for student success, with an emphasis on research excellence, increased graduation rates, and strong post-graduate outcomes.

Prairie View A&M's legacy stands as a testament to the power of access, opportunity, and academic excellence. Its impact will continue to shape generations of leaders for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas, I commend Prairie View A&M University on this remarkable milestone and extend my deepest gratitude for 150 years of service to students, to Texas, and to the Nation.

HONORING LIVING WORD CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Living Word Church (LWC) of Baton Rouge, a ministry birthed in prayer and sustained by prayer. On Wednesday, January 1, 1997, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Living Word Church held its first service at the Prince Murat Hotel, formerly located on Nicholson Drive. Since that first meeting, God has added to the church in both numbers and spiritual maturity, abundantly blessing the ministry as it endeavors to fulfill its vision and God-breathed mission.

Living Word Church is a place of praise and thanksgiving, filled with a congregation that acknowledges the miracle-working power of the Almighty God. In May 1998, the church rented a facility located on Nicholson Drive, where services were held for three years. In February 2001, LWC purchased another building on Nicholson Drive. God blessed the ministry with individuals in the local body who oversaw the renovation process, along with able men of God who assisted. The church held its first Sunday service in the new location on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001.

Out of a love for all people, LWC sponsored several community outreaches, including Hallelujah Nights, prayer breakfasts, health fairs, food and clothing distribution, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts, a church community basketball team, and other outreach activities. The ministry thrived on Nicholson Drive for fourteen years.

On April 6, 2015, a new facility was purchased on N. Sherwood Forest Drive. This location encompasses 7.95 acres of land and includes the main sanctuary, fellowship hall, a

baseball field, and a gymnasium. LWC stands strong because of the unity among its leaders and membership. The Word of God goes forth in each service, and God continues to do great things as the ministry grows, knowing that greater things are still to come.

On November 19, 2025, Living Word Church expanded its commitment to serving the community through the opening of the Living Word Church Food Pantry. This ministry was created to meet the needs of individuals and families by providing food and support to those experiencing food insecurity. The opening of the food pantry represents another expression of pure love for God and commitment to serving His people.

The leadership and members of Living Word Church praise God for all that has been accomplished. The ministry has flourished since its humble beginnings at the Prince Murat Hotel. The favor, grace, and presence of God manifest there. LWC is a place of love, worship, and anointing, where lives are continually transformed through the Word of God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Living Word Church for its steadfast faith, service, and spiritual impact on the Baton Rouge community, and in wishing its leadership and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING NEVAEH GARCIA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

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

Nevaeh 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 Nevaeh, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Nevaeh's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr/Sr High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Nevaeh Garcia on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO SERGEANT CHARLES "ALAN" WORKS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Sergeant Charles "Alan" Works. He dedicated his life to public service, beginning his law enforcement career in 2007 with the Denton County Sheriff's Office. He later served with the Tarrant County College Police Department from 2013 to 2020, continuing his commitment to protect and serve. He joined the DFW Airport Police Department in 2020, and was promoted to sergeant in 2022.