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. MENEFEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. MENEFEE. 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 university, 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 postgraduate 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.

Sergeant Works was known by colleagues and travelers alike for his cowboy hat and the constant smile on his face. We are grateful for his years of service to Denton, Tarrant County, and DFW. We will remember Sergeant Works for the lasting impact he made through his dedication for serving our North Texas Community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CLARK

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and legacy of Minnesota Representative Karen Clark.

Ms. Clark was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1980, serving 19 consecutive terms until her retirement in 2018. In addition to her 38 years of public service in the House, Ms. Clark also served the Minnesota community as a nurse and an educator. She later co-founded the Women's Environmental Institute with her wife of 35 years, Jacquelyn Zita, which is an organization dedicated to fighting for environmental justice through education, advocacy, research, and more.

Karen Clark was the first openly LGBTQ+ candidate to run for and win a seat in the Minnesota legislature, and she was the longest serving openly lesbian member to serve in a State legislature in the United States. She chaired numerous subcommittees regarding economic justice and development, empowering the constituents she represented in the lowest income district in the state. Ms. Clark also served on Governor Rudy Perpich's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Minnesotans in 1990, later playing a crucial role in passing an amendment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act that protected LGBTQ+ Minnesotans from discrimination in housing, employment, and education, cementing Minnesota as the first state in the Nation to include protections based on gender identity. Two decades later, Clark led the bipartisan effort to legalize same-sex marriage in Minnesota, a landmark accomplishment for LGBTQ+ rights in the state. In that same year, former President Barack Obama honored Clark as a Harvey Milk Champion of Change.

Karen Clark was also known for her steadfast dedication to championing environmental justice and socioeconomic justice, especially for lower income residents, Indigenous Americans, immigrants, and communities of color. Even after her retirement from public office, she was regularly spearheading fights for progress at the Capitol and in her community.

Karen Clark was an advocate for all Minnesotans, and she was deeply beloved by all who knew her. To say that Clark was a trailblazer is an understatement—Minnesota would not be the state it is today without her tremendous service. I proudly represent the same Minneapolis neighborhoods she served, and I am honored to carry on the legacy she built to uplift these communities. Her impact will be celebrated for generations to come, as her passing serves as a reminder to us all that every one of us can change the world by caring for our community. Please join me in honoring Karen Clark and her monumental legacy.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF VINCENT ''VINCE'' GASTGEB

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the retirement of Mr. Vincent "Vince" Gastgeb, a dedicated public servant and friend to Western Pennsylvania.

Vince's career has spanned both the public and private sectors, with a lasting commitment to our Commonwealth. Following Allegheny County's adoption of its Home Rule Charter in 1999, Vince was elected to represent District 5 on the County's first-ever Council. He was reelected to four consecutive terms and served on the County's Budget and Finance Committee. In 2012 and again in 2022, Vince was appointed to the Pennsylvania Banking and Securities Commission, where he helped advance financial literacy and education across Pennsylvania.

Most recently, Vince served as the Chief Corporate and Government Affairs Officer for the Allegheny County Airport Authority, overseeing legislative and government affairs, grant funding, and corporate and airline sales. During his tenure, the Authority secured air service to three transatlantic destinations, funded its new Cargo 4 building, broke ground on two buildings at the Neighborhood 91 additive manufacturing campus, and strengthened partnerships across the region.

Vince was a vital part of building the new terminal at Pittsburgh International Airport, which opened in November 2025. This was the culmination of more than a decade of work to reimagine aviation in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vince Gastgeb on his retirement and thanking him for a career dedicated to serving Western Pennsylvania.

HONORING NEW GIDEON BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge New Gideon Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, founded on December 24, 1886, under an oak tree at Perkins Road and Pickett Street. A congregation of eight believers assembled under the leadership of Reverend Ronald Fields, who faithfully pastored from 1886 until 1907. The early decades of the church saw steady growth, including an increase in membership under Reverend John J. Johnson, who served from 1908 to 1923. From 1924 to 1948, Reverend Fred C. Matthews, Sr. led the congregation, during which time church property was sold and services were temporarily held at a Methodist Church on Valley Street. In 1946, property on Balis Drive was purchased, and by 1947 groundbreaking for a new structure commenced. Although construction initially halted, New Gideon advanced steadfastly through faith and perseverance.

In 1949, Reverend Oscar Livous became pastor, completing the new church facility and serving until 1959. Reverend John David Lands then led the church for 33 years, guiding major expansions including the enlargement and remodeling of the second building—construction completed in March 1965. Under Reverend Lands's leadership, the congregation continued to grow, reaching a capacity that necessitated a larger facility. In 1983, adjacent property was purchased and groundbreaking for a new sanctuary was held. In 1984, the current New Gideon Baptist Church building was completed. Reverend Lands transitioned to be with the Lord on August 1, 1992, marking the end of a profoundly impactful era.

Reverend Joseph J. Mitchell was elected pastor in April 1993 and served faithfully until September 29, 1999. In 2000, Reverend Thomas N. Bessix began his tenure, leading the church until May 2015. Under Pastor Bessix's leadership, New Gideon experienced tremendous growth in membership and ministry, establishing comprehensive Christian Education initiatives including Noon Day Bible Study, Fulfillment Hour, New Members Orientation, and annual leadership conferences. A major milestone came in 2006 with the groundbreaking of the Education Life Center (ELC) during the 120th Church Anniversary. The ELC dedication weekend took place May 9, 2008, to May 11, 2008. Pastor Bessix also championed modern evangelism, establishing New Gideon's presence across the worldwide web through its website, Facebook, Twitter, and livestream broadcasting to expand its reach in sharing the Gospel.

Mr. Speaker, God blessed New Gideon Baptist Church on February 7, 2016, with the election of its eighth pastor, Reverend Brandon D. Collins, whose preaching and leadership transformed lives until his departure in 2025. On October 9, 2025, Reverend Thomas N. Bessix was once again elected Senior Pastor and installed on November 23, 2025. His empowered leadership marks another milestone in the legacy of New Gideon Baptist Church, continuing its mission to uplift the community, expand ministry, and faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating New Gideon Baptist Church for more than a century of spiritual devotion, perseverance, and service to God's people.

RECOGNIZING LEYLA CIFUENTES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

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

Leyla 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 Leyla, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This