



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 64

## NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Friends,

Spring is almost here, don't forget to "Spring Forward" one hour for Daylight Savings on Sunday, March 13th!

There's exciting artwork going on in HD 137.

Getting tested for COVID-19 is free, easy, and keeps our families and neighbors safe!

Early Childhood Texas launched their innovative portal this month for families with young children.

Services and resources are readily available to military veterans from Combined Arms.

My office is here to serve you. If you need assistance with a government agency, have an idea for legislation, or want to get more involved in our community, my team and I want to hear from you!

If you would like to have an announcement featured in our newsletter, please contact us at [district137.wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:district137.wu@house.texas.gov) for information on submissions and deadlines.

It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,



Gene and Miya with actor Matthew Modine at the Alta Arts center in Gulfton.

### In this Issue...

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# Art Gallery in Gulfton



The Alta Arts, located in HD 137, is an interdisciplinary art center dedicated to creating dynamic programming that engages diverse communities and provides opportunities for artists, performers, students and more.

Founded in 2020 in Gulfton, the organization occupies the former studio of famed Houston architect Victor A. Lundy and hosts exhibitions from photographers, sculptors, and musicians. To learn more about the Alta Arts and their upcoming programming, please click [here](#), or on the image above.

## Free COVID-19 Testing

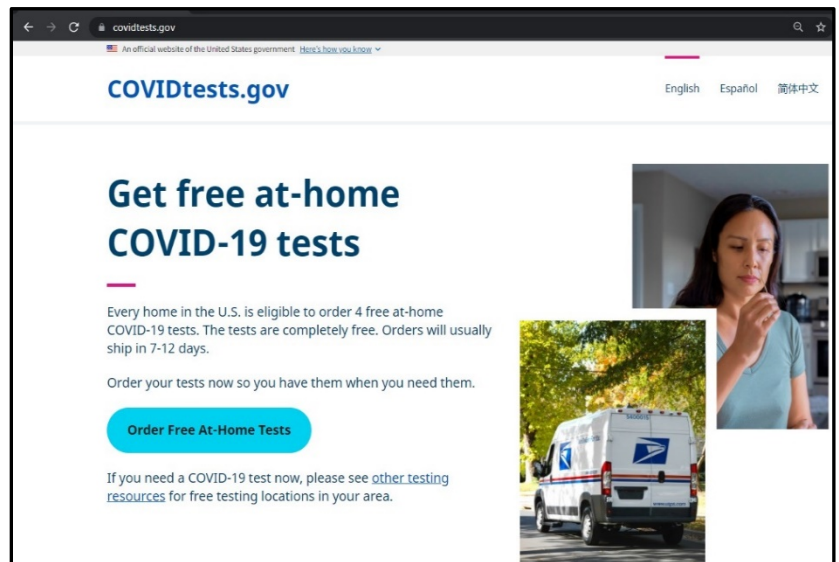
Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days and will be delivered by USPS.

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Click the image to be taken

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

The tests available for order:

- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines



Additionally, the Houston Health Department offers numerous free testing sites located throughout the city. Please click on the image below to view locations and more information.



## Early Childhood Texas

Resources for Raising Kids



The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), working in partnership with several state agencies that also provide services to young children, is launching the Early Childhood Texas website.

It's a streamlined resource for Texas parents to find information about early childhood services available through the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and DFPS. The new website, [www.earlychildhood.texas.gov](http://www.earlychildhood.texas.gov), serves as a one-stop-shop to connect Texas parents with access to a variety of free or low cost services and resources, available through different state agencies and different programs.

The Early Childhood Texas website offers Texans information and resources in the following areas:

- [Health & Development](#): child development including resources for children with special needs, nutrition, health tips, and healthcare
- [Parenting](#): child safety, parenting tips and support, at-home learning activities
- [Child Care & Education](#): child care and after school programs, prekindergarten, Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education
- [Eligibility Programs](#): state sponsored programs and assistance opportunities available to families of young children in Texas

Early Childhood Texas is a collaboration of multiple Texas state agencies. Please click on the icons below for more information on additional programming offered by each agency.



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## Combined Arms: Veterans Resource Hub in Houston

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Veterans leaving the military often face a huge difficulty transitioning to civilian life. Most pronounced is a lack of access to personal and professional networks when they leave the military. While in the military they and their families are part of a unit and a strong support network with clear direction for career paths and family services.

Combined Arms brings together veteran-focused nonprofits committed to serving those who served. These 150+ best-in-class organizations provide 650+ resources that empower veterans to lead the successful civilian lives they want, making our community stronger than ever.

Whether it is getting assistance with the VA, exploring career development and employment opportunities, finding medical and mental healthcare, or discovering ways to volunteer or further engage the veteran community, Combined Arms acts as hub for all veterans transitioning to civilian life. Please click the image below to learn more about this organization.



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### Services for House District 137

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My district office is located at the Gulfton-Sharpstown Baker Ripley Center here in Southwest Houston. My staff and I are committed to helping you, our constituents, with an array of issues, inquiries, concerns, and more.

My office offers assistance with state agencies, receives requests for policy proposals and legislative changes, and is proud to offer special recognitions (such as resolutions, certificates, flags, commemoration of special events, memorials, etc.) to our district.

Some examples of casework with state agencies include:

- [Texas Workforce Commission \(TWC\)](#)
  - o Unemployment program, childcare programs, workforce development, etc.
- [Texas Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\)](#)
  - o WIC, SNAP, & TANF benefits, Medicaid, CHIP, etc.
- [Texas Department of Public Safety \(DPS\)](#)
  - o Driver's license, vehicle registration, etc.

My office is also happy to assist as a liaison for communicating with city, county, and federal government agencies, and we are proud to partner with our schools, civic organizations, nonprofits, and businesses on a wide array of initiatives and events to help make House District 137 a great place to live.

Please feel free to reach out to my district or capitol office if we can be of service to you.

**Capitol Office**

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