

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 4, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leadership:

On behalf of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, we are pleased to submit the following collection of 10 original photographs with accompanying letters from our delegation for inclusion in the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule. We have selected these items because they represent people, places, objects, and activities that hold significance in Minnesota and each of our eight Congressional Districts in the year 2026 as our nation celebrates its 250th Anniversary.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



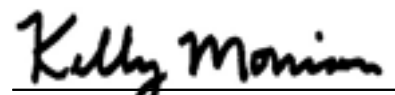
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



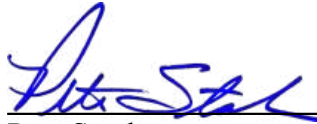
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 4, 2026

I can't think of a better photo to represent Minnesota than one of the State Fair—or as we call it, the “Great Minnesota Get-Together.” The fair's origins go back to 1855 when a territorial agriculture exhibition was held to promote farming. In 1859, a year after it was granted statehood, Minnesota officially held its first State Fair. These days the fair brings nearly two million people together to the 322-acre fairgrounds located between Saint Paul and Minneapolis to enjoy music, 4-H exhibits, rides, educational and entertainment events, contests ranging from livestock judging to baking, crop art, and crafts, and of course, plenty of good—and often inventive—food.

It's a tradition for me to kick off the State Fair by going through the gates early on Opening Day. I love trying the new foods and visiting with constituents in my booth. It's important to me—and so many other elected officials—to hear from Minnesotans. Like many fairgoers, I also look forward to seeing Princess Kay of the Milky Way and her court of princesses sitting in a rotating booth while an artist carves their likenesses out of 90-pound blocks of butter, smiling and waving as crowds pass by. It is very Minnesota: serious about agriculture, and not too serious about itself.

When you spend time at the fair, you realize it is not just an event, it is a reflection of who we are. From our Scandinavian and German roots to our Slovenians, Croatians, and Serbs on the Iron Range to our Latino, Liberian, Hmong, Somali, and Ethiopian communities, our state's rich heritage is represented at the fair. For 12 days at the end of summer, people from across the state walk the same paths. Just as importantly, they stand in the same lines, together—whether it's to look at intricate crop art, stop at the corn roast, or ride the SkyGlider.

In a world that can separate people, the Minnesota State Fair brings together people from every corner of the state to learn, connect, and celebrate. Years of hard work come down to minutes in the ring for the ranchers presenting their animals at the Coliseum and bakers displaying goods based on recipes passed down through generations. That respect for craft and skill runs deep in Minnesota. I've seen that same spirit across the state as I visit all 87 Minnesota counties every year. Those visits—from small farming towns to growing suburban high-tech manufacturing businesses to new start-up immigrant-run businesses in Minneapolis and Saint Paul—feel a lot like walking the fairgrounds. You listen, you learn, you meet people where they are.

When I think of the Minnesota State Fair, I don't see just an event. I see Minnesota at its most creative, innovative, hardworking, and welcoming. It is Minnesota at its best. A little chaotic and imperfect, but deeply committed to the idea that we are better together.



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Senator Amy Klobuchar is the first woman elected to represent Minnesota in the United States Senate and has served in the Senate since 2007. She is the lead Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee and a member of the Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees. Senator Klobuchar is married to John Bessler. They have a daughter, Abigail.





United States Senate

Hello Minnesota!

I'm United States Senator Tina Smith here, in the year 2026, proudly representing Minnesota in the Senate since 2018.

I am submitting a photo of two Ojibwe White Earth Band harvesting manoomin, or wild rice, the sacred food of Ojibwe people. The photo was taken by Vickie Kettlewell for Minnesota Public Radio in February 2016.

