



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Tuesday, October 19, 2021



John Murphy

John G. Murphy directs the U.S. Chamber's advocacy relating to international trade and investment policy. Since joining the Chamber in 1999, Murphy has led its successful campaigns to win congressional passage of trade agreements with a dozen nations, including Colombia, Panama, and South Korea in 2011, as well as Trade Promotion Authority in 2015. Murphy also plays a key role in the Chamber's advocacy for international business priorities before Congress, the administration, foreign governments, and the World Trade Organization.

From 2001 to 2008, Murphy served as the Chamber's Vice President for Western Hemisphere Affairs and as Executive Vice President of the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA). In 2008, he received AACCLA's Eagle of the Americas award, which is given annually to the individual who has "done the most to advance our mission of increased trade and investment between the United States and Latin America."

In the 1990s, Murphy worked at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of democracy overseas, and at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), which champions market-oriented economic reform around the world. From 1992 to 1993, he was the first Western lecturer in economics at the National University of Economics in Czechoslovakia.

Murphy graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and he received his Master of Science degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He serves on the boards of the Global Business Dialogue, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and the Washington International Trade Foundation. He is fluent in Spanish.



Kristen Silverberg

Ambassador Kristen Silverberg is Executive Vice President, Policy at Business Roundtable, where she leads the Policy team. She previously served as a Managing Director at the Institute of International Finance. She served in the George W. Bush Administration as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union from 2008 to 2009 and as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs from 2005 to 2008. Prior to her time at the State Department, she held a number of senior positions at the White House including Deputy Domestic Policy Advisor.

Ambassador Silverberg served in 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq for which she received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. She formerly practiced law at Williams and Connolly, LLP in Washington, DC and served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Judge David Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals. She attended Harvard College and the University of Texas School of Law, where she graduated with High Honors.

Ambassador Silverberg serves on the Board of Directors of the CDC Foundation, the Board of Directors of the International Republican Institute, the Board of Directors of Vorbeck Materials, the Advisory Board of the Texas National Security Review, the National Advisory Council of the Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative, and was recognized by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader.



Michelle Vopni | Ernst & Young | Dallas Office Managing Partner

As the Office Managing Partner, Michelle is responsible for leading day-to-day practice operations in one of the firm's largest markets, as well as working to provide a positive work environment for the office's more than 3,000 employees. Michelle also serves as the "face and voice" of EY in the Dallas community. She is the firm's spokesperson on a variety of topics with local professional organizations and at numerous community events that support the firm's commitment to education and mentoring.

Michelle has been an EY partner for 17 years and has 30 years of experience serving large public and private clients in the retail, consumer product and industrial product industries. Michelle's experience includes activities related to public offerings, SEC reporting, and mergers and acquisitions with significant technical experience with inventory valuation, revenue recognition, lease accounting and restructuring charges.

Michelle is the 2021 Board Chair for the Dallas Regional Chamber. She also serves on the board of directors for United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, American Heart Association and the Dallas Catholic Foundation.

Michelle earned a BBA degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Certified Public Accountant.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 - Morning Meetings



The Honorable Jake Ellzey (TX-6)

Newly elected Congressman Jake Ellzey proudly represents Texas' 6th congressional district which spans from the Rangers Ballpark in Tarrant County to the booming suburbs of Ellis and Navarro Counties. Ellzey, a native Texan, lives with his wife Shelby and their two children on a ten-acre ranch in Ellis County, where they have spent the last decade.

At the age of seven, Jake decided he wanted to become a fighter pilot. Fifteen years later, he was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. Since his graduation, Ellzey has served our country and Texas for over 33 years.

Throughout his 20-year Naval career, Ellzey flew H-60 helicopters, F-14 Tomcats, F/A-18 Hornets, and Super Hornets in defense of our nation. He has logged 830 carrier landings, and he served a tour as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller on the ground embedded with Navy SEALs. He was deployed nine times during his military career with five combat tours over Afghanistan and two in Iraq. Following his tour as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron, he served as the Air Boss on the USS Ronald Reagan.

After his Navy career, he served Texas as a Commissioner of the Texas Veterans Commission, State Representative of the 10th District of Texas, ran a small business, and worked as an airline pilot.

Congressman Ellzey is committed to protecting private property rights, stopping high-speed rail, serving our veterans, lowering taxes, defending the 2nd amendment, protecting the sanctity of life, and working to ensure election integrity.



