

CONGRESSMAN VELA'S

116th

— IN REVIEW

US CONGRESSMAN

**FILEMON VELA**

PROUDLY SERVING THE 34TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**2019**  
**2020**



## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SOUTH TEXAS!**

As we close out a very challenging year, I want to thank those of you who took the time to make your voice heard by contacting me with your views and concerns. My district and Washington, DC offices received thousands of calls, e-mails, and letters from TX-34 residents who care deeply about how the government works for their families and communities. Your passion is inspiring and helps me be a more informed and effective representative.

No one could have predicted the way this year has unfolded. With over 300,000 lives lost to the novel coronavirus pandemic and millions of Americans struggling to support their families, this year has not been without its challenges. Despite the pandemic and all the struggles we had this year, many of you came together to help those in need. I have been inspired by those working on the front lines ensuring our country keeps running, and the friends, neighbors and even strangers that have stepped up during this unprecedented time to look in on those living alone or not able to fully fend for themselves.

In Congress, my team and I have worked tirelessly to deliver for the 34th District of Texas. I would like to highlight some of our work and accomplishments over the past two years that have helped improve the lives of the people in our region and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Cruz".

# — CONGRESSMAN VELA'S TOP ISSUES —



**ARMED SERVICES**



**AGRICULTURE**



**EDUCATION**



**HEALTH CARE**



**VETERANS**



**TRANSPORTATION**



**ENVIRONMENT**



**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**116TH**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**\$680M+**

FEDERAL  
FUNDING  
SECURED

**13K**

CONSTITUENTS  
PARTICIPATING  
IN 3 TELE-  
TOWNHALLS

**3394**

CONSTITUENT  
MAIL  
RESPONSES

**525**

CONSTITUENT  
CASES CLOSED

**723**

VETERANS  
HONORED AT 9  
PINNING  
CEREMONIES

**405**

BILLS  
COSPONSORED

**156**

FAVORABLE  
CASEWORK  
OUTCOMES

**21**

INTERNS  
HOSTED

**24**

BILLS  
INTRODUCED

# CONSTITUENT SERVICES

My office can provide assistance when you are having problems with Social Security, Medicare, federal employee retirement, veterans' services, or many other federal issues. We can order a flag flown over the United States Capitol, and help schedule tours at the White House, Capitol and other locations. We can also assist you in applying for nominations to our service academies, as well as provide congressional commendations and help secure presidential greetings. Below, you will find links with more information on many of the services we offer, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 202-225-9901.

## FLAG REQUEST

If you would like to request a Flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol, please fill out [this form](#).

## INTERNSHIPS

Working in a Congressional office can be an incredibly rewarding and exciting experience. If you would like to apply for an internship, please visit [this page](#).

## MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINACTIONS

If you are interested in applying for one of our nation's Service Academies please visit [this page](#) for more information.

## PRESIDENTIAL GREETINGS

If you would like to receive a greeting from the President of the United States, please call my office at 202-225-9901.

## HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY

If you would like to request assistance with a Federal Agency, please visit [this page](#).

## SCHEDULE A TOUR

If you would like to request a Flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol please visit [this page](#) or call my office at 202-225-9901.

## CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATIONS/EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATES

If you would like to request a Congressional Commendation recognizing an important life achievement or an Eagle Scout Certificate, please call my office at 202-225-9901.

## CONTACT US

If you have a comment or question you would like to send me or my staff, please visit [this page](#).

# LANDMARK LEGISLATION

This year has brought challenges like we've never seen before. In Congress, I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to do what we could to help alleviate the stress, anxiety and financial burden this pandemic has caused in our families. Below are just some highlights of the many landmark pieces of legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in the 116th Congress. In total, I'm proud to announce we worked together to pass 1,124 bills on behalf of the American people.

## TACKLING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

H.R. 748 the CARES Act

H.R. 925 The Heroes Act

H.R. 6201 The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

H.R. 7010 Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

H.R. 8247 Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020

H.R. 2372 Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act

H.R. 7795 Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020

## PROTECTING THE HOMELAND

H.R. 6395 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

H.R. 6172 USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020

H.R. 5823 State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act

## REVITALIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

H.R. 7575 Water Resources Development Act of 2020

H.R. 2 Moving Forward Act

H.R. 8408 Aircraft Certification Reform and Accountability Act



# DELIVERING FOR THE 34TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives. Over the past two years, I had the privilege to introduce 24 bills and secure critical provisions in other pieces of legislation that funneled much needed resources and funding to our region. Read on for some highlights.



## NATIONAL SECURITY

**The House Armed Services Committee:** Appointed to this committee in the 116th Congress where I have worked to support members of the armed forces stationed at Coastal Bend military bases and around the world. In this role, I was also appointed to the Bi-cameral Conference Committee tasked with producing a final Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

**NATO Parliamentary Assembly:** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly was formed in 1955 to keep legislatures from member countries informed about key issues affecting the Euro-Atlantic. In 2019, I was selected as a delegate to this organization and this year, I was also named NATO PA Deputy Head of Commission. I look forward to building relationships with our allies and partners abroad.

## AGRICULTURE

**Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management:** For the 116th Congress, I was selected by my colleagues to serve as the top Democrat on this committee, which is critical to the agriculture industry in TX-34. In this role, I worked with sorghum producers to secure a \$14.5 million infrastructure grant to revive the agriculture export facility at the Port of Brownsville, providing Texas farmers a direct access to worldwide markets.

**H.R. 4482 Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019:** This Congress, I introduced H.R. 4482, which was signed into law on March 3, 2020. The new law will help prevent the introduction of animal diseases and pests into the United States by increasing funding to hire, train and assign more agricultural specialists and agriculture technicians at our ports of entry.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

**Brownsville Community Improvement:** I worked with the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) and the City of Brownsville to secure \$900,000 in funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support the development of eBridge - Center for Business and Commercialization. I also worked with EDA to establish a Revolving Loan Fund through BCIC.

**Kleberg Business Incubator:** Secured \$4.3 million in federal funds from the Economic Development Agency for construction of a Regional Public Safety Training Facility and Emergency Operations and Command Center as well as \$175,000 from USDA Rural Development to support the Kleberg Business Incubator to be established inside the Center.

**H.R. 7671 Small Business Comeback Act:** Introduced this bill to establish a recovery compensation program where the Department of the Treasury would authorize specified payments to certain small businesses to support their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

**BRO Airport Terminal:** Helped secure \$5 million from the FAA to complete the Brownsville International Airport terminal reconstruction.

**Water Resources Development Act of 2020:** Secured provision to authorize the Lower Rio Grande Valley Watershed Feasibility Study so action can be taken to address flooding and stormwater issues in the region, increase federal flood control work in low income communities, addresses beach nourishment and channel maintenance relief, and unlock much needed funds from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund important for the Port of Brownsville.

US CONGRESSMAN

# FILEMON VELA

PROUDLY SERVING THE 34TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS



@RepFilemonVela

