



Courtesy of Brandon Wolf

Pulse Shooting Survivor Brandon Wolf Explains Why He Speaks Out For Gun Policy Reform

BY [LILLI PETERSEN](#) | JUNE 12, 2019 |

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June 12, 2019, is the third anniversary of the *Pulse nightclub shooting*, the second-deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. In the early hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016, an attacker entered Pulse, an LGBTQ nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and killed 49 people. Brandon Wolf, now 30, survived the attack by hiding in the bathroom until he could escape. His friends, Andrew Leinonen and Juan Guerrero, were killed in the shooting.



After the shooting, Wolf helped found [The Dru Project](#), which provides scholarships to LGBTQ individuals and supports gay-straight alliance groups in schools, in Leinonen's memory. A member of Everytown For Gun Safety's Survivor Network, [he shared his story](#) with Elite Daily's Lilli Petersen for Everytown's [Moments That Survive](#) campaign during Gun Violence Survivor Week in February 2019. On the third anniversary of the shooting, these are his words. This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

[Before the Pulse shooting] I was fairly complacent. I was the person who sat on the couch and thought that by watching a debate, I had done my civic duty. Posting on Twitter or Facebook was enough to be involved. And then, one fateful night, a few of my best friends and I went to Pulse nightclub. It was a usual spot for us to be ... kinda in our little group, unwinding from the week. We each had pretty stressful jobs at the time, so it was kind of our ritual on the weekends to unwind together.

It started like any other night. We went to the club, it was busy.

As the night wore on, we kind of ended up right out there on the patio. My best friend, [Leinonen], he would always get so sappy when he was drunk, so he'd had a few drinks, and he put his arm around me, and he said, "You know what we never say enough in the world? That we love each other." And so, then and there, he said, "I want you to know you're my best friend in the world and I love you very much." That was the last conversation we would ever have.



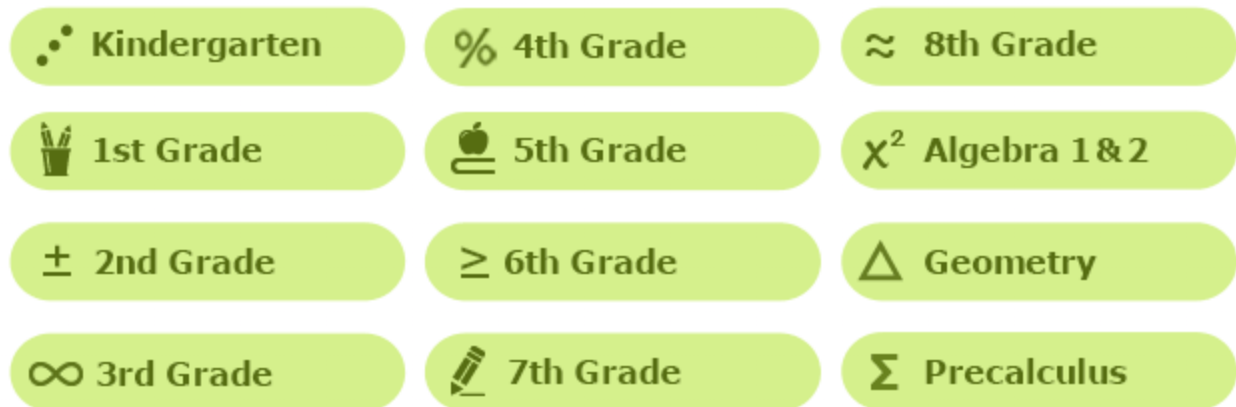
ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS THAT FEELING IN THE PIT OF YOUR STOMACH.

I'll never forget, standing there in front of the sink, terrified people crowding around me, and I got the first smell of blood and gun smoke. That's when it felt real to me. I remember shortly after that, the gunfire started again, and this time it was relentless. It didn't stop. And there was this debate in the bathroom about whether or not we should stay, we should go, try to hide. Ultimately, a group of us decided that we needed to leave. So, there was nowhere to hide, and if we didn't try to make an escape we wouldn't make it out. So we linked arms with each other, we grabbed hands with whoever we could, and we made a run for an emergency exit. Luckily, someone had propped a door open as they ran out. So there was an exit. I didn't really look around. People ask me all the time if I saw the shooter ... To be honest, all I can remember is staring at that door, staring at the light from outside at that parking lot, and just praying and hoping that whatever was in the building wasn't [close] enough [to] me that I could get out without getting hurt.



