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

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. HARCOURT IRVIN CLARK,
SR.**

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 the late Mr. Harcourt Irvin Clark, Sr., a trailblazer, patriot, loving husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Mr. Clark was born on December 23, 1934, to the late Zena Marie Sawyer-Clark and Irvin Harcourt "Christmas" Clark in Coconut Grove, Florida. He was educated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Mr. Clark worked tirelessly to make a difference in the community he loved. He became the first African-American police officer in the city of Coral Gables, Florida. Determined to break more barriers, he went on to serve as Chief of Police for the University of Miami Police Department, Director of Campus Safety for Florida International University, and as the first Administrative Director for the Miami-Dade County Equal Opportunity Program Social Service Agency which is now the Community Action Agency of Miami-Dade County.

He later shared his expertise and experiences as a professor of criminal justice at Florida International University. Mr. Clark capped his public service journey as a librarian in the city of North Miami and went on to pursue his entrepreneurial spirit by opening "The Hickory Pit Barbeque Restaurant."

Before his stellar career in law enforcement Mr. Clark dutifully served his country as a soldier in the United States Army. After his tour of duty, he completed his college studies earning a Bachelor's Degree, two Master's Degrees and various certifications. He fulfilled his dream of becoming a member of the famed Marching 100, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's (FAMU) marching band. While at FAMU he also met Alice Martha Cabrera who would become the love of his life and his wife of 44 years before her death.

Mr. Clark was a devout Christian and lifelong member of the Christ Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove. He was also a Life Member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated and a member of The Free and Accepted Masonic Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliated.

Please join me in honoring the late Mr. Harcourt Irvin Clark, Sr., who lived a life of purpose, commitment and service his family, his friends, and to our community.

**HONORING ST. JAMES 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 the St. James Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, located at 1105 North 44th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The St. James Baptist Church was organized in 1942 under the leadership of the late Rev. James Smith, originally located on Old Hammond Highway. On December 22, 1952, the congregation relocated to its present address under the guidance of the late Rev. Dell Parker, who faithfully served for 23 years.

Throughout its history, St. James Baptist Church has been blessed with visionary leaders committed to fostering spiritual growth, community engagement, and the expansion of ministry. Under Rev. Parker, the church underwent a major restoration from a wooden structure to a block building, thanks to the efforts of Deacon Joe Profit and Bro. Isaiah Tolliver. The church has benefited from the dedication and generosity of many, including Rev. Walter Collins, who contributed both time and resources.

In 1975, Rev. Jesse Lafayette, Sr., began his tenure as pastor, guiding the congregation through remarkable growth and the formation of numerous auxiliaries, such as the Deacon and Deaconess Board, Board of Christian Education, Pastor's Aide Committee, and several choirs and ministries. Under his leadership, the church expanded its outreach with the Youth Choir, Community Male Chorus, Home Mission, Bible Study, and the SJBC Basketball Team.

A milestone was reached in 1997 with the construction of an educational facility and expanded parking, made possible by the unified efforts of the church family and God's guidance. The legacy of Rev. Lafayette continues to inspire the congregation, even after his passing in 1998, as the church carried on its mission through the leadership of Rev. Ernie Knighten, Minister Brian Harris, Rev. Warren Lebrance, and eventually Rev. Robert E. Smith, whose tenure saw further growth in membership and the establishment of new organizations including the SJBC Youth Drill Team and Liturgical Dance Group.

In recent years, St. James Baptist Church has expanded its facilities and embraced new ways to connect, such as live streaming services on Facebook. The ministerial team has grown, welcoming Rev. Jennie Warren and Minister Darnell Chatman. Despite the loss of beloved Pastor Dr. Robert E. Smith in June 2023, the church remains steadfast in its faith and commitment.

On March 17, 2024, Pastor J.L. Franklin was called to lead St. James Baptist Church into a new era of ministry. His dedication and enthusiasm have ignited renewed hope, and the congregation is confident that his leadership will continue to build upon the strong foundation and heritage of the church. St. James Baptist Church remains unwavering in its proclamation of God's love and forgiveness, providing a place of faith and service for all who seek Him.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating St. James Baptist Church,

Pastor J.L. Franklin, and the devoted congregation for their enduring legacy, transformative service, and steadfast commitment to the Baton Rouge community. As we strive to reach new milestones, we are inspired by the scripture, "for the people had a mind to work," and look forward to continued growth in the Kingdom of God.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO METHODIST HEALTH SYS-
TEM MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY
UNIT**

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, the Methodist Health System Mobile Mammography Unit, which has been across North Texas, bringing breast cancer screenings directly to our communities. They partner with local schools, businesses, community centers, churches, and clinics, making it more convenient for women to access the care they need, bringing care options directly to patients.

Tools like the Mobile Mammography Unit help ensure that more women get screened and can catch any issues early, early detection can save lives. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month and always, we thank them for going the extra mile to keep North Texas healthy.

**RECOGNIZING MARY ANNA
SPRENGELER**

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

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

It is my honor to congratulate Mary Anna Sprengeler on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MS. FRAN ALLEGRA

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 use today to recognize Ms. Fran Allegra, leader of the program, "Our Kids."