In Minnesota, 11 sovereign Dakota and Ojibwe Tribal Nations continue to practice the traditions they have since time immemorial. Manoomin grows on fresh water in the Great Lakes Region, and Tribal members harvest it annually. This picture symbolizes the strength of Native American peoples, who have faced generations of oppression and adversity, including at the hands of the federal government, but who keep their traditions and cultures alive throughout Minnesota and the United States.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tina Smith

United State Senator





BRAD FINSTAD
1ST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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July 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm Congressman Brad Finstad from Minnesota's First District. I was elected to Congress in a special election on August 9, 2022, and was sworn in three days later with my family by my side as I took the Oath of Office to proudly represent southern Minnesota.

I'm a fourth-generation farmer and resident of the New Ulm area. My wife, Jackie, and I met on the school bus in second grade and are now the proud parents of seven children. I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Agriculture Education and an emphasis in Rural Leadership Development, and Jackie and I now operate an agriculture business in New Ulm while working alongside extended family to run our generational family farm.

I'm proud to have served as State Director for USDA Rural Development in Minnesota where I worked to support infrastructure improvements, business development, homeownership, community services such as schools, public safety, health care, and high-speed internet access in rural areas. I previously served three terms in the Minnesota Legislature and held executive positions with the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Center for Rural Policy and Development.

Enclosed is a photo of Angel, the current Bald Eagle Ambassador, sent to live at the National Eagle Center after injury and has since become a national treasure for those who visit. The National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN is a unique nature center and museum that connects people with eagles in nature, history and culture. It serves as the home for permanently injured raptors, including four bald eagles, and works with them to educate guests from around the world about the natural world and environment. The center gives visitors the opportunity to learn about bald eagles and their role in American history, culture, and wildlife conservation. Its location along a major migration corridor allows for some of the nation's best views of bald eagles in their natural habitat.

The bald eagle is the majestic National Bird and living National Symbol of the United States. The significance of the bald eagle in American culture began in 1782 when Congress adopted the Great Seal of the United States which prominently features it in the center of the coat of arms, 13 arrows clutched in one foot and an olive branch with 13 leaves in the other. Since then, the bald eagle has been a universally recognized symbol of the United States. Not until I introduced and passed legislation in 2024, did the bald eagle become officially recognized as the National Bird of the United States.

The center draws visitors from across the United States and beyond, supporting tourism, local businesses, and community events in Wabasha and the surrounding region. Through live eagle programs, interactive exhibits, educational outreach, and special events, the center has helped make Wabasha and its bald eagle habitat globally known.

Sincerely,



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

July 4, 2026

To Americans in 2276:

As the representative for Minnesota's Second Congressional District, I am honored to share this message with future Americans in celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation. The attached photo shows the Minnesota Zoo's Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular, an annual event held in the fall, where local artists showcase their pumpkin carving talents. Each year, visitors walk through the Minnesota Zoo after hours, surrounded by over 5,000 Jack-O-Lanterns of all shapes and sizes. The carvings always reflect a theme, and past showcases included depictions of famous Minnesotans like the musician Prince as well as our state bird, the common loon.

Located in Apple Valley, the Minnesota Zoo is an iconic tourist destination for families and lovers of wildlife. The Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular attracts people of all ages with beautiful sights and delicious food, all in support of wildlife conservation and the wonderful work of artists from all over our great state.

This event showcases the creative and community-oriented spirit of Minnesota's Second District. It's that spirit that inspired my wife, Cheryl, and I to raise our family there, and that I have no doubt will endure for generations to come. While I do not know if the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is still taking place in 2276 – one can only hope! – it is an important snapshot in time for our district, and I am proud to share it with you.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress

Congresswoman Angie Craig represents Minnesota's Second Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, which includes all of Dakota, Le Sueur and Scott as well as parts of Rice and Washington counties. Rep. Craig was first elected in 2018 and was the first lesbian mother and grandmother to serve in Congress.





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2303

Our time capsule submission is a photograph, submitted by a constituent, depicting a pair of adult loons swimming across a Minnesota lake with their chick between them. The common loon is one of Minnesota's most recognizable symbols. Designated the state bird in 1961, it is deeply connected to the state's lakes, wilderness, and outdoor heritage, and has become an enduring emblem of Minnesota's natural beauty.

