

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on Television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—"Harry and Lena." She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with Former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside-out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with pot holes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VICTORIA  
WHITEHEAD MCCRAY

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray, a dedicated educator and public servant. Mrs. McCray is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. McCray has dedicated her life to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. McCray was born on October 22, 1927, in Wilson, North Carolina, to John Henry Whitehead and the former-Victoria Ennis. Mrs. McCray attended Darden High School in Wilson, and attended North Carolina Central University in Durham. Following her education at NCCU, Mrs. McCray taught business and typing courses and produced a booklet on Black History entitled "A Proud Heritage" that was widely distributed to students and others.

Mrs. McCray is a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has held every office in the chapter including as Tamiouchos, Nominating Committee Chair, and Treasurer, where she has demonstrated her financial expertise. For her many contributions to her Sorority and community, Mrs. McCray was awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Alumni Chapter at Bennett College.

Mrs. McCray is married to Wilford McCray and they are proud parents of Ms. Paulette McCray. Mrs. McCray is a member of the historic Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church in Wilson, where she serves as finance committee chair.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. McCray's contributions to our great nation are many. She is dedicated to the service of others and her passion for education and community is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,124,962,972,729.90. We've added \$7,498,085,923,816.62 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SUTTON NORRIS APPOINTMENT TO  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY

**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2015*

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Norris is an incredibly accomplished young man from Athens, Georgia. Sutton is the son of Tab and Elizabeth Norris, and is a graduate of the prestigious Prince Avenue Christian School. During his time there, Sutton exhibited his dedication to leadership while attending the Summer Leadership Experience at USMA and was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award.

Among his many accolades, Sutton also showcased academic prowess while serving as the President of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Sutton Norris is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Sutton organized Prince Avenue Christian School's initial participation in Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about cancer and funds to combat the disease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Norris is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving in different branches of the armed services, I am confident that Sutton will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEMINOLE  
STATE COLLEGE THEATRE DE-  
PARTMENT'S HISTORIC COMPLE-  
TION OF AUGUST WILSON'S  
"PITTSBURGH CYCLE"

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2015*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, with its production of "Radio Golf" in February 2015, Seminole State College's Theatre Department completes its 10-year commitment to produce all ten plays in playwright August Wilson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning series referred to as "The Pittsburgh Cycle", an historic feat that only a few American theaters have accomplished, and

Whereas, Seminole State College has contributed to the region's celebration, and recognition, of Black History Month over the past decade by presenting the "Pittsburgh Cycle", which depicts the African-American experience during each decade of the 20th century, and

Whereas, Seminole State College Theatre Department's production of the "Pittsburgh Cycle" demonstrates the exceptional power of college theater to promote active learning, and