

1,600 acres and contains over 90 historic structures from preserved barns and blacksmith shops to the grand ranch house that once served as the center of a thriving cattle empire. Visitors can walk the same grounds where cowpunchers once saddled their horses, tended livestock, and prepared cattle drives that helped supply a growing nation with beef and agricultural prosperity.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch offers an immersive look into daily life on the frontier. Guests can watch a range of ranching traditions like cattle drives, roping, branding, blacksmithing, and haying. Observing these once daily tasks shows how generations of ranch hands and families sustained a way of life built on perseverance and responsibility. These traditions highlight the ingenuity and work ethic that defined the American frontier and contributed to the development of the West and still does.

Mr. Speaker, places like Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site remind us that America's history was not built solely in cities, but also on wide open landscapes where hard work and resilience shaped the future of our country. By preserving the story of the frontier cattle era, this historic site ensures that future generations can learn from and appreciate the people who helped define the American West.

Mr. Speaker, on the 250th anniversary of the United States, it is important to look back at our country's history and the people who shaped it. The story of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch shows us the true American spirit and the idea of the American dream.

---

HONORING REP. ERIN KOEGEL

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota State Representative Erin Koegel, who will retire from the State Legislature at the end of her term.

Rep. Koegel was born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1982, and she grew up in Maple Grove and attended Osseo High School. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Psychology and a minor in Political Science. Years later, she continued her education, earning her Master's in Advocacy and Political Leadership.

Her educational background along with her commitment to serving her community primed her for a career in public service. In 2016, Erin was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives to represent District 39A, which now encompasses the cities of Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, and Spring Lake Park. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Rep. Koegel during my time serving in the Minnesota legislature, and I learned quickly how thoughtful, dedicated, and strategic she is when it comes to positively impacting her constituents' lives.

She has served in multiple leadership roles throughout her tenure in office, including as the Chair of the House Sustainability Infrastructure Policy Committee in 2023, Co-Chair of the House Transportation Committee in 2025, and Co-Chair of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee in 2026. Rep. Koegel has worked hard to improve the lives of everyday people. She has brought federal

investment to Minnesota under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed landmark transportation legislation that invested in roads, bridges, and transit, expanded worker protections for pregnant and breastfeeding Minnesotans, and so much more.

My belief in co-governance is made possible through my colleagues at the state and local level. Rep. Koegel has been a great partner in this work. Her leadership will be missed, but it will leave a lasting impact on the community she served for a decade. Please join me in honoring Representative Erin Koegel for her contributions to Minnesota.

---

RECOGNIZING SISTER CHRISTINE  
WAGNER

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to honor an exceptional and influential leader from Rochester, New York: Sister Christine Wagner.

In 1993, Sister Christine Wagner was among the founding members of the St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, where she has served as Executive Director for decades. A tireless advocate for community wellbeing, she has dedicated her career to improving access to compassionate, affordable healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured.

Under her leadership, the Neighborhood Center has grown into a trusted and essential resource in Rochester, providing comprehensive medical and social services to individuals and families in need. Her work ensures that every person is met with dignity, respect, and high-quality care, regardless of their circumstances.

Sister Wagner is equally committed to supporting the staff and volunteers who make this mission possible, fostering a culture rooted in compassion, collaboration, and service. Her leadership continues to shape a stronger, healthier community for all.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Christine Wagner's career reflects a deep and enduring commitment to service, compassion, and community. During Women's History Month, it is especially fitting that we honor extraordinary women who have gone above and beyond to strengthen our communities. I am proud to recognize her and extend my deepest gratitude for her continued service.

---

HONORING MIKE HUGHES

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mike Hughes on his retirement after 53 years of service as CEO of A New Leaf, a cornerstone nonprofit serving families across Arizona.

Mike dedicated more than five decades of his life to helping Arizonans facing difficult challenges, including homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, and instability. Under his leadership, A New Leaf has grown from a

small local organization into a comprehensive provider of housing and human services. Its services reach tens of thousands of individuals each year across the East Valley.