Long before Minnesota became a state, loons held cultural and spiritual significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived on these lands. In Ojibwe tradition, the loon—known as *Maang*—plays an important role in creation stories and is associated with leadership, diplomacy, and wisdom. The image of a loon family on the water reflects the strong connections among people, communities, and the natural world that have shaped Minnesota for centuries.

The loon's survival is closely tied to the health of Minnesota's lakes. Loons require clean water, healthy fish populations, and protected shorelines to raise their young, making their presence a sign of a thriving ecosystem. Congresswoman Kelly Morrison is proud of our state's tradition of protecting its lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Throughout her public service, she has supported efforts to conserve Minnesota's natural resources and ensure future generations inherit healthy air, land, and water.

This image reflects the strong communities, abundant natural resources, and deep connection to the outdoors that define Minnesota's Third Congressional District. It serves as a reminder of both the natural heritage we cherish and our shared responsibility to steward it, ensuring that future generations can enjoy Minnesota's lakes, wildlife, and outdoor traditions.

Congresswoman Kelly Morrison represents Minnesota's Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Before serving in Congress, she spent more than 20 years as an obstetrician-gynecologist, caring for patients and families across Minnesota. She served in the Minnesota House of Representatives and Minnesota Senate, where she built a reputation for pragmatic leadership and bipartisan problem-solving. Throughout her career, she has been a leading voice for reproductive freedom, affordable healthcare, and effective governance. In Congress, she continues to work across the aisle to deliver practical solutions that strengthen communities and improve the lives of Minnesotans.





BETTY MCCOLLUM
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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 4, 2026

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

CO-CHAIR EMERITUS
CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS

To Americans in 2276:

It is an honor to share this message as Representative of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District on the 250th anniversary of our nation! The accompanying June 2026 photograph of the Mississippi River reflecting the sky was taken in Minnesota's capital city of Saint Paul, which is the heart of my district. Minnesota is a Dakota word meaning "Land Where the Waters Reflect the Sky." The sacred place of origin for many Dakota people is a short distance upstream where the Minnesota River converges with the Mississippi, which is an Anishinaabe word meaning "Great River." When the American Colonies declared their independence from the British crown in 1776, Indigenous people, including Dakota and Anishinaabe, had been living in present day North America for millennia. Today, the Mississippi River remains an ancestral home and a unifying natural force that binds this country together.

From Mississippi River headwaters at Lake Itasca in Minnesota and all 2,340 miles to the Mississippi Delta, it supports countless wildlife species and has shaped generations of people drawn to its waters. In 1803, the single largest expansion of the United States occurred when President Thomas Jefferson acquired the territory of Louisiana from France, opening access to 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River, including most of present-day Minnesota, and doubling the size of our young nation.

The river powered Minnesota and our nation to grow culturally, economically, and politically. In 1838, the first permanent European settlement at present day Saint Paul was established by French-Canadians near a longstanding seasonal Dakota village called Kaposia. Access to the river transformed the city into one of the busiest ports on the Western frontier. Saint Paul remains the northernmost navigable port on the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi River still plays a vital role in our lives. It is woven into our culture, showing up in America's literature, poetry, and music. It is a major shipping corridor for goods and resources. It is the center of a \$500-billion-per-year natural resource and recreation-based economy employing 1.5 million workers. It's also a source of drinking water for 20 million Americans, including 2.5 million Minnesotans. Seventy-two miles of the river through Saint Paul are part of our National Park System, within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

When I grew up in South St. Paul near the site of the historic Kaposia village, enjoying the Mississippi River for recreation was unimaginable. Decades of industrial pollution had damaged the ecosystem. Now, after major efforts to clean up and protect the Mississippi, it is a place for families enjoy, even as it remains a working river. While its health is much improved, this great river continues to be at risk from pollution, flooding, and climate change.