The Honorable Lance Gooden (TX-5)

First elected in 2018, Congressman Lance Gooden represents Texas' 5th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 5th District stretches from Dallas County to Cherokee, Henderson, Kaufman, Anderson, Van Zandt and Wood Counties.

In the 117th Congress, Congressman Gooden is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services. Prior to joining the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Gooden served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives and worked in the insurance industry for 10 years.

Lance and his wife, Alexa, live in Terrell with their two children, Liam and Milla.



The Honorable Michael Burgess (TX-26)

After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas I have served the constituents of the 26th District since 2003 in the United States House of Representatives.

I currently serve on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Rules Committee, and House Budget Committee.

As of the 115th Congress, I am the most senior medical doctor, on both sides of the aisle, serving in the House of Representatives. Because of my medical background, I have been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. I have voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act over 50 times, and have played an important role in bipartisan efforts to reform the Food and Drug Administration.

Ever since I came to Congress, I have made repealing Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula a top priority. At the beginning of the 114th Congress, over ninety percent of both chambers of Congress supported the formula's repeal and it was signed into law. As one of the largest entitlement reforms in the past few decades, this landmark policy will ensure greater access and quality for seniors, more stable reimbursements for providers, and a more fiscally solvent Medicare system as a whole.

As a member of Congress representing one of the fastest-growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority. In 2005, I successfully amended the Highway Bill to include development credits, design-build, and environmental streamlining. During my time on Capitol Hill, I have worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service, and transit in the North Texas region.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing illegal immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including the Guardian of Small Business award by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others. In 2013, I was named to Modern Healthcare's 50 Most Influential Physician Executives and Leaders.

Today, I represent the majority of Denton County and parts of Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas.

I received my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also received a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for more than 40 years. We have three children and two grandsons.



The Honorable Kay Granger (TX-12)

A leader in national defense and global security, Kay Granger serves and fights for the 12th congressional district of Texas, which includes Wise County, Parker County, and the western half of Tarrant County. Since making history in 1997 as the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, Granger has earned her reputation in Congress as an influential conservative leader.

In 2020, Granger was re-elected by her colleagues to serve as the Ranking Member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee in the 117th Congress. As the Committee's Lead Republican since 2019, Granger advocates for Republican priorities and fiscal responsibility – while working closely with House leadership, the Senate, and the White House to ensure that the needs of the American people are properly met and funded.

Granger was previously the first Republican woman to sit on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and went on to serve as the Chairwoman of the powerful subcommittee, which accounts for the majority of all federal funding appropriated by the Committee. As Chairwoman, Granger's priorities were bolstering America's military, supporting our service members and their families, and reversing harmful, arbitrary budget cuts to our national defense. She also previously served as the Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, insisting on transparency in the State Department and diplomatic community, including in the probe into the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

Granger has received many honors for her unshakeable commitment to our military and to restoring America's strength and power in the world. In 2020, she was awarded the U.S. National Guard Association's Harry S. Truman Award, the Association's highest honor. She has also received the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of the Army's Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the top civilian honors respectively bestowed by the Secretaries of the Navy and the Army. Granger is proud to use her knowledge of national security and appropriations to secure funding vital to not only our common defense but also the North Texas defense industry and the tens of thousands of hardworking Texans who make the Fort Worth metroplex America's top defense industrial hub.

A native Texan, Granger knows firsthand how crucial it is to secure our Southern border from cartels and cross-border crimes. Granger has visited the U.S.-Mexico border many times to oversee the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. For her specialized expertise in border and immigration issues, she was selected to lead the special task force addressing the 2014 crisis when 60,000 migrant children were displaced along the Southern border.

Because of her commitment to a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, Granger played a key role in funding the current Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Israel, which has allowed cooperation between our countries to reach unprecedented heights.

Granger has also been recognized for her strong support of NASA and U.S. dominance in the highest domain. She is a champion of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman on the Moon by 2024. She urged the creation of the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command, and fiercely advocates on behalf of Texas' longstanding role at the center of America's great space program.

Granger is an inductee of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame, and she has received the Texas Association of Business' Bob Bolen Champion of Free Enterprise Lifetime Achievement Award and the Texas Wesleyan University's Law Sone Medal. In 2020, Granger's office was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation with the Democracy Award, the premier accolade for Congressional offices demonstrating excellence in constituent services.