YOU THINK ABOUT THAT GRIEF THAT IS SO OVERTAKING, IT'S SO OVERWHELMING.

The sensation that sticks with me, the memory that sticks with me [from] the initial moment when I figured it all out is panic. All I can remember is that feeling in the pit of your stomach – for people who don't like roller coasters, when you go over that first drop and you're not sure you're going to make it. It's that feeling in the bottom of your stomach, a knot. And every time I get into a situation where I feel like something [is] going to happen, that sense of panic comes back. For me, that's one of the most vivid memories of the shooting. A feeling of sheer panic.



I'll never forget, Monday morning, getting the call that [Leinonen] had not even made it out of the club that night. You think about that grief that is so overtaking, it's so overwhelming. I think from that moment for the next 24 to 36 hours, I don't remember anything.



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THERE IS PLENTY WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS ISSUE. WE'VE BEEN TOLD FOR WAY TOO LONG THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN'T DO.

That no one would ever know their names, no one would ever know what they meant to the world, or their passion for other people. So I made a choice that week that no matter what happened, no matter how low I felt, no matter what the world around me said or did, I was going to make sure that people knew who they were.



There is plenty we can do about this issue. We've been told for way too long that there's nothing we can do. And now we realize that the only people telling us that are the ones who stand to make money from us gunning each other down. And we're just not doing it anymore.

One of the really pressing things we have on our plate right now is [HR8, which would expand background checks](#). [Editor's Note: HR8, also known as the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, passed the U.S. House of Representatives mostly along party lines on Feb. 27, 2019. As of publication, it has not yet been voted on in the Senate.] Ninety-seven percent of Americans agree that [we need expanded and universal background checks](#). We need to close the [gun show loophole](#). That's a really big deal.



Murphy out of Orlando. She worked really hard to [end the Dickey Amendment](#), which prevented the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] (CDC) from [studying gun violence as a public health](#)

crisis. Now we just need money allotted to the CDC. We could talk about **red flag laws**, which allow family members or courts to temporarily take away firearms from people who are deemed a hazard to themselves or others. There's a lot of common sense legislation that if you sit down, and it doesn't matter what side of the aisle you're on, if we just talk about health and safety in this country, we all agree on it.

In terms of regular, everyday people, what can you do? You can continue to hold your legislators, your lawmakers, accountable. We elected them. It's not as if they don't have a responsibility to us. These are people we are paying, every single day, to do what's best for us. And that means it's our responsibility as citizens to call, to write, to show up, to march, to sit in, to do whatever we have to do to remind them that if you want to get paid, if you want to sit behind that desk, if you want to represent me, then you need to *represent* me.

I had an incredible opportunity to speak at the Democratic National Convention ... I had numerous opportunities to be a surrogate on campaigns, to fight really hard for gun violence prevention measures. To give really momentous speeches in front of large groups of people. Those are the moments that stick out to other people. What sticks out to me are the quiet moments. The ones that make me feel something are the ones where I'm all alone, I'm sitting down, I'm doing something that Leinonen and I would have been doing together. I almost feel a sense of peace. As if he's come back and put his arm around me again.



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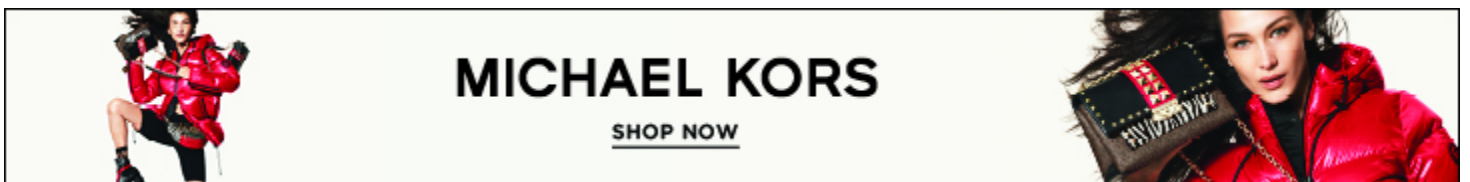


Courtesy of Pringles

This New Pringles Fried Onion Ring Flavor Is A Flavorful Twist On A Classic

BY [DAFFANY CHAN](#)

| SEPT 24, 2019



With back to school season in full swing, there are just so many new treats available to get you through the hectic fall days. Even though you can always fallback on classic snack flavors like Original Pringles, it's always great to take the opportunity to shake up your routine with newly released editions. The new Pringles flavor to try this season is Fried Onion Ring, which hit stores on Sept. 18 and is a limited-edition product. This [new Pringles Fried Onion Ring flavor](#) is a flavorful twist to your favorite potato chip snack.



