

they have watched over our community, protecting families, homes, and businesses. Since 1925, generations of firefighters have answered the call to serve. Their service has helped to keep North Texas safe for a century.

Their legacy continues to inspire the next generation, as over 1,100 recruits signed up to take the department's entrance exam. This response to the open call for new recruits shows how many lives have been inspired to pursue a career in public service.

The Irving Fire Department's commitment to serving our community ensures that our families can feel safe when it matters most. We are grateful for their dedicated service over the past 100 years, and know they will continue to protect our community for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING DIEGO ABREU

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

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

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

HONORING EDNA MAJOR JONES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Edna Major Jones, a United States Air Force Veteran.

Edna Major was born on October 11, 1932, in South Carolina to the late Solomon and Alma Major of Charleston, South Carolina, received her early education at Bonds Wilson High School in North Charleston, graduating in 1950, and furthered her education by earning a Business Administration Diploma from Immaculate Conception Business School in Charleston, South Carolina. She honorably served in the United States Air Force and was discharged with distinction in 1955, embodying dedication and patriotism to our country.

Upon moving to New York City, Edna embarked on a remarkable career, serving as a secretary to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Director of the United States Public Relations, from 1956 to 1958, and later working as a Clerk Stenographer at Downstate Medical Center from 1964 to 1968. Edna was a woman of grace, class, and immense talent,

known for her exceptional abilities as a jazz and opera singer. She met and married recording artist Johnnie Jones, and from this union, they welcomed their beloved son, Dwayne Jones. In 1968, she relocated to Dade County, Florida, where she continued her education, earning credentials as a Business Administration Specialist and later an associate degree from Miami Dade College in 1971.

Mrs. Jones dedicated years of service to the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners as a Library Aide and later co-founded JJ's Lawn Maintenance & Landscaping with her husband, serving as the Secretary and Bookkeeper. Mrs. Jones was a devoted member of The Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St. Mary in Miami, Florida, where she served faithfully as a church secretary and choir member until her health no longer permitted her participation.

I am honored to recognize the life of Edna Major Jones, cherishing the impact she made on her community, her family, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

HONORING NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Jerusalem Baptist Church, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Matthew 16:18 says 'upon this rock I will build my church, and the very gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' In the June of 1951, Reverend Luke D. Dummons was given a Divine call to build a place of worship. Reverend Dummons was walking in his garden in the cool of the evening when God spoke to him from Heaven and told him to build Him a Church that His people would know the Truth. In September the same year Reverend Dummons stepped out on faith as Abraham did. He took his last \$50.00 and placed it on a House for God. On the 3rd Sunday in October 1952, the Church was dedicated to God by the Late Reverend Silas Alpine and the Late Reverend Charley Thomas.

The church was given the name New Jerusalem Baptist Church No. 2 and began with its first two members, Brother Clyde Edwards, Deacon, and Sister Inez Warner, Secretary. Since 1951 the church has grown both spiritually and physically. During the past 70 years, the church has been under the leadership of eleven pastors. Our present pastor is Reverend Robert Mayes.

Under the leadership of Reverend Myles Reed, the name of the church was formally changed to New Jerusalem Faith Fellowship on September 19, 1990. The church has licensed and ordained seven ministers, two of whom are now pastors. Five Missionaries have also been ordained from the church. New Jerusalem was blessed to have had an anointed Prophetess for 36 years before God called her home to rest. Mother Celane D. Dummons would often give us a Word from the Lord.

Despite repeated challenges, the church has endured, and efforts to undermine it have been unsuccessful. Because New Jerusalem

was built on Jesus the Solid Rock, and He said in His Word that even the 'gates of hell shall not prevail against His church.' This church believes and teaches the Full Gospel of Christ. New Jerusalem is a church committed to continual prayer and supplication in the Spirit and affirms the power of the sincere and fervent prayers of the righteous. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Jerusalem for its commitment to sharing the word of God.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ANGIE MANRIQUEZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Angie Manriquez. Since 1999, Angie has dedicated her time and energy to improving the well-being of neglected and stray animals in Dallas. In 2008, she established Angie's Friends, a nonprofit focused on providing food, medical care, and adoptions for animals in need. Her efforts have connected countless dogs and cats with new homes.

Often called "The Fairy Dogmother of Dallas," Angie is known for her commitment to long-term solutions that make a lasting impact. Today, Angie's Friends continues its mission through volunteer support and community partnerships. I thank Angie and her team for continuing to serve our community.

RECOGNIZING PIERRE CHAGNON AS THE 2026 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN D. HAMILTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pierre Chagnon of Chautauqua County as the 2026 recipient of the John D. Hamilton Community Service Award. This prestigious award honors individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service have strengthened our communities.

For more than four decades, Pierre has dedicated himself to serving the people of Chautauqua County. Through his leadership with numerous civic, educational, and community organizations, he has helped advance economic development, support youth programs, and strengthen the institutions that make our communities thrive.

Pierre's commitment to service extends beyond his professional career with SKF. He has served as a board member, chair, and leader of organizations throughout the region, while also coaching youth athletics, supporting his parish, and mentoring young people. His willingness to step forward and help others has left an impact on generations of residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Pierre Chagnon for receiving the 2026 John D. Hamilton Community Service Award. His lifetime of service and dedication to Chautauqua County represents the very best of

community leadership and the enduring spirit of volunteerism.