In Congress, I have introduced the *Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative Act (H.R. 2977)*, legislation to provide federal funding to restore and revitalize the river. The Mississippi River has endured centuries of change. With sustained investment and a renewed commitment to stewardship, it is my hope and my priority to make the Mississippi River cleaner and healthier for you in 2276 and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Congresswoman Betty McCollum represents Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, which includes residents of Minnesota's capital city, Saint Paul, as well as all of Ramsey County and most of Washington County. When she was first elected in 2000, she became only the second Minnesota woman elected to Congress since statehood. She is the first woman to serve as Dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation.



Mississippi River, Saint Paul, June 6, 2026 (44°53'53"N 93°09'18"W). Photographed by Bill Harper.



Mississippi River, Downtown Saint Paul from Smith Avenue Bridge, June 6, 2026 (44°55'57"N 93°06'13"W). Photographed by Bill Harper.



The Congress finds that:

(1) Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 7, 1958, the son of jazz singer Mattie Della (née Shaw) and pianist and songwriter John Louis Nelson. Widely regarded as one of the greatest musicians of his generation, his innovative music incorporated elements of rock, R&B, funk, hip-hop, new wave, synth-pop, and jazz.

(2) Prince released 39 albums during his life and produced countless others, along with many unreleased projects left in a vault at his home.

(3) Recognized as a musical prodigy from an early age, Prince signed a recording contract with Warner Brothers Records at the age of 19, writing, producing, arranging, and playing all 27 instruments on the recording.

(4) His 1984 album, "Purple Rain", spent six consecutive months as the number 1 record on the Billboard 200 charts, spawning five top 10 hits, including "When Doves Cry" and the title track. The movie of the same name won him the Academy Award for "Best Original Song Score". In 2019, the film Purple Rain was added by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

(5) His 1987 double album "Sign o' the Times" includes more than 80 minutes of music almost entirely composed and performed by Prince and would go on to be his most acclaimed record, being voted as 1987's best album in the Pazz & Jop Critics' Poll. In 2017, the album was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

(6) A prolific composer, Prince wrote many songs made famous by other musicians, including "Nothing Compares 2 U", "Manic Monday", and "I Feel For You".

(7) An advocate for artistic freedom and expression, Prince changed his name to the following symbol (also known as the "Prince Symbol") to protest the terms of his recording contract and the recording industry's treatment of all artists, and publicly advocated for

artists to be able to maintain ownership of their own master recordings:



(8) A lifelong Minnesota resident, Prince was a participant and supporter of the local Minneapolis arts community, memorialized in songs like “Uptown”.

(9) An advocate for the Black community, Prince decried segregation in his music and was an early supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement. In 2015, he performed a tribute song for Baltimore after the police-involved killing of Freddie Gray.

(10) Though he did not speak publicly of his charity work during his life, Prince was an animal rights activist and philanthropist, supporting the “Green for All” initiative to address climate change and the “Yes We Code” initiative to support a more diverse technology field.

(11) Prince sold more than 150 million records worldwide, ranking him among the best selling artists of all time.

(12) He won seven Grammy Awards, seven Brit Awards, six American Music Awards, four MTV Video Music Awards, an Academy Award (for “Best Original Song Score” for the film Purple Rain), and a Golden Globe Award. In 2004, Prince was inducted into the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2006, and the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame in 2016. He received the BET Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. He was posthumously honored with a doctor of humane letters by the University of Minnesota in 2016. Two of his albums, "Purple Rain" (1984) and "Sign o' the Times" (1987), received the Grammy Award for "Album of the Year" nominations. At the 28th Grammy Awards, Prince was awarded the President's Merit Award. Prince was also honored with the American Music Award for Achievement and American Music Award of Merit at the American Music Awards of 1990 and American Music Awards of 1995 respectively. At the 2013 Billboard Music Awards, he was honored with the Billboard Icon Award.

(13) Prince transcended this earthly plane on April 21, in his Minnesota home at age 57, leaving behind a legacy of musical achievement and an indelible mark on Minnesota and American culture.

Rep. Ilhan Omar represented Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs.