Mike's approach to leading A New Leaf has always gone beyond addressing immediate needs. He has led A New Leaf with a focus on long-term solutions. The nonprofit today provides both immediate support and the tools people need to rebuild their lives, including financial education and support for reentry to the workforce. The critical services have expanded across the Valley under his leadership. A New Leaf often steps in to support struggling nonprofits so that essential programs can continue serving those in need.

Throughout his career, Mike has never lost sight of the people behind the numbers. His efforts to support families in crisis have helped create a highly coordinated and compassionate response to homelessness at a time when housing insecurity is rising and resources are strained. Mike is a steady voice for collaboration, bringing organizations together to improve outcomes and better serve those in need.

Mike's impact extends well beyond A New Leaf. A longtime public servant, he has served on the Mesa Public Schools Board for decades and contributed to numerous community organizations across Arizona. His decades of service have not gone unnoticed. Mike has been recognized by prominent Arizona groups, news outlets, and others with prestigious awards, including the Corporate Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award and the Nonprofit CEO Lifetime Achievement Award from the Phoenix Business Journal for his commitment to serving those most in need.

Providing support for community members facing the most difficult circumstances requires grounded, deeply committed leadership. Mike embodies that leadership. He transformed A New Leaf while remaining focused on its core mission to serve those most in need with real impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mike Hughes for his extraordinary years of service. His work has strengthened communities across our state and set a standard for what true service looks like.

---

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF ALLISON LARSEN

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Allison Larsen, a dedicated educator and principal of Edmonds-Woodway High School in Edmonds, Washington, whose impact on her school and community will be felt for generations. Sadly, Allison passed away on March 15, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Allison devoted her career to serving students, families and staff with compassion, integrity and an unwavering commitment to the power of education. She joined Edmonds-Woodway High School in 2014 as an assistant principal, where she quickly earned the trust and admiration of those around her. In 2020, she became the school's principal, leading

with a steady hand, a caring heart and a deep belief in the power of education to transform lives.

Throughout her professional career, Allison was known for her genuine care for people and her ability to build meaningful relationships across her school community. She believed deeply in the work of educators and took great pride in supporting students and staff in achieving their fullest potential. Her leadership reflected both high expectations and heartfelt compassion, ensuring that every student felt seen, supported and valued.

Even in the face of a terminal illness, Allison's dedication to her school never wavered. She remained committed to uplifting those around her, leaving behind a legacy defined by kindness, strength and purpose.

Allison was also a beloved member of the Larsen family as the wife of my cousin Mike, and our family deeply mourns her passing. Allison added spice to family events with her wit and insights. We will all terribly miss her.

Mr. Speaker, Allison Larsen's impact on Edmonds-Woodway High School and the broader Edmonds School District community is immeasurable. Her life stands as a testament to the profound difference one educator can make. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her remarkable service, celebrating her legacy and extending our deepest condolences to her husband, our family and all who were fortunate to know and work alongside her.

---

#### HONORING STEVE SANDO

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Sando, a local agricultural leader, on the 25th anniversary of his company, Rancho Gordo.

Mr. Sando began his journey in the San Francisco Bay Area. He attended Tamalpais High School and later continued his education at the College of Marin and at San Francisco State University. As a California native born in Los Angeles, Mr. Sando had always been interested in California agriculture, especially beans. He started his own home garden 26 years ago, where he discovered and cultivated a treasure trove of heirloom beans, leading to the foundation of Rancho Gordo.

Steve Sando founded Rancho Gordo in 2001 in the Napa Valley. Recognizing the culinary potential of his heirloom bean varieties, Mr. Sando set out to share these "superstar" beans with the world. Today, Rancho Gordo grows more than 25 varieties on the West Coast and partners with small-scale indigenous farmers in Mexico to bring rare, traditional beans to the U.S. Mr. Sando's work has caught the attention of renowned chefs and home cooks eager to elevate their meals with quality ingredients. Rancho Gordo's products, which include beans, corn, chiles, and other staples, have become key components in New American cuisine. Rancho Gordo sells about 2.5 million pounds of beans a year and supports 38 permanent full-time employees in our community. Mr. Sando's efforts at the forefront of the seed-saving revolution have been widely recognized. *Saveur* named Rancho Gordo

number two on its "Saveur 100" list in 2008, *Bon Appétit* included Steve in its "Hot 10" for 2009, and *Food & Wine* praised him as a leader in the seed-saving movement. His most recent cookbook, *The Bean Book*, is a New York Times Bestseller.

