

mole powder, and chocolate. While the business remains in East Chicago, Edward opened a second facility in Valparaiso. Under his leadership, El Popular has thrived and is looking forward to many years of continued success. Edward also gives much of his time to various charitable organizations including the Valparaiso YMCA, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Nick Popovich is the founder and president of Sage-Popovich, a global aviation and asset management firm located in Valparaiso and includes a hangar at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The company, founded in 1979, has repossessed over 1,800 planes and helicopters throughout the years. Danger and risk are a part of the job, and Nick has seen his fair share. In 1986, he was seized by Haitian troops and spent seven days in prison after trying to repossess a plane for a bank in Port-au-Prince. Over many years, Nick continued to grow his business and adding services including consulting, asset management, expert witnessing, and part sales. In addition, the company is a licensed appraisal firm that does valuation for over 200 organizations. Sage-Popovich is currently expanding into Michigan, managing private planes for corporations and individual owners. The company gives back to the community in many ways including the transport of wounded combat veterans to medical facilities or to reunite them with their units. Sage-Popovich also sponsors scholarships for aviation and criminal justice students.

Dr. Edward Williams has been a pillar of the community of Northwest Indiana for many years. He is the president of OptiFormance Consulting Services, LLC. Working with people on personal development and customer service, Dr. Williams enjoys helping people reach their potential. Unofficially, he started his consulting business in 1988, providing services within churches, schools, and non-profits, before establishing the business as a formal entity in 1999. Dr. Williams is passionate about mentoring young people, and through his business and charitable endeavors, he has served as an inspiration to the youth of our community. He gives his time and support to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana, serving as a board member for over thirty years and two terms as board president. In addition, he is involved with the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana and the Laini Fluellen Charities for breast cancer initiatives, among others.

Janice Wilson is the founder and retired CEO of NorthShore Health Centers. NorthShore was founded in 1995 in a high school as a clinic for teenagers, providing medical services while the students continued their studies. It has grown over the years to eight health centers and includes a dental clinic and behavioral health services, as well as three teen clinics throughout Northwest Indiana. The flagship clinic in Portage is now named in honor of Janice Wilson, and today, NorthShore serves more than 50,000 patients each year in Porter, Lake, and LaPorte counties. The organization continues its fundamental mission of serving the uninsured and underinsured. David Hall is the current CEO of North Shore, while Jan remains a consultant for the business. For her outstanding contributions to healthcare in Northwest Indiana, Janice has been named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Portage Chamber of Commerce, and

she is truly deserving of each and every honor bestowed upon her.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Cimcor, a global cybersecurity company located in Merrillville, Indiana. The company was founded by CEO Robert E. Johnson III and provides CimTrak software, offering intrusion detection and real-time remediation for their client's information technology systems and files. Some of Cimcor's reputable clients include NASA, the Chicago Stock Exchange, the United States Air Force, Cornell University, Nikon, and Zoom, among many others. Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, Zoom has been imperative for families, businesses, schools, and government entities. Cimcor has provided security and compliance software to these organizations, proving to be a tremendous asset during these trying times. In addition to the United States, Cimcor serves twenty-seven countries in Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Due to the outstanding leadership and employees at Cimcor who continue to innovate and develop new technologies, the organization continues to grow and expand worldwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and dedication to the region and beyond, each of them are worthy of the highest praise.

CONGRATULATING LEMBHARD G.
"LEM" HOWELL ON RECEIVING
THE CHARLES A. GOLDMARK
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lem Howell on receiving the Charles A. Goldmark Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has advanced the cause of equal justice.

Lem graduated from Lafayette College, with honors, in 1958 and then received his law degree from New York University in 1964. He went on to practice law in the state of Washington. Lem is a true champion of justice and never stopped fighting for what was right. He won landmark cases that significantly advanced civil rights in the state of Washington, including ensuring equality of opportunity for people of color in education and employment.

Throughout his truly legendary career he became one of the country's most prestigious civil rights lawyers and made a name as one of the best trial lawyers of his generation. He is also a co-founder of the Loren Miller Bar Association, a civil rights organization dedicated to fighting against discrimination and racism. Lem was a giant among men in the courtroom; his courage and devotion were unparalleled; and I am grateful for his work in advancing civil rights in Washington.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to congratulate Lem Howell on this well-deserved award and recognize his remarkable career.

HONORING ESHAWN PETERSON

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the invaluable contributions of Eshawn Peterson to the state of Arizona. As a champion for children and young adults, Ms. Peterson's storied career has bolstered the ladders of opportunity and equality for countless Arizonans across the state, and her lifetime achievement deserves to be forever etched in our historical record for all to remember.

For her tireless dedication to Arizona families, Ms. Peterson was one of the few who were recognized as a 2020 Angels in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Founded in 2001, CCAI aims to ensure that every child experiences the support of a caring family. Each year, CCAI selects a handful of exceptional individuals, families, or organizations across the nation to receive the honor of Angels in Adoption. These honorees have gone above and beyond to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes. Ms. Peterson has made a personal pledge to spend her life giving more Arizona children a chance at finding a family who can give them the loving childhood she almost never had.

