

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.

FLORIDA PIZZA DESTINATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize something that brings people together across every generation, every background, and every community—pizza. Before I speak about Florida, I want to acknowledge the communities that have built America's remarkable pizza heritage. Places like New York, New Haven, Chicago, Detroit, Old Forge, and many others have shaped the history of pizza in the United States. Their traditions are woven into our Nation's culinary identity and deserve to be celebrated.

Florida's story, however, is different. Our state is not seeking to replace these legendary pizza destinations or claim their rich history. Instead, Florida has become something uniquely American—a place where many of our Nation's greatest pizza traditions come together. From Pensacola to Key West, Jacksonville to Tampa Bay, Orlando, Miami, and communities throughout the Sunshine State, talented pizza makers are serving extraordinary New York-style pizza, New Haven apizza, Neapolitan, Detroit-style, Sicilian, Roman, Grandma pies, bar pies, and countless other regional favorites. Many of these artisans trained in America's historic pizza cities before bringing their expertise to Florida. Others have immigrated from Italy and around the world, enriching our state's culinary landscape. Still others are homegrown entrepreneurs who have developed their own distinctive approaches, earning national and international recognition for their craftsmanship. Together, they have created one of the most diverse pizza cultures anywhere in the country.

Florida is also one of the world's premier travel destinations. Every year, millions of visitors come to our state to enjoy our beautiful beaches, world-class attractions, outdoor recreation, vibrant downtowns, and welcoming communities. Increasingly, they are also discovering Florida's outstanding independent pizzerias. These family-owned businesses are more than restaurants. They are small businesses that create jobs, strengthen neighborhoods, support local charities, and contribute to the economic vitality of communities across our state. Congress has previously recognized the cultural significance of regional pizza traditions. In 2024, our colleague, Representative ROSA DELAURO, proudly celebrated New Haven's extraordinary pizza heritage on the House floor. Today, I rise to celebrate a different but complementary story. Florida is not one pizza style. Florida is where many of America's great pizza traditions can be experienced together. It is where innovation meets tradition, where entrepreneurs continue to raise the standard of excellence, and where residents and visitors alike can experience an incredible diversity of flavors, techniques, and cultures. I believe it is appropriate to recognize the State of Florida as "A Pizza Destination." This recognition honors the thousands of independent pizzeria owners, pizza makers, employees, and families whose hard work has helped make Florida one of the Nation's most exciting culinary destinations. It celebrates craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, tourism, and the small businesses that help define our com-

munities. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Florida's growing reputation as "A Pizza Destination" and in celebrating the people whose passion and dedication continue to make the Sunshine State a place where great pizza—and great American small businesses—can thrive.

**HONORING THE MILITARY ORDER
OF THE PURPLE HEART, CHAPTER
711, IN RECOGNITION OF
PURPLE HEART DAY**

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 711, and to honor all Purple Heart recipients in southern Nevada as we observe Purple Heart Day.

Purple Heart Day provides our nation with an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of the men and women who were wounded or killed while serving in defense of the United States. The Purple Heart is one of our nation's oldest and most revered military decorations, representing a legacy of selfless service, resilience, and unwavering devotion to duty.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 711, has long served as a steadfast advocate for combat-wounded veterans and their families throughout southern Nevada. Through its commitment to veterans' outreach, mentorship, community service, and support for fellow Purple Heart recipients, the chapter continues to uphold the values of honor, patriotism, and service that define our nation's military.

The members of Chapter 711 not only carry the visible and invisible wounds of war with dignity, but they also dedicate themselves to ensuring that no veteran is forgotten. Their leadership strengthens our community, inspires future generations, and reminds us of the tremendous cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day.

On Purple Heart Day, we extend our deepest gratitude to every recipient of this distinguished medal. Their sacrifices have safeguarded our nation and preserved the liberties we cherish. We remain forever indebted to these brave Americans and to the families who have stood beside them through every challenge.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 711, for its continued service to our veterans and our community. On behalf of Nevada's 3rd Congressional District and a grateful nation, I thank them for their sacrifice, their leadership, and their enduring commitment to those who have borne the battle.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LYNN BARTELS**

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lynn Bartels, a

dear friend and one of Colorado's most respected and influential journalists.

For more than two decades, Lynn chronicled the people, events, and decisions that shaped our state. She possessed an insatiable curiosity, a relentless pursuit of the truth, and an unmatched ability to connect with people from every walk of life.

Whether covering governors, senators, legislators, or local officials, she approached every story with tenacity, fairness, and integrity. She held public officials accountable without losing sight of their humanity. Colleagues and elected leaders alike admired her encyclopedic knowledge of Colorado politics, her sharp memory, and her remarkable network of sources. Yet beyond her professional accomplishments, it was her authenticity, warmth, and genuine interest in people that earned her widespread admiration and trust.

What set Lynn apart was her unwavering commitment to fairness. She did not play favorites, nor did she allow partisanship to shape her reporting. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents knew they would receive the same honest treatment from Lynn. Even those who found themselves the subject of a difficult story respected her because they knew she was guided by a steadfast commitment to the facts and to the public she served.

Lynn's influence extended far beyond the newsroom. After her distinguished career in journalism, she continued serving Colorado in state government, bringing the same intelligence, energy, humor, and dedication that had defined her reporting. She remained a trusted colleague, mentor, and friend to countless individuals across the political spectrum. Her unique ability to build relationships, foster understanding, and communicate complex issues made her an indispensable part of Colorado's civic life.

As we remember Lynn Bartels, we celebrate not only an exceptional journalist but also an exceptional friend and mentor who will be deeply missed. Her infectious personality, quick wit, compassion, and passion for public service touched generations of Coloradans. She leaves behind a legacy of excellence, fairness, and humanity that will continue to inspire those who follow in her footsteps. Although Lynn is no longer with us, her impact endures in the stories she told, the people she influenced, the leaders she held accountable, and the stronger, better-informed Colorado she helped build.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Lynn's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in peace.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
MARK SILBERT**

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 honor the life and legacy of Mark Silbert, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, engineer, and community leader whose life was defined by intellect, integrity, curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to those around him.

Mark's pursuit of knowledge and excellence led him to earn advanced degrees in Physical