

1972 to 1987, receiving more than \$1,450,000 in gifts and bequests, all of which were transferred to AOG before the Foundation finally voted itself out of business on March 21, 1988.

SEEDS OF ‘WPAOG’ SOWN

Stepping back a bit, one more significant event occurred closely after AOG’s centennial, but it’s unclear whether it had a direct impact on Thompson and Knowlton’s vision to reorganize the Association. In 1972, AOG received a \$1.5 bequest gift from the estate of Leah and Clement Trott, Class of 1899. According to Lamb’s report, ‘The Trott gift gave the AOG the financial flexibility and capability to expand program and activity support of the Academy, as the Cullum gift had provided graduates their administrative center and ‘alumni house’ at West Point.’ Lamb would certainly know: Even though AOG was losing its active duty officer in the Superintendent’s office, who did a tremendous amount of work for the Association, the Trott gift allowed AOG to now hire and pay a full-time Executive Vice President, and the person the Association hired was Robert Lamb. He retired from his position as Alumni Secretary on the Superintendent’s staff on August 31, 1972 and the next day reported to AOG in his new role, which he labels in his report as ‘managing director.’ The Trott gift also allowed AOG to hire Stephen O. Fuqua ‘33 as Director of Development, Michael Krisman ‘39 as Director of Publications, and a handful more staff personnel for its offices on the lower floors of Cullum Hall.

The early 1970s were an exciting time for the Association. Its membership among graduates was hovering around 97 percent, it completed a record annual appeal in 1970 (\$61,996), and in 1972 AOG’s Endowment Fund exceeded the \$3 million mark, providing more than \$100,000 in interest and dividend income to annually fund the Association’s operating expenses (in recognition of its surplus, AOG presented a gift of \$25,000 to the Academy). ‘By the summer of 1973, the basic elements of the reorganization of the Academy’s alumni affairs were in place,’ noted Lamb in his report. Despite these positives, there were still challenges for the reorganized AOG, none bigger than trying to convince more and more graduates to support the Academy with a donation. Most of these graduates had served in an Army for which almost all recreational activities and facilities were paid by appropriated dollars, and they did not comprehend why the Academy needed private funding. Lieutenant General Sidney Berry ‘48, the 50th Superintendent, addressed this matter in his March 1976 ASSEMBLY letter, stating: ‘Public funds support the necessities of cadet life, education and training. Privately contributed funds augment programs and activities supported by public funds, provide extracurricular opportunities for cadets, and in general improve the quality of education and training at West Point. In short, they provide the margin of excellence we desire and expect for the Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets,’ coining a phrase that is essential to AOG’s mission today.

More changes familiar to today’s AOG came in the 1980s. As the new decade began, AOG had just inaugurated its new travel program with a cruise from Texas and added new trips (three-to-five annually) in the coming years, and it had launched the West Point Preparatory Scholarship Program, which provided funds to deserving candidates who needed additional instruction at a military junior college to ensure success at West Point. In 1981, AOG President George Dixon Jr. ‘40 convened a long-range planning conference in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, one of the outcomes of which was the establishment of a West Point Societies Program.

Dozens of West Point Societies had been in existence by this time, most assisting the Academy with its Admissions efforts, but they had been relatively autonomous. The new program, which was finally implemented in the fall of 1986 with Morris Herbert ‘50 as its first Director (aided by James ‘Skip’ Wensyel ‘52 as Deputy Director of Information), sought to align the 75 or so active societies and encouraged them to assist AOG in achieving its objectives toward the Academy, rather than their own individual objectives. On May 1, 1987, AOG held the first West Point Societies Presidents Conference, a forerunner of today’s Leaders Conference, during which Denis Mullane ‘52, Chairman of AOG’s Societies Committee, discussed four key topics with the 53 society representatives present: admissions support, information dissemination, community relations, and strengthening support between AOG and societies. Around this time, AOG also established a new development program to assist West Point classes in their efforts to support the Academy, latter known as Class Giving, complete with support from AOG Financial Services to administrate the funds, ensuring that interest on said funds was properly reinvested (Williams Harrison Jr. ‘52 became AOG’s first Director of Financial Services and Treasurer). Finally, in 1992, AOG introduced the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA), its second major annual award (the first being the Thayer Award). James Van Fleet, Class of 1915; Matthew Ridgeway, Class of APR1917; Andrew Goodpaster ‘39, and Thoralf Sundt Jr. ‘52 were the first recipients of the DGA.

