

also served in the FBI and Florida Division of Corrections.

His dedication to his community is evident in his willingness to step into roles outside of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office to support Florida's sheriffs and their projects. Sheriff Farmer served two terms as the Chairman of the Board of the Sheriff's Youth Ranch Board of Directors and was the only sheriff in the State of Florida to serve two consecutive terms as President of the Florida Sheriff's Association. He also served as the Sheriff's Association Chaplain for the last 8 years until his retirement. It comes as no surprise that in 2024, Sheriff Farmer was nominated by the Florida Sheriff's Association as Law-Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Additionally, Sheriff Farmer was instrumental in making advancements to the quality of public safety in Sumter County having built the first state-of-the-art communication center at the office in Wildwood, known as the "William O. Bill Farmer Public Safety Center".

Our law enforcement officers are heroes, and Sheriff Farmer is no exception. He has faithfully led the Sheriff's Office with integrity and a servant's heart. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the impact he has had on our community. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor his legacy of service.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Sheriff Farmer who bravely and selflessly served Sumter County. May his character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER
SEAN FLYNN

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of dedicated U.S. Capitol Police Officer, Sean Patrick Flynn. Officer Flynn retired from the force this past December after 22 years of service with the Capitol Police.

The brave men and women of the USCP stand guard over our Capitol each day they come to work. They spend their careers prepared to risk their lives to protect our Capitol. Every member of this body is thankful for their service and sacrifice. Among their finest is Officer Flynn.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Officer Flynn moved to Washington D.C. to join the Capitol Police force in March of 2003. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the first responders' unit of the USCP where he worked for 15 years until transferring to the House Division in August of 2017, which he retired from this past December.

Officer Flynn tells me he has too many good memories from his time in the USCP to share but that one of his earliest assignments was working the funeral for President Ronald Reagan in 2004. He was proud to be a part of this somber and historic moment as our Nation mourned a revered former President.

As he begins his retirement, Officer Flynn will miss his friends on the force the most.

Throughout his long career, he has spent many hours working in our hallowed halls forming friendships with his fellow officers, Members of Congress, and congressional staffers. Officer Flynn is known for his kindness and friendly demeanor and his presence around our Capitol will be missed.

In his retirement he plans to spend much needed time with his wife, Beth, and their daughter Meghan. As he turns the page into a new chapter of life, I wish him and his family all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to thank Officer Flynn for his outstanding service, kindness, and professionalism. I thank him for giving us his best and for providing a safe, secure workplace every day. It has been an honor to serve with him.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE SALVATION ARMY THRIFT
STORE IN NOVI, MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the new Salvation Army location in Novi, Michigan, on February 7, 2025. The charity and service the Salvation Army has provided to people in Southeastern Michigan and around the world is worthy of commendation.

The Salvation Army began its work in Detroit in 1883, opening the Southeastern Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (SEMI ARC) there in 1895. SEMI ARC is an independently funded, 180-day residential work therapy program that aids adults in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. SEMI ARC moved to its current Detroit location in 1972 and is currently able to house up to 300 beneficiaries of its services at a time. The center is fully funded by people who shop and donate at the 29 Southeastern Michigan locations of Salvation Army Thrift Stores.

In addition to its rehabilitation facilities for substance abuse, the Salvation Army also provides disaster response services, social service programs, support for veterans, shelters for domestic violence victims and the unhoused, senior centers, and many other services as part of its worldwide movement. The organization assisted over 27 million people in the United States last year and currently has 1.8 million members serving in 134 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the Salvation Army Thrift Store opening its third location in Michigan's 6th District, and its thirtieth location in Southeastern Michigan. For over 150 years, this organization has bettered the lives of people in the region, and we welcome them to the City of Novi as they expand their work in the area. We thank them for their philanthropy, both here and across the world, and are excited to see what they can accomplish with this new store.

HONORING JOHN N. OGBURN, III
FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND
LEADERSHIP

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John N. Ogburn, III for his decades of exceptional service to the people of Randolph County, North Carolina.

A lifelong resident of North Carolina, he received his undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University and went on to receive his Master of Public Affairs from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Over the years, Mr. Ogburn has played an instrumental role in shaping the history of our community. He became Assistant City Manager of Archdale in 1990 and retires today after over two decades as the Asheboro City Manager. He has dedicated himself to making our community a better place and has been involved in the Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce, Asheboro Blue Comets Youth Football Association, the NCSU Alumni Association and the Wolfpack Club. He is a member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and serves on the UNCG Graduate School Advisory Board.

