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GPD's Captain Chris Garner Honored with 26th Congressional District Veteran Commendation

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Gainesville, TX– Gainesville Police Department's Captain Chris Garner was recognized by Congressman Michael C. Burgess with the 26th Congressional District Veteran Commendation. This commendation honors veterans who have shown exemplary commitment to their community both in military and civilian life.

"Our veterans are not merely heroes in uniform; they are the living embodiment of courage and selflessness. They are the heart and soul of our nation," **said Congressman Burgess**. "I was honored to recognize these five outstanding Veterans with the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation. They've faced adversity and made sacrifices that most of us can't even imagine. While we pay tribute to our veterans, let us also recognize the responsibility we bear to ensure that they receive the support and care they deserve. It is our duty as Americans to stand by these individuals who have given so much for our freedoms and our country."

Captain Garner enlisted in the Army National Guard in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq in 2004, where he served as a team leader. His responsibilities included leading route clearance missions, searching for hidden weapons caches, and executing explosive demolitions. After completing his deployment in November 2005, Captain Garner continued his service in the National Guard until 2008.

"I enjoyed and deeply value my time in service, especially the bonds forged with those I served alongside," **said Captain Garner**. "I developed a strong desire and commitment to serve my community through that experience."

Since joining Gainesville Police Department in 2009, Captain Garner has advanced through the ranks and played an instrumental role in numerous initiatives including the Physical Fitness



Program and starting the Street Crimes Unit. He is also active in the community, including working with local nonprofit organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and United way, has led security detail for Gainesville’s annual Medal of Honor Host city events, and served on school boards.

This year’s commendations were presented at the twentieth annual “Salute Our Veterans” luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village. Nominations were solicited from the public. Captain Garner was one of only five recipients.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENTAION (CVC)

The CVC was created in 2005 to honor the distinguished living veterans of Texas’ 26th Congressional District. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) Board was comprised of past commendation recipients: Forrest Beadle (2015 CVC), Richard Crossley, Jr. (2021 CVC), Jerry Galler, (2013 CVC), and Susanne Hechinger (2007 CVC).

Congressman Burgess read the 2024 CVC recipients’ narrative and presented them with a United States flag. Congressman Burgess also presented Highland Village Mayor Charlotte Wilcox with printed remarks of his Congressional Record submission honoring the eighty-six past recipients of the Congressional Veteran Commendation program and recognizing the annual “Salute Our Heroes” luncheon hosted by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village.

GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Gainesville Police Department has three divisions, all working together to provide excellent 24-hour service to the residents of the City of Gainesville with integrity, courage, and professionalism. GPD divisions and specialized units include Patrol, Criminal Investigative Division, K-9 Unit, Marine Patrol, Special Response Team, and Bike Patrol.

CITY OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

Nestled in the heart of North Texas, the City of Gainesville was founded in 1850 and is located in Cooke County. The City has a rich history and is sprinkled with landmarks, charming downtown streets, and a vibrant community that honors the past while embracing the future.