



The Office Of State Treasurer  
Denise L. Nappier

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# Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 26, 2014

**STATEMENT BY STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER**  
**ON THE PASSING OF GERALD A. LAMB**

The Connecticut Treasury is deeply saddened by news of the death of Gerald A. Lamb, Treasurer of the State of Connecticut from 1963 to 1970.

Gerald A. Lamb was a trailblazer of the first order. Upon his election as State Treasurer in 1962, he made history as the first African-American in the nation to be elected a state treasurer. I will always be grateful to Mr. Lamb for forging the pathway for me and others – including Henry Parker, Francisco Borges and Joseph Suggs -- to hold the position of State Treasurer. He was indeed a gracious and wise man who gave me cogent advice on a memorable afternoon visit to his home on Martha's Vineyard.

In addition to serving with distinction as State Treasurer for two terms, Mr. Lamb also served as the State's first African-American Banking Commissioner. He will long be remembered for not only breaking barriers but also defying the odds. One of his favorite quotes captures his spirit so well: "Man-made obstacles are really bumps in the road to success."

It was evident from the start that Mr. Lamb was destined for greatness as a public servant. Shortly after moving to Waterbury from North Carolina, Mr. Lamb became active in community affairs, and it did not take the people of Waterbury long to recognize his talent. In short order, he was elected to the board of aldermen, and then to the posts of president pro tempore and acting mayor. One year later, he was elected State Treasurer – becoming the first African-American elected to a statewide office in Connecticut. Mr. Lamb's political success is all the more impressive considering it came during an era in our nation's history of civil unrest, political upheaval and racial tension. Mr. Lamb shattered barriers and appealed to all, no matter their race.

The citizens of Connecticut and, indeed, our nation, are grateful to Mr. Lamb for his dedicated military service in the United States Navy. In his later career as senior

vice president with Connecticut Bank and Trust Company, he continued to serve the community through ably advocating for corporate social responsibility.

On behalf of the Connecticut Treasury, I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Gerald A. Lamb on his passing. As a giant in the field of public finance and public service, as well as an inspiration to those who aspire for greatness, he will be missed.

*In October 1963, Ebony magazine presented a special package of articles on prominent African-American political leaders in New England. Mr. Lamb was featured in the main article and in a profile. The articles start on Page 25. The profile of Mr. Lamb begins on Page 30. On Page 33, Connie Nappier, father of Treasurer Nappier, is pictured discussing building plans with Mr. Lamb in the corridor of the State Capitol. [LINK](#)*

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