

Lance Cpl. Lawrence jerked the steering wheel and intentionally tipped his truck. It overturned and Bobby Lawrence, a week away from his 21st birthday, was tragically killed when the truck overturned. But his passenger was saved.

Lance Cpl. Lawrence will be flown back to Evart for burial. His noble actions will not rescind his loss, nor can they ever fully alleviate the pain of the family and friends who must bury this young Marine.

Mr. Speaker, I know that each Member of the U.S. House of Representatives joins me and the residents of the 4th Congressional District in offering Lance Cpl. Lawrence's loved ones our prayers, our thoughts and our gratitude. May his soul rest in peace and may his bravery be forever remembered in the hearts of those for whom he served.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
COLONEL JAMES R. PROUTY

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

Colonel James R. Prouty is recognized for exceptionally distinguished service to the United States Army and to the United States of America during the period July 6, 1972 to May 31, 1999. Throughout a distinguished twenty-seven year military career, Colonel Prouty served in a series of increasingly demanding positions that immeasurably contributed to the security of the nation, culminating as the Executive Officer to the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

A brief summary of his accomplishments over the last decade follows.

As Commander of the 2d Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery (Vulcan/Stinger), 2d Armored Division, he was responsible for leading, training, maintaining, and caring for approximately 600 soldiers and their associated equipment (45 track and 175 wheeled vehicles). MG Malory, the Division Commander, remarked that "his battalion set the training standard for the division because of Jim's leadership." When war came, that uncompromising investment in training returned valuable dividends for the 125 highly-motivated and professional soldiers he provided to Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

As Operations Officer, and later Chief of Staff, for the United States Army Space and Strategic Defense Command (USASSDC), COL Prouty was responsible for planning and resourcing all current, future, and contingency operations; determining, analyzing, and integrating requirements for Army Space Systems; and coordinating those requirements with the Army Staff, the Joint Staff, and US Space Command. Leveraging his broad warfighting talents, COL Prouty initially focused his directorate's efforts on incorporating space considerations into Army doctrine and training events. From these efforts, he developed and prioritized requirements for Army Space Systems, published in the first Army Space Modernization Plan, supporting commanders across all Battlefield Operating Systems. LTG Lionetti described him as "smart, innovative, and visionary; he made improvements of enormous significance." Later, his directorate

stood up USASSDC's Theater Missile Defense (TMD) cell, and COL Prouty became the Army's focal point for a wide variety of TMD initiatives. Once again, COL Jim Prouty was equal to the task, overseeing the integration of delivery of the TMD Force Projection Tactical Operations Center (TOC), a major new warfighting asset available to support Joint Land Force commanders worldwide. At the same time, COL Prouty was instrumental in directing the command's highly successful participation in support of the Commission on Roles and Missions.

As Commander, Test and Experimentation Command (TEXCOM) Experimentation Center, COL Prouty was responsible for conducting and supporting a wide range of independent operational tests and experiments using state-of-the-art, real time casualty assessment instrumentation, data reduction, and analysis. He was also responsible to lead, train, and care for an organic Armored/Mechanized Infantry Battalion Task Force of over 350 soldiers. As in previous assignments, his initial emphasis was on training and performing to standard. As a result, his soldiers achieved record success on the gunnery ranges, and the major weapons systems were maintained at unprecedented operational readiness rates. More importantly, every operational test and experiment was carefully planned, coordinated, and executed on time, under budget, yielding results which were both analytically sound and compelling. The highly successful operational test of the Battlefield Combat Identification System (BCIS) is a testament to COL Prouty's leadership, superb knowledge of training, and understanding of how to operationalize emerging technology. The latter months of COL Prouty's command were once again dedicated to the mission of inactivation—and taking care of troops. In recognizing the professional manner in which COL Prouty inactivated the command, MG Lehowicz remarked that "he turned in equipment and facilities (valued at over \$100M) in such an outstanding condition that it defied the imagination."

Since July 1997, COL Prouty has served as the Executive Officer to Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (AVCSA). It is in this role that COL Prouty's unique talents and abilities have had their greatest impact on the Army. While his duties are broadly defined, as in his previous assignments, it is in the details where COL Prouty has left an indelible mark on the future of our Army.

