

ensuring the success of our community's agriculture industry. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
SACRIFICE OF LORNE AHRENS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and sacrifice of a selfless public servant, Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens. On July 7th, 2016, Lorne Ahrens was one of five Dallas officers fatally shot during a protest in downtown Dallas. The shooting was a calculated and senseless act of violence intended to tear our community apart. But the resilience of Lorne Ahrens' loved-ones will hold this community together. And they find their inspiration in the memory of the man they loved.

Lorne Ahrens was a Senior Corporal in the Dallas Police Department, where he served for fourteen years. He worked for a time in the dangerous and unpredictable job of serving warrants, where a simple knock on the door could escalate into a life-threatening situation.

Before moving to the Dallas area, Ahrens served in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for eleven years. For part of that time, he was a law enforcement technician, inputting and dispatching calls to the station, a demanding job that required fast thinking and professional calm. Colleagues in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department remember Ahrens as a professional who supported his teammates, and as a joyous personality to work with.

The Los Angeles area was his home. He even played semi-professional football there. Ahrens moved to the Dallas area because he married Katrina Ahrens, a Texas girl and a fellow police officer. They moved to Texas together to start their beautiful family, which now includes a ten year old daughter and eight year old son.

Lorne Ahrens was a big man. He stood at 6'5" and weighed 350 pounds. Yet, anyone who saw him interact with his family knew the biggest thing about him was his heart. He loved to roll on the floor with his kids, making sure they had as much fun as possible when they were with their Dad. In fact, when he was not taking them fishing or to the movies, he often went to his daughter's school to talk about policing and safety.

Mr. Speaker, we lost a truly honorable public servant, friend, and father when Lorne Ahrens' life was taken. Today, I would like to thank him for his bravery and sacrifice, send my love to his family, and honor him in Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 404, on July 12, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor.

Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to adjourn.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MAJOR GENERAL ALLEN E.  
BREWER

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Allen E. Brewer, the retiring Assistant Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard. Through General Brewer's role as Assistant Adjutant General, he is responsible for developing and implementing all programs and policies impacting the Mississippi Army National Guard, which consists of nearly 10,000 citizen soldiers.

General Brewer was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, on July 16, 1979, through the Officer Candidate School, Mississippi Military Academy. He has served in command and staff positions at every level, including: Company A, 2d Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; Battalion Commander, 2d Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group; Commander, 154th Regional Training Institute; Deputy Commander, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in Kalsu, Iraq from April 2005 to March 2006; and Commander, Special Operations Detachment—South, in Afghanistan from November 2011 to March 2012.

I was privileged to serve with Major General Brewer during our combat tour in Iraq in 2005. As Deputy Commander of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Colonel Brewer was a trusted and respected member of the Brigade Leadership Team. His calm and confident demeanor earned him the respect and admiration of leaders and soldiers in the Dixie Thunder Brigade.

Major General Brewer has continued to use his effective leadership style to inspire and lead the soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard. He is a mentor and leader to a generation of soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

As Major General Brewer retires from his military career, I wish him the best in his future endeavors. I am confident Major General Brewer will continue to be a leader in the future. I am privileged to have been able to work with Major General Brewer and call him a friend and mentor.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. HARRY L.  
SEAWRIGHT

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the election of Reverend Dr. Harry L. Seawright as Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Seawright is the longtime pastor of the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Brandywine, Maryland.

A fourth-generation A.M.E., Rev. Seawright's first pastoral appointment was

with the Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church in Jessup, Maryland, followed by service to the Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. In 1986, Rev. Seawright assumed his position at Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, which he has served longer than any other pastor in the congregation's history.

During his three decades of service, Union Bethel has expanded dramatically and has a significant presence in the community. In addition to serving as Union Bethel's pastor, Rev. Seawright is the author of several books, including *More Than Bricks and Mortar: Building a Church without Losing Your Mind*, and *Don't Faint: Help for Hurting Pastors and their Families*. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and his Master and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Howard University School of Divinity.

