

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SAMUEL BEAMON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of one of Waterbury's finest sons, Samuel K. Beamon, Sr., who died this past Sunday, October 28, 2018. With Sam's passing, we lost a great American, a proud Marine, and I lost a very dear friend.

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, flying 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. He wrote about his time in the Marine Corps in his book, *Flying Death: The Vietnam Experience*, which was published in 2007.

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. He was the first African American Accident Investigator, radar operator and instructor, and member of the SWAT Team. As the first African American promoted to Lieutenant in the Waterbury Police Department, Sam paved the way for others. He mentored many in the department, including Vernon Riddick, who later became the first African American Police Chief of Waterbury and now West Hartford, and Patrick Riddenhour, now the first African American Police Chief of Danbury—both of whom credit Sam Beamon with teaching them how to be an effective leader. Sam's legacy includes his work to improve the lives of the youth of Waterbury. He served many years as the Commander of the Juvenile Division and was active in the Waterbury Department of Children and Families Extended Team and "Project Hometown Support." He served on both Governor Rowland's and Mayor O'Neill's juvenile task forces to identify the issues pertaining to the youth of Connecticut, implement policies to protect young people, engage in practices that promote character building opportunities for at-risk students, and work with law enforcement officials to encourage dialog in the community to identify issues that negatively impact at-risk students.

Sam was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2011. He was extremely active in the veterans' community serving as the Commandant of both Department of Connecticut and the Brass City Detachment of the Marine Corps League. He was a life member of VFW Post 201 and a member of American Legion Post 135. In 2014, he was named Chairman of the City of Waterbury's Veterans Memorial Committee. Sam also served for six

years on my Veterans Advisory Board, helping me better serve veterans in Connecticut and across the nation.

As a founding member of the "Forever Wave Program" that visits local schools to teach proper flag etiquette, he enjoyed passing on the love of his country, the military, veterans and Gold Star families. He was 19 years old when his Kaynor Tech classmate, Michael Knight, was killed in Vietnam. Upon Sam's return to Connecticut, he honored his friend Michael and his Gold Star Family by visiting the local schools during Memorial Day and Veterans Day to share his stories of service to inspire the students to serve others as well.

Sam's commitment to improving the lives and welfare of others extended well-beyond his involvement in veterans' organizations. A man who lived through some of the most divisive times in our country's history, Sam sought to inspire and unite today's youth. As a boy himself, he was a member of the country's first Young Marines Detachment, founded at VFW Post 201 in Waterbury. He knew the importance of community service, inspiring self-confidence, healthy living, and being true to one's moral compass. He understood the adversity some of our youth face in overcoming social, political, and economic barriers, but knew it can be done with hard work, a positive attitude, and moral grounding to overcoming all challenges. He mentored countless students, teaching them 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 may have begun but did not end with his time in the military. It meant giving back to Waterbury, the city that gave him so much. A leader in every sense of the word, Sam was honored at our Black History Month Congressional ceremony in Waterbury in February 2016. His remarks were touching; a perfect blend of self-reflection, humility, and his ironic sense of humor.

In July 2016, he became 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. 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.

This story perfectly encapsulates just who Sam was: he was the man who would stand by your side, offering his unwavering support when you needed him. To veterans across the State of Connecticut and his family and friends in the City of Waterbury, Sam was a man of conviction, honor, and leadership. Although cancer took his life far too soon, it did not take his spirit. His infectious positive energy

brought joy to the people around him. When I brought him apple cider donuts just a week before he died, he was full of plans about everything we had to do to set the country straight. He was and will always be my favorite Marine.

Sam Beamon helped teach me how to care for those who have worn the uniform, how to fight with everything you've got, and how to cherish every day we are blessed to be on this earth. He never gave up. He never gave in. Nor should we.

God speed, Sam Beamon. Our prayers, our thanks, and our love go with him.

HONORING STATE SENATOR JEAN LEISING

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize State Senator Jean Leising for her contribution to our state.

For nearly 18 years, Jean has represented East Central and Southeast Indiana with honor and integrity in the Indiana State Senate. As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Jean has been an advocate for farmers in her district, leading on issues that impact family farms across Indiana. She also continues to be a strong voice on education policy in the Indiana General Assembly, working to ensure our students and teachers are well equipped to succeed. Our state is better off today because of her extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, I have known Jean and her husband, Frank, for decades. I would like to thank them for their friendship and support of my work in Congress. I wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT A. CLIFFORD FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND INDUCTION INTO THE INDIANA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize Colonel Robert A. Clifford, a fellow Gary, Indiana native, who has been selected for induction into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2018. Robert's remarkable military career and his outstanding service to our country is truly admirable and worthy of the highest praise. Colonel Clifford will be honored at an induction ceremony taking place on Friday, November 9,

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2018, at the National Guard Armory in Indianapolis.

