

HONORING BARRY E. BOYER

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barry E. Boyer, a remarkable Navy and Vietnam War veteran and long-time resident of Marion, Indiana. His life is defined by his patriotism and service to both our community and nation.

At just nineteen years old, Mr. Boyer enlisted in the United States Navy on July 5th of 1966. His service took him to the Great Lakes Naval Station where he completed nine weeks of basic training. Mr. Boyer was then assigned to the USS *Pickaway* (APA 222) and began his four-year tour of duty around Southeast Asia.

Following his promotion to Second Class Petty Officer, Mr. Boyer received orders to serve as a replacement for one of the twenty-five US Navy personnel that heroically lost their lives aboard the USS *Westchester County* (LST-1167). The ship was anchored in the Saigon River Basin in Vietnam, when Viet Cong frogman placed deadly mines on the ship's hull. The explosions marked the single greatest loss of Navy personnel during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Boyer spent his final sixteen months on two tours of duty in and out of enemy waters in South Vietnam. He served with the US Navy until March 13th of 1970, carrying the memory and honor of those that sacrificed their lives. Following his honorable discharge, Mr. Boyer returned to Marion, Indiana. He went on to serve at the United States Postal Service, continuing his passion for public service.

It was in Marion that Mr. Boyer met Reta Painter Boyer of Fairmount, Indiana, and married her. Together, they have raised two daughters, Jennifer and Janelle, and built their family based on the ideals of both faith and service. Mr. Boyer retired from the United States Post Office in 2003, after years of dedicated service. As described by his loved ones, Mr. Boyer has continued to be a patriot and humble servant of the Lord.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I commend Mr. Boyer for his courage and commitment to others. His contributions reflect true American patriotism.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED WAY
OF ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise The United Way of St. Francois County for working to help its neighbors in need for 30 years.

Established in 1995 as the "Farmington United Fund," the group expanded its reach in 1996 and changed its name. Since then, The United Way of St. Francois County has brought hope and help by funding local agencies that meet basic needs. From food pantries and senior centers to homeless shelters and backpack programs, the United Way has

met the most basic human needs of food, shelter, health, education and social welfare services.

The United Way raises money through local fundraisers like Derby Day and Dine Out for United Way. The annual bell-ringing campaign brings the community together for more than 900 hours to ring bells at wishing wells throughout the county, drawing attention to the organization's mission and taking donations during the holiday season. This year, The United Way of St. Francois County provided more than \$98,000 in grants to 24 local non-profit groups.

Since its founding, the United Way has been governed by a board of community leaders, which now includes its president, Leigh Ragsdale, and Executive Director, Ken Curfman.

It is my privilege to congratulate The United Way of St. Francois County as it celebrates 30 years of serving the needs of its neighbors and reflecting the best in community spirit today before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD S.
LOFGREN, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a proud son of Texas and an exceptional leader, Rear Admiral Richard S. Lofgren, on his retirement from the United States Navy. For over three decades, he faithfully served our Nation, first as a surface warfare officer and eventually as the Acting Chief of Navy Reserve and Acting Commander, Navy Reserve Force.

Commitment to service runs deep in his family. A proud 1993 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Rear Admiral Lofgren earned his commission through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps and followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who were both Naval Aviators. His career can be characterized simply: he answers the call.

Rear Admiral Lofgren began his active-duty career assigned to the USS *WASP* (LHD-1), where he completed critical deployments in support of Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and Operation Joint Resolve in the Balkans. These missions, undertaken far from home, reflect our Nation's commitment to safeguarding liberty wherever it is threatened.

On September 11, 2001, a day that forever changed our Nation, he answered the call by affiliating with the Navy Reserve, embarking on a distinguished career of strategic leadership and operational excellence across the fleet. Like so many patriots moved by that tragic day, he chose service over comfort, and duty over ease, proving once again that America's strength lies in those willing to defend her.

Throughout his time in the Navy Reserve, he commanded at numerous levels, excelling in maritime expeditionary, coastal riverine, and surface warfare missions. When asked to assume the immense responsibility of Acting Chief of Navy Reserve, Rear Admiral Lofgren did so with characteristic selflessness. Once again, he answered the call.