Rev. Seawright has long been deeply involved in the community. In addition to serving as a spiritual leader, he is an entrepreneur, community leader, world traveler, author and family man. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing to him our congratulations on his election to this distinguished position and our gratitude for all he has done to touch the lives of others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LEONARD SUGGS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and a true American patriot, Mr. Leonard Suggs.

Born in Cumberland County in 1945, Leonard never met a stranger. Everyone that ever has the pleasure of meeting him is left with a smile on their face. Leonard's warm personality lights up any room and his infectious humor often leaves everyone in stitches. Uncommonly kind, Leonard measures his success in life not by career accomplishments, of which there are many, but rather by the lives he touches and his connections with friends, neighbors, and especially the soldiers stationed at Ft. Bragg.

Throughout his lifetime, Leonard Suggs has constantly devoted his time in the service of others and he does everything he can to make the world a better place. By staying actively involved in the Fayetteville community, Leonard has created a legacy for which we all are grateful. As an unrelenting supporter of our men and women in uniform, Leonard has served as Bragg Special Activities Committee Secretary Treasurer for nearly 30 years. I am convinced you will never find a more patriotic American who is so committed to helping our soldiers and their families.

Leonard Suggs was recently diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer and has elected to stop receiving treatment in preparation to leave this Earth in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Suggs family as we celebrate and honor this remarkable man. It is my hope that Leonard lives out the remainder of his days in the comfort of the Lord knowing that while his time on Earth may be nearing an end, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all of those he touched.

I will personally always cherish the time I have spent with Leonard at Ft. Bragg and visiting our men and women in uniform around

the country. Leonard can always be counted on to make me laugh at the most inopportune moment and he always has a stick of Wrigley's chewing gum on hand when you are in a pinch.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of my friend Leonard Suggs for his service to God, our country, and our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. SANTA J. ONO  
AND MS. GWENDOLYN YIP

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Cincinnati and a proud UC Bearcat, I wish to recognize Dr. Santa J. Ono and Ms. Gwendolyn Yip, respectively, President and First Lady of the University of Cincinnati, for their 4 years of dedication and commitment to the university.

Under President Ono's leadership, the University of Cincinnati has transformed into a premier academic institution and a public research powerhouse.

President Ono was primarily responsible for launching "Creating Our Third Century," an initiative that maps out the university's priorities for the future. As part of this initiative, the University of Cincinnati has invested \$100 million in academics, hiring 250 new faculty members over the past three years. They also executed an \$86 million renovation of Nippert Stadium and constructed a new, eco-friendly residence hall—Morgens Hall—that received three different Design Awards from the American Institute of Architects.

As the university itself continues to grow, so does its student population. For three consecutive years, the university has broken its enrollment records and has attained the largest enrollment in school history at 44,251 students. This spring alone, they awarded 6,445 degrees to 6,351 graduates.

In 2013, the Washington Center recognized UC as the Public University of the Year, "a shining example of how universities are taking the traditional curriculum model and incorporating study-away internship experiences that teach self awareness, community engagement, and life-long leadership skills."

All of these accolades are a great testament to President Ono's leadership and his commitment to making UC the #HottestCollegeInAmerica.

I'm sad to see him go, but I know that his charisma and vision will have a lasting impact on present and future Bearcats.

I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. KATHLEEN KANE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen H. Kane, the

Executive Director of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, upon her retirement from an impressive career in affordable housing and community development that has spanned 30 years.

Ms. Kane, a New Jersey native, completed her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Certificate of Proficiency in French at Franklin & Marshall College before administering federally-funded programs for municipalities in Vermont between 1986 and 1991.

Ms. Kane then joined the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) in 1992, and has held a number of positions during her 24 years with the CDC. She joined the office as a supervisor of the Housing Rehabilitation loan and grants programs, and served as the Community Development Manager before assuming her current position as the CDC's Executive Director. Throughout her time with the CDC, Ms. Kane has overseen the administration of federal, state and local funds for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development activities while tirelessly working to improve our community through redevelopment.

