

100th year in business on August 1, 2026. It is the oldest privately held bottler in the United States still owned by the founding family.

Located in Winchester, Kentucky, the business was founded in 1926 by George Lee Wainscott. His first creation was a soda called Roxa-Kola, named after Wainscott's wife Roxanne. The drink was quite successful but spurred a lawsuit from the Nation's largest cola company. Wainscott ultimately won the lawsuit but decided to develop a new, unique drink. He combined ginger with citrus to create a new flavor. He introduced it at the Clark County Fair in 1926 and held a contest to name his new recipe. A young fairgoer said the drink was the latest thing, or "A Late One". Thus Ale-8-One was used as the drink's name.

The company and the family secret recipe stayed protected through 4 generations. In the fall of 2009, Wainscott's great-great-nephew Fielding Rogers became the youngest family member to assume the leadership role. Rogers serves as owner, Chairman of the Board, and President. Ale-8-One is a very popular drink in Kentucky and other locations. Its signature green glass bottle is instantly recognized.

I extend my sincere congratulations to this family business on their 100th anniversary. Their success and longevity are inspiring, and I am honored to recognize Ale-8-One Bottling Company on their 100th anniversary before the U.S. House of Representatives.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF AL LABELLE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Al Labelle, a distinguished advocate, trusted leader, and unwavering voice for veterans. I am grateful for his many years of service, his friendship, and his steadfast work for veterans, including through his work with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). His passing leaves a profound void, felt deeply throughout the veteran community. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friend as we honor a man whose service, spirit, and legacy will continue to guide our commitment to serving our Nation's veterans for years to come.

When it comes to making change on a national level, you need advocacy—and you need people like Al Labelle. For decades, Al stood as one of Wisconsin's most dedicated and effective champions for veterans, a man whose voice carried from the halls of Congress to the State Capitol in Madison, always in service of those who served.

Al's commitment to veterans was rooted in his own service. He enlisted in the United States Naval Reserves on December 3, 1965, immediately entering active duty aboard the USS *Okinawa* LPH-3, a helicopter carrier. After a year in the Atlantic Fleet, the *Okinawa* transferred to the Pacific Fleet, eventually arriving off the coast of Vietnam on April 25, 1967, as part of Amphibious Ready Group Alpha. Over the next seven months, the ship conducted nine amphibious landing operations near the DMZ, flying Marines inland and re-

turning them when operations concluded. During these missions, the *Okinawa* served as a combat medical hospital—wounded Marines on one side of the hangar deck, the fallen on the other. Al returned to San Diego in December 1967 and was discharged shortly thereafter, carrying with him the memories and sacrifices of those he served beside.

Those experiences shaped the rest of his life. In 1990, Al was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), later recognized as an Agent Orange presumptive condition. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) helped him file his claim, and out of gratitude—and a deepening sense of purpose—he joined the organization. From that moment forward, Al devoted himself to ensuring that every veteran received the care, benefits, and respect they earned.

Within DAV, Al wore many hats. He served as the Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) for DAV Wisconsin and as Chairman of DAV's National Interim Legislation and Veterans Rights Committee, roles he held for more than nine years. At the time of his passing, he continued to serve as chair of this committee, guiding DAV's national legislative strategy with clarity, conviction, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Al brought a deep passion to every aspect of his service, from legislative advocacy to outreach and his commitment to finding new, innovative ways to connect DAV with a new generation of veterans. He believed wholeheartedly in the strength of the organization and in the importance of ensuring its mission remained relevant to those who would carry it forward.

His advocacy produced tangible, lasting change. One of his most significant accomplishments was helping reform how the VA receives its funding. Before his efforts, government shutdowns halted VA operations, leaving veterans without access to critical medical care. Al provided valuable insight which led to legislation which ensured that VA health benefits would be funded one year in advance, protecting veterans from political gridlock and safeguarding their access to essential health services.

His influence extended far beyond policy. Al met with congressmen, senators, governors, and community leaders, always with the same message: "It's not enough to send them there. It's not enough to say thank you for your service. Veterans who are returning or have served need more than that." His advocacy was driven by the sacrifices he witnessed in Vietnam and by his unwavering belief that the Nation must honor those sacrifices through action, not symbolism. For nearly twenty years without missing a beat, Al was a welcomed face in my Washington DC office, always bringing a great spirit and devotion to his work on behalf of our veterans. I have no doubt that our community was a better place because of his presence. Beyond his achievements, Al was known for his kindness, humor, and love for the Boston Red Sox. He inspired others to serve, to speak up, and to lead with heart. Even as he approached his eighth decade, he remained driven by a simple mission: "Let's make sure that veterans who have served get the health care and benefits they earned and are needed."

Al Labelle dedicated his life to a purpose greater than himself—ensuring that veterans were heard, respected, and cared for. His leg-

acy is one of courage, compassion, and relentless advocacy, a legacy that will endure in every life he touched, every heavy heart he helped make a little lighter, and every victory he helped secure.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF ORANGE COUNTY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County in celebration of being named the Delhi Center's 2026 Héroie de la Comunidad.

For decades, Second Harvest has stood as a beacon of compassion, ensuring that nutritious food reaches children, families, seniors, and individuals facing food insecurity throughout Orange County.

Their work reflects a profound belief that a strong community is one in which neighbors care for one another and no family is left behind.

Every meal provided, every family supported, and every partnership strengthened represents an investment in the health, dignity, and future of our community.

Second Harvest embodies the heart and spirit of the Delhi Center's Zócalo dinner—a celebration of culture, connection, community, and service.

With deepest gratitude, we honor Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County for its extraordinary service and enduring commitment to the well-being of our community.

HONORING STERLING HEALTH CARE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vital contributions of Sterling Health Care during Health Center Week. Sterling Health, founded in 2012, serves the people of Nicholas, Bourbon, Bath, Montgomery, Clark, and Powell counties in Kentucky.

Sterling Health provides a robust list of vital medical services, including primary care, behavioral health, dental, vision, pharmacy, school-based health, a mobile unit, women's health, children's health, and substance abuse treatment. When they started in 2012, Sterling Health was focused on providing quality care to all, regardless of their ability to pay. That focus continues today.

In 2025, Sterling Health had 31,260 patients with 134,053 visits, and 255 full-time employees. Sterling Health is recognized by HRSA as a Quality Leader in several categories. They recently received 2 Communicator Awards of Excellence in Commercial Campaign (radio) and Website. They are planning to break ground soon on a new clinic in Owingsville.

Sterling Health is very community oriented. They sponsor mission-related causes and donate to area communities to provide resources

for many causes, including Special Needs Camp of Kentucky, First Responders Academy for youth, Camp Bravehearts for emotional regulation for children, the Bath County JAG team, and blood drives. In conjunction with their school-based health clinics, they hosted Teddy Bear Day, where young stu-

dents used medical tools, examined their teddy bears, and learned about health care. Sterling Health is living their mission: "To improve the lives of the people in the communities we serve."

I extend my sincere appreciation to Sterling Health Care CEO Tina Bryant and all their

staff. Their dedication and service to the health and well-being of our communities is inspiring, and I am honored to recognize them during Health Center Week before the U.S. House of Representatives.