His ability to energize a diverse body of senior executives and general officers, from across the Army Staff, with widely different interests, toward a common purpose, is truly remarkable. He succeeds because he invests the time, energy, and intellect necessary to understand the most complex issues from the perspectives of all stakeholders; he possesses the wisdom, experience, and judgment to find the common ground; and he employs the finely-honed leadership skills to motivate all to positive action. These skills were particularly evident in directing the AVCSA's efforts to transition two incoming VCSAs and develop a workable strategy to fully integrate the Army's active and reserve components—later detailed in the CSA White Paper, One Team, One Fight, One Future.

Immediately upon assuming his duties, he developed the trust and confidence of every senior leader on the Army Staff, and countless

others in the department and on Capitol Hill. Through two full Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System (PPBS) cycles, and in defense of two Army budget submissions, the Chief of Staff, the Vice Chief of Staff, and/or the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff were invariably present at the decisive place and time, with the compelling argument for Army requirements and resources. These opportunities were more often than not developed behind the scenes, via a broad, but comprehensive staff effort with COL Prouty at the helm. Perhaps of even greater importance, COL Prouty's insight, instincts, and mastery of the subject matter allowed him to resolve innumerable requirements and resource issues, in a manner favorable to Army objectives, without requiring the dedicated attention of the senior leadership.

COL Jim Prouty's team-building and managerial skills have never been more fully validated. The office of the AVCSA is a model of efficiency—lean, professional, effective, and highly-credible. This success is singularly attributable to the leadership talent and managerial savvy of COL Jim Prouty. As the role of the AVCSA continued to evolve, COL Prouty ensured that the office staff remained one step ahead of the issues, and cultivated the professional working relationships necessary to ensure the role of the AVCSA on the Army Staff was well understood and fully integrated. He sets high standards in all aspects of staff performance, and inspires subordinates to achieve them. Even under the most difficult circumstances, morale was invariably high, and the staff never missed a beat.

COL Jim Prouty served with uncommon distinction in each of these critical positions during these last ten years. His outstanding performance in each position contributed extensively to the success, not just of his unit, but to the Army. The impact of COL Prouty's professionalism, selfless commitment, and accomplishments will endure well beyond his retirement. His level of responsibility, particularly in his final position, was far above that of his peers, and his performance was on a par with most of the general officers I routinely work with. Given these factors, it is most appropriate that COL Prouty's extraordinary service to the United States Army and the United States of America be recognized by the 106th Congress.

GENERAL JOHNNIE E. WILSON

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to General Johnnie Edward Wilson, who, on April 26, is retiring from the United States Army after more than 37 years on active duty and has served this country with honor and dignity. General Wilson is an exceptional leader, a "soldier's soldier."

Having started his career as a private, he understands soldiering, leadership, and selfless service. He is known on Capitol Hill for his dedication and integrity. As the Army's senior logistician for the past 3 years, he has tackled the tough issues in technology, acquisition and logistics while consistently focused on proper care for his personnel. Thanks to

the efforts of patriots like General Wilson, the United States Army enters the new millennium as a strong, proud fighting force. This outstanding American deserves the praise and thanks of a grateful nation.

Born on February 4, 1944, General Wilson was raised in Lorain, Ohio, and entered the Army in August 1961 as an enlisted soldier, attaining the rank of staff sergeant before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS). After completing OSC in 1967, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. He was awarded a bachelor of science degree in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology. His military education includes completion of the Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

General Wilson held a wide variety of important command and staff positions culminating in his current assignment as the commanding general, U.S. Army Material Command. Other key assignments include: deputy chief of staff for logistics, Department of the Army, Pentagon; chief of staff, U.S. Army Material Command; commanding general, Ordnance Center and School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; deputy commanding general, 21st Theater Army Area Command, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army; commander, 13th Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas, and, commander, Division Support Command, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army, Europe.

General Wilson served with distinction at every level of command. He commanded three times at the company level—a maintenance company in the 82nd Airborne Division as a first lieutenant, followed by command of a supply and services company in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and a maintenance company with the 1st Armored Division in Europe. At the lieutenant colonel level, General Wilson commanded the 709th maintenance Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington, which converted and became the Army's first Main Support Battalion. General Wilson commanded twice at the colonel level, serving as the Division Support Command commander of the 1st Armored Division followed by command of the 13th Support Command at Fort Hood, Texas.

