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HON. CORRINE BROWN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On The Life of Benny Luke, Jr.

I rise to pay tribute to the life of Benny Luke, Jr.

Benny Luke, Jr. served his country with military service in the United States Navy from March 5, 1956 until his honorable discharge, March 4, 1962.

I was pleased that full Military Honors at the Internment Services for Benny Luke, Jr. at the Riverside National Cemetery were performed on Jan. 17, 2014. The honor guard detail performed a ceremony that included the folding and presenting of the United States flag to his sister. "Taps" was sounded by a lone bugler and a three rifle volley was fired.

On this occasion, I join the American Embassy in Paris, friends and loved ones to acknowledge Benny's life and his cultural contributions as an African American living in France.

Benny's adventures in France started when he was cast by Donn Arden of The Jubilee Management Team to dance at the Lido, the famous French cabaret, for one year in 1963.

He also performed with the beloved Josephine Baker in her final appearance at the Bobino Theatre in 1975.

In addition, his career included 2,500 unforgettable live theatre performances on stage as Jacob and his movie performances in all three of the French classic La Cage Aux Folles.

Benny Luke, Jr. was dearly cherished and well respected by his loved ones, his colleagues, and the French community.

I am pleased to stand with The American Embassy in Paris during African American History Month to recognize Benny Luke, Jr.'s glorious life on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at the George Marshall Center at the Hotel de Talleyrand, located in Paris, France.

May all who knew him keep his friendship and experiences close to their hearts.