As an unwavering advocate of social justice, Kathleen is renowned among her peers for her intelligence, speed, and determination to improve the lives of those in need in our community. During her tenure with the CDC, she has worked to create 1,211 new apartments and 250 new ownership properties in Sonoma County, with several hundred more currently under development. Ms. Kane also sits on the Sonoma County Workforce Investment and Upstream Investments boards and the California Association of Housing Authorities. She has served the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials as an executive board member since 2004 and the Northern California/Nevada Executive Directors Association as Treasurer since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kane has dedicated her career to creating safe, secure, and healthy housing for the people of Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with her husband, Bob, and children, Christopher and William.

IN HONOR OF SAMUEL BEAMON

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate one of Waterbury's finest, Samuel K. Beamon, Sr.

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, Sam Beamon will become the first Waterburian and African-American to receive UNICO National's John Basilone Freedom Award. Even though UNICO was founded in Waterbury, CT in 1922, it had yet to bestow this prestigious award on one of its native sons.

A graduate of W.F. Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury, Sam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1965 and was deployed to South Vietnam. He became a helicopter mechanic, crew chief, and aerial gunner, and he flew more than 320 combat missions. Sam earned numerous awards while in

the Marine Corps including 16 Air Medals and Combat Air Crew Wings, the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy and Presidential Unit Citations, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning home, Sam worked at Pratt & Whitney before answering the call to service again—but this time, as a police officer. In 1970, he joined the Waterbury Police Department. There, Sam continued to be an effective leader and break down racial barriers. He was the first Black Accident Investigator, radar operator and instructor, and member of the SWAT Team. He retired from the Police Department in 1998 with the rank of Lieutenant.

He wrote about his time in the Marine Corps in his book, *Flying Death: The Vietnam Experience*. He became active in Waterbury's veterans' network. His decades of work made him a natural choice to replace Colonel John Chiarella as chairman of the Waterbury Veteran's Memorial Committee in 2014. I have worked closely with Sam on a number of veterans' issues, and his tenacity, hard work, and winning smile are instrumental in his ability to advocate for his fellow veterans.

Sam's commitment to improving the lives and welfare of others extends well-beyond his involvement in veterans' organizations. A man who has lived through some of the most divisive times in our country's history, Sam seeks to inspire and unite today's youth. He understands the adversity some of our youth face in overcoming social, political, and economic barriers, but knows it can be done with hard work, a positive attitude, and a sharp moral compass. He has mentored countless students about the value of education, and what it means to believe in one's country, and answer the call to service. For Sam, his call to service and leadership capabilities extended beyond his military career. It meant giving back to Waterbury, the city that gave him so much. A leader in every sense of the word, I had the distinct honor of recognizing him at our Black History Month ceremony in Waterbury this past February. His remarks were touching; a perfect blend of self-reflection, humility, and his ironic sense of humor.

While Sam may be the first non-Italian to receive the John Basilone Freedom Award, I wonder if UNICO heard the story about how he found a way to visit his good Italian friend Colonel Chiarella in the hospital. When hospital staff told Sam that only immediate family was allowed to visit the Colonel, Sam didn't miss a beat. He told them that he was the Colonel's brother.

But this story perfectly encapsulates just who Sam is: he is the man who will stand by your side, offering his unwavering support when you need him. To veterans across the State of Connecticut and his family and friends in the City of Waterbury, Sam is a man of conviction, honor, and leadership. Sam is more than the countless accolades that serve as a testament to his selfless spirit. His infectious positive energy brings joy to the people around him. He is a friend and a confidante for whom I have the utmost respect.

I could not be any prouder of my dear and longtime friend. There is no one more deserving of such a prestigious award. I know Sam will tease me for giving him so much praise, but I will not let his humble attitude prevent me from properly honoring and recognizing him. Congratulations on your award, Sam.