

Raised just a few blocks from where I grew up in the proud, working class community of Pacoima, CA, ANTONIO “TONY” CÁRDENAS was born on March 31, 1963—the youngest of Andrés and María Cárdenas’ 11 children. And while TONY was a few years ahead of me, our stories followed similar paths.

TONY’s parents and my father immigrated to the San Fernando Valley from the Mexican state of Jalisco in search of a better life. We both attended Telfair Elementary School and, later, San Fernando High School. And when it came time for college, we both earned degrees in engineering.

Yet it is in part because of TONY that I left a promising career in engineering behind in order to serve our community. When TONY first set out to make a difference and run for State assembly in 1996, he took a chance on me as his campaign manager. I didn’t know the first thing about managing a campaign. But when TONY reached out, I knew his values. I knew who he was as a person. And I knew just how committed he was to our community and to making change.

All these years later, that has never changed. From his first election to the California State Assembly, to serving together on the Los Angeles City Council, to the halls of Congress, I have had a front row seat to TONY’s career in public service. I have seen him fight for justice for at-risk youth, lead the charge in our Nation’s clean energy transition, and advocate for better access to mental health care. Through it all, TONY has never shied away from a righteous fight.

But most of all, when I reflect on his public service I think about the path he has carved out for others to follow. TONY stepped up at a time when Latinos didn’t often see ourselves in positions of power. And through the power of his example, he has opened the door for others, including myself, to run for office. Entire generations of young, Latino leaders now see running for office and having a say in the decisions that affect our communities as the norm, not the exception. That is the trailblazing legacy of TONY CÁRDENAS.

I thank his wife Norma, his children Vanessa, Cristian, Andres, and Alina, and the entire Cárdenas family for sharing him with us for all these years.

And while next month, TONY will officially step away from his work in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am confident his service is not coming to an end. I look forward to continuing to fight alongside him for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEFF WIDEN

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Jeff Widen for his remarkable contributions to the preservation of public lands across Colorado and the American West. After

nearly 18 years with the Wilderness Society (TWS) in Colorado and a distinguished history of public lands advocacy throughout the Four Corners and California desert, I congratulate Jeff on his well-deserved retirement.

Jeff has been a steadfast friend, dedicated mentor, and trusted colleague to numerous Members of Congress, their staff, county commissioners, mayors, council members, conservation groups, and community advocates. His extraordinary ability to forge meaningful relationships with individuals across the political spectrum has made him an effective advocate for public lands conservation.

Throughout his tenure at TWS, Colorado celebrated numerous protected areas due in no small part to Jeff’s efforts, including the 20-year Thompson Divide Administrative Mineral Withdrawal, the designation of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, the passage of the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act, the designation of Browns Canyon National Monument, the establishment of chimney Rock National Monument, and the designation of wilderness in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Jeff’s influence extends far beyond Colorado. He played a crucial role in the designation of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, the protection of Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, and conservation efforts in the California desert. His advocacy also included reforms to the Federal oil and gas program and the permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A leader in drafting and introducing the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act—now part of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act—Jeff also contributed to the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act. His work with the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative led to the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act.

Before joining TWS, Jeff worked with the Sierra Club, the Colorado Environmental Coalition (now Conservation Colorado), and the Mineral Policy Center across the Four Corners. An avid climber, he also served on the board of the Access Fund for several years.

Jeff’s conservation legacy will be cherished across the American West, particularly in Colorado, by both locals and visitors for generations to come. Few individuals have made such significant contributions to conservation in the Centennial State. We are fortunate to have more wild, protected lands to pass on to future generations because of Jeff’s dedication. From traversing the headwaters of Hermosa Creek to paddling through Snaggletooth rapid on the Dolores River, I am grateful for the camaraderie we have shared over the years, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING SULLY LOCKER & MARKET

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Sully Locker & Market of Sully, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1946, Nelson Terpstra opened Sully Locker & Market as a local meat processor and storage facility. The Terpstra family owned and operated the locker through 2012, then sold it to another local family. In the spring of 2020, Rick and Cheryl Nikkel purchased the company. The Nikkels aimed to expand the business while honoring its more than 70-year legacy in Sully, where Cheryl grew up relying on the Sully Locker to store and process her family’s livestock.

Today, Sully Locker & Market processes over 850 cattle annually and manages every step of the process, from butchering and packaging to storing and shipping fresh cuts of meat nationwide. The business is also a full-service meat retail store, offering groceries, home decor gifts, and Cheryl’s homemade soups and dips that are prepared on-site. In April 2023, the Nikkels expanded by opening the Sully Meat Market in Ankeny, IA. The market focuses on retail, offering a variety of cuts of meat from steaks to deli meat, as well as locally raised bison from Iowa Prairie Bison and local baked goods from La Rose Marie Bakery of Sully. Beyond managing Sully Locker & Market, the Nikkels run their family farm, raising over 700 cattle and numerous hogs.

Sully Locker & Market has continued to grow, now employing 13 community members, including their son Josh, who is responsible for overseeing the meat processing operations. The company actively supports initiatives such as Hope Ministries, an organization in Des Moines committed to finding solutions to homelessness across Iowa. The business also works closely with the Lynnville-Sully Community School District to support a variety of charity efforts.

Sully Locker & Market is a proud member of the Iowa Meat Processors Association (IMPA) and will be celebrating its 79th anniversary next year.

