

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand to honor Cindy Rice for her exceptional contributions and steadfast devotion to the AMVETS community and to the service of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING HOLLISTER CITY
ADMINISTRATOR RICK
ZIEGENFUSS

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hollister City Administrator Rick Ziegenfuss, who is retiring this month after 23 years in this position.

Mr. Ziegenfuss is a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, but came to Missouri when he took his Army Infantry basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood in central Missouri. During his 22-year Army career, he graduated from Infantry Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Army's Command and General Staff College, where he graduated with honors. He held a series of command positions and earned numerous service awards and medals. He was discharged honorably as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his military service, Mr. Ziegenfuss started an environmental company, which he subsequently sold, was vice president of operations for Creative Printing and Design, was owner and president of Ameri Trade Corp., and then became the director of economic development for the City of Hollister before he was promoted to city administrator.

Mr. Ziegenfuss holds a Bachelor of Arts in personnel management from Mary Crest College in Davenport, Iowa. He has served on multiple boards in the Branson, Missouri, area and has been recognized with the Missouri Award, the Hollister Area Chamber of Commerce Heart of Hollister Award, the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Pioneer and Community Spirit awards, and the True American Hero Award from the Branson Veteran's Task Force.

Mr. Ziegenfuss is married to the former Dana Woodall, and they have three daughters; Beth, Brooke, and Brittney; a stepdaughter, Jordan; a stepson, Logan; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

I'd like to congratulate Mr. Ziegenfuss on his outstanding career. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of service to others and wishing him well on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Hartsville, South Carolina. The history of Antioch is profound and deserving of the great celebration that is taking place on Easter Sunday.

The journey that has brought Antioch Church to this moment began in 1888 when

the Church was established on the crest of a hill. That year, a group of people with great faith in their hearts and each other, came together for one mission. The Church's early founders—Shade Charles, Joe Coe, William Brunson, Ham Fountain, and the Reverend Jonas Muldrow decided to call their new church "Antioch." These men and women were the first officers of the church with Reverend Jonas Muldrow as their first pastor.

In 1937, the structure of the Church was replaced, and it has gone through several renovations since, with the most recent taking place in 1984, when the church added two Sunday school classrooms and brick veneered the sanctuary.

Since its inception, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and its congregation have served as a beacon of light within the community. The programs and ministries initiated by the church have served as models—for other churches of various denominations in the area. The strength of spirit and unbridled faith have allowed the church to blossom and thrive through the years. Its congregants diligently serve in several capacities—deacons, ministers, Sunday school teachers, missionaries, choir members, ushers, musicians, and so much more. Churches like Antioch are significant parts of our history and their stories are anchors in the African American faith community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute to this fine congregation for its dedication, endless faith, and the love it has shown to the community. As we learn from Acts 11:26, Barnabas found Paul in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch where they spent a whole year assembling themselves with the church, and teaching and it was there that the disciples were first called Christians."

I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and wishing its congregation God's blessings in the days ahead.

HONORING GUSTAVO AVIÑA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gustavo Aviña, whom I have named the California 4th District's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year for Napa County because of his tireless dedication to sustainable viticulture and environmental stewardship.

Mr. Aviña was born in Michoacán, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States with his wife, Blanca, in 1988. They settled in our Napa Valley, where they raised their two children, Gustavo Jr. and Jessica. Mr. Aviña began working with some of the finest vineyard management programs in the region before joining Pine Ridge Vineyards in 2003. His deep connection to the land and commitment to sustainability led to his promotion to Viticulture Director for the vineyard in 2019.

With over 30 years of experience, Mr. Aviña has helped shape Pine Ridge Vineyards into a leader in sustainable viticulture. He walks every vineyard block weekly, cultivating grapes with care, precision, and a firm belief in environmental responsibility. Under his lead-

ership, Pine Ridge Vineyards has implemented industry-leading sustainability efforts, transitioning to dry farming, achieving Napa Green Vineyard certification, applying compost and practicing proactive forest management and committing to carbon neutrality.

Mr. Aviña has also been a mentor to others on climate-smart agriculture. He leads Pine Ridge's dry farming pilot program and has made the commitment to eventually transition all the vineyard's replants to dry farming. Mr. Aviña presented on these efforts at the 2024 Napa Green "Future of Water" summit and will present at the 2025 Regeneration, Innovation, Sustainability, Empowerment (RISE) Climate and Wine Symposium, establishing himself as a trusted voice in sustainable viticulture in our wine community.