RECOGNIZING BRECKLYNN
SOLOMON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

Brecklynn 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 Brecklynn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Brecklynn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Excel Academy and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF KIM JONES LANG

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Miami-Dade County Police Officer Kim Jones Lang.

Kim Jones was born on October 16, 1958, in Miami, Florida, as the beloved firstborn child of Nina Jo Clark Jones and Thomas Jones, Jr. Raised in a home filled with faith, devotion, and love, Kim embodied the strong Christian values instilled in her by her family, living a life of kindness, integrity, and unwavering dedication to serving others.

In matters of the heart, Officer Lang was blessed to share 43 years of marriage with her devoted husband, Reverend Bernard Lang, with whom she built a life rooted in love and faith. Their union was blessed with two cherished sons, Justin and Julian, whom she nurtured with boundless love, wisdom, and encouragement. Officer Lang dedicated her professional career to public service, joining the Miami-Dade Police Department, where she served with honor, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to protecting the citizens of Miami-Dade County, ultimately retiring in 2012 after an esteemed career.

Officer Lang's faith was the foundation of her life, having first joined the Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church before continuing her faithful service at New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where she stood beside her husband in his pastoral leadership. Officer Lang will always be remembered as a beacon of love, warmth, and generosity, whose presence brightened the lives of all who knew her. Kim's compassion extended beyond her family to the broader community, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Kim Jones Lang leaves a rich legacy in the hearts and minds of her devoted husband, Bernard Lang, sons, Justin Lang and Julian Lang, sisters, Pamela Jones, Maria Jones, Chantel Jones-Whyte, and brother, Thomas Chauncey Jones, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of Kim Jones Lang as an expression of my deepest sympathy and respect for a life well-lived and a soul well-loved.

HONORING PHILADELPHIA
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Philadelphia-Christian Ministries, founded in July 2008 as New Philadelphia Full Gospel Baptist Church by Bishop C L Shepherd, Sr. and Co-Pastor Paula Shepherd. In 2015, it adopted its current name to reflect its mission of Spirit-led worship and service. The church is known for fostering a welcoming environment centered on the Holy Spirit and providing transformative experiences for its members.

Since the beginning of this anointed vision, the ministry has grown substantially—from four members to more than four hundred. Philadelphia Christian Ministries has purchased 4.05 acres at the corner of Hanks and Landis Drive for its future location and expanded its transportation ministry with two vans and a twenty-five-passenger bus. The Deacon, Deaconess, Music, and Usher Ministries have flourished with Holy Ghost-filled workers dedicated to the service of God. The development of the Sunday School and Creative Worship Ministry—including mime, dance, and drama presentations—has encouraged youth to embrace meaningful activities rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Men's and Women's ministries offer instruction and Bible study that nurture spiritual development of the whole person.

The ministry also established the Minister Charles Gunter Annual Guardian Angel Scholarship Award for high school seniors who demonstrate excellence and service both educationally and spiritually while actively participating in the church. Bishop and Co-Pastor Shepherd later founded the Philadelphia Foundation, a nonprofit organization designed to meet community needs beyond the church walls. Through the foundation, the ministry launched several impactful programs, including Joseph's Closet, which provides clothing and household items to the homeless and underprivileged, and Abigail's Hope, which supports abused women and children with essential resources.

Mr. Speaker, Philadelphia Christian Ministries shows its commitment to service through outreach programs like Homeless Programs, which offer gifts, meals, and emergency help to families in East Baton Rouge Parish. Additional programs include job placement, mental health referrals, and Christian counseling. The Fan Giveaway Program helps elderly residents during summer, and the Word Giveaway Program distributes Bibles to promote spiritual growth. I urge colleagues to

recognize this ministry's dedicated work and wish its leadership continued success.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO HEATHER TORRES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Heather Torres. Every Fall, Heather transforms porches across North Texas and beyond into festive autumn displays. Heather started decorating her own porch in 2013, a fun hobby that quickly grew into something more. In 2020, she launched Porch Pumpkins, hoping to decorate porches for friends and family, but through word of mouth, she ended up delivering and designing for over 250 homes.

After her first year, Heather expanded her festive designs to Houston, and this year expanded to Austin. Her creations have become a staple across our Noah Texas communities. This past year they had their biggest season yet.

From a personal passion for pumpkins, to a thriving small business that spreads joy throughout North Texas, we enjoy watching Heather's success glow each year. I thank Heather for bringing fall cheer across North Texas, one pumpkin at a time.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
CHRISTOPHER MAYNARD

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Christopher Maynard, President of Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, and to honor his distinguished career in higher education and his continued commitment to expanding opportunities for students and communities.

Dr. Maynard became TAMU's seventh president in October 2025, bringing decades of experience in higher education, including leadership positions at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Sam Houston State University, and the University of North Alabama.

Since taking the helm at TAMU, Dr. Maynard has overseen a historic year for the university. For the first time in its history, TAMU surpassed 9,000 students. The university also celebrated its highest number of graduates ever, with 10 percent more students graduating than at any previous point in its history.

Under his leadership, TAMU successfully reaffirmed its accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, an important recognition of the university's commitment to academic quality and student success.

Dr. Maynard has also helped secure a historic \$38 million unrestricted gift from Yield Giving, which will expand merit-based scholarships and help create greater educational opportunities for deserving students.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Maynard's leadership comes at an important time for TAMU and for