

dictatorial regime of President Marcos Pérez Jiménez. He returned to Venezuela after the overthrow of Pérez in 1958 and was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of parliament, in 1959. Successively reelected, he served as chairman of the Social Christian faction in parliament until his election to the Senate in 1973. He was also secretary-general of the Latin American Congress of Christian Democratic organizations from 1969 to 1977.

Herrera Campíns was nominated as his party's presidential candidate in 1977 and went on to win the presidential election in 1978. He took office when the economic boom that Venezuela had enjoyed since world oil prices had quadrupled in 1973 had begun to show serious defects. His administration is remembered for its lasting efforts to promote education, culture, and infrastructure development, and for championing Latin American unity and international cooperation—principles that are more relevant today than ever. Herrera Campíns died in Caracas on November 9, 2007.

This centennial is not only a moment to remember the life of a former President of Venezuela, but also a time to reflect on the principles of leadership, service, and civic responsibility that he so passionately embodied. His vision and values continue to resonate across generations and borders.

RECOGNIZING REMARKS BY
UNITED STATES ARMY COLONEL
JEFFERY R. MCGEARY ON MEMO-
RIAL DAY 2025

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD, remarks given by United States Army Colonel Jeffrey R. McGeary at The Revolutionary War Soldiers Gravesite at Washington Crossing Historic Park on May 25, 2025 for Memorial Day:

A special thanks to the staff and friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park. Thank you, Mr. Alex Robb, for the invitation, and MAJ Garrison for your assistance. To our attendees, I see a lot of familiar faces in the audience, it is great to have you here. I truly appreciate this honor to stand before you all today. I'm a native of Bucks County, born and raised in Newtown (Council Rock High School). I joined the Army to serve my country, at the influence too of my Father who was a proud United States Navy veteran. I thought I would serve my six years and punch out, but here we are over 25 years later and still going strong. Humbled to be here.

There are plenty of other places you could be, but you choose to be here. I salute you.

This year is a special year, as we begin the 250th anniversary events around our fight for independence many years ago and the birth of our great Republic. It's also the 250th birthday of the United States Army!

Memorial Day is a day of national recognition to honor the military men and women who died in service to the United States of America during peacetime and war.

Over the span of 250 years, millions of our fellow citizens have raised their right hand and taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As we re-

member those who fought and died for our country, we remember the Continental Army's battle cry, which is also our theme for the anniversary of our Army's founding "This we'll defend," reminds us that our purpose is clear, ONE MISSION: To fight and win the nation's wars.

We in uniform remain committed to honing our warfighting skills, enforcing standards and discipline, and living the values that have defined Western Civilization in this nation for the past 250 years. On Memorial Day, we reflect on our rich history and legacy of service, sacrifice and dedication. From the Revolutionary War to present-day overseas operations and defending our border right here at home, our service members have consistently demonstrated their resolve to defend freedom at home and abroad.

First observed after the Civil War, Memorial Day was initially called "Decoration Day" because families gathered to remember their loved ones by decorating gravesites with flowers or flags.

This tradition continues across America today. Every Memorial Day, the Soldiers from the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment—the Old Guard—place American flags at every grave marker in Arlington National Cemetery. In proclaiming that first Decoration Day in 1868, General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, wrote that we should not only remember those "who died in defense of their country," but also, "renew our pledge to aid and assist those whom they have left among us . . . the widows and orphans." This is so true and so important.

We continue to honor those left behind who paid a personal price for us and our Nation. I'm speaking of our Gold Star families.

Would all the Gold Star Family members in the audience please stand.

Allow me to express my appreciation to you on behalf of all those present today and on behalf of our Great Nation. We are humbled by your sacrifice, inspired by your resilience and grateful for your continued service to our communities.

Looking back the first people to die in the service of their country were fighting for what would become the United States of America. They were not the disciplined, professional Army and service members we have today. They were farmers, shopkeepers, teachers and blacksmiths. They all came together to fight for the right to govern themselves and to live free, and to determine their own destiny on God's green earth.

By 1775, the Revolution had been brewing for years. The first shot was fired in Massachusetts in July, and a month later, General George Washington was commissioned as Commander in Chief of the Army. The month after he received his commission, Washington expressed his concerns and frustrations . . .