An experienced Twin Cities policy analyst, organizer, public speaker, and advocate, Rep. Omar was sworn into office in January 2019, making her the first African refugee to become a Member of Congress, the first woman of color to represent Minnesota, and one of the first two Muslim-American women elected to Congress.

As a legislator, Rep. Omar was committed to fighting for the shared values of the 5th District, values that put people at the center of our democracy. She focused on investing in education and freeing students from the shackles of debt; ensuring a fair wage for a hard day's work; creating a just immigration system; and tackling the existential threat of climate change.



Ilhan Omar

Member of Congress

Purple Rain

Prince and the New Power Generation





TOM EMMER
6TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP
COMMITTEES
FINANCIAL SERVICES
VICE CHAIR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL ASSETS,
FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2306

July 4, 2026

To the Americans reading this on our nation's 500th birthday,

I'm Tom Emmer, the Congressman for Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives. The year is 2026, and it's an honor to commemorate our nation's 250th birthday while looking ahead to its 500th by documenting the people and places that make our country great.

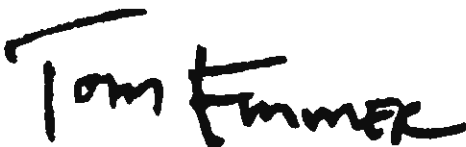
Since 2015, I have served Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District – from Chaska to St. Cloud, from Blaine to Big Lake and everywhere in between. After serving as the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) for the 116th Congress and again for the 117th Congress, I was elected by my Republican colleagues to be the House Majority Whip. Currently, I also sit on the House Financial Services Committee. I was born in 1961, grew up in Minnesota and attended St. Thomas Academy. I received my BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and my JD from the William Mitchell College of Law in the great state of Minnesota. After practicing law for several years, I opened my own law firm and spent the next 20 years balancing family, business, coaching hockey, and serving on the city councils of Independence and Delano. Before coming to Congress, I served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2004 to 2008. My beautiful wife Jacquie and I have been married for over 30 years and we have seven wonderful children. We still call Delano home today.

On America's 250th birthday, this time capsule serves as a snapshot in time of my district, its people and the places that make it special. For our family and many others, the Delano Area Sports Arena (DASA) is one of those places. For us, it was more than just a rink. In Minnesota, hockey is a way of life.

