

challenges to Israel's existence and character persist from within and without. May life's universal blessing yet triumph!

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLIFTON LEWIS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Clifton Lewis, a beloved constituent from Bartow, Florida, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 82. Clifton was a veteran, a community leader, a tireless advocate for historic preservation and the driving force behind one of Florida's most important cultural landmarks, the L.B. Brown House.

Clifton devoted more than two decades of his life to preserving and sharing the extraordinary story of Lawrence B. Brown, a man born into slavery who rose to become a respected builder, businessman and community leader in Bartow. When the Victorian home Brown constructed faced demolition in the late 1990's, Clifton stepped forward. He rallied neighbors, secured state support and carefully led the restoration of the structure. Thanks to his conviction and leadership, the L.B. Brown House stands today as one of the only known surviving homes in Florida built by a formerly enslaved person.

But Clifton did far more than save a building, he revived a legacy. He founded and directed the L.B. Brown Heritage Festival, which celebrated its twenty-fourth year in 2025 and now attracts thousands of visitors. Through historical presentations, reenactments, music, food and fellowship, Clifton brought people together to honor the resilience, faith and contributions of African Americans in Polk County and across our Nation.

His work gained national recognition. The Smithsonian displayed artifacts from the site, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., includes an exhibit dedicated to Brown and the Bartow home, a testament to Clifton's perseverance in telling this remarkable American story.

Clifton also served his country honorably in the United States Army and broke barriers as the first Black telephone technician in Washington, D.C. Throughout his life, he remained a man of deep faith, boundless positivity and unwavering commitment to his community. Even as he battled serious health challenges, he continued welcoming visitors to the museum, guiding tours and encouraging others to carry the work forward.

His friends and fellow historians remember him as gracious, diplomatic and always focused on preserving not just facts, but the humanity and soul of a community. His leadership inspired a generation of local preservationists, and his legacy will live on through the museum, the festival and the many lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, Clifton Lewis was a remarkable Floridian and a guardian of our shared history. On behalf of Florida's 18th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Vendarae, his family, his friends and all who continue the mission he championed. May his

memory be a blessing and may his life's work continue to educate and inspire for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CALVIN W. SCHMIDT ON HIS SERVICE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Calvin W. Schmidt for his years of service to Johnson & Johnson. Calvin is currently the Sr. Vice President and Worldwide Leader, Government Affairs & Policy, and is retiring after twenty years with the company.

During his tenure, Calvin exemplified the highest standards of advocacy before Congress and engaged the American people on many critical public health and public policy matters. I have had the opportunity to work with Calvin and collaborate with J&J on those pressing issues as well as the work of patient advocates and associations dedicated to the better health of the Nation. Calvin has also been a fierce advocate for Johnson & Johnson's business in Pennsylvania and the thousands of innovators and healthcare professionals that call J&J home.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, Calvin spent fifteen years at Mars, Inc. His experience at J&J spans many roles including: U.S. President, Internal Medicine; President, Wellness & Prevention Inc., where he was the founding leader of Johnson & Johnson's health and wellness business; and Worldwide Vice President, Human Resources, where he supported the J&J Consumer Family of Companies, Enterprise Supply Chain, Information Technology, and the Law Department. His commitment to purpose-driven leadership, rooted in his commitment to J&J's Credo, has greatly enriched Johnson & Johnson.

His commitment to improving healthcare goes beyond his day-to-day work. Calvin serves on the Foundation Board of Overseers for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, represents Johnson & Johnson on the Healthcare Leadership Council as the associations 2024 to 2025 Chairman of the Board and sits on the Foreign Policy Association Board of Directors, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Mars, Inc.

I hope that he and his wife Christa, and their children Gavin, Caidyn and Alsten, will have many wonderful years ahead of them traveling the world and enjoying a well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR ANN REST FOR HER SERVICE TO MINNESOTA

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor State Senator Ann Rest for her decades of dedicated service in

the Minnesota Legislature and her deep commitment to improving the lives of all Minnesotans.