General Wilson next served as the deputy commanding general, 21st Theater Army Area Command, the Army's largest and most diverse logistics unit. Based on his wide experience with leading soldiers, General Wilson was selected to command the Ordnance Center and School responsible for training thousands of soldiers, NCOs and officer every year. Following this successful assignment, General Wilson served as the chief of staff, AMC, where he was responsible for resource and personnel management for a workforce with over 80,000 military and civilian members. From 1964 to 1996, General Wilson served as the deputy chief of staff for logistics, Department of the Army, where he was responsible for worldwide logistics.

General Wilson's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

General Wilson is married to the former Helen McGhee of Elyria, Ohio, and they have three children: Johnnie E. Jr., Charlene, and Scott, and five grandchildren. Please join me in commending the service of General Johnnie Wilson this month upon the occasion of his retirement.

HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION—INTRODUCTION

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I come to the Floor this afternoon to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The co-sponsors and I believe that the federal government cannot continue to ignore the commitment it made over 24 years ago to children with disabilities.

In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, commonly known as P.L. 94-142. The Act established the federal commitment to provide funding at 40% of the average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities.

Since 1995, upon Republican insistence, funding for IDEA has risen over 85%. With this increase in funding, IDEA is now funded at 12% of the average per pupil expenditure—much higher than the 7% of 5 years ago. We must continue to increase funding to reach the 40% of the average pupil expenditure funding level mandated in law. Without these federal IDEA funds, local school districts must cover the unpaid federal share.

President Clinton proposes to level fund IDEA for FY2000. Considering that the number of children with disabilities is projected to increase by 123,000 from 1999 to 2000, the President's budget request actually cuts funding for children with disabilities from \$702 per child in FY1999 to \$688 per child in FY2000.

Congress must ensure that the Federal government lives up to the promises it made to the students, parents, and schools over two decades ago. We must fully fund IDEA before Washington creates new education programs.

Once the Federal government begins to pay its fair share under IDEA, local funds will be freed up, allowing local schools to hire and train high-quality teachers, reduce class size, build and renovate classrooms, and invest in technology.

The resolution I introduce today urges Congress to fully fund IDEA while maintaining its commitment to existing federal education programs. We can both ensure that children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education and ensure that all children have the best education possible if we just provide fair federal funding for special education.

I urge everyone to support this important resolution. Congress must fulfill its commitment to assist States and localities with educating children with disabilities.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE A. LEON  
HIGGINBOTHAM

**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, It is my honor to rise in tribute to the late A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. He was a great American and a great friend. Higginbotham was a man who excelled in many disciplines. He was a scholar, a writer, a lawyer, a judge and especially a humanitarian.

Leon Higginbotham studied engineering at Purdue University, continued his education at Antioch College and received a LL.B. from Yale University in 1952. Eighteen years later, he became the first black elected trustee of Yale after defeating five other distinguished alumni in a nationwide ballot.

In 1963, President Kennedy nominated A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. for the U.S. District Court of Eastern Pennsylvania. However, Senator James Eastland of Mississippi blocked his confirmation by the Senate. After Kennedys assassination, President Johnson nominated Higginbotham, and in 1964 appointed him to a seat on the U.S. District Court of Eastern Pennsylvania. In 1977, Judge Higginbotham was elevated to the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as the Chief Judge of the Appeals Court from 1990 to 1993. His celebrated career was filled with judicial accomplishments. He was the author of more than 600 published opinions and books, including "In the Matter of Race: Race and the American Legal Process" and "Shades of Freedom."

I first met Judge Higginbotham when he was supporting Senator John F. Kennedy in his campaign for President. In the past twenty years we developed a closer friendship, exchanging telephone calls and letters. I admired and respected the Judge for his intellectual prowess and his untiring commitment to civil rights.

At the time of his death last December, Judge Higginbotham was a retired Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States Court of Appeals, the Public Service Professor of Jurisprudence at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and Counsel to the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York. During his life, Judge Higginbotham received numerous honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Human Relations Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Urban Award for outstanding contributions towards the goal of equal opportunity, the 81st NAACP Spingarn Medal for the highest and noblest achievement by an African-American, and the 1994 recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus' Leland Humanitarian Award.

In 1996, Higginbotham became an advisor to Texaco, Inc. after the company agreed to a \$176 million settlement of a race-discrimination case. There he initiated a formal evaluation of the company's human resource policies and diversity practices in an effort to make Texaco an industry model for its hiring and promotion of black employees. In an interview that year with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Judge Higginbotham was described as seeing "the future of race relations with an equal mixture