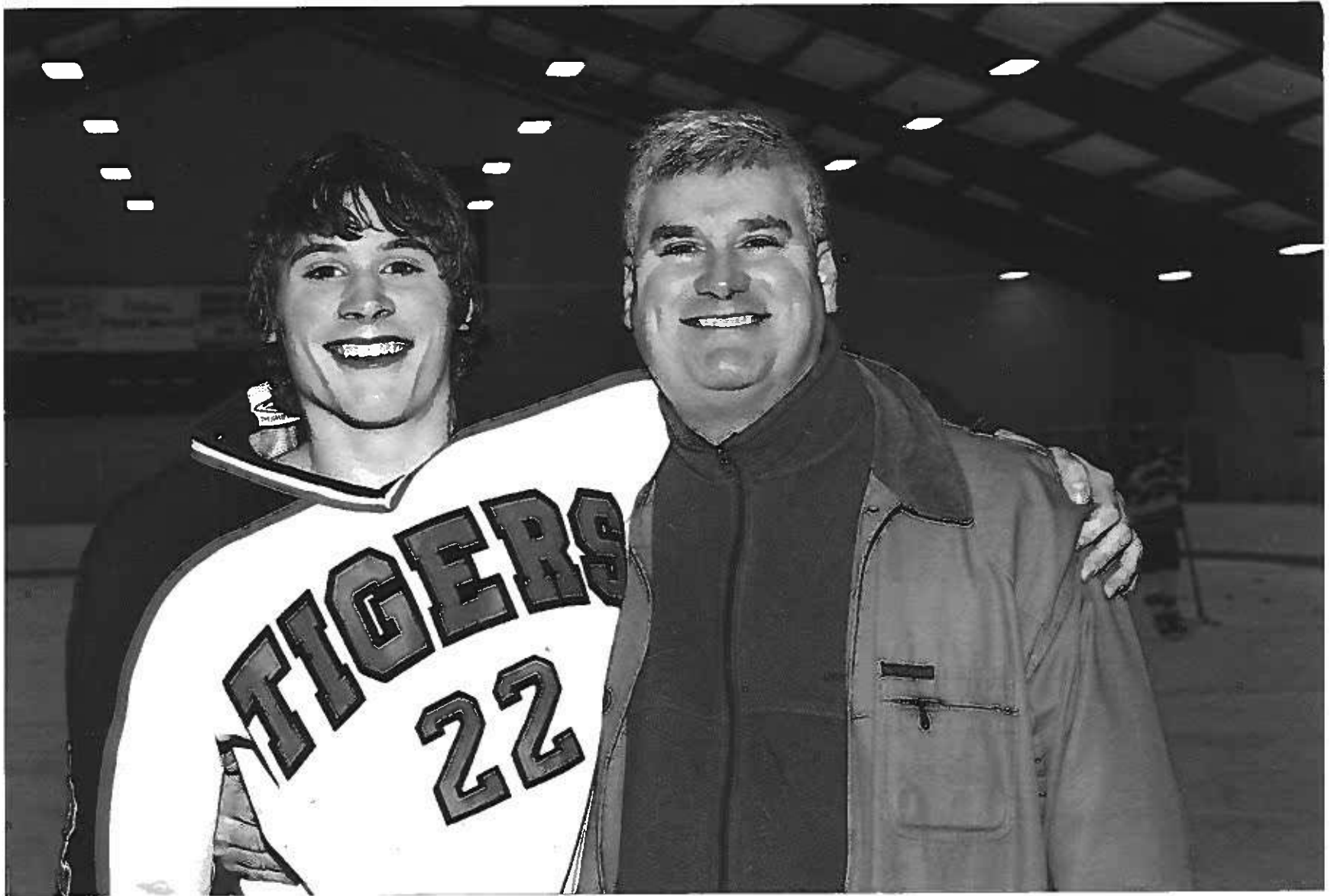
I vividly remember taking our oldest son, Tripp, to the arena for Mites practice in the mid-1990s. I would bring my coffee and a newspaper to sit in the stands and watch every practice. This was the beginning of a chapter of family memories that would span decades. One day during a regular practice, someone asked me to run the door and in typical Minnesota fashion, we got to talking and they soon learned that I played hockey my whole life. One thing led to another and I eventually became head coach and board chair. Our family loved this rink – my wife, Jacquie, even put a disco ball in the center of it. With a busy law practice and legislative career, I was known to utilize late-night ice time at the rink to coach my sons' teams after wrapping up my work for the day. The teamwork, discipline, resilience, and sportsmanship that hockey instills in you are invaluable, and I have been fortunate enough to watch my children and their teammates develop these qualities at this rink over two decades. I use them in my role as House Majority Whip today. The lessons learned on the ice stay with you long after your days of playing hockey are over. If there's one thing that best prepared me for Congress, it's coaching hockey. I'm a team guy, and getting people to work together as Whip is my passion. I am incredibly grateful for the many years I spent at the rink in Delano. Watching your children grow through playing hockey really is something special.

While times change and teams come and go, the memories made in our district at the Delano Area Sports Arena will last for generations. It is my hope that 250 years from now, Minnesotans will still be building community and connection over a shared love of hockey.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Jack Emmer (left) and Tom Emmer (right) at the Delano Area Sports Arena for a Delano Tigers' High School boys hockey game. This photo shows the rink that was so special for countless players and parents in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2307

A MESSAGE TO THE YEAR 2276

From: Representative Michelle Fischbach (MN-07)

Hello from 2026. As you open this time capsule for America's 500th birthday, I'd like to tell you about Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District and some of the work we've done to support our community.

I am proudly serving in my third term representing the hard-working people of Western Minnesota. My journey to this office started in 2020, when I defeated the 30-year incumbent Democratic Representative, who at the time served as the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. This change showed that our district's farmers and families wanted a new voice to stand up for their rural values in Washington.