Beyond his work in the vineyard, Mr. Aviña is committed to educating and mentoring individuals in our agriculture community. As a member of the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation's Education Committee and as a mentor in the organization's Fields of Opportunity program, Mr. Aviña has helped provide educational and professional development opportunities to over 3,000 farmworkers annually. He has developed and led classes, seminars, and field days with the organization, covering topics from irrigation and vineyard management to climate science and innovation. Mr. Aviña also helped launch the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation's Climate Science Seminar Series, equipping farmworkers with tools to adapt to extreme weather and build resilience in the face of climate change.

Additionally, Mr. Aviña has served as a pruning contest judge for the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation's STOMP fundraiser and previously served as secretary of the English Learners Advisory Committee for the St. Helena School District. When he is not in the vineyard or the classroom, Mr. Aviña enjoys cheering on Gustavo Jr. at his college soccer games and celebrating the achievements of Jessica, a nurse practitioner and soon-to-be mother.

Mr. Speaker, Gustavo Aviña's leadership in sustainable farming and dedication to Napa Valley's farmworker community set a powerful example. His leadership in carbon neutrality efforts, dry farming mentorship and farmworker education exemplifies the positive impact an individual can have on their industry and community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor him here today as Napa County's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAYTON DRAGONS

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this year the Dayton Dragons celebrate their 25th season of baseball in my hometown of Dayton, Ohio. One of my proudest achievements as mayor of Dayton was building the baseball stadium and working with the Dragons ownership to bring the team to the city.

The Dragons have helped revitalize downtown Dayton. They have given baseball fans 25 seasons of enjoyable family entertainment, and continue to generate an enormous

amount of pride and spirit throughout the community.

No professional team in any sport can match the number of consecutive sellouts the Dragons have accumulated. Their record-breaking sellout streak continues to stand as the longest in professional sports history.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my op-ed article titled, "The Story of How the Dayton Dragons Came To Be," from the Dayton Daily News:

[From the Dayton Daily News, Apr. 4, 2025]

THE STORY OF HOW THE DAYTON DRAGONS
CAME TO BE

(By Mike Turner)

As the Dayton Dragons prepare to take the field for the 2025 season, we celebrate sellout crowds and an out-of-this-world atmosphere with incredible fanfare, enjoyed by families who have made lifelong memories with the magic of Day Air Park.

Most nights are at full capacity. The Dragons have sold out 1,573 consecutive home games since arriving in Dayton—the longest streak in North American professional sports history.

As we celebrate 25 seasons of the Dayton Dragons, we recognize how far our city has come. What was once a vision for renewal has become a reality, with downtown Dayton now a hub of activity, culture, and economic opportunity. The Dragons have played a central role in that transformation, proving that baseball can be more than just a game—it can be a driving force for positive change.

During my second term as Mayor, our community committed to revitalize downtown with Riverscape, the Schuster Center, the baseball stadium, and new downtown housing. What we have today is a vibrant city, and now it's hard to imagine Dayton without the Dragons. However, there was a time when it appeared the city would never field a team.

Prior to the Dayton Dragons, there were several failed attempts to bring a baseball team to Dayton and to build a stadium. Many of these attempts came from out-of-town groups with promises of never-realized funding, unbuildable stadium designs, and management groups unable to secure Major League approvals.

Most of the proposals came with all the risk assumed by the Dayton taxpayer. Although our community believed in the promise of a new stadium and a baseball team, the public was skeptical and looking for the right partner and the right deal.

By the time Mandalay Sports Entertainment came to town, our community was organized, prepared and had a plan. As Mayor, on behalf of our community team, I proposed a unique structure for a deal. Dayton would agree to own and lease a stadium to the team, if the team built the stadium at a fixed price to the City of Dayton, assume all cost overruns, and be responsible for operational, maintenance, and capital costs—capping the risk to the Dayton taxpayers.

Mandalay agreed and delivered. The Dayton Dragons' stadium deal ended up being the only stadium in the state that came in on-budget to the taxpayers.

For the 25 years of the Dayton Dragons' success, there has been one leader that has delivered for our community: the President and General Manager for the team, Bob Murphy.