The Pringles Fried Onion Ring Flavor hit shelves at 7-Eleven stores on Sept. 18, a representative for Pringles shared in an email with Elite Daily. Since Pringles is exclusively partnering with 7-Eleven for this product, you'll want to head over to any of the 7-Eleven stores nationwide to get a taste of the new and unique flavor. A can of Pringles Fried Onion Ring costs \$2.49, and it's only available while supplies last, so don't waste any time.

Instagram foodie account @Candyhunting got a sneak preview of the new flavor and gave a full debrief about the chips in an [Instagram post](#) on Sept. 15. The post revealed the design with a photo of the Pringle cans, which feature a purple background with onion ring graphics. @Candyhunting reviewed the taste, commenting, "While not being incredibly innovative, these are one of my favorite Pringles in a while. The flavor is simple; it's pretty much onion powder. But I can't stop eating them. 7.75/10." Fans had many initial thoughts about the new flavor and many were eagerly anticipating its national release in 7-Eleven stores. Instagram user @alizpt commented on @Candyhunting's post, "Man those sound good," while @tshensley99 wrote, "How have I never had this flavor before?"



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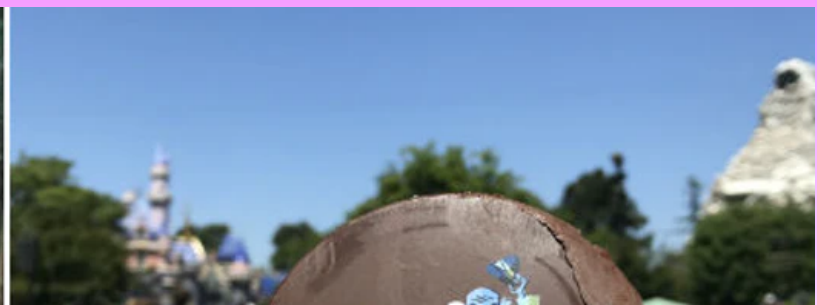
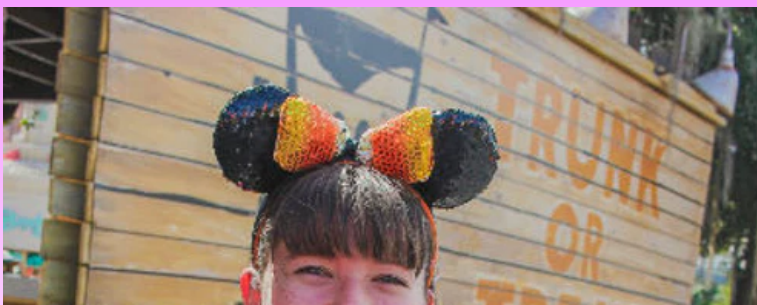
candyhunting

7-Eleven has a new exclusive Pringles flavor: Fried Onion Ring! Well, the flavor isn't new to Pringles or the chip world, but it's new to being only at 7-Eleven. Crispy Onion Ring Pringles launched in Canada earlier this year, and many other

The Instagram post also detailed how a similar flavor, Crispy Onion Ring Pringles, was launched in Canada earlier this year. The Crispy version was spotted at [Walmarts in Canada](#) with a noticeably different yellow and turquoise can design. Similarly, other variations of Onion Rings Pringles have graced shelves in many other countries.

It's not surprising that Pringles unveiled a new Onion Ring flavor, since the flavor has proven successful for many other potato chip companies. Fans of anything onion-y will be familiar with the classic [Funyuns Onion Flavored Rings](#), which are always a hit at gatherings. The snack magnificently combines the zesty flavor of onion with a crispy texture. Ruffles also introduced [beer-battered onion ring flavored potato chips](#) all the way back in 2013. According to a [February 2013 press release](#), the chips were designed to be a crunchy, onion-y-flavored snack that one can load up on at a bar or tailgate party. The press release described the hype surrounding onion rings: "The onion ring has gained more popularity than some of our favorite pop-culture icons, humorously showcased in social media memes across the web."

