

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.