

made an enduring impact on the literary and academic communities both in Korea and abroad.

Born in Goseong, Gyeongnam, South Korea, Dr. Kim graduated from the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Kyung Hee University before earning his doctorate in literature from the university's graduate school. He went on to serve as a professor in the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Kyung Hee University, where he mentored generations of students and scholars. Today, he serves as the head of the Hwang Sun-won Literary Village, Sonagi Village, and President of the Korean Literature Association, the Korean Digital Writers Association, and the Korean Dica Poetry Association.

Since his literary criticism debut through *Munhaksasang* in 1988, Dr. Kim has served in editorial leadership roles for numerous literary journals and has led respected literary and academic organizations throughout his distinguished career. His scholarship and literary accomplishments have earned him honors including the Kim Hwan-tae Literary Criticism Award, the Kim Dal-jin Literary Award, the Pyeonun Literary Award, the Yusim Award, and the Korea Christian Arts Award. His published works and contributions to Korean literature have enriched readers and scholars around the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Jong-Hoi Kim for his outstanding contributions to literature, education, and cultural preservation. His lifelong commitment to advancing Korean literary scholarship continues to inspire future generations.

#### RECOGNIZING HERB SKERKER

### HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month to recognize a dedicated community leader and volunteer from Rochester, New York: Herb Skerker.

For decades, Herb Skerker has been a respected and active leader within Rochester's Jewish community through his longstanding involvement with Temple B'rith Kodesh, one of the region's historic Reform congregations. Through his service and leadership, he has helped strengthen Jewish communal life in Rochester across generations, supporting the synagogue's religious, cultural, and philanthropic initiatives.

Herb's commitment to Jewish education, congregational leadership, and preserving the traditions of Rochester's Jewish institutions has earned him the admiration and gratitude of countless members of the community. In addition to his work with Temple B'rith Kodesh, he has supported broader charitable and civic efforts that reflect his deep dedication to service and community engagement.

Widely regarded as a thoughtful and devoted presence within Rochester Jewish life, Herb has consistently contributed his time, leadership, and energy to ensuring the continued vitality of the local Jewish community. His example demonstrates the profound impact that dedicated volunteerism and faithful serv-

ice can have on generations of families and congregants.

Herb Skerker's service reflects a deep and enduring commitment to faith, leadership, and Jewish communal life. During Jewish American Heritage Month, it is especially fitting that we honor individuals who have gone above and beyond to strengthen our communities and preserve shared cultural heritage. I am proud to recognize him and extend my deepest gratitude for his continued service.

#### HONORING KAY RUHSTALLER'S EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY

### HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary career of Kay Ruhstaller, Chief Executive Officer of the Family Resource Center in San Joaquin County. After more than three decades of transformational leadership, fearless advocacy, and unwavering commitment to children and families, Kay leaves behind a legacy that has strengthened countless lives across the Central Valley.

As Chief Executive Officer of the Family Resource Center, Kay has led one of San Joaquin County's largest nonprofit organizations, stewarding a budget of more than \$100 million and serving over 8,000 children each year. Under her guidance, the Family Resource Center became a statewide model for innovative, equity-driven, and collaborative approaches to strengthening families and supporting children.

Kay's leadership has always been rooted in the belief that children and families are the foundation of a healthy community and that diversity is San Joaquin County's greatest strength. She advocated against cuts to SNAP and Medicare, expanded access to early learning opportunities, championed youth voice through the Teen IMPACT Center, and co-founded the San Joaquin Children's Alliance, helping secure more than \$5 million in mental health funding for families following the pandemic.

A leader who consistently turned insight into action, Kay helped establish 211 San Joaquin, which now supports more than 500,000 residents annually, strengthened trauma-informed services at the Family Justice Center, and oversaw the delivery of more than 4 million healthy meals to children. Her leadership also extended statewide through service on the First 5 San Joaquin Commission and the California Early Childhood Policy Council. In 2023, as the 13th female President of the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, she elevated childcare as a workforce priority and strengthened partnerships across the region.

At the heart of Kay's leadership is her dedication to lifting others, especially women. She is widely recognized as a generous mentor whose authenticity and steady guidance have helped emerging leaders find their voice and step into leadership roles. In recognition of her extraordinary service and impact, Kay received the 2025 ATHENA Award from the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kay Ruhstaller for her remarkable career and

steadfast dedication to the people of San Joaquin County, and in wishing her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

#### HONORING THE LAS CRUCES KIWANIS CLUB ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on their 100th anniversary. For 100 years, this group has dedicated its time and effort to the betterment of the local community and its youth.

