

the Chief of Police to the people of Avenal, California.

Chief Amoroso was born on June 10, 1956 in San Francisco, California. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1974. He went on to attend the College of the Sequoias on a baseball scholarship, where he earned an Associate of Science Degree.

In July 1976, Chief Amoroso married Susan Brown. The couple would go on to have two daughters, Amy and Melissa.

Chief Amoroso started his distinguished law enforcement career in 1979 with the Hanford Police Department (HPD). He served with the department for nine years and earned the rank of Sergeant before being hired by the Kings County Sheriff's Office in 1988. In 1992, Chief Amoroso was awarded a Medal of Valor for his work in a SWAT mission that resulted in the arrest of a double homicide suspect. Chief Amoroso spent 21 years with the Kings County Sheriff's Office before retiring in December 2009.

On April 1, 2010, the City of Avenal hired Chief Amoroso to establish Avenal's first police department. In addition to hiring officers, acquiring equipment, purchasing vehicles, and facilitating officer training, he designed the Ken Brown Public Safety Center where the Avenal Police Department is located.

Chief Amoroso's work to establish the Avenal Police Department fully materialized on November 15, 2010 when the Avenal Police Department relieved the Kings County Sheriff's Office and assumed full responsibility for law enforcement in the City of Avenal.

After dedicating his life to law enforcement, Chief Amoroso is retiring on April 10, 2015.

Avenal and the entire Central Valley community have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated law enforcement officer such as Chief Amoroso to ensure the wellbeing of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Chief John Amoroso for his thirty five years of dedicated law enforcement work in the Central Valley and congratulating him on his recent retirement from the Avenal Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO JAIMIE MILLER-ACKLEY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jaimie Miller-Ackley for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jaimie has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her exemplary work with Iowa Credit Union Foundation is a testament to that. As the Executive Director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, Jaimie is passionate about going the extra mile. Jaimie's exemplary work ethic and dedication to service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jaimie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jaimie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING WILLIE RENE LEFLORE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Willie Rene Leflore.

Ms. Leflore is a lifetime resident of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier encouraging others to sign up and be counted. In her words, "Gone are the days of nurturing, chopping, hoeing, hauling water pails, getting up early, catching Bill Henderson's bus, etcetera, to work from sun up to sun down for \$3.15 daily".

Growing up, Ms. Leflore wanted to be free to enter the front doors of Labella Restaurant and ride at the front of the Grey Hound Bus. So, Ms. Leflore took a stand, and marched beside Cora Stone Johnson, Nelson Dotson, John Richardson, Lene and others for her civil rights.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier for what is right. She believes in receiving the same privileges and rights as other races. She believes that all adults have their own mind to decide on what they want to participate in as long as it is right. She fought for that privilege. It was an acquired desire to march beside others who shared the same belief.

Ms. Leflore worked, never missing a day unless she was sick. When she became ill, she had to retire. She has received numerous commendations as a loyal supporter of all athletic activities at Gentry High School. To this day, she still uses the phone as her legs and mouth, encouraging others to stand and show themselves approved. She believes that standing for what you believe in regardless, of the odds against you, and the pressure that tears at your resistance means courage, which is what she had to constantly remind herself of. She always kept a smile on her face, even when on the inside she felt like dying. She stopped at nothing. Doing what was instilled in her heart, is to make another's life a little more bearable. When she was in the moment, she was loyal, she wasn't selfish and she kept her head high.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Willie Rene Leflore for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. LONNIE POWELL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO KANSAS CITY'S ARTISTIC COMMUNITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the contributions of Kansas City Artist and Educator, Mr. Lonnie Powell. Mr. Powell is a native of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent, and his professional contributions continue to enhance the skills of young artists, and have united artists for the purpose of showcasing talent. Additionally, his unique abilities have created a treasure of expressive visual art. To have the respect of one's peers and the leadership skills to make a significant difference in one's community is the rarest of gifts. But to have the additional commitment, energy, and desire to pursue and achieve one's goals are equally extraordinary qualities.

Mr. Powell's artistic development began at a young age, when he cultivated the desire to draw and create using his pencil. Despite the stress his father had placed on the importance of trade skills for financial stability, after graduating from Central High School in Kansas City, Powell chose to pursue higher education. He graduated from Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, and promptly began his long career in education.

From 1966 to 1975, Powell taught art at several schools in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. He introduced his students to different artistic techniques and delighted in their individual creativity. Powell began working on his Master's Degree in Art Education at Central Missouri State College and had completed 37 hours when the private sector enticed him to leave teaching and join the corporate world. At Xerox Corporation, he made President's Club, an honor reserved for the upper echelon of the national sales force. Though he had significant accomplishments, and had received numerous awards, there was little time left for creating art. He missed the students and felt a pervading emptiness. Therefore, after eight years in the corporate world, Powell returned to his real passion, teaching art. He has often said that he learned from his students as much as they learned from him. He quotes Pablo Picasso, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

In 2000, Powell retired from teaching and focused on his own artistic career. He is well known for his visual narratives which illustrate the subject's feeling and glimpses into their thoughts. Through mediums of oil, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, and pencil, he exposes the soul. For Powell, a finished piece is first appreciated and then evaluated in order to avoid complacency and continually strive to improve.

In 2001, Lonnie Powell became the founder and president of The Light in the Other Room. This organization remains active and has formed many partnerships in the name of art. Powell had envisioned a collaborative of African-American, Kansas City based artists that would benefit both the community and participating artists. Powell says "The two greatest

joys for me have been learning from each other and causing a bit of a stir in the Kansas City Area. We are very optimistic about our future and the future of our beloved metropolitan area.” His organization has worked with The Greater Kansas City Links, The Jackson County Links, Hatebusters Inc., The Epsten Gallery, The Sister City Association of Kansas City, Missouri, Central Missouri State University, William Jewell College, Vaughn Cultural Center, and Portfolio Gallery and Education Center of St. Louis, Missouri, to name a few.