For over 40 years, my friend and former colleague Ann Rest has served with distinction. First elected to the Minnesota House in 1984, she served eight terms before being elected to the Minnesota Senate, where I had the privilege of serving alongside her.

During her Senate tenure, she held key leadership roles, including Assistant Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore. In 2023, she made history as the first and only Minnesota legislator to chair the Tax Committee in both chambers.

Her career is marked by legislative achievements that strengthened Minnesota's economy and communities. She championed fairer tax policy, supported investments in public education, and worked to make government more transparent and accountable. Most notably, she played a central role in a \$3 billion tax bill in 2023 delivering relief to families, seniors, and small businesses across our state. In 2025, she was honored as a "Legislator of Distinction" by the league of Minnesota Cities for her effectiveness and dedication.

Senator Rest is a hardworking, resilient person and an accomplished legislator. She is also a diehard Twins fan and a devoted grandmother. Her legacy is felt not only in her legislative achievements, but also in her care for her constituents. On behalf of countless Minnesotans, I offer Senator Rest my sincere gratitude for her decades of service to our great state. I wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement and a winning season for the Twins next year.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BRIAN HOLTZCLAW FOR TWELVE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN MILL CREEK

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Brian Holtzclaw for his twelve years of dedicated service to the City of Mill Creek. Mayor Holtzclaw was elected to the city council in 2013, served as Mayor Pro Tempore, and has led the city as mayor since 2020. During his tenure, he has championed thoughtful city planning and growth, helping Mill Creek expand economic opportunities and enhance tourism while preserving the city's character.

Mayor Holtzclaw has lived in Mill Creek since 2003 and is deeply engaged in the community he serves. He helped advance the South Town Center Project and the DRCC properties, which include four city-owned parcels the city is exploring for a new community campus. He is also an avid cyclist, a hobby he pursues with energy and enthusiasm. His collaborative approach within Snohomish County has strengthened regional partnerships while keeping Mill Creek's unique identity intact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mayor Holtzclaw for his leadership and service. He has left a lasting mark on Mill Creek, and I wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

CONGRATULATING THE MANOR
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Penn Manor Future Farmers of America chapter (Manor FFA), affiliated with Penn Manor High School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on their accomplishments at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Prior to the national convention, the Manor FFA was named as a national finalist for the 2025 Premier Chapter Award in the Building Communities category for their Mini-THON Line Dance activity. They were also recognized as a 3-star chapter, which is the highest ranking an FFA chapter can receive. Three of their students—Vita Failla, Molly Gehr, and Carly Railing—also received American FFA Degrees, the highest honor bestowed to FFA members.

The Manor FFA excelled during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, which was held from October 24, 2025 to November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the Poultry Evaluation event, Manor FFA students evaluated live poultry, graded carcasses and eggs, and completed a written exam. The Manor FFA team won a gold ranking, and the students—Anna Frey, Jozie Gilger, Leanna Kneisley, and Misty Railing—each earned silver.

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management event saw students assess pedigrees, herd records, and live dairy cattle, and presented oral justifications for their decisions. The Manor FFA team earned an overall silver ranking. Katie Charles received a gold ranking, Jayden Buck and Grace Shaielby received silver, and Lillian Walborn received bronze.

The Manor FFA entered the 98th National Convention FFA with accolades and left with even more. Through their commitment to agriculture and their stellar work ethic, these students exemplify the character of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. I congratulate the Manor FFA chapter on their accomplishments, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING JIM BROWN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant, distinguished leader, and dear friend from Rochester, New York, Jim Brown, who is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Jim Brown began his tenure at the Convention Center on April 4, 1994, and over the course of 30 years, built a career defined by professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the success of Rochester's premier event facility. He held several key positions, including Event Manager, Director of

Operations, Building Manager, and Facility Manager, before being appointed Executive Director on October 8, 2014. In every role, Jim led with humility and purpose, ensuring that the Convention Center served as a welcoming, world-class venue for both residents and visitors.