Currently, in the 119th Congress, I serve on both the House Committee on Ways and Means, the oldest committee in Congress, where I fight to protect family farms from punitive tax codes like the death tax, and on the House Committee on Rules, which serves as the gatekeeper for all major legislation advancing to the House floor.

Historic Legislative Triumphs This Congress

- The 2026 Farm Bill: To understand farming in 2026, it's important to know about our recent win with the passage of the 2026 Farm Bill. This is the first full farm bill passed by the House in eight years, ending a long stretch of short-term fixes. With this law, we updated the safety net for our farmers, raised reference prices to keep up with years of high inflation, and protected key crop insurance programs so family farms can survive tough economic times and unpredictable weather.
- The House also achieved a historic, win for farmers and rural communities by passing permanent, year-round, nationwide E15 (a 15% ethanol fuel blend) for the first time in American history. Previously, old regulations kept this cleaner, more affordable, American-made fuel off the market during summer months. By removing these barriers, we opened new markets for our corn farmers and made our fuel supply stronger. I was proud to lead this effort for farmers, families, and American energy, and I hope that by now, year-round E15 has been available for many years.

Minnesota's 7th District in 2026

Stretching across the majority of Western Minnesota, the 7th District is an agricultural powerhouse. Today, we are a national leader in the production of sugarbeets, turkeys, and spring wheat, alongside massive, high-ranking yields of corn, soybeans, dairy, and hogs.

To give you a sense of our lives, we are operating in an era of rapid technological change. In our fields, precision agriculture is taking off. Farmers are using self-driving tractors with GPS, fly drones over crops to check fertilizer needs, and study real-time satellite data to get the most out of every acre. We also deal with challenges like changing tariffs, the economic effects of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, and rising costs from overseas conflicts.

A Message to the Future

As you read this, I can only imagine how much technology has changed your world. Are your tractors now fully driverless? Are your crop yields twice as high as we hope for today? Have biofuels turned into new kinds of clean energy?