He'd been at an Army camp in Cambridge for a week. He wrote ". . . we have but about 16,000 effective men in all this department, whereas, by the accounts which I received from even the first officers in command, I had no doubt of finding between 18,000 and twenty thousand 20,000; out of these, there are only 14,000 fit for duty." And getting an accurate count of soldiers wasn't his only problem.

He didn't have the firepower. He didn't have the logistics. He didn't have a command structure.

Yet, with his leadership and determination, he crafted an Army out of disparate militias, haphazard supplies and undisciplined freedom fighters. And with that Army, General Washington marched into battle, in places like Lexington and Concord, and Washington Crossing. In the winter of 1776, right here on these grounds, General Wash-

ington and his ragged Army had experienced setback after setback in the War for Independence. As the harsh Pennsylvania winter set in, the morale of the American troops was at an all-time low. A series of defeats had forced Washington's troops to retreat across New Jersey to Pennsylvania.

On Christmas Day 1776, he crossed right here, his men were freezing yet resilient and determined. They pushed on. And they pushed the British and the Hessians back, right here. They said no more to tyranny. No more allegiance to a Crown halfway around the world. We are patriots, we are Americans. And we will fight and win.

We won the War for Independence, ensuring that citizens today enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

By the end of the Revolution, at least 6,800 American soldiers had given their lives in battle to ensure those freedoms. 17,000 died of disease and nearly 12,000 died while prisoners of war. Over the next few years, more died from wounds sustained during the Revolution.

Many lived long lives with devastating wounds received in those early battles of our Republic.

On Memorial Day, as remember those who first served our country, we remember that, as the American Creed states, they gave their lives and their fortunes for the freedoms we enjoy today. We remember the service of all veterans, throughout the history of our great Nation, who have defended our Constitution and our country at all times, and from all who would threaten it.

I would like to ask all military veterans to rise as we thank you for your service and sacrifice to our Nation. You are my brothers and sisters, and you answered the call when your country needed you most.

I would now like all the veteran spouses and family members to please rise, you know the real sacrifice of a husband or a wife or a son or daughter deployed or overseas. The weeks and months and sometimes years without seeing your loved one, yet you maintain the home front and stand proudly behind your service member. Thank you. A quick special thanks to my wife Lauren, looking back we didn't anticipate this at the time, but we actually had to speed up our wedding—two months after we were married I was in Afghanistan. Army Strong, Army Wife!

From the Revolutionary War to present-day operations, our service members have consistently demonstrated their resolve to defend our sovereignty and freedom at home and abroad.

Our military also stands ready to assist in times of need, such as disaster relief and recovery. We are focused on ensuring that our Armed Forces remain the world's most combat-credible fighting force capable of maintaining peace through strength. One mission: If called upon, to fight and win our nation's wars.

This Memorial Day, remember the common bond we have with the Soldiers and service members who have gone before us, who selflessly served our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We are here today because words like faith, family, country, patriotism, sovereignty and freedom . . . mean something. We are here because as Americans we believe the unalienable—non-negotiable—rights granted to each and every one of us in our founding documents will endure forever in this land of the free and home of the brave.

Tomorrow, on Memorial Day, let us honor and remember our Nation's battlefield heroes. We must remember what they gave for us and honor them this day, and always.

God bless each of you, and God bless our great country—the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING IAM DISTRICT 751'S
NEW EVERETT UNION HALL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) District 751 on the opening of the new Everett Union Hall.

The new union hall replaces a previous hall that was dedicated in 1996 and provided space for meetings, town halls, solidarity barbecues, celebrations and other union business.

While the old hall served IAM for nearly 30 years, the building was not suitable to meet the needs of the nearly 16,000 IAM members working at Boeing's Everett facility. In particular, the old hall did not have the capacity to support training for new and future aerospace workers. The new Everett Union Hall will house business representatives, support staff, classrooms, shops, labs and a full training area that will allow IAM to offer certification programs and training in conjunction with Boeing and other organizations.

One of the hardest things in high tech industries is finding a workforce that has the skills and training required to do the work.

This new hall will allow the union to provide hands-on training for generations of aerospace workers, allowing current workers to learn new skills and providing an opportunity for future aerospace workers to get the training they need to find family-wage aerospace manufacturing jobs.