The wide variety of onion ring products available really does point to the zesty flavor as a national favorite. Stock up on your limited-edition Fried Onion Ring Pringles while you can, because fans across the country will undoubtedly be racing to get a taste.





Rachel Chapman

This Disneyland Food Guide Will Make Your Mouth Water

BY [RACHEL CHAPMAN](#) | SEPT 24, 2019 | **f**

I'm beyond blessed to live so close to Disneyland. Any day when I don't have plans can easily become a Disney day at a moment's notice. That's exactly what happened a few weekends ago — I put on my Mickey ears and hit the road to Anaheim. As much as I love riding Big Thunder Mountain and taking selfies with Donald Duck, I decided this trip would solely be dedicated to the food. I even put together this [Disneyland food guide](#) for anyone out there who would like to follow in my footsteps.

Everyone knows Disneyland for its epic thrill rides and magical characters walking the grounds, but the snacks are truly my favorite part about visiting. Not only has Disney nailed down its food so everything tastes amazing, but all the treats are incredibly Instagram-worthy. A good foodie knows how important 'Gram-ability is for food; before you take that first bite, you need to snap some pics.

Of course, there are the staples like Mickey-shaped pretzels and churros, but Disney is always coming out with limited-time menus you need to try while you're there as well. If you're hungry and need a little help finding just the right treats, let me be your guide. Just follow along with my recent food journey, and you'll be walking away with a full stomach and lots of good memories.

1. First Stop: Coffee And A Mickey Macaron

Rachel Chapman

On a busy Disneyland day, you may want to kick things off with coffee. I love stopping by the [Jolly Holiday Bakery](#) for a latte. While I'm there, I always get a Mickey-shaped macaron. When I last visited, they had Mickey Mummy Macarons for Halloween, but I've also had [Mickey Mouse Macarons](#) and [Raspberry Rose Mickey Macarons](#) as well.

2. Grab A Classic Treat From Main Street

There are many classic Disney snacks like popcorn, pretzels, churros, Dole Whip, and of course, the Mickey-shaped ice cream. On my most recent trip, I decided it was pretzel time. I normally love the traditional Mickey-shaped pretzel with a side of cheese for dipping, but this time, I grabbed a cream cheese-filled pretzel from the [Corner Cafe](#).

3. Try One Of The Milks From Galaxy's Edge

Rachel Chapman

Since my friends hadn't visited *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* yet, I made them try each one of the milks from the *Milk Stand*. When you order, you just have to pick blue or green. I think every *Star Wars* fan who's on a foodie tour should give them a try. You're definitely in for a tasty treat.

4. Grab A Ronto Wrap As You Walk Through The 'Star Wars' Marketplace

Rachel Chapman

While you're in Galaxy's Edge, you should grab a Ronto Wrap from the [Ronto Roasters](#). It's roasted pork and grilled pork sausage paired with tangy coleslaw, all wrapped up in a pita. It tastes better than I could ever describe, and it's a quick treat to grab on the go.

5. Stop By The Main Street Bakery For A Rice Krispie Treat



Rachel Chapman

Make sure to stop at the bakery on Main Street: [Candy Palace and Candy Kitchen](#). I always have to grab a Rice Krispie Treat (or two) while I'm there. You can also get an Instagram-worthy candy apple or cake pop. Whatever you decide on, be sure to take a picture of your treat with the castle in the background.

6. The Bread Pudding Takes The Win

In California Adventure, I went straight to the [Pacific Wharf Café](#) for my favorite dish at Disneyland: the bread pudding. They're always switching up the flavor, so you never know what you're going to get until you arrive. I had the Maple Bacon Bread Pudding and it was perfect for my bacon-loving heart.

7. Grab A Punny Treat From Cars Land

Rachel Chapman

If you're in Cars Land, you should grab a snack from one of the [Cozy Cones](#). They have ice cream *cones*, Chili *Cone* queso, and more. If you're looking for something savory, I like to get the Mac 'n' Cheese Cone which is now served with Chile-Cheese Puffs in a black bread cone for Halloween.