Leaving behind his civilian career as a Managing Director in Assets and Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs with merely one day's notice, he moved from Dallas, Texas to the halls of the Pentagon.

Like many who don the cloth of the Nation, he never imagined he would still be serving thirty years after first joining the Navy. Each new tour was an opportunity to demonstrate servant leadership and continue upholding an oath to the Constitution. In reflecting on his final uniformed leadership role, he regarded the time as a humbling opportunity to shine a light on the incredible teammates who serve alongside him. His service reflects the enduring strength of the American spirit and the unwavering belief that our Nation's ideals are worth defending.

A successful career never occurs in a vacuum, absent of support and sacrifice. His rapid transition to Washington, D.C. combined with decades of continued service, stands as a profound testament to his wife, Jennifer. Her steadfast support, resilience, and dedication have been the foundation of his career, reminding us all that military service is a true family commitment.

That proud legacy of service now continues with the next generation—a fourth generation of Navy service. Their son, Lieutenant Junior Grade Richard J. Lofgren, recently qualified in submarine warfare and is on active duty with the silent service, stewarding the most critical and survivable part of our nuclear arsenal, and demonstrating our Nation's commitment to peace through strength.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral Lofgren's career reflects a sustained commitment to operational excellence, to the defense of the United States, and to freedom writ large. On behalf of a grateful Nation and my fellow Texans, I extend my deepest gratitude to Rear Admiral Richard S. Lofgren and his family for their unwavering dedication, leadership, and decades of sacrifice for the United States of America.

As they conclude this remarkable chapter of their lives, I wish him, Jennifer, and their entire family fair winds and following seas. May their legacy continue to inspire future generations to serve, protect, and cherish the ideals that make our Nation exceptional.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RAMIRO "RAM" CHAVEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and service of Mr. Ramiro "Ram" Chavez, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, educator, musician, and pillar of the Corpus Christi community.

Mr. Chavez proudly served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969. As a combat medic with the 199th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, he treated wounded soldiers during intense fighting, including the Tet Offensive. Among his many military honors, he earned the Combat Medical Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" for valor, and the Purple Heart.

Upon returning home to Corpus Christi, Texas, Mr. Chavez remained deeply committed to his community. He earned a bachelor's in music education from Texas A&M—

Kingsville and a master's in school administration from Texas A&M—Corpus Christi. He then spent 25 years with the Corpus Christi Independent School District as a band director, music teacher, and assistant principal. In 2024, Veterans Memorial High School dedicated the Ramiro "Ram" Chavez Performing Arts Hall in recognition of his lifelong service. Through education and music, he inspired generations of South Texas students.

Mr. Chavez also founded and led the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi, bringing veterans together through music to honor American service members and preserve the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Through this organization, he fostered camaraderie among veterans while strengthening the community's appreciation for their service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas' 34th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Mr. Chavez for his extraordinary life of service, sacrifice, and dedication. His legacy will continue to inspire veterans, students, musicians, and all South Texans.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHRIS MOHAN

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 40-year career of Lieutenant General Chris Mohan. As his service comes to an end, I'd like to recognize the legacy of exceptional service and leadership that Lieutenant General Mohan leaves behind.

Lieutenant General Mohan leaves the Army with a decorated and distinguished career. He earned numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal and Meritorious Unit Citation. These awards speak for themselves as, in addition to his deployed service in the Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom operations. Lieutenant General Mohan's served in numerous command assignments which took him across the country and overseas. I'm especially grateful for his time at the Tooele Army Depot in Tooele, Utah.

Since November of 2025, Lieutenant General Mohan has served as the Commanding General of the United States Material Command. His expertise contributed directly to the strength and development of our national security.

Our Nation's veterans exemplify the best our country has to offer, and we will always be in a debt of gratitude towards them. I'm proud to recognize Lieutenant General Mohan's career, and to thank him for his selfless service to the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTEX TECHNOLOGIES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Centex Technologies as it celebrates 20 years of innovation, growth, and service to the people and businesses of Central Texas.