This new union hall is not just a building—it is an investment that will benefit the entire region by building the workforce in Washington state and incentivizing aerospace businesses to keep their work in the region.

Congratulations to IAM, and I look forward to visiting the new hall.

HONORING LATINOS UNITED OF
LAKE COUNTY (LULC)

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Latinos United of Lake County (LULC) as they celebrate their 30th Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival. This celebration not only honors cultural heritage but also highlights the LULC's three decades of outstanding service to the Latino community in Lake County.

Founded as a grassroots, volunteer-led organization, Latinos United of Lake County has long served as a cornerstone of leadership and support within our region's Latino community. For thirty years, LULC has remained committed to improving the lives of our Lake County's Latino community by promoting education, health, and cultural connection in our area. Its mission includes providing scholarships to local Latino students pursuing or continuing their higher education, organizing cultural events celebrating and preserving Latino heritage, and offering resources supporting the health and well-being of individuals in need.

In addition to its longstanding scholarship program, LULC is involved in broader efforts to support public health, community awareness, and resource accessibility. The organization plays a key role in health-related outreach through its participation in the Climate Health Adaptation and Resilience Mobilization (CHARM) project, where it has been a part of the project's working group and has supported the project's outreach to Spanish-speakers. LULC also uses its Facebook social media page to share countywide news, promote mutual aid efforts such as food and clothing drives, and connect residents with vital services. Furthermore, the organization regularly collaborates with other local partners, including Lake County Tribal Health and Hospice Services of Lake County, and the Lake County Office of Education, to host community events and educational forums.

LULC's Cinco de Mayo Festival, now in its 30th year, is not only a major fundraising event for the scholarship program but also a vibrant celebration of culture and community. The event annually brings together families local agencies, performers, vendors, and neighbors from all backgrounds in a shared space that highlights Lake County's rich cultural diversity. The festival serves as a reminder of the strength that comes from unity, inclusivity, and honoring the many traditions that shape our region.

The success of this year's event, and the continued strength of the organization, would not be possible without the leadership of its current board: Angela Cuellar-Marroquin, President; Roman Arroyo, Vice-President; Ana Santana, Secretary; Maggie Gonzalez, Treasurer; and Anahy Olmedo, Public Relations Chair. Their dedication ensures that Latinos United of Lake County continues to grow and evolve while staying true to its founding purpose.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Latinos United of Lake County is one of resilience, generosity, and community-building. By investing in education, LULC strengthens not only individual lives but the fabric of our entire community, affirming that when we uplift one another, we all rise together. It is fitting and proper that we recognize their 30 years of impact and honor their ongoing contributions to the district and the state.

RECOGNIZING MIKE LASTRA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Mike Lastra has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Lastra was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Mike Lastra has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING JULISSA MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julissa Martinez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Julissa has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Julissa, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Julissa's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Julissa Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE CU CENTER FOR
COMBAT AND BATTLEFIELD RE-
SEARCH AND THE MARCUS IN-
STITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Combat and Battlefield Research (COMBAT) and the Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH) at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado. I honor their commitment to improving the health of our military, veterans, and first responders.

The MIBH is a global leader in brain injury research and health care delivery, providing individualized, innovative brain health care for our nation's heroes. To this date, MIBH has served more than 1,200 of our nation's heroes, including over 1,000 veterans, establishing a course of treatment for physical, emotional, and cognitive changes that can accompany trauma to the head for these individuals. In 2025, the MIBH is expected to serve 300 patients, including active-duty military and first responders.

Since its founding in 2019, the CU COMBAT Center has grown into the largest military medicine-focused research center, charged with solving our warfighters' toughest medical challenges through high-impact research, education, and innovation. Due to their work, the military has updated 14 clinical practice guidelines, including defining optimal oxygen delivery targets. It is continuing to lead efforts in clinical trials to identify, test, and evaluate autonomous medical devices for prehospital use, such as autonomous oxygen titration, to improve military medical capability and capacity. Not only does the COMBAT Center drive innovation to improve outcomes following physical injury and trauma, but it is also a national leader in advancing psychological health and readiness. COMBAT investigators have contributed to federal and DOD policy, instructions, and programs to reduce suicide among service members, first responders, and their families.