Powell has participated in solo and group exhibits at Ethnic Art Gallery, the Central Exchange, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum, The American Jazz Museum’s Changing Gallery, The Vine Street Studio, The Review Studio and many others. His creations have also been accepted in numerous competitions around the country.

His exhibits at numerous colleges and universities include: Park University, Western Missouri University, Lincoln University, Rockhurst University (where he spent a year as artist in residence from 1969 to 1970), The University of Central Missouri, Avila College, William Jewell College and the Kansas University Medical Center.

Powell’s art is in numerous private collections, as well as corporate collections including: Sprint Nextel Corporation, H&R Block Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Fishnet Corporation, Andrew/McMeel Universal, Sports Association Management, Inc., Truman Medical Center. The American Jazz Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art (Oppenheimer Collection) and The Mulvane Art Museum all have his art as part of their permanent collections. Additionally, he has some pieces in The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum’s permanent collection as well as in their traveling exhibition, Shades of Greatness, which tours galleries and museums across the country.

In 2005, Powell was awarded Signature membership in the National Watercolor Society. He won the NWS Combined Donors’ C Award for his piece, South Sun. In 2006, he was named one of the “Ones to Watch” by Watercolor Magic Magazine (now Watercolor Artist Magazine). In 2013, Powell was awarded “Best of Show”, at the Harlem X-Hibit, Black Art in America.

One of Powell’s most bittersweet experiences took place in 2007 when he traveled with Change the Truth to Kajjansi, Uganda. There, he worked with the children of St. Mary Kevin’s Orphanage. This was a profound experience in which he first felt initial shock, seeing children with so very little. However, he will tell you of the joy he came to know from working with these young children as many were extremely talented. Powell says he found it hard to leave his little students behind.

Powell is blessed with a wonderful family, including his lovely wife, Brenda, their son, Gregory, (and his wife, Tava) and a beautiful granddaughter, Jaden.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Lonnie Powell for his endless commitment to our artistic community. He is not only a role model for our artists, but he serves as an example of how we can all live our lives. Mr. Speaker, his art moves us and his contributions have enlightened our community.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGIE PFANNKUCH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angie Pfannkuch for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angie has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does, and her exemplary work with Olson Associates Inc. is a testament to that. As Development Consultant she utilizes her management abilities to develop large land renovations in Des Moines to revitalize historic areas. In her free time Angie likes to dedicate herself to serving others. She recently took a mission trip to Ghana to help establish an orphanage, King Cares International’s first project in Africa. In all aspects of her life, Angie is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH ON ITS CENTENNIAL

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Miami Beach in Florida’s 23rd Congressional District.

Incorporated on March 26th, 1915, Miami Beach took its place on the map with only a handful of residents. Now home to nearly 100,000 people, the City of Miami Beach has not only grown in population but in reputation. This vacation paradise is an internationally recognized tourist destination visited by millions each year. However, for as much as Miami Beach is known for its fun and sun, it has evolved into a hub for business and is a trendsetter in the areas of arts and culture, fine dining and entertainment.

More than 100 years ago, Miami Beach pioneers Carl Fisher, John Collins and the Lummus brothers had a vision to develop a

small island that could stand as a city in and of itself. Combining their efforts, the Collins Bridge, the longest wooden bridge in the world at that time, was constructed to connect Miami’s mainland with this new island community. And with just 33 registered voters, John Newton Lummus was elected the city’s first mayor. Soon thereafter, the building boom of the 1920’s helped create the now historic and famed Art Deco district, known to the world as “South Beach.”

As a matter of fact, Miami Beach is home to numerous sites in the National Register of Historic Places, from the Venetian Causeway to the Fountainebleau Hotel to Beth Jacob Congregation which now houses the Jewish Museum of Florida. The city’s various neighborhoods are as distinct as its residents, from South Beach to Mid Beach to North Beach, Miami Beach radiates a true sense of community.

Miami Beach has served as a cultural playground for entertainers such as Jackie Gleason, Frank Sinatra and even The Beatles who performed on the Ed Sullivan Show live from the Deauville Hotel.

This month Miami Beach will celebrate its Centennial with 100 hours of showcasing its history and all the city has to offer, including a performance by Miami Beach residents and cultural icons Gloria Estefan, Barry Gibb and Andrea Bocelli.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to represent the City of Miami Beach in our nation’s capital. I thank Mayor Philip Levine, the Members of the City Commission, and the city’s staff for their many accomplishments that have made the City of Miami Beach a wonderful place to live, work, visit and raise a family.

SUPPORT OF THE “HOMELAND SECURITY DRONE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS ACT”

**HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the “Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act.”

On January 27th, a small drone landed on the grounds of the White House.

Thankfully, this incident did not threaten the President or his family, as it was nothing more than an ill-advised misadventure by a hobbyist.

It did, however, raise serious questions about the threat commercially available drones may pose to individuals, infrastructure, and our aviation system.

Recently, drones were observed flying over sensitive assets in France, including nuclear installations, the home of the French President, and near the United States Embassy. These drone activities have raised concerns about the security implications of the commercial availability of small and medium sized drones.

Undoubtedly, drones have great commercial potential and their utility will aid our agricultural sector and others in the decades to come.

Even as drones have the potential for so much good in the hands of a farmer, there is