She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, sits on the Board of Directors of the International Republican Institute and Southwestern University, and is on the Board of Trustees for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

A lifelong resident of Fort Worth, Granger attended local public schools and graduated from Texas Wesleyan University. The powerful example set by her mother, a longtime principal in the Birdville Independent School District, instilled in her the importance of giving back to the community. Granger began her professional life following her mother's advice and following in her footsteps, teaching high school journalism and English at Richland High School. Later, as the owner of a successful small business, she entered public service to address issues impacting her community. Granger served as the Chair of the Fort Worth Zoning Commission, then was elected to the City Council—and in 1991, she was elected the first female Mayor of Fort Worth. In her five-year tenure as Mayor, Granger oversaw a period of rapid economic growth and led innovative crime-fighting reforms that slashed crime across the city about 50%. Her success as Mayor was recognized when Fort Worth received the coveted All-America City Award from the National Civic League. Granger also led the successful crusade to preserve Fort Worth's military base installation through establishing America's first-ever Joint Reserve Base.

Granger is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth and is the proud mother of three children and grandmother of five. In her spare time, she enjoys being with her family and is an avid painter.



The Honorable Van Taylor (TX-3)

A seventh generation Texan, Van Taylor is a family man, businessman, and decorated Iraq War Veteran. Growing up, Van earned the Eagle Scout rank from the future President George Bush.

After high school, Van attended Harvard College from which he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in history. After graduating college, Van volunteered to serve his country and received a commission in the United States Marine Corps.

He attended The Basic School, Infantry Officer Course, and graduated first in his class from Sniper Employment Officer Course. He completed Intelligence School as the Marine Honor Graduate and commanded First Marine Regiment's Reconnaissance Platoon in Camp Pendleton, CA. After completing that assignment, he served as an intelligence officer for an artillery battalion. Van earned the Navy Achievement Medal for devising a quantitative combat power analysis system.

Van Taylor joined the Marine Corps Reserves to continue serving his country while earning his MBA at Harvard Business School. He served in Fourth Civil Affairs Group, graduating from the John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare at Ft. Bragg, NC. He joined 4th Reconnaissance Battalion as a platoon commander for Charlie Company.

On September 11, 2001, Van was serving his final day at the 4th Civil Affairs Group at the Anacostia Naval Annex. He was supposed to have lunch at the Pentagon that day, but instead watched smoke rise from across the Potomac River as the Pentagon burned from the 9-11 terrorist attack.

That day, Van swore to always serve and make a difference.

Two years after September 11, Van deployed to Iraq where he fought with 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company. While deployed, Van led the first platoon into Iraq for his brigade and a mission that rescued 31 wounded

Marines during the pitched Battle of An Nasiriyah. For his service in Iraq, the Marine Corps awarded Captain Taylor the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Navy Commendation Medal with "V" for valor.

Van and his wife, Anne, married after his return from Iraq and are the proud parents of three young girls, Laura, Helen, and Susie whom they have raised in Plano near the land Van's great-grandfather farmed during the Great Depression.

From April 2010 to January 2015, Van Taylor represented District 66 in the Texas House of Representatives. From January 13, 2015 – January 3, 2019, Taylor served as a Member of the Texas Senate, representing the Eighth Senate District of Texas. On January 3, 2019, Van Taylor was sworn in as a Member of the United States Congress, representing Texas Third Congressional District.

During the 1st Session of the 116th Congress, Representative Taylor served on the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Education and Labor. Given Taylor's personal experience as well as the heavy presence of financial services sector companies and employees in Texas' Third Congressional District, Congressman Taylor was appointed to serve on the influential House Committee on Financial Services in January 2020.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 - Afternoon Meetings



The Honorable John Cornyn

In 2020, Texans overwhelmingly re-elected Senator John Cornyn to represent them for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate.

Since he was first elected in 2002, Sen. Cornyn has earned a national reputation as an articulate and powerful voice for Texas and conservative values in Washington. Sen. Cornyn, a San Antonio native, strongly believes that we need more Texas solutions in Washington, which is why he consistently fights to bring the Lone Star State's commonsense solutions to the federal level.

He has committed himself to strengthening our national defense, securing our borders, repairing our broken immigration system, and strengthening the economy by keeping taxes low, reducing federal spending, and fighting job-killing regulations from Washington bureaucrats. Sen. Cornyn has also been a tireless advocate for Texas military personnel, veterans, and their families, and he has fought to provide these brave Americans with the best possible support, care, and benefits.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees, where he helps craft legislation on behalf of 29 million Texans. From 2013 until 2018 Sen. Cornyn was chosen by his colleagues to serve as the Whip, the second-highest ranking position in the Senate Republican Conference.