Originally chartered in 1926 as the 19th club in the Southwest District, the Las Cruces Club has maintained an active status through a rapidly advancing and changing society. Their work reflects the Kiwanis Club's defining statement, "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time."

Supporting children and youth is an integral part of Kiwanis, and in 1957, the Las Cruces Kiwanis Club established the first Key Club at Las Cruces High School. Over time, they expanded Key Clubs to Centennial, Mayfield, and Organ Mountain High Schools. They maintain active partnerships with each school, hosting quarterly meetings with advisors to discuss new service opportunities and recognize the clubs for their work. They have also sponsored service leadership clubs in other schools in the community, including K-Kids for elementary school students at the Explore Academy and the Builder's Club for middle school students at Camino Real, Lynn, and Zia Middle Schools.

The Club also has a Signature Project, the Kiwanis Housing Insecure Students Support, or "KHISS," through which they work with the McKinney-Vento Project Link operating in the Las Cruces Public Schools. To support this project, they have held several fundraisers in recent years, such as Restaurant Day, a Halloween Fish Fry, a Chile Ristra Paint Party, and selling "rat on a stick" at the Renaissance Arts Faire.

In addition to their Signature Project, the Club has a long history of service to the community. They help purchase school supplies for kids in the Las Cruces School District, provide free books to children through interactive games, and host several other events to get youth involved in the community. Additionally, in the 1940s the Club began providing free milk to underprivileged children in Tortugas and other local communities.

The Club is constantly looking for ways to support their community and is always ready to lend a helping hand. In 2018, the Club provided \$1000 to Jardin de los Niños, and in 2021, they donated to the Mesilla Valley CASA to help make up for a loss suffered from a break-in. In one of their biggest projects to date, the Club assisted the youth center in 2020 by constructing fencing around the recreation area.

Supporting their community to this extent is no small feat and requires a lot of organization, dedication, and local involvement, which is displayed in the success of their fundraisers. From 1958 to 1990, they hosted a

Pancake Day fundraiser that allowed the Club to fund and continue their community service. The tradition continues today through pancake breakfast fundraisers for school youth groups and other local charities. Additionally, from 1999 to 2019, they held the Kars for Kids Car Show annual fundraiser, which was enjoyed by both participants and the community.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to thank the Las Cruces Kiwanis Club for their service to the Las Cruces community and its youth and congratulate them on their centennial anniversary. We are grateful for the Club's astounding contributions to New Mexicans, and we wish them continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN PARMELEE  
AS MARCH 2026 CONSTITUENT OF  
THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Susan Parmelee as my March 2026 Constituent of the Month.

Susan is truly an advocate for change. At a time when so many of our youth are struggling with anxiety and depression, she created a place where they don't have to struggle alone.

The Wellness & Prevention Center provides a safe and welcoming space for young people and their families to turn to when they need support most. The Center offers peer support, clinical training, policy advocacy, community education, and so much more. It is truly remarkable work.

I know Susan does not do this work for recognition, but it is truly an honor to select her for this distinction, and our district is better off because of her work.

RECOGNIZING PRIME MINISTER OF  
ISRAEL BENJAMIN  
NETANYAHU'S DEFENSE OF THE  
DRUZE COMMUNITY

**HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who, in July 2025, demonstrated resolute leadership and moral clarity through his actions to defend the Druze community in Syria during a period of escalating violence and instability. As Druze villages and families faced mounting threats in southern Syria, Netanyahu made clear that Israel would not remain silent or indifferent while innocent people—particularly a community bound to Israel by generations of friendship and shared sacrifice—were placed in danger. His commitment reflected not only strategic leadership, but also a deep recognition of the historic bond between the Jewish and Druze peoples, a relationship built on loyalty, courage, honor, and mutual respect.

For decades, the Druze community has played an integral role in the fabric of Israeli

society, serving with distinction in the Israel Defense Forces, contributing to public life, and standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Israel in moments of both triumph and hardship. Netanyahu's decision to act in defense of Druze civilians in Syria sent a powerful message to the world: true allies do not abandon one another in times of crisis. His leadership underscored the principle that protecting vulnerable communities and confronting extremism are essential to preserving regional stability and human dignity.