Under Ms. Allegra's leadership, "Our Kids," has distinguished itself as a leader in the child welfare field. Ms. Allegra has also built a strong team of dedicated professionals who work hard to support our community's most vulnerable kids and their families. She has also brought together a cohesive network of local non-profit organizations committed to providing quality services.

Ms. Allegra's commitment has resulted in Our Kids receiving several prestigious recognitions, from national organizations, which include Computerworld, Mobile Enterprise Magazine and the Congressional Coalition on Adoptions, and positioned Our Kids as an industry leader and innovator for bringing cutting-edge, new technologies to field-based, direct care staff and pioneering a new business model for social services nationwide.

Please join me in honoring Ms. Fran Allegra for her commitment to our children and their families and for her dedication to our community.

**HONORING NEW BEGINNING
BAPTIST CHURCH**

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great church in my district, New Beginning Baptist Church, located at 7815 White Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Established in 2002, the church traces its roots to the Weller Avenue Baptist Church, originally pastored by Rev. Joel Porter and under the supervision of the Southern Baptist Convention. After Rev. Porter's tenure, the congregation became Jefferson Missionary Baptist Church at Mohican, but faced challenges regarding pastoral leadership and the church's future. In May 2002, Rev. Donald Hunter, Sr. was elected pastor, beginning a new era of ministry and vision.

Faced with a pivotal decision, Pastor Hunter and the congregation chose to move forward independently, relocating to the T.J. Jemison Baptist Center in September 2002. Shortly thereafter, the church adopted its new name, New Beginning Baptist Church, and joined the Louisiana State Baptist Convention, gaining sovereign authority over its mission and future. Pastor Hunter introduced a vision that included seven ministries: Outreach, Children's, Women's, Senior's, Single's, Youth, and Men's Ministries, each with designated leadership and a Board of Christian Education to support their work throughout the year.

The church quickly became active in outreach efforts, collaborating with the Baptist Center to provide mid-week services and free lunches for students and the local community. In August 2005, God blessed New Beginning Baptist Church with the purchase of its own building and 3.5 acres on White Street. Dedicated members came together to refurbish the property, adding new bathrooms, bricks, signage, windows, choir robes, pews, and A/C units over the following years. Pastor Hunter organized a Building Committee in 2008, and by 2009, the church celebrated the completion of a new facility with classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen, and more.

New Beginning Baptist Church is also a key participant in the Zion City Revitalization

Project, working to improve the neighborhood by clearing abandoned properties and planting trees. This initiative aims to reduce crime and unemployment and expand educational and economic opportunities for local residents. The church remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the Baton Rouge community, preaching and teaching the Gospel, and following the leadership of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Its membership continues to grow, and it is the prayer of Pastor Hunter and the congregation that God's blessings will guide them in their ongoing ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating New Beginning Baptist Church, Pastor Donald Hunter, and the dedicated congregation for more than two decades of transformative service and leadership in Baton Rouge.

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO GRAPEVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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, the Grapevine Police Department, as they have protected our North Texas Community since 1907. The Department has grown right alongside the city, expanding the Department to 219 employees, which includes 110 sworn officers.

The Grapevine Police "star" patch was added to the uniform in 1963 and contains the phrase "Sine Cera" or "Sincerely Yours, With Honesty." A symbol that represents the dedication that these men and women have to the city and their fellow officers.

Whether responding to emergencies, engaging with families at community events, or hosting a fun Trunk or Treat for a night of safe fun for local kids, the Grapevine Police Department continues to go above and beyond for the people they serve. We thank them every day for keeping our North Texas community safe.

**RECOGNIZING JARETSSY
SANDOVAL-PEREZ**

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez on achieving the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

**HONORING DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
(DASH)**

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH), of Miami, Florida, on being ranked by U.S. News and World Report 16th among the top 100 schools, out of 27 thousand high schools in the United States circa 2012. Dash was also ranked as the number two magnet school in the country and the number one high school in Florida.

As an advocate of children and an educator, I applaud Design and Architecture Senior High. The school's accomplishments are worthy of note and praise for its students, faculty and staff.

Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) was established and accredited in 1990. Located in the heart of the Miami Design District, DASH offers a professional atmosphere driven by a dedicated and respected faculty and staff.

The vision of DASH is to educate talented students in preparation for college and a career in the design world. DASH helps them to become confident and innovative thinkers through interdisciplinary challenges in arts/design.

The student population reflects the demographics of our diverse community: Black, Hispanic, White, Asian and other ethnicities and nationalities. The highly qualified faculty is composed of certified teachers, contracted design professionals and college adjunct professors.

The combination of high academic standards and an exceptional design program allows DASH students to compete effectively for college admissions and scholarships.

Please join me in congratulating Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH), on its accomplishments and unwavering commitment to its students and the community.

**HONORING GREATER ST. JOHN
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 Greater St. John Baptist Church, located at 307 E. Washington Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a cornerstone of faith in East Baton Rouge Parish since its founding in 1917.

Organized by approximately twenty baptized believers and led by the late Reverend Gideon T. Carter, the church began humbly in a small cottage on Howard Street, paying just three dollars per month in rent. By 1919, the congregation had moved to its current site, thanks to the dedication and financial support of Reverend Carter, and soon erected a permanent