floods struck the Texas Hill Country over the July 4th weekend in 2025, the Fort Worth Fire Department and the Fort Worth Police Department didn't hesitate to answer the call for help. Organizing a large-scale donation drive across 45 fire and police stations, they mobilized the community to collect needed supplies for flood victims.

For days, these dedicated teams gathered, sorted, and packaged thousands of donated goods, going above and beyond to ensure only the most requested and useful items made it to the families most in need. Their coordination, care, and sense of duty during this difficult time speak volumes about their commitment to service.

I thank the Fort Worth Fire Department and the Fort Worth Police for stepping up in a time of need. Their actions reflect the very best of public service. I thank them for all they do for our North Texas community, and now, for those in the Hill Country too.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JOHN BANNER OF THE WHITE SETTLEMENT POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL VALOR

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant John Banner of the White Settlement Police Department for receiving the State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Valor from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

This distinguished honor recognizes Sergeant Banner's courage, professionalism, and dedication to protecting the community. His actions represent the highest standards of service demonstrated by law enforcement officers across Texas, and our Nation.

Sergeant Banner displayed extraordinary bravery while responding to a suspicious vehicle call that quickly escalated into a dangerous situation. Through his calm approach and efforts to de-escalate the encounter, Sergeant Banner was able to work alongside fellow officers to safely resolve the incident and take the suspect into custody.

The investigation later revealed that the suspect had traveled across state lines with plans to harm estranged relatives and carry out an attack on a local church. Without question, Sergeant Banner's unwavering comrnitment to serve and protect a potentially devastating tragedy was prevented.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Sergeant John Banner and commend him, along with the entire White Settlement Police Department, for their continued bravery, dedication, and commitment to protecting and serving our community.

RECOGNIZING ISABELLA QUIROZ GARCIA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

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

RECOGNIZING NICK AND CHERYL DEAN, AUGUST 2026 CO-CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Nick and Cheryl Dean, residents of Encinitas, as my Co-Constituents of the Month for August 2026.

For more than a decade, Nick and Cheryl have used the power of film to bring the wonders of the ocean, and the dangers facing it, into homes around the world. Their dedication took them across four continents over six years to document the North Atlantic right whale, a species with fewer than 400 animals left on Earth.

Nick's background as a research scientist and Cheryl's gift for communicating science to the public have made them uniquely effective storytellers and advocates. Their foundation's work protecting the right whale and defending critical conservation laws reflects a deep commitment to our planet's future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Nick and Cheryl Dean for their extraordinary contributions to ocean conservation and environmental storytelling.

HONORING ST. MARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Mary Baptist Church, a fixture in Baton Rouge since 1929 and a congregation whose nearly century-long history has been defined not simply by growth, but by a steadfast commitment to showing up for Baton Rouge's families and neighborhoods whenever practical help was needed.

St. Mary Baptist Church began humbly, with a small group of believers worshiping together in a wood-framed cottage, and built its first sanctuary the very next year. From that modest beginning, the congregation grew into a major neighborhood institution, expanding its campus over the decades to meet the needs of an ever-growing congregation and community. Yet what has always distinguished St. Mary Baptist Church is not merely its physical growth, but the depth of its commitment to living out its faith through service. Today, that legacy continues under the leadership of its current pastor, Reverend Conway Knighton, who carries forward the congregation's long tradition of faith and service to the Baton Rouge community.

For nearly 100 years, St. Mary Baptist Church has served as far more than a place of Sunday worship. It has been, and continues to be, an anchor of the Baton Rouge faith community, a place where generations of families have come to deepen their walk with God, to find comfort in times of hardship, and to be reminded that faith is best expressed through action. Among the church's most lasting contributions are its prison ministry, which carries the message of hope and redemption to those who are incarcerated, and its nursing-home outreach, which ensures that Baton Rouge's elderly residents are not forgotten and continue to feel the love and presence of their faith community even when they can no longer attend service themselves. In 2004, the church established its free Clothes Closet, providing clothing and shoes to local residents in need, a ministry that reflects St. Mary's understanding that caring for the body is inseparable from caring for the soul.

St. Mary Baptist Church has also taken an active role in addressing the broader challenges facing Baton Rouge, including through its partnership with Together Baton Rouge, standing alongside other congregations and community organizations to advocate for the wellbeing of the city's families and neighborhoods. In doing so, St. Mary has exemplified the vital role that houses of worship play within the broader faith community: not only nurturing the spiritual lives of their own members, but extending that faith outward, becoming trusted partners in the work of building a stronger, more compassionate community for all of Baton Rouge.

