



Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive 2006 - 2018 **Served in Vietnam, *January—December 1969***

From January - December 1969, Isiah “Ike” Leggett served as a captain in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, first in combat with a Military Advisory Unit attached to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and then as a public affairs officer with the 7th Support Battalion/199th Light Infantry Brigade. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Medals.

Leggett was the first African American to be elected to the County Council. He served four terms as an At-Large Member (1986 - 2002). He also served as the Council's President three times (1991, 1998, 1999) and as its Vice-President three times (1990, 1997 and 2002). As a Council Member he also chaired the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee and served on the Education Committee. In November 2006, Leggett was elected to a four-year term as Montgomery County Executive. He was overwhelmingly reelected in 2010 and 2014. He served as President of the County Executives of America in 2013 - 2014 and as President of the Maryland Association of Counties in 2015.

Born in Deweyville, Texas on July 25, 1945, Leggett was raised in small-town Alexandria, Louisiana, where he grew up as the seventh of 12 children in a four room house without in-door plumbing. His father worked at the local saw mill. His mother, he remembers, always focused on education as the way to get ahead and build a better life. While studying at Southern University, Leggett was elected student body president, commanded the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets, and was a campus and community leader in the struggle for civil rights. Perhaps uniquely among student leaders, he conducted military drills while also organizing campus protests. In that connection, a young Leggett twice met the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leggett lives in Burtonsville with his wife, Catherine.



Leggett introduced legislation that created the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs in 2008 and dedicated the Vietnam War Memorial wall on May 21, 2018 that is located on Memorial Plaza which is behind the Executive Office Building.