

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 DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. 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 In-

dustrial 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

Wellness Ministry, Economic and Financial Empowerment, Marriage and Family Ministry, Prayer and Intercessory Ministry, Discipleship and Biblical Education, Media and Technology Ministry, and Missionary and Community-Service Initiatives.

Throughout its history, The House of Judah Ministries has worshipped and ministered from several locations throughout Baton Rouge. As the ministry continued to grow and respond to the needs of the community, it relocated to accommodate its evolving vision and mission. Its current place of worship is located on Anselmo Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where it continues to provide a place for worship, biblical instruction, spiritual growth, and community connection.

Under the leadership of Apostle Dr. Lawrence D. Hardy, the influence of The House of Judah Ministries has extended well beyond its local congregation. Apostle Hardy is recognized as a pastor, teacher, apostle, prophet, entrepreneur, and spiritual father. Through his ministry and leadership, he has touched churches, civic organizations, government leaders, and communities throughout Louisiana and beyond. In 2026, the Louisiana Senate formally commended Apostle Hardy for his exceptional leadership and spiritual guidance during the Louisiana Legislature's Regular Session.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the House of Judah Ministries for remaining faithful to its founding mission. Through changing seasons, expanding ministries, new locations, and unwavering commitment to community service, the church continues to stand as a place of worship, healing, empowerment, restoration, and spiritual growth. Its history is marked by lives touched, families strengthened, disciples developed, and communities served. As it looks toward the future, The House of Judah Ministries remains committed to honoring its foundation, embracing its God-given vision, and continuing its mission: "Touching Lives and Meeting Needs Through God's Eyes."

RECOGNIZING OMAR CHACON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

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

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

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO MAX MUNCY

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, Max Muncy. Max discovered his love for baseball at an early age, long before he became a power hitter for the Los Angeles Dodgers. A graduate of Keller High School, Max went on to play for Baylor University, where he earned All-Big 12 honors before being drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 2012. After several seasons moving between the majors and minors, Max was released in 2017, a moment he could have viewed as the end of his career in professional baseball. But, he refused to give up. Returning home to Keller, he got back to work on a field he knew well, back at Keller High School.

One year later the Los Angeles Dodgers came calling and gave Max a second chance in the MLB. Today, Max is a three-time World Series Champion, earning his most recent title in 2025.

We congratulate Max on his third World Series title, and celebrate his remarkable and inspiring journey from Keller to the big leagues.

RECOGNIZING THE HARRISBURG HAVOC WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize members of the Harrisburg Havoc Women's Tackle Football Team for their participation in the 2026 Women's Football Alliance (WFA) All-American Bowl.

On July 25, 2026, the WFA hosted the All-American Bowl at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio, where the best of the League's National Conference and American Conference faced off during the WFA "Championship Weekend." Several members of the Havoc were selected to participate in this historic event to represent Pennsylvania on the National stage. Four Havoc players were selected to earn first-team honors: Leah Hutchinson, Kaeli Thomas, Ashley Robinson, and Elizabeth Smith (who is unable to participate due to her attendance at United States Army Basic Training). Earning second-team honors from the Havoc are Angela Deamer, Patience Waters, Samantha Moyer, Bri Swanson, Melissa Fawcett, and Millie Mosley.

In addition to the players, Harrisburg Havoc Coach DeQuan Ware also was selected for the WFA All-Pro Team, where he worked alongside coaches from across the United States while proudly representing the Harrisburg Havoc and Pennsylvania in the All-American Bowl.

The Havoc's selections to these prestigious positions showcase the dedication and commitment of these athletes on and off the field. These women have spent hours training, mentoring, competing, and serving as positive role

models for their fellow teammates and other young women hoping to play at their level.

Mr. Speaker, as the sport of women's tackle football continues to grow, I am proud that the 10th Congressional District is home to exceptional athletes who inspire others with their dedication, work ethic, and performance. I am honored to recognize the Harrisburg Havoc Football Team for their valiant efforts and performance in the All-American Bowl and look forward to their future successes.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY OF ZION JERGE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Zion Jerge for his heroic acts of bravery. When Zion was faced with a life-threatening situation, he acted quickly and decisively to courageously rescue a father and son from drowning, saving their lives. He demonstrates the strength and care that should inspire us all to act with care for our neighbors and community.

As a Cadet at the Cal Poly Maritime Academy, Zion exemplifies qualities of perseverance, leadership, and readiness, which align with the Academy's values, and which are needed for success in the Maritime industry. I am confident that Zion will carry these qualities forward as he continues his journey and distinguished career in the Maritime industry.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, please accept my sincere gratitude for his brave and honorable service as well as my best wishes for the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAY GAESSER

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ray Gaesser of Corning, Iowa, who passed away tragically in a farm accident on September 5, 2026, at the age of 73. His loss is felt by those who loved him, and Iowa mourns alongside the entire Gaesser family.

Ray grew up on a small farm in southern Indiana, where he began farming at just 15 years old, taking over the family operation after the death of his father. In 1977, he and his wife, Elaine, began farming near Corning with a few hundred acres, and over the decades they built it into a family operation of more than 5,000 acres.

Ray was a devoted family man, a trusted friend, and a leading voice for Iowa agriculture. He believed farming was a privilege, and he treated the land as something to be cared for, strengthened, and handed down to the next generation to carry on Iowa's oldest tradition.

Ray's impact on Iowa agriculture reached far beyond his own fields. He was president of the Iowa Soybean Association in 2007 and, in