Under his leadership, the Floreano Convention Center strengthened its reputation as a hub for regional and national gatherings, driving economic development and fostering community engagement. Jim's deep understanding of operations, combined with his steady guidance and collaborative spirit, helped modernize the facility and expand its impact across the Greater Rochester region. His ready smile and warm personality have been the hallmark of his tenure, and his decades of service reflect not only professional excellence but also a genuine commitment to the people and institutions that make Rochester thrive.

Across every stage of his career, Jim Brown has exemplified dedication, leadership, and service. His contributions have enriched Rochester's cultural and economic landscape, strengthened professional standards in the venue management field, and supported countless colleagues, businesses, and community partners.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and deep appreciation that I recognize Jim Brown for his remarkable career and his enduring contributions to the Rochester community. His legacy of service will continue to benefit our region for years to come, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON RANALS

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary public servant who has dedicated her career to serving the residents of my hometown of South San Francisco, California. After nearly five decades in public service our City Manager, Sharon Ranals, is retiring.

Sharon graduated from Reed College and later earned a Master's in Public Administration from San Francisco State University, embarking on a lifelong career in municipal government that commenced in Colorado Springs and continued with steady promotions in South San Francisco, culminating with her appointment as City Manager in 2023. Sharon began her career with the City of South San Francisco in 1980 as a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department. She became a full-time staff member in 1984 and steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility. Her experience rising through the organization provided valuable insight into the challenges of local government and the importance of collaboration to achieve results. Over the years, she has hired and promoted dozens of talented City staff and is especially proud of leading high-functioning teams with low turnover, as well as fostering the professional growth and success of her colleagues. Her approach of "take the blame and give the credit" has been one of the keys to her success.

Throughout her tenure, Sharon championed the work of South San Francisco's dedicated

City teams and their many accomplishments. Under their leadership, the city has grown as a global hub for biotechnology, accelerated the construction of new housing, and maintained a high standard for public safety and emergency response. South San Francisco has continued to expand access to responsive, technology-driven police services, collaborative library and recreation programming, and reliable public works and infrastructure maintenance—the award-winning Water Quality Control Plant and strong internal operations reflect a commitment to service excellence. Central to these efforts has been a focus on sustainability and on creating a thriving environment for both residents and businesses.

Sharon played a key role in the planning, development, and improvement of many public buildings and spaces throughout the city. Her work helped bring to life the Municipal Services Building, Alice Peña Bulos Recreation Center and Preschool, Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center, Roberta Teglia Senior Center, Community Learning Center, and after-school facilities on South San Francisco Unified School District campuses. At Orange Memorial Park, she supported projects including the picnic shelter, sculpture garden, Joseph Fernekes Recreation Center, new sports fields, and the award-winning water capture system. She was instrumental in securing funding and advancing the vision for the co-located Library with the Parks and Recreation Center and the new Aquatics Center.

Her commitment to public spaces also extends to parks and open space. She contributed to the renovation of Sellick and Westborough Parks, the creation of Avalon and Alta Loma Parks, the expansion of Sign Hill's open space, and improvements at Oyster Point, Civic Campus Park, and neighborhood playgrounds. She led successful grant efforts for projects like Centennial Way and oversaw the development of new amenities along the trail, a preschool in Westborough, and a new park on Linden Avenue.

Beyond infrastructure, Sharon supported the community through special events such as Day in the Park, the establishment of the City's public art program, and advocacy for expanded childcare and senior services.

She has built strong partnerships with outside agencies, the South San Francisco Unified School District, and local organizations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she and a core team remained on-site at City Hall to ensure continuity of operations and support for both staff and the public. She also led the City's emergency coordination during major storms and flooding in 2022 to 2023.

Her contributions have been recognized by the California Association of Parks & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members with their Outstanding Professional Award, the California Parks and Recreation Society's Professional Merit Award, South San Francisco Historical Society's Victor John Feudale Award, and by the Institute for Local Government as a Local Government Champion—reflecting her professional excellence and community impact.

Throughout her tenure as City Manager, Sharon has exemplified a tireless work ethic, accessibility, innovation, community engagement, and sound stewardship of public resources—addressing pressing challenges including economic resilience, infrastructure renewal, affordable housing, climate adaptation,