Murphy had the responsibility for delivering the construction of the stadium, managing the team, overseeing the stadium, and delivering entertainment every night for our community. He has become a part of our community and has stayed through three consecutive ownership groups.

On opening day 25 seasons ago, as Mayor, I stood on the ballfield with our community negotiating team of City Commissioner Bootsie Neil, City Manager Valerie Lemme, Economic Development Director Joe Tuss, Montgomery County Commissioner Vicky Pegg, Montgomery County Administrator Deb Feldman, Dayton Chamber of Commerce President Phil Parker, Fifth-Third Bank President Dan Sadlier, and Downtown Dayton Partnership President Maureen Pero, tipping our ball caps to Bob Murphy, thanking him for his accomplishment of delivering on his promise of a stadium for the Dragons in downtown Dayton.

I am proud of the role I played in bringing the Dayton Dragons to our city, but even prouder of what they have meant to our community.

RECOGNIZING PETER ROBINSON'S
RETIREMENT

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Peter Robinson, the Vice President for Government and Community Relations at the University of Rochester, who retired at the end of March after more than 35 years of exceptional service.

Throughout his tenure, Peter played a vital role in advancing the University's mission, leading its federal, state, and community relations efforts with great skill and dedication. Among his many achievements, he was instrumental in the University's affiliation with NextCorps, strengthening support for the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, and building lasting partnerships with state and local leaders.

Peter's advocacy helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for the University and Medical Center including \$50 million for the Saunders Research Building and \$50 million for the Emergency and Inpatient Tower. He has also secured major funding for the Eastman School of Music expansion, Wegmans Hall, the Goergen Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and the Kornberg and Del Monte Biomedical Research Buildings.

Beyond his professional contributions, Peter served for 30 years in the New York Army National Guard, retiring with the rank of colonel. His deep commitment to veterans' issues continued through his work with the University's Veterans Alliance, demonstrating his enduring dedication to service.

I have known Peter since the start of my career and have always admired his insightful and strategic approach to complex legislative matters. His numerous contributions to the University and our community are immeasurable. He has built an incredible legacy that will strengthen and inspire future generations.

As he embarks on the next chapter, I extend my deepest gratitude for his decades of service and unwavering leadership. On behalf of the University of Rochester community and all those who have benefited from his work, I wish Peter Robinson all the best in his retirement.

HONORING 85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: CELEBRATING THE KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES AND THE CLASS OF 1995

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kilgore College Rangerettes and celebrate two extraordinary milestones: the 30th anniversary of the 54th line, the Class of 1995, and the 85th anniversary of this world-renowned team.

Founded in 1940 by Gussie Nell Davis, the Rangerettes were the first precision dance team to perform during a college football halftime show. With their high kicks, jump splits, and iconic red, white, and blue uniforms, they have set a standard for discipline and excellence for over eight decades.

The Class of 1995 holds a special place in this legacy as the first to perform under Director Dana Blair and Assistant Director Shelley Wayne, whose leadership continues to shape the Rangerettes today. Many of these teammates became dance and drill team instructors, passing on the discipline and artistry instilled during their time as Rangerettes.

Their sophomore year featured unforgettable moments, including performances in France, at the Texas State Fair Gala, and alongside legends like Willie Nelson. Their finale performance to Donna Summer's "Last Dance" remains an emotional highlight, with one teammate saying, "I could cry thinking about this song." As they often say, "Once a Rangerette, always a Rangerette."

For 85 years, the Rangerettes have been ambassadors of Texas culture, blending grace and precision to inspire generations. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Kilgore College Rangerettes, the Class of 1995, and their lasting legacy of excellence.

HONORING ROBERT ASHE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Ashe, whom I have named the California 4th District's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year for Sonoma County for his extensive volunteer efforts to restore and protect the Santa Rosa Creek and surrounding areas. He exemplifies the power of grassroots environmental stewardship as seen through founding the Friends of the Prince Memorial Greenway.

Mr. Ashe was born and raised in Lancaster, California. He attended Antelope Valley College, where he studied police administration before working for over 35 years in the automotive parts industry in Los Angeles. After moving to Sonoma County, Mr. Ashe found a new calling as a custodian at Park Side Elementary School in Sebastopol, where he worked for 13 years. Known affectionately as "Mr. Bob," he was more than just a caretaker, serving as a mentor, a friend and an educator to those around him. Mr. Ashe led efforts on