Sen. Cornyn has served the people of Texas for the nearly four decades, first as a district judge and later as a member of the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Attorney General. He received his undergraduate degree from Trinity University, his law degree from St. Mary's School of Law, and his LLM from the University of Virginia Law School.

Sen. Cornyn married his wife Sandy in 1979, and they have two grown daughters.



The Honorable Pat Fallon (TX-4)

Congressman Pat Fallon has represented North Texans in the Texas Legislature since 2013 and proudly serves today as the Congressman for Texas' Fourth Congressional District, where he serves over 700,000 great American "bosses".

The Fourth Congressional district encompasses the 18 counties across Northeast Texas, including all or part of the counties of Bowie, Camp, Cass, Collin, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Titus, and Upshur.

Prior to his time in the Texas Senate and House, Pat enjoyed a decades-long successful entrepreneurial career, having founded over a dozen successful companies.

To raise funds and awareness for pediatric cancer research, Pat entered what has been billed as "the world's greatest endurance challenge" in 2016. He completed the World Marathon Challenge, a race where competitors attempt to run 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days, on January 29, 2016, becoming just the 15th person in the world to do so successfully. He was also the first (and still only) person to finish the World Marathon Challenge with no previous marathon experience.

Congressman Fallon is a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he played varsity football under legendary coach Lou Holtz and was a member of the 1988 National Championship team. Upon graduation, Pat received a commission to serve as an officer in the United States Air Force where he was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX.

Pat has been happily married to his lovely wife, Susan, for 16 years and they have two boys, Thomas (14) and Mac (11).



The Honorable Ted Cruz

Throughout his life, Ted Cruz has proven to be a passionate and effective fighter for limited government, economic growth, and the Constitution.

Ted's calling to public service has been inspired by his firsthand observation of the pursuit of freedom and opportunity in America. Ted's mother, Eleanor, was born in Delaware to an Irish and Italian working-class family. She became the first in her family to go to college, graduated from Rice University with a degree in mathematics, and became a pioneering computer programmer in the 1950s.

After being tortured and imprisoned in Cuba, Ted's father, Rafael, fled to the United States to attend the University of Texas at Austin in 1957. He then started a small business in the oil and gas industry. Today, Ted's father is a pastor in Dallas.

Growing up, his father would often say to him:

"When we faced oppression in Cuba, I had a place to flee to. If we lose our freedom here, where do we go?"

Ted has been a tireless fighter for liberty because his family knows what it is like to lose it. As Solicitor General for the State of Texas and in private practice, Ted authored more than 80 U.S. Supreme Court briefs and argued 43 oral arguments, including nine before the U.S. Supreme Court. He also won an unprecedented series of landmark national victories that include his defense of U.S. sovereignty against the UN and the World Court in *Medellin v. Texas*, our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, the constitutionality of the Ten Commandments monument at the Texas State Capitol, and the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the U.S. Senate, Ted has led the fight to repeal Obamacare, to secure the border, and to confirm Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. He has also led the fight to defend life, marriage, the First Amendment, the

Second Amendment, and our entire Bill of Rights. And most importantly, he's kept his promise to speak the truth and do what he said he'd do.

Ted has proven to be the exact type of courageous conservative we need in the U.S. Senate to restore economic growth, defend our Constitution, and protect the values we all hold dear.

Ted, his wife Heidi, their two daughters Caroline and Catherine, and his entire family have been blessed to live the American Dream — the idea that anyone, through hard work and determination, can achieve anything. And he is committed to ensuring every family has that same opportunity.



The Honorable Marc Veasey (TX-33)

Rep. Veasey is an advocate for Texas' middle-class families and is committed to creating jobs, improving public education, fighting for immigration reform, and ensuring access to quality healthcare and women's reproductive rights.

Congressman Veasey was appointed in the 116th Congress to serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Small Business. Prior to his new committee appointments, Rep. Veasey served on the Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Science Space and Technology.

Throughout his time in Congress, Rep. Veasey founded the first Congressional Voting Rights Caucus to address the immediate need to eliminate the barriers and discrimination too many Americans face at the polls. In the 114th Congress, he accepted his appointment as an Assistant and Regional Whip. In the 116th Congress, the Congressman was appointed to serve as a Whip for the Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce.

Rep. Veasey is currently a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the New Democrat Coalition. He also co-launched the Blue Collar Caucus with Congressman Brendan Boyle to find solutions to problems too many middle-class Americans are facing. The Blue Collar Caucus supports unions and focuses on addressing wage stagnation, offshoring, and job insecurity for those in the manufacturing and building trades.

