

As CEO of Mikeska's Bar-B-Q Inc., Tim has carried on a proud family tradition bringing the bold flavors of Texas barbecue to tables across the country, and even internationally to Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United Kingdom. His work has earned national recognition through features on Food Nation on the Food Network, The CBS Early Show, and the Travel Channel.

Beyond the restaurant, Tim is a licensed EMT-Paramedic, instructor, and adjunct professor in Emergency Medical Services. In 1982, he founded the Taylor Heartsaver program, which has taught CPR to over 400 residents of east Williamson County. He also serves as a Command Pilot with Angel Flight South Central, Air Care Alliance, and Pilots N Paws, where he volunteers his time and aircraft to transport patients and animals in need of medical care.

Tim Mikeska's legacy speaks to the highest values we Texans hold dear. Through financial contributions, spiritual guidance, and feeding those in need, Tim's legacy will be felt for generations. I join the City of Taylor, his family, and all of Central Texas in congratulating him on this well-deserved honor. I thank him for a lifetime of service and wish him continued success and blessings in the years to come.

HONORING THE PASSING OF
ROBERT "GIBBY" GIBSON

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Robert "Gibby" Gibson, a World War II veteran, and lifelong native of Hampton, New Jersey.

Mr. Gibson was drafted into the United States Army in 1943. There he trained as an anti-aircraft artilleryman. Mr. Gibson bravely landed in the second wave at Utah Beach during the historic "D-Day" invasion. Following this Mr. Gibson served through Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, and continued his service into Germany until the end of the war. When Mr. Gibson returned home, he devoted his life to serving the people of Hampton, New Jersey. Mr. Gibson proudly served as a fire fighter, fire chief, councilman, and mayor, demonstrating his strong commitment to his community. As a humble and devoted man, Mr. Gibson, opened up and shared his wartime experiences with students and fellow citizens. He looked to educate others on his heroic experiences, using his personal journey to inspire future generations. Gibby passed away peacefully on January 12, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, as I recognize the passing of Robert "Gibby" Gibson, I am pleased to commend him for being an integral part of the Hampton area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this heroic gentleman, truly dedicated to serving his country and community with courage, bravery, and commitment.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
PETE'S ACE HARDWARE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pete's Ace Hardware on the momentous occasion of its 100th anniversary, marking a century of service to the community of Castro Valley, California.

Founded in 1926 by Peter Selmeczki, Pete's Ace Hardware proudly holds the distinction of being the oldest business in Castro Valley. Peter and his wife, Mary, were hardworking Hungarian immigrants who built their livelihood through determination, resilience, and a deep commitment to their community. Together, they opened their store on historic Castro Valley Boulevard, where it remains a local landmark to this day.

In its early years, the business ambitiously offered both hardware supplies and automobile spray-painting services. While balancing these two ventures proved challenging, the Selmeczki family ultimately focused their full energy on the hardware business, laying the foundation for long-term success.

Initially serving local ranchers and farmers, the store evolved in tandem with the growing community. As Castro Valley expanded, so too did the business, adapting its inventory to meet the needs of contractors and homeowners. Throughout its growth, Pete's Ace Hardware remained deeply rooted in the community it served, thriving thanks to the loyalty of its customers and the support of trusted suppliers.

Pete and Mary's dedication to their business extended well beyond their lifetimes. Following their retirement and passing, their sons, Frank and Ernie, assumed leadership and guided the store through a period of growth and modernization.

Today, Pete's Ace Hardware is now a fourth-generation family-owned business led by Ernie's daughter Linda, her husband Jeff, and their son Jason.

As Pete's Ace Hardware celebrates this extraordinary milestone, I commend the Selmeczki family for their enduring commitment and entrepreneurial spirit. I extend my warmest congratulations to Linda, Jeff, and Jason as they continue to serve the Castro Valley community for generations to come.

SALUTING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF FIRST LIEUTENANT
CHARLES W. "WOODY" MCCOOK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and legacy of 1st Lieutenant Charles W. "Woody" McCook, a World War II hero and devoted patriot, who joined the angels in July of 1948. His courage, sacrifice, and unwavering sense of duty exemplify the very best of the American spirit. Though decades have passed since his final mission, his story continues to inspire all who cherish freedom and understand the cost of preserving it.