CONCLUSION—AOG’S NEW HOME

By the end of the 1980s, AOG was taking in more than \$5 million annually in donations, establishing a financial position that finally allowed it to realize a decades-long desire to eliminate membership dues, which it did starting with the Class of 1994. What’s more, in 1990, Thomas Russell ‘59, a Planned Giving Officer, took a phone call from the son of graduate who was inquiring about how much money it would take to have a building at West Point named for his father, James K. Herbert, ‘30. Russell explained that the names for public buildings at the Academy were made by the Secretary of the Army and not named for donors, but that AOG would be willing to name its long-desired alumni center after his father. Thus, upon his death in 1990, Herbert bequeathed \$3 million to AOG, which became the lead gift in a campaign to build what became known as the Herbert Alumni Center. Ground was broken for AOG’s new home on April 8, 1993, and its cornerstone was dedicated on October 12, 1993 during Homecoming ceremonies. When the AOG staff moved into Herbert Alumni Center on March 1, 1995, the Association had just completed two banner years: its Development staff raised \$11.04 million from 14,454 gifts in 1994, with graduate participation increasing to 24 percent, an all-time high; and, a year earlier, it stood up its Office of Alumni Support (derived from the West Point Societies Program and complete with Society, Classes, and Communication divisions). But this was just the start of some amazing successes for AOG. Now that it was working out of Herbert Alumni Center, it was about to realize a goal it had established for itself at the 1990 Board of Trustees strategic planning conference, a goal to raise \$100 million for USMA in 10 years, a goal that became known as the Bicentennial Campaign for West Point, and it’s the opening subject in the next and final installment of AOG’s 150-year history.

RECOGNIZING STATESVILLE BRICK COMPANY FOR 115 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Statesville Brick Company for 115 years of business.

Due to the Southeast’s unique rivers that produce red clay deposits, North Carolina has long been at the center of the brick making economy. This includes company’s like Statesville Brick Company which opened its doors in 1904. As times changed though and the post-World War II building boom began to slow, brick makers began closing shop, and small, local operations transitioned into large, interstate corporations. Statesville Brick Company, however, bucked that trend, and remains at heart the same family-run operation it was over a century ago.

For Statesville Brick Company President and General Manager Michael Foster and Executive Vice President Scott Rankin, the brick business is a generational affair. Scott’s grandfather E.R. ‘Roy’ Rankin joined the company in 1916 and oversaw the construction of an early iteration of the firm’s plant while Michael’s father, H.B. ‘Bob’ Foster joined as a partner in 1969. Today, Statesville Brick Company currently employs over 90 people and their work can be found at some of our nation’s most prestigious academic institutions such as Princeton University, Ohio State University, and Davidson College.

Statesville Brick Company’s 115 years of business are a source of pride for our region, demonstrating how an operation dedicated to high craftsmanship with deep local roots can succeed and thrive in a changing landscape.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Statesville Brick Company for 115 years of business.

HONORING GRANT OWEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Owen. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Grant has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Grant has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Grant built a shelter and rain barrel system over an information kiosk at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Owen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan. Through their dedicated service and steadfast devotion to their community, HFHNEMI has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 with the goal of helping Americans in need fulfill the dream of home ownership while fostering safe and healthy communities. In total, Habitat for Humanity has helped build or repair more than 800,000 homes and served more than 4 million people around the world. With their first home built in 1990, the volunteers and staff of HFHNEMI have served the people of Northern Michigan for three decades. In 2013, it implemented Habitat for Humanity's "A Brush With Kindness" program, providing critical repair services to low-income homeowners who are physically or financially unable to maintain their homes. These projects have included painting, landscaping, roofing, and accessibility improvements throughout Northeast Michigan. Since its founding, HFHNEMI has built, rehabbed, or repaired more than 80 homes for low-income families in Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle counties. Day after day, Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan shows what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan for decades of success and service to Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Michigan Medical School.

