



## CITATION FOR MARK S FLEGENHEIMER

“Legacy.”

Mark Flegenheimer, if we had to sum up your career in the sugar industry with just one word, that would be it.

In 1983, after earning your bachelor’s degree from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and going to work as a sugar commodities trader with Amerop/Sucden Americas in New York City, you became part of your family’s legacy in the sugar industry – one that stretches back nearly a century.

In 1998, upon being named President and CEO of Michigan Sugar Company, you became the keeper of your family’s legacy, following in the footsteps of your father Ernest Flegenheimer, who served as Michigan Sugar President and CEO from 1963 to 1993, and your grandfather, Albert Flegenheimer, who served as Chairman of the Board at Michigan Sugar from 1963 to 1970.

And when you retired earlier this year after a 40-year career, you left a legacy that has created a solid path for Michigan Sugar’s next generations of grower-owners and employees to follow.

Your retirement brings an end to an incredible chapter in Michigan Sugar’s history. Under your leadership as President and CEO, Michigan Sugar became a grower-owned cooperative in 2002, and two years later merged with Monitor Sugar Company to form the company that exists today.

Over the first two decades as a cooperative, annual sugar production at Michigan Sugar doubled from roughly 630 million pounds to 1.2 billion pounds, while the amount of fuel used in the company’s factories was significantly reduced. During that same time, you oversaw a historic expansion of Michigan Sugar’s factory in Croswell and the groundbreaking for an equally historic molasses desugarization facility at the company’s Bay City site.

You accomplished these things while serving as a leading voice and advocate for Michigan Sugar Company and the entire sugar industry in Washington, D.C., helping to shape numerous Farm Bills, trade agreements, and regulatory matters.

At the same time, you were a champion of helping build Michigan Sugar Company’s culture centered on its mission: *Creating Growth and Opportunity*; its purpose: *Making Life Sweeter*;

and its *EPIC+ values*: Excellence, Pride, Integrity, Compassion, and Trust. These things endure as part of your legacy.

Your professional accomplishments are countless, but equally impressive is your record of philanthropy. As a staunch community supporter, you have repeatedly given your time, talents, and treasure to support numerous organizations, including roles on the boards of directors for the Saginaw Community Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Delta College Foundation, and Midland Center for the Arts.

And, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, you led the charge for Michigan Sugar to purchase more than \$100,000 in gift cards from local, mom-and-pop restaurants that were handed out to employees and, in some cases, literally helped small businesses survive. It was nothing short of epic and perfectly defines the leadership, vision, and spirit you have demonstrated every day of your illustrious career.

Mark, thank you for your incredible and noteworthy contributions to the sugar industry over the past four decades. It is an honor to add your name to the roll of distinguished recipients of the Dyer Memorial Award.

**Mark S. Flegenheimer**  
**The industry salutes you**  
**as the recipient of the**  
**Dyer Memorial Award**  
**2022**