
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING DR. ERNEST JAMES HARRIS ON BEING AWARDED THE
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

1 WHEREAS, a Congressional Gold Medal, one of the two highest
2 civilian awards in the United States, is an award bestowed by
3 the United States Congress as its expression of national
4 appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions;
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, on the 25th of June in 1941, President Franklin D.
8 Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802, establishing fair
9 employment practices that began to erase discrimination in the
10 Armed Forces; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in 1942, President Roosevelt established a
13 presidential directive giving African-Americans an opportunity
14 to be recruited into the Marine Corps; however, these
15 individuals were not sent to the traditional boot camps, but
16 were segregated from the general Marine Corps population and
17 sent to Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North
18 Carolina, for their basic training; and
19

20 WHEREAS, upon graduating magna cum laude from an all-black
21 public high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, DR. ERNEST JAMES
22 HARRIS was among the first wave of African-Americans to enlist
23 in the United States Marine Corps, with aspirations to serve his
24 country and embark on an exciting career in the Marine Corps;
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, on November 23, 2011, the United States Congress
28 awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point
29 Marines in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service
30 to their country; and

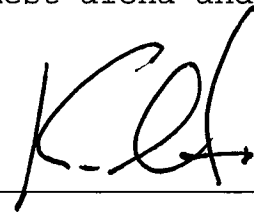


H.R. NO. 17

1 WHEREAS, on November 12, 2016, DR. ERNEST JAMES HARRIS, a
2 distinguished member of the Montford Point Marines, was
3 presented the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony at
4 Washington Place, Honolulu, Hawaii; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2017, that this body hereby recognizes and congratulates DR.
9 ERNEST JAMES HARRIS on being awarded the Congressional Gold
10 Medal, commends him for his bravery and courage in defense of
11 our nation, and extends to him its warmest aloha and best
12 wishes.
13
14
15

OFFERED BY: _____



FEB 07 2017