At a time when much of the international community hesitated, Netanyahu's actions reflected conviction, strength, and a willingness to uphold Israel's longstanding commitment to the safety and security of the Druze people. In standing with the Druze during one of their most difficult moments, Prime Minister Netanyahu reinforced a legacy of partnership, solidarity, and unwavering support that will not be forgotten.

CELEBRATING CHARLENE  
VAZQUEZ'S RETIREMENT AFTER  
34 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Charlene Vazquez on the occasion of her retirement. It brings great pleasure to me today to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Ms. Vazquez, a respected educator and community leader, whose work at Pillsbury House + Theater for the past 34 years has touched the lives of many young people and families in Minnesota. She has inspired generations of young children to become lifelong learners and engaged citizens. Children she taught have sought her out to teach their own children.

At Pillsbury House, Ms. Vazquez's contributions have gone far beyond teaching. She has been a mentor, an advocate, and a guiding force for many generations of students who have faced life's struggles with bravery and determination. She has achieved an impressive 100 percent ready for kindergarten designation for every child in her care.

Every single day, Ms. Vazquez showed up with the intention, the patience, and the love needed to make a difference in places that were too often ignored and under-supported. She recognizes the value of an educational experience that is culturally relevant while making sure that young people—especially people of color and immigrants—could see themselves reflected in their learning environments.

It is impossible to calculate the value of Ms. Vazquez's impact on our community based solely on the number of years she spent working tirelessly, but it can be counted in students whose lives she inspired and families she uplifted. Her dedication has made our community stronger.

Today, we honor Charlene Vazquez as she retires from her many years of service to the community, and we celebrate her commitment to education, to equity, and to creating a better future for generations to come. This is the true measure of an educator and a leader whose effort to build brighter tomorrows will not be forgotten.

CHERISHING CHAIRMAN GREG  
SHOREY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to cherish Chairman Greg Shorey, an historic patriot in South Carolina as the first modern Republican State Party Chairman. His competence, integrity, and vision were crucial beginning in 1958, when no elected officials in South Carolina were Republican throughout the Twentieth Century; to 2026, when all statewide officials in South Carolina are Republicans and massive majorities in local offices and the General Assembly. He is an inspiration. I include in the RECORD the following obituary, which has been provided by Mackey Funerals of Greenville:

GREGORY DAY SHOREY, JR.

It is with profound sorrow and deep respect that we announce the passing of Gregory Day Shorey Jr., a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, esteemed businessman, and devoted community leader. Greg departed this world peacefully on May 18, 2026, at the age of 101. Born on June 27, 1924, in Belmont, Massachusetts, he embodied a century of wisdom, love, and service.

Greg was a man who lived his life with unwavering dedication and compassion. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II from 1943 to 1945, and later in the Navy Reserve until 1947. Following his military service, he pursued higher education and graduated from the Boston University School of Public Relations in 1948. Armed with both knowledge and determination, he ventured into the business world, founding Style Crafters Inc. in 1951. This company, renowned for its marine safety and water sports equipment under the brand Aqua Float, became a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit. After selling the company in 1969, Greg established Shorey and Associates Marketing and Communications, passing the torch to his son, Gregory Day Shorey III, upon his retirement in 1990.

Greg's commitment to his community was evident through his active participation in the South Carolina Republican Party, where he served as Party Chairman from 1958 to 1961. His leadership extended to national platforms as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1956 and 1964. Greg's passion for public service saw him appointed to the South Carolina Dairy Commission and the Beaufort County Board of Elections, among numerous advisory roles.

Beyond his professional and civic engagements, Greg was a devoted family man. He was predeceased by his cherished wives, Betty Young Shorey, with whom he shared 66 beautiful years raising four children, and Jill Irvine, his loving partner of 8 years. He also faced the heartache of losing his daughter, Pamela Shorey Jahns, and grandson, Justin Tyler Millwood. Yet, the legacy of love continues through his surviving children, Gregory Day Shorey III (Patty), Cynthia Shorey White (Steve), and Amy Shorey Grace. His spirit lives on in his grandchildren, Leia Jahns Herring, Jeffery D. White, Taylor D. Shorey, Michael G. White, and seven great-grandchildren who brought him endless joy.

An avid golfer, Greg enjoyed the fairways well into his late 90s, and he found peace boating on Lake Adger, NC, and off the coast of Beaufort, SC. These pursuits reflected his zest for life and his appreciation for the simple pleasures.