Founded in 2006, Centex Technologies has grown from a local computer consulting firm into a leading provider of information technology, cybersecurity, software development, digital marketing, and government solutions. For two decades, the company has remained committed to delivering innovative technology services while helping businesses and government agencies meet the demands of an evolving digital world.

Throughout its history, Centex Technologies has continually expanded its capabilities and presence, opening offices in Dallas, Atlanta, and Austin while broadening its services to better support both private industry and government partners. The company launched its Government Division, established the Texas A&M Forensics Lab to advance cybersecurity and digital forensics, and earned recognition on the Inc. 5000 list of America's fastest-growing private companies. Its commitment to excellence is further demonstrated through the acquisition of GSA and SeaPort NxG contract vehicles, ISO 9001:2015 certification, and CMMC Level 2 certification.

These achievements reflect Centex Technologies' dedication to innovation, quality, and exceptional service. Over the past 20 years, the company has strengthened Texas' technology sector, created jobs, and delivered valuable solutions to businesses and government agencies alike. The leadership and economic impact Centex Technologies has brought to Central Texas continue to benefit the region and inspire future innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the leadership and employees of Centex Technologies on this remarkable milestone and thank them for their continued contributions to Central Texas and our Nation. I wish them continued success for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING JAIME ENRIQUE MICHEL VELASCO AND HIS RECORD-BREAKING MAZAPÁN

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Mr. Jaime Enrique Michel Velasco, and the Dulces de la Rosa company for their achievement of creating the world's largest mazapán. This sweet treat, which is made from ground peanuts and icing sugar, is widely enjoyed throughout Mexico and Latin America and traces its origins back to 16th Century Spain.

Despite setting the previous Guinness World Record in 2018 in Guadalajara, Mexico, the Dulces de la Rosa team traveled to California

aiming to make history once more. On October 25, 2024, 25 chefs arrived in the City of Santa Ana and proceeded to surpass the previous record. In just six hours, Dulces de la Rosa produced a mazapán that weighed over 23,000 pounds, and measured 11.8 feet in diameter and 5.2 feet tall. This event not only served as a momentous achievement for Dulces de la Rosa and their President, Mr. Velasco, but also as a tribute to the vibrant Mexican culture within the United States.

Dulces de la Rosa partnered with "Los 32 por México y más," a nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of Mexican art, culture, and traditions. This record-setting event acted as a celebration of the culture that unites many of the people in my district and Southern California. It brought together influential Mexican-American leaders, local dignitaries, Mexican officials, and most importantly the local community. Over the duration of the event, thousands of people gathered at Plaza de Las Banderas in Santa Ana to witness this achievement. I am proud that my district had the honor of hosting this event. Congratulations once again to Mr. Velasco and the Dulces de la Rosa company for achieving this historic milestone.

HONORING THE CHAMPAGNE FAMILY AND 100 YEARS OF CHAMPAGNE'S MARCHÉ

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Champagne family and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Champagne's Marché, a family-owned business that has served the people of Louisiana with exceptional service for three generations exemplifying a commitment to family and community.

One hundred years ago, Walter and Alma Champagne opened the doors to a small neighborhood store in Port Barre, Louisiana. It took an entire week before the first customer walked through the door, but the Champagne's never wavered. They earned the community's trust through hard work, fair prices, and good service.

The same spirit has guided the Champagne family for a century. Howard and Sarah Champagne expanded the business with a new store in 1979, and Richard and Angela Champagne carried the family tradition into a third generation, growing Champagne's Marché into a destination known for its king cakes, sausage, boudin, chicken salad, and many other Louisiana specialties.

Generation after generation, the Champagne family has carried forward the values established in 1926. Today, the fourth generation stands ready to continue that legacy.

Champagne's Marché stands as a testament to the enduring strength of Louisiana's family-owned businesses. They create jobs, support local farmers and producers, invest in our communities, and preserve our unique culture.

Congratulations to the entire Champagne family on this achievement. May God continue to bless their family, employees, and customers.