Mr. Sando has also done incredible work for our community by supporting small farmers both locally and in Mexico, preserving heirloom crop varieties. He also actively contributes to nonprofit fundraising efforts for organizations including Ag for Youth in Napa, as well as elementary schools across the country. Mr. Sando serves as the founder of the Rancho Gordo Foundation, a new nonprofit focused on agriculture and youth.

Mr. Sando shares this honor with his two sons, Robert and Nicholas. He remains dedicated to his mission: preserving the agricultural heritage of the Americas and sharing its incredible flavors with the world.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Steve Sando for his dedicated service to our community as we celebrate Rancho Gordo's 25th anniversary. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

---

#### HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of United Property Management and to honor the legacy of its founder, José Milton, a Cuban immigrant whose vision, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit helped shape the residential communities of South Florida.

After arriving in Miami in the early 1960s, Mr. Milton, an architect, founded José Milton & Associates in 1963, building a real estate development company committed to quality and affordable housing and responsible growth. In 1976, he established United Property Management to oversee the rental communities his organization developed, laying the foundation for what would become one of the largest privately held property management firms in our region.

Over the past five decades, the Milton organization has developed and managed thousands of homes, supported hundreds of jobs, and contributed to the economic vitality of South Florida. In 2008, Mr. Milton expanded his impact by establishing the José Milton Foundation, to support educational and healthcare initiatives across the region.

Further, the Milton organization has a strong belief that successful enterprises have a responsibility to invest in the well-being of the communities they serve. Through both leadership and service, the Milton Family has helped build not only residential communities but also stronger, more vibrant communities throughout South Florida.

Today, José Milton's legacy lives on through his family and his organization, a testament to the power of immigrant entrepreneurship, visionary leadership, and a lasting commitment to community. I congratulate the Milton Family and United Property Management on this important milestone and commend their continued contributions to South Florida and beyond.

#### RECOGNIZING TEMPLE SINAI'S 18TH BIRTHDAY MAZEL FEST

### HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a milestone for the Jewish community in southern Nevada—Temple Sinai's 18th Birthday Mazel Fest taking place on April 11, 2026.

In 1992, former members of Beth Am established Adat Ari El. They had humble beginnings, with around 15 families and held services in a storefront with a visiting Rabbi.

Throughout the years, the Temple Sinai family has remained a vibrant, thriving community that holds close its core values and vision of worship, is vested in the community, and is alive with congregants and students who are enriching the lives of others.

Temple Sinai is a community treasure for our families, with multiple touch points throughout the Jewish life cycle, from preschool to exclusive senior programming. Their vision reflects the passion, dedication, and commitment of its congregational family to look forward and strive to attain its goals for the future.

As Temple Sinai celebrates 18 years, this milestone carries deeper meaning in Hebrew tradition, where the number 18 symbolizes "Chai," the Hebrew word for life. Because Hebrew letters have numerical values (gematria), the letters chet (8) and yud (10) add up to 18, making it a lucky number representing life, vitality, and good fortune.

Under the current leadership of Rabbi Ilana G. Baden, Cantor David Perper, and all its staff, Temple Sinai is a cornerstone of our strong, vibrant Jewish community across the valley. They are a beacon of hope, compassion, soulful worship, and lifelong education providing a sanctuary for spiritual growth, cultural celebration, and community engagement.

On this historic occasion, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Temple Sinai and its dedicated members who contribute to its enduring legacy in southern Nevada.

---

#### RECOGNIZING DEBBIE EVANS

### HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to honor an exceptional and influential leader from Rochester, New York: Debbie Evans.

For decades, Debbie has been a tireless advocate for individuals and families facing poverty and food insecurity. Her work began in 1995 while volunteering in the Irondequoit School District, where she saw firsthand that many children lacked access to adequate food and warm clothing during Rochester's harsh winters. Determined to help, she organized clothing exchanges to ensure that children in need had the essentials to stay safe and supported.

That same spirit of service led Debbie to found the Irondequoit Community Cupboard,