In 1999, the Program in Biomedical Sciences (PIBS) at the University of Michigan Medical School was established to offer students a unique flexibility in their academic pursuits. As an interdisciplinary gateway, the program allows students to access 14 different Ph.D. programs through one application. Al-

though students can immediately begin training in one program, PIBS is designed to give students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of different research rotations to find their ideal mentor and project match. Based on their discovered research interests and the help of over 500 faculty members, program directors, and academic advisors, students choose a permanent program to continue by the end of their first PIBS year, sometimes in a far different research area than originally anticipated.

The biomedical sciences are demanding disciplines, but PIBS has made the fields of study less daunting for many students who have entered its Ph.D. programs. Throughout the past two decades, PIBS has been helping students become more confident in their career paths by allowing them to take the time to cultivate their interests and explore different opportunities to discover their research passions. Thanks to the program, countless students have been trained to guide the nation in scientific discovery, truly becoming the leaders and best.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Michigan Medical School for its significant work in the biomedical sciences. For twenty years, PIBS has played a fundamental role in educating our nation's sharpest minds.

IN HONORING ANNIE "ANNA" MAE STEWART

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Annie "Anna" Mae Stewart after her passing on August 3, 2019.

On April 9, 1917, Anna Mae Johnson entered the world as the eldest child born to Elder Allen Waters and Elizabeth Johnson in Washington, DC.

She met and married Charles Earl Stewart on Oct 8, 1937 at St Augustine's Catholic Church. She chose to follow her husband in his faith and converted to Catholicism in 1951 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (OLPH).

Anna began working at St Teresa's convent and later worked at the OLPH rectory, a career that would last for more than 20 years. There she fostered close relationships with many priests and seminarians, such as George Leary, Jr., a man who would become a surrogate son.

She was actively involved in parent, school and church organizations, including Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Baptism and Confirmation prep, catechist and a passionate Catholic Youth Organization advisor. She was an active member of other organizations, such as St Joseph's Ladies' Auxiliary No. 213 KOSJI Sodality, Legion of Mary, Catholic Charities, Cursillistas, OLPH Hilltoppers, OLPH Women's Ministry, and her two favorites, Eucharistic Ministry and Lector. She enjoyed being of service to her church community in every way possible.

Anna was also a dedicated community activist. She joined her local Orange Hat Coalit-

tion and helped rid her neighborhood of drug dealers at the height of the crack cocaine epidemic. She was instrumental in getting the Eastover Shopping Center integrated, which led to her recognition for her commitment to the civil rights movement. She was acknowledged by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc as a Village Keeper for that effort and received other honors, including Mother of the Year 1960 and 1963 by the Afro American newspaper. She participated in the March on Washington in 1967 and took much pride in voting for the first Black President in 2008.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Anna Mae Stewart deserves to be recognized at the time of her passing for her dedication to her church, her family, and her community.

IN HONORING ADRIAN DELMAR SWINDLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adrian Delmar Swindle. Adrian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adrian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adrian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Adrian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Adrian constructed six benches for the Stations of the Cross Trail at Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist in Independence, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Adrian Delmar Swindle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONORING TELESCOPE CASUAL FURNITURE FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 MANUFACTURER LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CASUAL FURNISHINGS ASSOCIATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Telescope Casual Furnishings for receiving the 2019 Manufacturer Leadership Award from the International Casual Furnishings Association.

Telescope Casual Furniture was started in 1903 under the name the Telescope Cot Bed & Novelty Company. They started in New York City making cots and campstools with "telescoping" legs; which is where they derived their name. In 1921, they began moving operations into Granville, New York, in the heart of