Robert Clifford was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. His military training began at Pennsylvania Military College. With each passing year, the Colonel proved himself to be a leader among his peers, which resulted in him being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Colonel Clifford's career was both outstanding and extensive, and throughout his time in the service, he was recognized by his commanding officers. In 1967, Robert was ordered to Vietnam as Infantry Platoon Leader, 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. During his time in Vietnam, he spent 324 consecutive days in combat operations. For his service, he was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

The Colonel worked in the Indiana National Guard armory as a traditional weekend soldier before he returned to active status to work with the Indiana National Guard. Entrusted with many responsibilities, he served in many capacities including Commander, 13th Engineer Battalion; Commander, 138th Signal Battalion; Commander of the State Maintenance Program; and 38th Infantry Division General Staff (G3) Training and Operations Officer, a role in which he was responsible for approximately 12,500 soldiers. During his career, Robert was assigned as the Indiana National Guard Engineer and Environmental Officer, overseeing all National Guard facilities for maintenance and repair. In addition, Colonel Clifford was able to help build five new armories, two maintenance shops, the first ammunition supply center, and numerous support facilities. At one point in his career, he was one of three officers assigned by the Pentagon to start a military to military relationship with the newly created country of Slovakia. The successful partnership of these two groups is now in its 24th year. Colonel Clifford also served as the State of Indiana Public Health and Preparedness Director and was tasked with creating a comprehensive plan, involving all necessary state organizations, to provide an immediate response to weapons of mass destruction. This plan was not only implemented; it was made an example of by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a strategy that states should incorporate.

Throughout the years, Colonel Clifford was bestowed numerous awards for his service. He has received the prestigious Legion of Merit Award for his truly exceptional efforts and devotion to the Indiana National Guard. He was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash and was named "A Hoosier Hero." In addition, the Colonel was designated a Distinguished Member of the Second Battalion of the 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He was among the first five ever to receive this honor from his Battalion.

Robert Clifford's commitment to his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Robert and his wonderful wife, Karen, have been married for 48 years. They have two sons, Rob (Jill) and Scott (Heather), and four beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Robert Clifford for his lifetime of service to the United States military and to the State of Indiana. For his truly noteworthy career and his outstanding dedication to serving others, Colo-

nel Robert Clifford is worthy of the honors bestowed upon him, and we are grateful for all of his many contributions.

YWCA 160TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) as it celebrates 160 years of service dedicated to supporting women, girls, and their families across the United States.

Throughout its history, the YWCA has been at the forefront of the most critical social movements of the time, including civil rights, women's empowerment, pay equity, health care reform, and gender-based violence prevention.

The YWCA serves over two million women, girls, and their families each year, with 210 local associations across 46 states and the District of Columbia. The YWCA is the largest network of domestic violence and sexual assault service providers in the country, reaching over half a million women and girls annually.

In my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, the YWCA has been a champion in the community since 1870 on behalf of women and families seeking to escape homelessness and domestic violence.

The Dayton YWCA's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism is displayed through the programs and services it provides, including the only emergency shelter service programs for women and families who are victims of domestic violence in Montgomery and Preble Counties; a confidential 24-hour crisis hotline; and a mentoring program for teen girls, which inspires them to explore and achieve their highest potential.

In 1893, the Dayton YWCA became the first YWCA in the United States with an officially organized program for African-American women and girls.

As mayor of the city of Dayton, and as a Member of Congress, I have been proud to recognize the important contributions made by the Miami Valley's most influential women, who have made a difference in our community through their dedication to the YWCA's mission of "empowering women, eliminating racism and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all."

Each year the YWCA Women of Achievement Award is presented to a select group of distinguished Dayton-area women, at a ceremony that coincides with our annual observance of Women's History Month. It has been my privilege to congratulate a number of these recipients, who embody the YWCA's 160-year mission to eliminate racism and empower other women.

Mr. Speaker, as the YWCA celebrates its 160th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding organization, which has worked so hard to improve the lives of women and girls in my community, and across our nation.

HONORING TOM CHALFANT

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Tom Chalfant for his contribution to our state and Randolph County.

Tom is a farmer in Randolph County and also serves as a County Commissioner. He has been involved in Republican politics for decades and is extremely well respected by the community. He is also a member of the 6th District Agriculture Advisory Committee, where he meets with my team regularly to discuss emerging agriculture issues that are impacting Indiana farmers. Randolph County and our state are better off today because of his leadership and service.

On a personal note, Tom is a friend in faith and was among my earliest and most vocal supporters. I want to thank him for his prayers and support of my work in Congress. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VOLODYMYR & OLHA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PARISH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of St. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

Their Jubilee celebration is being held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center—the center of the unification of the entire Ukrainian community and officiated by Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church with the participation of Bishop Benedict (Aleksiychuk), Fifth Eparch of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy based in Chicago. It will also include clergy members from Ukraine, Canada and the United States, the Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago, various dignitaries, and representatives of many important organizations and institutions.

Founded in 1968 by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, Confessor for the Faith, and the Bishop of the Eparchy of Chicago, Yaroslav Gabro, Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish has an inspiring history. During its first five years, the parishioners of the newly established parish collected enough funds to build their own church while attending religious services at a neighboring Ukrainian Church—St. Volodymyr Orthodox Cathedral, which graciously allowed the use of its church.

In 1973, the newly erected church, employing the Byzantine Ukrainian style of the 11th thru 13th century Ukraine, was blessed by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, who only ten years earlier had been released from Siberian imprisonment through the intervention of Pope John XXIII and President John F. Kennedy. A memorial statue of Patriarch Slipyj stands at the church's first location.

Mr. Speaker, today and during the entire month of November 2018, we honor the memory and sacrifices of all those who helped establish Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Parish, just as