Through prison ministry, nursing-home outreach, the Clothes Closet, and its continued partnership in community advocacy, St. Mary Baptist Church has shown, generation after generation, that faith and service are inseparable. It stands today as a testament to what a congregation rooted in scripture and driven by compassion can mean to a city, and it continues to be a beacon of hope, comfort, and practical support for all who call Baton Rouge home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Mary Baptist Church, Reverend Conway Knighton, and the congregation for nearly a century of unwavering faith and devoted service to the Baton Rouge community. May St. Mary Baptist Church continue to be a light of hope and a hand of help for many generations to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CORPORAL LEE HIGGINBOTHAM

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Corporal Lee Higginbotham. He is an Army Veteran with over 13 years of service who now serves as a corporal with the Dallas Veterans Affairs Police Department.

He was in the right place at the right time, stopping to fuel up his car, when he noticed a small crowd gathered and quickly realized a child was in distress. Without hesitation, he jumped into action, performing the Heimlich maneuver and ultimately saving the life of a choking 2-year-old.

His heroic actions are a powerful reminder of the courage, training, and compassion of the officers who protect our community every day. I thank Corporal Higginbotham not only for his quick thinking and bravery in this moment, but for his years of military service and his continued dedication to keeping North Texas safe.

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION AND REOPENING OF AZLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the newly constructed Azle Junior High School in Azle, Texas.

The completion of this state-of-the-art campus marks an important milestone for the Azle Independent School District and the entire Azle community. Designed to serve future generations of students, the new junior high school reflects the district's unwavering commitment to providing a safe, innovative, and enriching learning environment where students can thrive.

The new Azle Junior High School represents a new era of educational opportunity for the students of Azle. This exceptional campus will empower young Texans to develop the knowledge, skills, and character needed to succeed both in the classroom and beyond. Through the dedication of district leadership, educators, staff, parents, and community members, the school will foster academic excellence, encourage personal growth, and prepare students to become the next generation of leaders, innovators, and engaged citizens.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the opening of the new Azle Junior High School and commend everyone whose hard work and commitment made this achievement possible. This remarkable new campus will provide generations of students with the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Azle Independent School District as it celebrates this exciting milestone, and I wish its students, faculty, and staff continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING GUSTAVO PRADO TORRES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

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

RECOGNIZING MICHAELLE JINNETTE, JULY 2026 CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Michaelle Jinnette, a resident of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for July 2026.

When Michaelle's son Tristan was diagnosed with an ultra-rare genetic condition, she and her husband, Kevin, refused to accept that there was nothing to be done. Instead, they founded the Cure KCNH1 Foundation and set out to build related scientific research and inspire hope that did not yet exist for families like theirs.

Michaelle's determination has connected families across the globe and helped launch new research into a disorder shared by fewer than 100 children worldwide. She has shown that one parent's love, paired with tireless resolve, can move the frontiers of medicine forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michaelle Jinnette, and in thanking her for the strength, compassion, and leadership she brings to families facing rare disease everywhere.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO MARK KOCHALKA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Mark Kochalka. He has dedicated his life to service, with more than 25 years of distinguished service in the United States Navy. Mark new as a P–3C instructor pilot and Mission Commander, deploying multiple times to the Middle East. During his final tour in Iraq and Afghanistan, he led a special forces drone unit. His leadership earned recognition from both his peers and superiors.

Today, Mark continues to serve North Texas in his role at Boeing; his work ensures that our service members have the technology they need to complete their missions and return home safely. Outside of work, he is a devoted husband, father, and active community member in Midway Hills.

I thank Mark for his lifelong commitment to duty, leadership, and commitment to making North Texas stronger.

HONORING THE FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN ON THEIR PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION FROM THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for achieving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, a prestigious distinction representing the highest standards of excellence for museums across the Nation.

This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and years of effort from the leadership, staff, volunteers, and community partners at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. The accreditation process is highly rigorous, with only a select few museums nationwide meeting the criteria necessary to receive this distinguished honor.

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden has been designated as a specialized museum for its outstanding work in preserving living plant collections, advancing conservation initiatives, and offering educational programs that foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world. In partnership with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden continues to support impactful research while providing opportunities for discovery and engagement throughout the community.

This achievement reflects the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's important role as both a cultural landmark and an educational resource for Fort Worth and beyond. President and CEO Patrick Newman, along with the entire Fort Worth Botanic Garden team, have helped cultivate an institution that protects natural resources, inspires future generations, and creates meaningful experiences for visitors from across the globe.

With this accreditation, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden joins the distinguished group of Fort Worth institutions in the cultural district, including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and the Sid Richardson Museum, which have each earned this esteemed recognition.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens on this incredible achievement.

RECOGNIZING HEYZEL PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

Heyzel 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 Heyzel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Heyzel's hard