Renee and I offer our most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Ogburn for his years of exemplary service. I know I speak for the entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he moves on to this next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring John N. Ogburn for his extraordinary career of service to his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES COLORED TROOPS CON-
GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Colored Troops Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the Union Army and 19,000 African American men served in the Union Navy. I am proud to present this overdue expression of our national appreciation for these remarkable individuals. Senator CORY BOOKER has introduced the companion bill.

Since the colonial era, African Americans have served the United States in times of war. While African American men served in the Navy since its establishment, there was resistance to enlisting them to take up arms for the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. It was not until January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, that the Union Army was ordered to receive African American men. On May 22, 1863, the United States War Department issued General Order Number 143, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops for the recruitment and

organization of regiments of the Union Army composed of African American men, called the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Leaders such as Frederick Douglass encouraged African Americans to enlist to advance the cause of citizenship: "Once let the [B]lack man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.', let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on [E]arth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship," wrote Douglass.

African American sailors constituted a significant segment of the Union Navy, making up 20 percent of the Navy's total enlisted force. Although there were rank restrictions on African Americans in the Navy before the Civil War, this policy changed after the establishment of the USCT, when the Union Navy started to compete with the Union Army for enlistment of African Americans. Yet, in practice, most African Americans could not advance beyond the lowest ranks of "boy" and "landsman." In the Union Army, the USCT fought at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana; in Petersburg, Virginia; and in Nashville, Tennessee, among other sites. The USCT at first were paid less, were given used uniforms and poor equipment and could never become officers. Many USCT were assigned as guards on fortifications throughout the Union, including the Defenses of Washington, which, by 1865, was one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world. During the Civil War, African American women were not allowed to formally enlist as soldiers or sailors, though they served as nurses, cooks, spies and scouts for the Union Army and the Union Navy.

For generations after the Civil War, the contributions of the African Americans who served with Union forces were excluded from historical memory. Not until Public Law No. 102-412, which I sponsored and which authorized the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, were they officially commemorated. The African American Civil War Memorial features a bronze statue of soldiers, an African American sailor and family, and is surrounded by The Wall of Freedom, which lists the names of the members of the USCT.

Patriots and heroes who rose in service to a Nation that would not fully recognize them, the African Americans who served the Union during the Civil War deserve our recognition for their contributions to the grant of emancipation and citizenship for nearly four million enslaved people and to the preservation of the Union.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DEAN EMERITUS QUIESTER
CRAIG

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a legendary American educator, Dean Emeritus Quiester Craig, who passed away on December 12th at the age of 88. He touched the lives of many students, including myself.

Dean Craig was a proud graduate of Morehouse College for his bachelor's, Atlanta University for his MBA, and the University of Missouri-Columbia for his doctoral degree in accounting. When he graduated, he was the 10th African American in the United States to hold a Ph.D. in accounting.

Dean Craig lived a full life dedicated to expanding quality education within his community. His commitment to excellence will be missed terribly, but his legacy serves as an example not to be forgotten.

In July of 1972 he was appointed Professor of Accounting and Dean of the School of Business and Economics at North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T).

Dean Craig was a man of many accomplishments. Under his leadership, NC A&T became the Nation's first Historically Black College to earn accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the international standard for business schools. This made NC A&T the country's number one HBCU graduate business school.

Due to this accomplishment, in 1992, Dean Craig served as President of AACSB Inter-

national. He was the first African American elected President of Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society for qualified students in AACSB International accredited business programs, from 2000 to 2002. In June 1985, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of Black Accountants. He was also the Administrator of the Year Award recipient for the May 1986 NC A&T Commencement.

In April 1987, he was honored as the Business and Public Citation Merit Awardee of the University of Missouri Columbia. In 1988, Miller Brewing Company selected Dr. Craig for its "Gallery of Greats, 12 Black Educators Building the Foundation." In 1991, he was honored as Clark-Atlanta University's Outstanding Graduate Alumnus of the Year. In April 2004, NC A&T named the School of Business and Economics classroom building as "Quiester Craig Hall." In June 2005, he received The Milton Wilson Dean's Excellence Award from the HBCU Dean's Roundtable.

In November 2011, Dr Craig was one of the inaugural inductees into the Ph.D. Project Hall of Fame. In 2013, he was honored with the AACSB International Distinguished Leadership Award.

Dean Quiester Craig was a humble man who was passionate about uplifting the next generation of business leaders, and he did just that. As a former student of Dean Craig, it was under his leadership that I became a successful entrepreneur. Today, I stand as a Member of Congress, advocating for the protection of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives, and never forgetting the many lessons he taught me while at North Carolina A&T.

Our Nation was made better because of the leadership, kindness, and mentorship of Dean Craig. While he is no longer with us today, we will never forget the many lessons he taught us, and his memory will live on through the lives of all those he taught.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our condolences to his family during this trying time, and in honoring the legacy of Dean Quiester Craig.