

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.

RECOGNIZING GRANT BAKER, BENJAMIN GILES, DYLAN ROGERS, AND COURTNEY THOMPSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the summer of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their educational careers back in Colorado and throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their service this summer.

HONORING DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer Brent Thompson. Officer Thompson tragically lost his life during the tragic shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016. He was the first DART police officer to be killed in the line of duty since DART first formed a police department in 1989.

Officer Thompson was hailed as a "great officer" and one who had served the DART Police Department admirably since joining in 2009. His wife, who he had married just weeks before his death, regarded Officer Thompson as "the most amazing, caring, loving, selfless man" she has known. He is the father of six wonderful children, all of whom will carry on his legacy with his passing.

Some know Officer Thompson as the veteran officer who bravely charged at the shooter in an attempt to stop him during his rampage. Others know him as a former Marine who helped train and mentor local police in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, all now know Officer Thompson as the brave officer who gave his life in the defense of his fellow citizens in Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud by the way our nation has come together during this difficult time to honor Officer Thompson and the four other officers who lost their lives that day. Today, I would like to thank Officer Thompson for his bravery and sacrifice, and I join with my con-

stituents in expressing my incredible gratitude and appreciation for all that Officer Thompson has done for Dallas and the great State of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROEPER SCHOOL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. This anniversary is a reflection of the hard work of the students, faculty and staff of The Roeper School that have established a legacy of educational excellence which continues to this day.

Ever since George and Annemarie Roeper founded The Roeper School in 1941, it has been a leader in gifted education. George and Annemarie were refugees from Germany and witnessed first-hand the full measure of the human cost of Hitler's Third Reich. They dedicated their lives to creating an environment in which a powerful few would never again be able to impose their will upon an unchallenging majority. The Roeper School has been known for educating and empowering children at every level and instilling the attitudes, values and skills that will enable them to be leaders in the community. The school the Roepers founded continues to be a highly valued resource for gifted education, consulting on educational projects as varied as the creation of Children's Television Workshop, to the publications of the President's Council on Gifted Education.

The Roeper School continues to fulfill its mission: educating and inspiring gifted students to think as individuals and engage as a community with compassion for each other and this world. Their current "no cut" policy allows all students to participate in sports they wish to play. Roeper students pursue a challenging curriculum in math, science, arts and technology that prepares them for college and beyond. The Roeper School has a dedication to diversity, democracy, and community service that dates to its founding and is still very present today. Armed with a first class education, Roeper graduates have gone on to make extraordinary contributions to our society in every imaginable field of study and work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. For 75 years, The Roeper School has supported students' academic, intellectual, emotional and social growth and we wish them many more successful years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 434 on July 13, 2016. I would like the record to reflect that on roll call vote number 434 I would have voted YES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5538) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I want to make a statement regarding the passage of H.R. 5538, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. Specifically I would like to make a statement about my amendment, Grayson Number 113. My amendment simply put the House on record of supporting a final funding amount of \$27,191,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways. It does so by removing and then reapplying \$468,000 within the \$2.5 billion appropriation for the environmental programs and management account within the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report accompanying this bill originally called for \$26,723,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways, which is \$468,000 below both the Senate's proposed appropriations level and the President's request for fiscal year 2017. Hence, the amount specified in my amendment.

The National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways subaccount within the EPA does important work, including work in my State, especially on the Atlantic Coast. This program addresses ocean acidification, seeks to remove coastal watersheds, furthers the National Estuary Program's restoration goals, and assists in the implementation of the very important Gulf of Mexico hypoxia action plan.

This past March, in Central Florida, the Indian River Lagoon, which has been part of the National Estuary Program since 1990, experienced the worst fish kill in the history of the watershed. This fish kill is the result of hypoxia, caused by a recent algae blooming in the lagoon. Nobody knows how many fish died. And what's worse, nobody understands how "brown tide," the algae which caused the hypoxia, and is typically found in salty water, got into the Indian River Lagoon. With ecological disasters like this, we should be moving to fully fund the President's request.

Part of the funding for this program is used to try to overcome the hypoxia situation that has arisen in the Indian River Lagoon, while learning what happened, and more importantly, how to return the lagoon to a healthy ecosystem. This is just one of the 28 estuaries funded by this program, located along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts.

The estuarine regions of the United States comprise just 12 percent of land area of the United States, but they contain 43 percent of the U.S. population and provide 49 percent of all U.S. economic output. The economic value of coastal recreation alone in the United States—beach going, fishing, bird watching, snorkeling, diving, and so on—has conservatively been estimated by NOAA to be between \$20 billion and \$60 billion annually.