Washington Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

WHEREAS, Gary Chandler has spent his long and legendary career as a true public servant and business leader, never losing sight of the people of Washington he served as state representative from Moses Lake, Grant County Commissioner, Big Bend Community College trustee, and as one of our first two Workforce Board co-chairs; and

WHEREAS, Gary (literally) wore many hats in his work life, including as a UPS store owner, hay farmer, apple orchardist, former manager of the family's farm implement dealership, and vice president of government affairs at the Association for Washington Business; and

WHEREAS, Gary has been a staunch champion of Washington's youth, a tireless promoter for career training and work experience in a young person's early years, along with encouragement and connection from caring adults to help guide them toward their full potential, including standing up for those with disabilities and challenges, a personal commitment rooted in his family; and

WHEREAS, Gary has never shied away from a challenge, political or otherwise, finding ways to forge solid partnerships and lasting friendships among those with different views, bringing everyone together through commonsense collaboration and good-natured respect for fellow humans, often wearing his big heart on his sleeve; and

WHEREAS, Gary was one the Workforce Board's first-ever co-chairs, and as the business voice provided the perfect pairing with his labor counterpart, Larry Brown, so much so that they regularly stole the spotlight at conferences across the country, proof that business and labor really were two halves to a whole when it comes to workforce development, and were so inseparable they affectionately became known as "The Glarry"; and

WHEREAS, Gary was known for his humor and geniality, along with a prodigious collection of cookie jars at his home in Moses Lake, while also being recognized as a serious sort, who famously feared meeting "ice breakers," and preferred watching presentations on TVW over popular television shows or movies; and

WHEREAS, as a loving father, grandfather, and husband, we are sure Gary will appreciate the extra time he can spend with his family, choosing RV adventures and family memories over one more trip across the mountains for a meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the members of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, gratefully acknowledge the many years of service and countless contributions made to Washington's workforce system made by Gary Chandler.

Signed this 3rd day of April 2026.

April Sims
Co-Chair

Morgan Irwin
Co-Chair