Affectionately known as "Woody" to his loved ones and fellow service members, Lt. McCook served as the pilot of a B-25C Mitchell aircraft during the Second World War. Answering his Nation's call, he bravely flew into the dangerous jungles of Japanese-occupied Burma, now known as Myanmar. His missions were perilous, often requiring low-altitude attacks and precise coordination in an environment where survival was never guaranteed.

For 82 years, Lt. McCook was listed as Missing in Action. Thanks to the tireless efforts of military recovery teams, his remains have finally returned home to Georgetown, Texas, where his family and community, after decades of unanswered questions, can now lay him to rest with the honor and dignity he earned.

Lt. McCook's service reminds us that freedom is not free. It is secured through the bravery of those willing to give everything in its defense. His return brings long-awaited closure to his family and a renewed appreciation from his country. As we mourn the passing of Lt. McCook, his presence was a blessing to all who knew him. The positive impact he had on the lives of others will live on and remain forever in our hearts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LAWRENCE JAMES JOHNSON

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lawrence James Johnson of Houston, Texas, a devoted man of faith, a loving husband and father, and a tireless servant to his community.

Lawrence James Johnson was born on May 24, 1954, in Houston, Texas, to L.J. Johnson and Erma Lee Dixon Johnson. He attended schools in the Houston Independent School District, including 8th Avenue School, Hogg Middle School, Booker T. Washington High School, and Reagan High School. From an early age, Lawrence was shaped by a strong and prominent Christian family. He was baptized by his grandfather, Rev. C.D. Dixon, at Greater Mt. Pillow Missionary Baptist Church, and his faith remained a steady foundation throughout his life.

Lawrence's spiritual journey was marked by devotion and growth. Guided by the promise of Jeremiah 29:11, he rededicated his life to Christ and committed himself fully to living with purpose declaring, "No turning back." He became not only a church member, but a faithful disciple, deepening his walk and dedicating himself to service.

At The Community of Faith Church, Lawrence was a constant presence and a reliable servant. He supported the church's growth and participated in major milestones over the years. He served wherever he was needed, embodying a spirit of responsibility, humility, and love for others.

On March 8, 1998, Lawrence was ordained as a Deacon at The Community of Faith by Bishop James Dixon II. He served with passion and compassion, including through the Overcomers Group and the Prison Ministry, sharing his personal testimony to uplift others and remind them that what we do in service to Christ is what endures.

Lawrence also exemplified integrity and commitment through his work. He served faithfully for more than a decade at Metro, and later took a leap of faith to build his own landscaping business. The Lawn Groomer—a reflection of his work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and determination.

In his personal life, Lawrence found the love of his life in Vickie Gloria Johnson, whom he married on November 25, 1995, at The Community of Faith Church. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and service. Lawrence cherished every role he held—especially being “Daddy,” then “Pawpaw,” and ultimately “Grand Pawpaw,” embracing his family with deep joy and pride.

Lawrence and Vickie also served others with special dedication—especially homebound seniors, ensuring they received care, companionship, and support, including in the service of the Lord’s Supper. He contributed to compassionate outreach efforts, helping deliver food to seniors through weekly community service initiatives.

On January 6, 2026, Lawrence James Johnson entered eternal rest. His life was defined by steadfast faith, devotion to family, and an unselfish commitment to others. He is preceded in death by his parents, L.J. Johnson and Erma Lee Dixon Johnson; his brother, Lloyd “Poncho” Johnson; his uncle, Pastor Robert Irving Dixon, Sr.; his aunt, Doris Cole; and his niece, London Lynette Kent. Lawrence is survived by his beloved wife, Vickie Gloria Johnson; his daughters, Katrina Carroll and Brandi Williams-Lee; his siblings, Jan Kent, Doris Allen, and Danny Johnson; his beloved uncle, James Dixon, Sr.; and countless extended family members, friends, neighbors, and members of his church family who were blessed by his unique spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy Lawrence leaves behind is one of faith in action—service without recognition, love without condition, and perseverance through life’s challenges. May we honor his memory by keeping Christ first, showing unselfish love to one another, and living by the words of his favorite scripture, Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.”

