

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

2014, became president of the American Soybean Association, carrying the priorities of Iowa's farmers on trade missions around the world. He co-founded Solutions from the Land and led the Iowa Conservative Energy Forum, championing conservation and homegrown energy. His service extended beyond agriculture as well. He was appointed to the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission in 2022 and chaired it until this past July. Ray often said that "when we work together, we all benefit." He lived by that motto, and Iowa agriculture is stronger because of it.

I had the privilege of calling Ray a close friend, and time and again I saw that commitment up close. Whenever I had a question about agriculture, Ray was my first call. He had a lifetime of knowledge and never hesitated to share it. If I needed his counsel, Ray would drop what he was doing, drive to Des Moines, sit down with me, and talk through how we could deliver for Iowa's farmers. That is one of the things I will miss most about him.

Ray and Elaine were in my corner from the very beginning, but more importantly, they were always in Iowa's corner. From his glass-topped silo looking over his slice of Heaven on the Gaesser farm, to leading delegations around the world, Ray brought an unmatched knowledge of agriculture and a genuine friendship wherever he went. Oftentimes, just his smile and a good farm story were enough to forge a new partnership, build trust in Iowa, and strengthen a legacy of service he spent a lifetime creating.

Ray leaves behind his wife, Elaine; their children, Chris and Jennifer; and a legacy that will endure in the land he cared for and the farmers he spent his life fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Ray Gaesser: a devoted farmer, a national voice for American agriculture, and a faithful friend to all who worked the land.

HONORING FAITH, HOPE & LOVE WORSHIP CENTER

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Faith, Hope & Love Worship Center, a church with deep spiritual roots in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Established in 1985 under the leadership of Bishop Dwight D. Pate, the ministry grew in strength and fellowship. In July 1989, Ronald E. Hardy, Sr. was installed as pastor of what was then known as Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship, beginning a new chapter of leadership and vision within the congregation.

In 2002, God spoke to Bishop Dwight D. Pate to release Faith, Hope & Love to Pastor Ronald Hardy, Sr., prompting a formal celebration and prophetic proclamation of 2002 as 'The Year of the Double.' During a revival later that year, God spoke through a prophet, declaring that an extended work was required. God instructed Pastor Hardy to establish a second location for the ministry in Baton Rouge, sharing that there was a harvest of family, friends, and others who needed to be reached. Following divine direction, Pastor Hardy was led to a building on Wooddale Boulevard.

On December 25, 2002—Christmas Day—Faith, Hope & Love of Baton Rouge opened, marking a historic expansion of the ministry. Faith, Hope & Love Fellowship became Faith, Hope and Love Worship Center: one church in two locations. Soon afterwards, land was purchased and a new church facility was built on Choctaw Drive. With this expansion, the ministry embraced its mission to reach families and communities across both cities with a message of hope, faith, and transformational love.

Mr. Speaker, Faith, Hope & Love Worship Center is a multifaceted church dedicated to bringing restoration to the lives of God's people. Its ministry is grounded in introducing individuals to Christ and teaching them to live the abundant life through the Word of God. As Faith, Hope & Love continues to grow and fulfill its mission, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable church for its decades of service, spiritual leadership, and dedication to strengthening communities in both St. Francisville and Baton Rouge.

RECOGNIZING KEREN CERVANTES RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

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

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

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albany Technical College of Albany, Georgia, on the occasion of its 65th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, in 1961 this institution opened its doors as the Monroe Area Vocational Technical School with 175 students. One hundred seventy-five. In a segregated South Georgia, in a year when very few people in authority believed that the children of sharecroppers and mill hands and domestic workers needed anything more than a strong back, somebody in Albany, Georgia, decided otherwise.

The Albany Area Vocational-Technical School followed shortly after, and in 1972 the

two schools were joined together at the campus the college occupies today. In July of 1988, with the formation of what is now the Technical College System of Georgia, the school became Albany Technical Institute and was charged with serving a seven-county region—Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Dougherty, Lee, Randolph, and Terrell—some of the most rural and most economically challenged counties in the United States of America. And on July 6, 2000, having met the standard set by the General Assembly in House Bill 1187 to award the associate degree, Albany Technical Institute became Albany Technical College.

Mr. Speaker, 65 years is a long time to keep a promise. It has been kept by every person who ever led this institution by President Howard Water, by President Wayne Israel, by President Nathaniel Cross, by President Alvin Anderson, by President Dr. Anthony O. Parker, and today by Dr. Emmett L. Griswold—and by every instructor who ever stood in a shop with a clipboard and refused to let a student quit.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot tell the story of this college without telling the story of two men.

Dr. Anthony O. Parker became the fifth president of Albany Technical College in 1995, arriving in a community still digging itself out from the great flood of 1994, and he led the rebuilding. He stayed for 27 years—the longest-serving president in the history of the college and the longest-serving president in the entire Technical College System of Georgia. He built the enrollment. He built the buildings. He built partnerships with the Marine Corps Logistics Base and with industry across this region. He was among the first technical college presidents in Georgia to raise a million dollars in private money for his campus. And he never stopped fighting for adult learners—for the grown man and the grown woman who walked in for a GED and walked out with a career.

Mr. Speaker, in November of 2011, I stood on that campus as Albany Tech dedicated its new library and media center in Dr. Parker's honor. I read a tribute to him into this very Record that day, and I presented him a flag that had flown over this Capitol in his name. He told us then why that building meant what it meant to him: his mother had been a librarian, and as a boy he was made to stop at the county library and study on his way home before he was ever allowed to go outside and play. He said that at the time he did not appreciate it. He said that he had come to appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of June 6, 2022, Dr. Anthony Parker passed away. He was 69 years old. He did not retire. He did not slow down. He had plans on the books for the next 5 years. He simply did not come to work one morning, and Southwest Georgia has not stopped missing him since.

Here, Mr. Speaker, is the part of this story that I want the House to hear.

In 2004, a man named Emmett Griswold walked through the front door of Albany Technical College to teach criminal justice. He had come out of law enforcement and corrections—a probation and parole officer for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, a deputy warden for the Georgia Department of Corrections—a man whose working life had been spent among people the world had already given up on. He was a native of Milledgeville who had made Albany his home.