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

award is a testament to Leyla'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 Leyla Cifuentes on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DON BLACK MUNSON

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, Lieutenant Colonel Don Black Munson, as he lived a life dedicated to serving our country. He was commissioned as an officer upon graduating from Tulane University in 1960 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. Over the course of a 22-year Army career, he served in numerous leadership roles, including with the 82nd Airborne Division, Special Forces, and the 1st Cavalry Division. During the Vietnam War, he commanded C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, and later served as Operations Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

He earned the Silver Star for capturing three enemy combatants under fire and the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in extracting stranded soldiers under intense enemy attack. Lieutenant Colonel Munson's decorations also include two Bronze Stars for Valor, eleven Air Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, and the Purple Heart, as well as the Master Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

His dedication to service did not end with his military career. A longtime member and former commander of the Military Order of World Wars. We thank him for bravely serving our country and our community for many years.

RECOGNIZING DAN CASEY FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. CLAIR COUNTY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dan Casey for 15 years of dedicated service to St. Clair County as the leader of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County.

Mr. Casey joined the EDA as CEO in 2011 after previously serving in economic development roles with the cities of Southfield and Rochester Hills. He truly built a career defined by strengthening Michigan communities and creating opportunities for businesses and residents.

During his tenure with the EDA, Mr. Casey helped guide St. Clair County through significant economic challenges, including the recovery from the 2009 recession and the COVID–19 pandemic. Under his leadership, the EDA helped attract the Magna Electric Vehicle Solutions project to the long-vacant St. Clair Industrial Park, strengthen local downtowns, and support entrepreneurs through small business programs.

After 15 years with the EDA, Mr. Casey retired as CEO on September 1, 2026. While he has stepped away from his position, he plans to remain active in the community through board service and devote more time to writing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dan Casey for his service to St. Clair County. I am proud to honor his dedication to economic development, small businesses, and the communities he has worked to strengthen throughout his career, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN VANDIVER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative VARGAS, Representative LEVIN, and Representative JACOBS, to recognize Shawn VanDiver, an exemplary San Diegan for his unwavering service on behalf of Afghan allies who stood with our servicemembers through two decades of war.

Shawn VanDiver is the founder and president of AfghanEvac. Shawn built this grassroots organization into a nationwide coalition dedicated to ensuring that our Nation keeps its promises.

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, Shawn has brought together veterans, advocates, nonprofits, and government representatives to help our Afghan partners reach safety. His work has helped reunite families who are now rebuilding their lives in the United States.

Shawn is a Navy veteran. This service gave him the clear view that our military is more capable because of its alliances, and when he re-joined civilian life, he brought this insight to San Diego's civic consciousness.

Shawn's commitment to fairness and trustworthiness exemplifies our Nation's foundational ideals. The inspiration for his non-stop energy and advocacy is his commitment to our allies: when people risk their lives in support of our country and servicemembers, our commitment to them does not end when that war does.

As we continue to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks, which kicked off our involvement in Afghanistan, and the fifth anniversary of our withdrawal, every single one of us in this chamber should remember the countless Afghans who risked their lives to support our servicemembers. Our commitment to their safety is not only the right thing to do, but also the story we tell the world about ourselves. America, at its core, is a Nation of decent people that looks out for its allies. I thank my friend Shawn for always reminding us of this basic fact and I thank him for refusing to give up.

HONORING SIX NATIONS CEMETERY DURING THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Six Nations Cemetery in the Town of Orange, Schuyler County, and the community members who have worked to restore and preserve this historic site as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

Six Nations Cemetery is an important part of our region's history and serves as a lasting reminder of the generations of Americans who came before us. The dedication of plaques honoring veterans buried at the cemetery provides a meaningful opportunity to recognize their service and sacrifice while ensuring their contributions are remembered by future generations.

Today's dedication and community picnic also demonstrate the importance of coming together to celebrate our shared history and the communities that make our Nation strong. As we mark America's 250th anniversary, events like this give us an opportunity to reflect on our past while looking toward the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Six Nations Cemetery, its veterans, and the dedicated community members who have worked to preserve this important piece of our local history. Their efforts are a fitting tribute to our Nation's history and the enduring American spirit.

HONORING HOUSE OF JUDAH MINISTRIES

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor House of Judah Ministries. It is an interdenominational Christian church founded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1999 by its Founder and Senior Pastor, Apostle Dr. Lawrence D. Hardy. From its inception, the ministry has been guided by a clear and enduring mission: ''Touching Lives and Meeting Needs Through God's Eyes.''

From its earliest days, House of Judah Ministries has remained committed to fulfilling God's purpose by reaching people from all walks of life. Its vision is to lead change, equip, and empower God's people, and make a positive and lasting impact in the communities it serves. Over the years, the ministry has extended its reach far beyond the four walls of the church through biblical teaching, prayer, worship, discipleship, spiritual development, community outreach, and compassionate service to individuals and families.

Throughout its history, House of Judah Ministries has developed and supported a wide range of ministries and areas of service, including Worship and Praise Ministry, Children's Ministry, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Men's and Women's Ministries, Evangelism and Community Outreach, Prison Ministry and Reintegration Support, Health and