First elected to the Texas State House in 2004, Congressman Veasey represented District 95 – an area now part of the 33rd Congressional District. As a member of the Texas State House, Rep. Veasey served in a number of leadership positions including Democratic Whip and Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Issues he championed included fighting for affordable healthcare, funding for better schools, and advocating for a livable wage. Prior to serving four terms in the Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Veasey worked as a congressional staffer in North Texas for Congressman Martin Frost.

The Congressman was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife Tonya live in the Metroplex and have a twelve- year-old son, Adam.

Rep. Veasey earned a BS from Texas Wesleyan University, where he majored in Mass Communication.



The Honorable Beth Van Duyne (TX-24)

Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne proudly represents the 24th Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes portions of Tarrant, Denton, and Dallas counties. Prior to being elected to Congress, Beth served as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Mayor of Irving, Irving City Council Member, and a businesswoman.

In 2017, Beth was appointed to serve as the Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Southwest Region. Working under Secretary Ben Carson, Beth was tasked with overseeing HUD programs and operations in the Region's five states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, where she worked on many of the Trump Administration's proudest economic successes, such as opportunity zones, and led HUD's disaster recovery efforts at the southwest border in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Before being named Administrator, Beth was the first woman elected to serve as the Mayor of Irving from 2011 to 2017 after beginning her career in public service as an Irving City Council Representative from 2004 to 2010. Under her leadership, the City of Irving witnessed unprecedented economic growth and development with an added 40,000 jobs and an estimated \$3 billion in growth and new developments while also being named the fifth safest city in America.

During her tenure as Mayor, Beth represented the city on a number of boards, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and Texas Municipal League. Beth also served as Texas Chair of Community Leaders of America. As a Board Member for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport, Beth oversaw operations at the busiest airport in the United States, ensuring safe and efficient travel for millions of Americans flying through DFW each year.

Throughout Beth's career, she has worked with small startup companies, mid-size private companies and Fortune 500 corporations alike. Beth also ran a consulting business where she helped executives develop strategic business plans as well as negotiation strategies, grassroots coalition building and federal and state legislative policy strategies.

After graduating magna cum laude from Cornell University, Beth moved to Irving, Texas, which has been her home for over 30 years. Single mother to Katie and Pearce, Beth was only the second Republican woman from Texas to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.



The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is serving her 15th term representing the 30th District of Texas. Congresswoman Johnson is the first African-American and woman to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and is the Dean of the Texas Congressional delegation in addition to serving as Dean of the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona Democratic Congressional Delegation.

Congresswoman Johnson is the highest-ranking Texan on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress.



John Layton

John joined the Canadian Embassy as Minister (Economic) in September 2021. In this capacity, he will oversee the Embassy's trade, economic and business development programs.

Prior to that, John was Executive Director of Trade Remedies at Global Affairs Canada, serving as Canada's NAFTA negotiator for Chapter 19 dispute settlement and working on a variety of subsidy issues, including WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations and strengthening international rules for industrial subsidies.

John started his career at Canada Customs and Excise in the Anti-Dumping Directorate. He then continued on for 15 years at the Department of Finance's International Branch. As Director of the General Trade Relations Division, John was heavily involved in the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Beyond the Border Agreement. As Director of the Trade Rules Division, John was Canada's lead negotiator for the WTO Rules Negotiating Group and Canada's Head of Delegation for the North American Steel Trade Committee.

John has had two foreign postings: at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo (1997-2000) and at Canada's Mission to the WTO in Geneva (2002-2005).



Cesar Remis Santos

Mr. Cesar Remis has over 20 years of international experience in both public and private sectors. In May of 2021, he was appointed as the Head of the Office for the Implementation of the USMCA at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Remis was the Head of the Unit for International Trade Negotiations of the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade at the Mexico's Ministry of Economy, where he was responsible for leading bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

Previously, Cesar Remis worked at the Embassy of Mexico in Canada as Head of Economic and Tourism Affairs, after 5 years as Director General of Economic Relations and Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City. He also served as Economic Counselor in the Mission of Mexico to the European Union in Brussels; and as Trade Advisor in the offices of the Ministry of Economy in Washington, D.C and Montevideo.

He currently serves as Chief Negotiator of Mexico in the Comprehensive and Progressive Transpacific Partnership (CPTPP) and as Mexico's Senior Official (SOM) in the APEC Forum.

Mr. Remis holds a Bachelor degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Tec de Monterrey and a Master's degree in Business Administration from The George Washington University School of Business.