

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my colleague Representative ANGIE CRAIG, to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—an extraordinary conservation achievement in the heart of Minnesota. Established in 1976, the refuge has become a national model for habitat restoration, wildlife protection, and community engagement.

As noted in the RECORD ten years ago, the refuge “provides vital habitat for migratory waterfowl, fish, and other species,” and remains “a wonderful example of Minnesota’s commitment to conservation and the environment.” Those words continue to ring true.

Today the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge spans nearly 15,000 acres and stretches more than 70 miles along the Minnesota River from Bloomington to Henderson, Minnesota. Its wetlands, floodplain forests, prairies, and restored oak savannas support hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and pollinators. The refuge also manages more than 8,000 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas, providing a fertile nesting habitat for waterfowl and offering Minnesotans abundant hunting and fishing opportunities.

The refuge welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, environmental education, and interpretation. Its visitor centers in Bloomington and Carver serve as gateways to nature for families, community groups, and first-time public-lands users. The refuge also provides outdoor learning experiences for thousands of students annually, offering hands-on environmental education that connects young people to Minnesota’s natural heritage.

Conservation work at the refuge has expanded significantly over the past five decades. Staff use prescribed fire, invasive species control, biological monitoring, and large-scale habitat restoration to maintain and improve ecological health. They collaborate closely with private landowners, watershed districts, local governments, and state agencies, strengthening habitat across the entire Minnesota River Valley.

Equally essential are the refuge’s volunteers, who contribute tens of thousands of hours each year to habitat restoration, visitor services, trail work, wildlife surveys, and education programs. Their dedication reflects the deep stewardship ethic that defines Minnesota’s relationship with its natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge stands as a testament to what federal, state, and local partners—working alongside committed volunteers—can accomplish together. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring 50 years of service by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the many community members who ensure that this remarkable refuge will continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHERIFF FREDERICK W. BROWN’S CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Frederick W. Brown of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as he marks the 50th anniversary of his distinguished career in law enforcement.

Sheriff Brown began his journey in 1976 as a patrolman with the Raritan Township Police Department, following his service in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Sheriff Brown rose through the ranks, serving the department for more than 30 years and ultimately leading as Chief of Police for seven years. His dedication has inspired all four of his sons to pursue careers as Police Officers.

A lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, Sheriff Brown was elected as Hunterdon County Sheriff in 2010. Throughout his five decades of law enforcement service, he has consistently exemplified what it means to serve and protect. In office, Sheriff Brown has embraced a philosophy of “doing more with less,” tirelessly focusing on community service and maintaining accessibility, as reflected in his commitment that “his door is always open, and his phone is always on.”

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Sheriff Brown has served his community in many other roles, including as a member of the Raritan Township Planning Board, Emergency Management Coordinator, and as a member of the Flemington Rotary Club. He is a current member and former President of the Hunterdon County Association of Chiefs of Police and the State Chiefs Association.

Sheriff Brown also belongs to the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey, the Sheriffs Association of New Jersey, and the National Sheriff’s Association, and serves as chairman of the Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission.

Throughout his tenure as Sheriff, he has championed and expanded numerous public service programs, including Project Lifesaver, the Special Needs Registry, scam alert presentations, and the Child ID program. Recognizing the importance of student safety, he established seven Special Law Enforcement Officers who provide security in seven schools across the county.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Sheriff Frederick Brown’s 50 years in law enforcement, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his dedication, leadership, professionalism, and public service. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable milestone and wish Sheriff Brown continued success.

CELEBRATING SHANTANU NARAYEN’S ESTEEMED CAREER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shantanu Narayen on his 18-year

tenure as CEO of Adobe, one of the largest software systems in the world, which is proudly headquartered in San Jose, California.

Born in Hyderabad, India, he came to the United States to earn his master’s degree in computer science from Bowling Green State University and later an MBA from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. He held leadership roles at Apple and Silicon Graphics before co-founding Picta, an early photo-sharing startup, in 1996.

In 1998, Mr. Narayen joined Adobe as Senior VP of Worldwide Product Development. He rose through the ranks, becoming President and Chief Operating Officer in 2005 and Chief Executive Officer in 2007.

During Mr. Narayen’s tenure as CEO of Adobe, the company has become massively successful, being named to Forbes’ Most Innovative Companies list and joining the Fortune 500 for the first time ever in 2018. Adobe also expanded its mark on San Jose in 2023, opening the 18-story Founders Tower, the first all-electric building of its size in Silicon Valley. Adobe has also invested in San Jose through the Adobe Foundation and its Hometown Commitment, donating millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to San Jose nonprofits.

Mr. Narayen has received high praise for his executive leadership, being listed among Barron’s World’s Best CEOs and one of the Top CEOs on Glassdoor based on employee feedback. Additionally, he received the Padma Shri award in 2019, one of the highest civilian honors in India.

In addition to his leadership in the tech industry, Mr. Narayen is vice chairman of the United States-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

I am grateful for his service, his vision, and his commitment to San Jose and the United States’ technological leadership. I congratulate Shantanu Narayen on 18 remarkable years at the helm of Adobe, and I wish him continued success as he begins this next chapter.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE KAY GRANGER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of The Honorable Kay Granger of Texas. Representative Granger was a trailblazer. She was the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Texas and the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. During her tenure as the first Republican woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, she also made history as part of the first all-female four-corners of Appropriations leadership. Her legacy will be measured both by the historic barriers she broke and the many bipartisan agreements she led.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Chairwoman Granger on the Appropriations Committee for many years, including during her time leading the Defense Subcommittee. Kay was a fierce advocate for our men and women in uniform. She understood that funding the Department of Defense was a direct

commitment to the servicemembers and their families who sacrifice so much for our country.