I extend my deepest condolences to the Johnson family and all who loved Lawrence James Johnson. May his life continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

HONORING RAMON “RAY” A.
BORREGO

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon “Ray” A. Borrego, a proud American whose life of service reflects the highest traditions of our Armed Forces and our veteran community. At the age of 21, Ray Borrego was drafted into the United States Army in April of 1967. He completed basic training at Fort Bliss, followed by Advanced Individual Training at the renowned “Tiger Land” at Fort Polk, Louisiana, before deploying from Fort Lewis to Vietnam in September 1967.

During his year in Vietnam, he served with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, of the

Airmobile Infantry Division, one of the most heavily engaged units of the war. After returning to the United States in 1968, he completed his service at Fort Dix and Fort Carson, receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Ray’s service did not end with his military career. His hometown of San Elizario has a long and proud military history, but for many years its veterans had only a small museum room honoring their contributions. In 2007, Ray helped change that. As a founding member and the very first Chairperson of the San Elizario Veterans Committee, he helped lead a remarkable transformation of how his community honors those who served.

Under his leadership, the Committee established a permanent Veterans Museum, created the Veterans Memorial Brick Walk, and expanded the annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony. The Committee also launched the Honor Salute for fallen San Eli veterans, supported cemetery upkeep, conducted fundraising, and championed the effort to designate San Elizario as a Purple Heart City. His leadership extended beyond San Elizario as a co-founder of the Lower Valley Veterans Alliance and a participant in Mission 15 of the Rio Grande Honor Flight.

Although Ray stepped down as Chairperson in 2024, he continues to serve as Co-Chair, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to honoring veterans across the Lower Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Ramon Borrego represents the best of our country—a soldier, a leader, and a dedicated servant to his community. Today we recognize and thank him for a lifetime of service.

CELEBRATING THE ROUND ROCK
HIGH SCHOOL MARINE CORPS
JROTC

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Round Rock High School Marine Corps JROTC Academics Team, who achieved a historic first-place finish at the 2025 JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) National Championship. This marks the first time a Marine Corps JROTC team has captured the overall national title across all service branches, and the first time a team from Round Rock has earned this distinction.

JLAB 2025 began in November 2024 with 3,543 JROTC programs from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. After months of rigorous online competition, only the top teams advanced to the national championship at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Though Round Rock initially ranked ninth among Marine Corps programs, just outside the qualifying cutoff, an unexpected opening allowed them to compete. They went on to win the Marine Corps division and then defeat the champions from every other branch to claim the national title.

Their victory was the result of months of disciplined preparation, including weekly practices, competition simulations, and intense review of past contest materials. Under the leadership of retired Marine Master Gunnery Ser-

geant Olmeda, who served 23 years on active duty and is now in his eighth year teaching JROTC, cadets Niveda Swamynathan, Khushal Jalagam, Sylvia Marrone, and Ishaan Chokshi demonstrated exceptional dedication, teamwork, and academic excellence.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate the Round Rock High School Marine Corps JROTC Academics Team, who have made Central Texas proud through their perseverance and groundbreaking achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 28 on H.R. 7006, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YES when I should have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST FAA-APPROVED DRONE DELIVERY IN THE UNITED STATES, COMMENDING LET’S FLY WISELY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a landmark moment in both American aviation history and rural health care innovation: the 10th anniversary of the first Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved drone delivery, which took place in Wise County, Virginia, on July 17, 2015.

This groundbreaking event marked the first official drone package delivery in this country. It was the first time in our Nation’s history that medical supplies were delivered to patients via Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), setting a global precedent for how drone technology can serve humanity.

The drone delivery was made possible through an extraordinary collaboration among several visionary partners:

Flirtey, a pioneering startup in commercial drone delivery (including co-founder and chief executive officer Matthew Sweeny; co-founder and chief operations officer Tom Bass; advisory board member Shyam Chidamber);

Health Wagon, a nonprofit health care organization that has served the medically underserved in Central Appalachia for over four decades (including chief executive officer, Dr. Teresa Gardner Tyson, DNP; clinical director, Dr. Paula Meade Collins, DNP);

Remote Area Medical (RAM), which organizes annual pop-up clinics providing free medical, dental, and vision care (including president, Stan Brock);

NASA Langley Research Center, which offered critical technical support and expertise (including director David E. Bowles; Frank Jones; John Foggia);

Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) at Virginia Tech, an official FAA-designated UAS test site (including director, Jon Greene; president, Timothy D. Sands);