I want to congratulate the Nikkel family and the rest of the team for their dedication to offering locally sourced quality products and providing a needed service to the community. I look forward to seeing their continued success.●

RECOGNIZING ANDERSON RESERVE

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each year I recognize

and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho as part of the Support Local Gems All Season Long initiative. Today, I am pleased to honor Anderson Reserve as one of Idaho's Local Gems.

Anderson Reserve, a fine dining restaurant, butcher shop, and cigar lounge, is nestled in the shadow of Squaw Butte and is one of Idaho's only restaurants featuring a helicopter pad. Inspired by his grandfather's career in meatpacking, owner Paul Anderson and his family have created a unique destination for locals and visitors to enjoy high-quality food and entertainment.

Today, Anderson Reserve's USDA-certified butcher shop ships thousands of pounds of prime-grade beef nationwide. However, it is not just a butcher shop. The store includes an elegant dining room, a weekend restaurant, and a gift shop. The restaurant menu features beef, seafood, and game, along with carefully selected wines and beers. The cigar lounge, known as the Cigar Silo, can be found within five granary silos and features a number of unique whiskies and liqueurs and an elaborate selection of cigars.

Congratulations to the Andersons and all of the Anderson Reserve employees on their selection as a Local Gem. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING BULLETS 'N BREW

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each year I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho as part of the Support Local Gems All Season Long initiative. Today, I am pleased to honor Bullets 'N Brew as one of Idaho's Local Gems.

Founded in 2017 by Gary Mode, Bullets 'N Brew is a uniquely Idaho venture that combines the best of two worlds: a full-service coffee shop and a one-stop destination for firearms and ammunition. Located in Hagerman, the business was born out of the Mode family's desire to meet the diverse needs of their small town. Bullets 'N Brew is the only local store that sells guns and ammo, proudly carrying over 35 brands of firearms and optics at competitive prices, making it a favorite of local sportsmen. The store boasts a full-service espresso bar, fresh pastries, and breakfast items, making it a welcoming spot for early risers and afternoon visitors.

Bullets 'N Brew offers a range of beautifully crafted, locally made goods. Customers can find everything from home decor to raw honey, local milk, essential oils, and more, ensuring a visit is always filled with delightful

discoveries. Visitors to Hagerman leave with lasting memories of the shops' welcoming atmosphere.

Congratulations to the Modes and all of the Bullets 'N Brew employees on their selection as a Local Gem. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING CLARK'S DIAMOND JEWELRY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each year I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho as part of the Support Local Gems All Season Long initiative. Today, I am pleased to honor Clark's Diamond Jewelry as one of Idaho's Local Gems.

Clark's Diamond Jewelry, located on Sherman Avenue in the heart of Coeur d'Alene, is a family-owned business with roots dating back to 1907. Under Dan Clark, who took over the store from his parents in 1986, Clark's Diamond Jewelry has become north Idaho's premier destination for fine jewelry. Dan's journey as a jeweler began by learning the trade from his father Ralph. With hands-on training at the bench and a formal education from the Gemological Institute of America, Dan combined tradition and expertise to build his business. The family legacy continues under Dan's daughter Jane, who now owns and operates the business.

Clark's Diamond Jewelry, which remains in its original 1907 building, is a living piece of Coeur d'Alene's history. For more than a century, it has watched Coeur d'Alene transform from a timber town to an international tourist destination. Dan and Jane's passion for their hometown and family legacy shines through in every facet of the business. Their commitment to community and tradition has made Clark's Diamond Jewelry an irreplaceable part of Coeur d'Alene.

Congratulations to the Clarks and all of the Clark's Diamond Jewelry employees on their selection as a Local Gem. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING DENNY'S WRECKER SERVICE

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each year I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho as part of the Support

Local Gems All Season Long initiative. Today, I am pleased to honor Denny's Wrecker Service as a Local Gem.

Denny's Wrecker Service was founded by Denny and Shirley Jones in 1962 in Pocatello. Denny owned and operated one truck and a fuel station for years, where attendants greeted customers at their cars, put fuel in their tanks, and even washed their windshields. His entrepreneurial drive led him to expand into the towing space. Denny's now has a fleet of trucks and specialty trailers for hauling equipment, buses, motor homes, and more and was inducted into the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame in 2000. Denny was motivated by an understanding that it is never a good day if someone needs a tow truck, but that he could help make a bad situation better. A family-owned and operated business, Denny's daughters Stephanie and DeAnn played a crucial role in building the thriving business and took over after Denny passed away in 2002.

Since the late 1980s, Denny's has offered the Towing Operators Working to Eliminate Drunk Driving (TOWED) program to the community. After firsthand experience with the devastating effects of drunk driving, they began providing free tows home for anyone who had too much to drink during the holiday season. Over the years, they have provided thousands of free tows and saved countless lives.

Congratulations to the Jones family and all the Denny's Wrecker Service employees on their selection as a Local Gem. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING FREEDOM TIRES

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each year I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho as part of the Support Local Gems All Season Long initiative. Today, I am pleased to highlight Freedom Tires as one of Idaho's Local Gems.

Freedom Tires was founded by Ryan and Kimberly Humphrey in 2023. As the parents of two children Walker and Harper, the Humphreys understand the importance of time and convenience to young families. Their unique business model brings the tire shop to their customers' houses, giving Idahoans back more of their precious time. Freedom Tires began in Lewiston but has partnered with Kenny and Sherry Gingras of KG Maintenance to bring a mobile tire service to nearby Moscow. They recently added services to cater to commercial and agricultural customers as well.

Both the Humphreys and the Gingras are dedicated to public service. Kimberly is a registered nurse at a