Over nearly three decades in this body, Kay Granger's career was defined by a rare combination of conviction and civility. She fought hard for her principles and for the people of Fort Worth and North Texas, but she never lost sight of the fact that the Appropriations Committee has long prided itself on working across the aisle to keep the government funded and functioning. Even though we frequently did not agree politically, I admired her commitment to the taxpayers and the institution.

Kay Granger will be remembered in the history of this institution as a dedicated public servant and a pioneering leader. On behalf of my constituents and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I extend my deepest condolences to Representative Granger's family, friends, and her constituents.

RECOGNIZING PRIME MINISTER
NIKOL PASHINYAN AND THE EN-
DURING AMERICAN-ARMENIAN
PARTNERSHIP

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with tremendous respect to recognize Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and the enduring American-Armenian partnership.

Armenia stands among the world's oldest civilizations, preserving a rich cultural and spiritual heritage that has endured for millennia. Today, under his leadership, Armenia finds itself at a defining moment in its modern history. His government's efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, secure lasting peace, and expand Armenia's partnerships with the United States and Europe have earned the attention and admiration of many who recognize the significance of this historic opportunity.

The growing strategic partnership between the United States and Armenia reflects this remarkable progress. President Trump's leadership to join him and President Ilham Aliyev in signing a trilateral Joint Declaration marked an important milestone in advancing peace and stability in the South Caucasus. His meetings with President Trump, his participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos at his invitation, and Armenia's role as a founding member of the Board of Peace initiative, demonstrate a shared commitment to diplomacy, regional stability, and a stronger United States-Armenia relationship.

His efforts to normalize relations with Azerbaijan represent one of the most consequential diplomatic initiatives in Armenia's modern history. Following his party's victory in the June 2026 parliamentary elections, the Armenian people entrusted his government with a renewed mandate to pursue a permanent peace. The successful conclusion of negotiations on the draft Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations reflects both political courage and a commitment to reconciliation after decades of conflict.

The enduring friendship between our nations is further strengthened by the extraordinary Armenian-American community. For generations, Armenian-Americans have made remarkable contributions to business, science, technology, philanthropy, and public life.

As our nations continue building upon more than a century of friendship, I remain confident that the United States and Armenia will deepen their partnership in ways that advance regional stability, expand economic opportunity, and promote lasting peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH SPECIAL
OPERATIONS WING, AIR FORCE
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COM-
MAND, CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the servicemembers of the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base for their continued commitment to defending our Nation. Known for their mission of "unconventional air power . . . any place, anytime, anywhere," the service members at Cannon are essential to our national security and air power capabilities. The 27th Special Operations Wing is made up of brave air commandos who serve in so many roles that contribute greatly to their mission, New Mexico, and the United States. From the aircrew to the engineers to the medical technicians and everyone in between, Cannon's servicemembers carry out each role with dedication and heart. Importantly, they serve their communities beyond their job titles. Clovis, Portales, and Eastern New Mexico are better because of the thousands of hours Cannon's air commandos have served volunteering at local organizations. Similarly, our students are more prepared for their shining futures because of the mentoring and tutoring the servicemembers have provided and continue to provide to local students. Today, the 27th Special Operations Wing stands ready to deploy globally in support of combat, humanitarian, evacuation, and steady-state peacekeeping operations. These brave men and women continue to hold the line.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. OSCAR GUTIERREZ

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Oscar Gutierrez, who passed away on June 3, 2026, surrounded by his family and loved ones. Oscar was a devoted husband and father, a distinguished attorney, and a cherished friend whose life was defined by service, integrity, and compassion.

Mr. Gutierrez was born on November 13, 1983, in Glendale, California. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Southern California before receiving his Juris Doctor from Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. He went on to build an exceptional career as a personal injury attorney, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike through his skill, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to justice. Throughout his career, he fought tirelessly for those in

need of a voice, while also mentoring aspiring attorneys and strengthening the legal profession through leadership, service, and an enduring dedication to the rule of law.

Yet, of all his accomplishments, Oscar took the greatest pride in being a loving husband and father. His greatest legacy lives on through his family, the countless lives he touched, and the example he set by leading with kindness, humility, and purpose.

Mr. Gutierrez is survived by his beloved wife, Breanna, and their two children, Roman and Bianca. As we remember his remarkable life, may we also honor his enduring commitment to justice, his compassion for others, and the lasting impact he made on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE LA PLATA COUN-
TY HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the La Plata County Humane Society as it celebrates 55 years of service to the animals and people of Southwest Colorado.

In 1971, a group of dedicated Coloradans in Durango set out to make sure that every animal in need had a place to go. More than five decades later, that mission is still very much alive.

The Humane Society remains the only open-admission shelter in Southwest Colorado—meaning they turn no animal away, regardless of age, condition, or circumstance. Last year alone, they cared for more than 3,700 animals, performed over 2,000 spay and neuter surgeries, and helped hundreds of families keep their pets during times of hardship.

They are also part of the La Plata County emergency management team, ready to shelter pets when disaster strikes, which is a role that matters deeply in a district that knows how devastating wildfires can be.

None of this happens without the staff, volunteers, foster families, and donors who have shown up year after year. They are the reason this organization has lasted 55 years, and the reason it will last 55 more.

I am proud to recognize the La Plata County Humane Society and everyone who has made it what it is.

CONGRATULATING VIVIAN
SALERNO ON BEING CROWNED
AN AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAM-
PION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Vivian Salerno on being crowned an AAU Junior Olympic Champion and setting a new 800-meter record.

Vivian ran a time of 2:06:54 at the Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 5, 2026, which earned her first place in the 800-