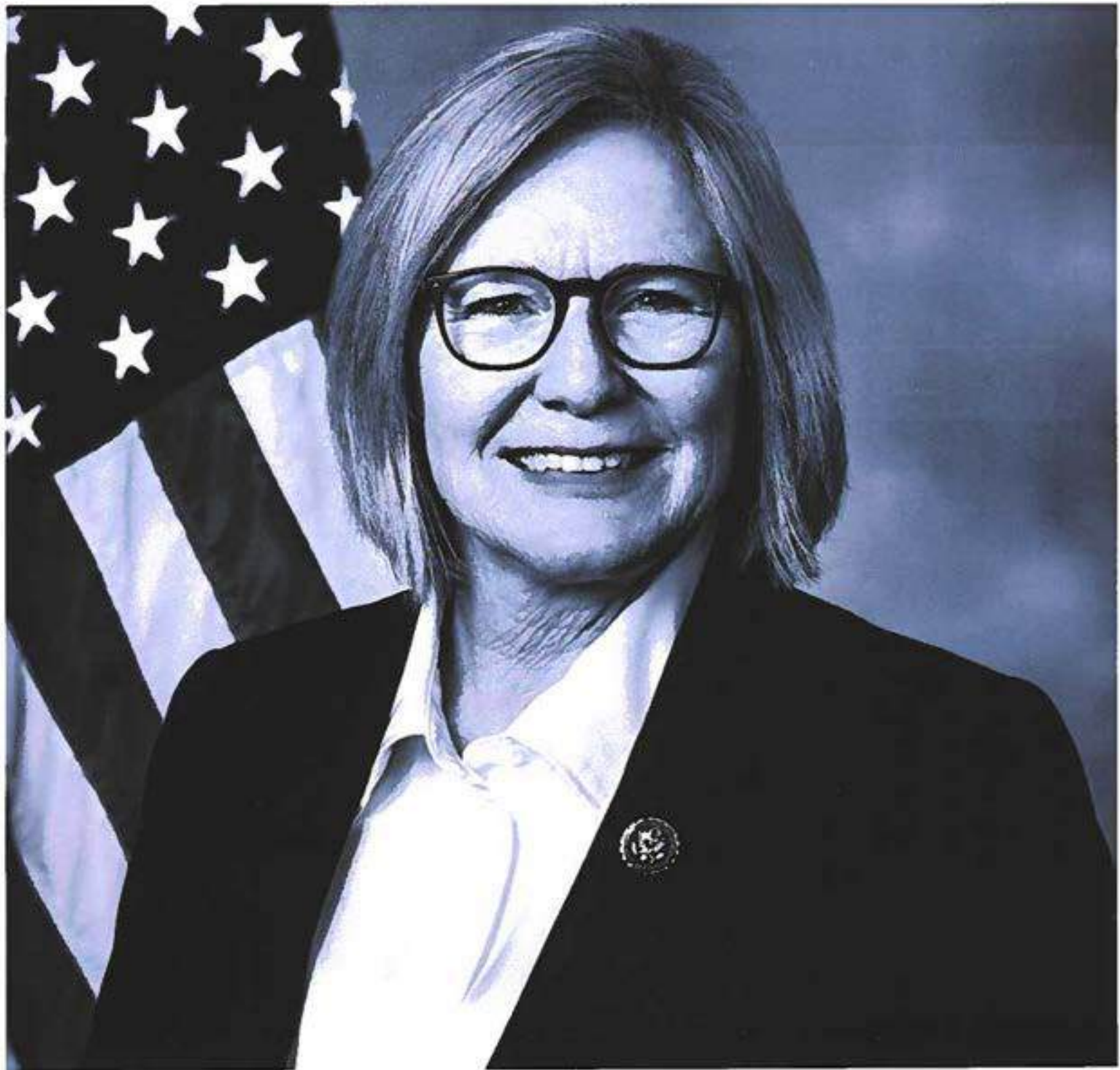
Technology will keep changing, but I believe the character of the American farmer will not. The farmers and families of Minnesota's 7th District are determined, resilient, and deeply care for the land and I trust that 250 years from now, they will have the same character.

God Bless Minnesota and God Bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell J. J. J. J.", written in a cursive style.





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

July 4th, 2026

To the Citizens of the Year 2276,

Greetings from the year 2026. As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, it is an honor to submit this snapshot of The Interlake Steamship Company's Mesabi Miner, loading high-grade taconite iron ore in Duluth on the pristine waters of Lake Superior.

For generations, Minnesota's Iron Range has provided the raw materials necessary to win two World Wars and build American infrastructure. In Congress, I have fought tirelessly to protect and expand our domestic mining industry, securing our mineral independence and ensuring that Minnesota's workers mine American minerals to build our collective future.

Closely tethered to this proud tradition is our vital maritime industry. Lake Superior is not only a breathtaking natural resource, but it is also the gateway to global commerce. Protecting our Great Lakes has always been a priority of mine, which is why I have consistently supported funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to preserve the health and vitality of this extraordinary resource.

By way of introduction to those who read this in the distant future, prior to my election to Congress, I played professional hockey and served my community as a Duluth Police Officer for over two decades. My greatest joy, however, remains my family. My wife, Jodi, and I were blessed to raise a beautiful family of six children, including our beloved son Isaac, who was born with Down syndrome, and two deeply cherished adopted children. Our family's journey has instilled in me a lifelong devotion to advocating for the vulnerable and protecting the American Dream for all.

As you look upon this photograph 250 years from now, I hope you see a people who believed in building a strong future while caring for the gifts they inherited. Most of all, I hope that the majestic waters of Lake Superior remain as beautiful and inspiring as they are today, and that the region continues to thrive, rooted in the same enduring values of the hardworking men and women who call Northern Minnesota home today.

With respect and optimism for the future,



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress
Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District



MESABI MINER

WILMINGTON DEL.

CN

CN