Growing up, Ms. Peterson spent eight years in our state's foster care system, separated from her six siblings. Her experiences fortified her strength, courage and faith. It also pushed her and her sister Jackie Phillips to create Onward Hope, Inc., a foster care and adoption agency that's rooted in her belief that every child should have a safe home and a loving family. For five years and counting, Ms. Peterson's organization has empowered children with a sense of strength and resiliency and help them successfully transition into the fulfilling life they deserve through mentoring, workshops and coaching. Her work so far has left an immeasurable mark on our state and its children.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Eshawn Peterson for all the work she has done in communities across Arizona. My state is truly fortunate to have her working to improve the life of every child. I wish her the best as she continues her work to make the dream of a forever family a reality for so many children in need.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JACK
CLIFFORD "SOAP" FRANCIS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jack Clifford "Soap" Francis, who passed away peacefully on September 9, 2020.

Soap was born on February 20, 1925 in Verona, Mississippi to parents Wiley and Ruby Francis. He was raised in Amory, Mississippi, where he graduated from high school in 1942. Upon his graduation, Soap attended Mississippi State University where he earned a

bachelor's degree and master's degree. His love for the Bulldog family persisted even after graduation, as he went on to endow a scholarship for a Monroe county student each year.

Soap's patriotism became evident when he volunteered for World War II as a freshman in college. He bravely served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps as a Navigator on 35 missions from England over Germany. His crew's plane was crippled by blasts on Christmas Day of 1944 during Battle of the Bulge, but he safely returned home while still maintaining lasting friendships with his crew members.

After his time in the Army, Soap opened Francis Insurance in 1954 and later, Francis Realty after marrying his wife, Mary Lib. Soap served on the boards of the Mississippi Mutual Insurance Association and the National Bank of Commerce, and continued to run his businesses until the 1990's.

In his community, Soap was known as an active member of First Baptist Church, where he was a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, department superintendent, and usher with a pocketful of peppermints and a smile for everyone. Soap was also a dedicated Rotarian, touting an impressive 60 years of perfect attendance at club meetings across the globe. In his years of membership, he served as President of the Amory Club, endowed numerous fellowships dedicated toward eradicating polio, hosted an exchange student from Australia, and was affectionately named the "Ultimate Rotarian."

In his free time, Soap loved to play tennis or take a long bike ride down the Natchez Trace. He loved to travel both internationally and domestically, meeting new friends along his journeys. He was an avid musical theatre fan and original "foodie."

Soap was preceded in death by his son, Jack Francis, and is survived by his wife, Mary Lib Francis; daughters Beth and Patti Francis; and his grandchildren Mary Paige Hyland, Madison Francis, Ruby Ross, Violet Ross, Lulu Ross, Barrett Griffin, and Amory Griffin.

Jack Clifford "Soap" Francis' life was one of service, grace, and love for his family, community, and country. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

RECOGNIZING ANITA BEVACQUA
MCBRIDE ON BEING KNIGHTED
WITH HONOR OF "CAVALIERE"
OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Anita Bevacqua McBride, the Vice Chair of Cultural Affairs of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), on receiving the Italian honor of "Cavaliere" of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the highest-ranking honor of the Italian Republic. On October 7, Ambassador Armando Varricchio of Italy presented this high honor to Ms. McBride, a testament to her lifetime of extraordinary accomplishment in service of the humanities, culture, philanthropy, and diplomacy.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, Ms. McBride was born and raised in Bridgeport,

Connecticut. She received a degree in International Studies from the University of Connecticut and studied international relations and three languages at American University in Washington, D.C. and the University of Florence in Italy.

Ms. McBride currently serves as executive-in-residence at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies in the School of Public Affairs at American University, where she directs the First Ladies Initiative, a project highlighting the legacies of America's first ladies and their historical influence on politics and policy.

Ms. McBride's White House service spans two decades and three administrations. From 1987 through 1992, Ms. McBride was Director of White House Personnel under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. She later served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of State and White House Liaison from 2001 through 2003 under President George W. Bush.

From 2005 through 2009, Ms. McBride served as Assistant to President George W. Bush and Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush, directing the staff's work on the wide variety of domestic and global initiatives including the First Lady's efforts to support U.S. foreign policy objectives in human rights, women's empowerment, global health and human freedom.

Ms. McBride has added to her distinguished career with several accomplishments in service of philanthropy and global leadership. Ms. McBride is a member of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, a historic public-private partnership to help Afghanistan's women rebuild their country and reclaim their place at the center of post-Taliban society. Ms. McBride served as a member of the U.S. delegations to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in 2002, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 2003, and the U.N. Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2006.

Additionally, Ms. McBride is the recipient of several honors and awards including the U.S. Department of State's Meritorious Service Award, the United States National Guard and Reserve's Patriot Award, the University of Connecticut's President's Award of Distinction, American University's Alice Paul Award, and The Ellis Island Foundation Medal of Honor.

Ms. McBride is a role model for Italian Americans, for women, and for anyone aspiring to make a positive difference in the world. I am proud to rise today in recognition of her receiving the more than well-deserved honor of "Cavaliere" of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

THANKING CAL FUNG FOR HIS
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY DURING
WORLD WAR II

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Cal Fung for his courageous service to our country during World War II.

Cal Fung is a Chinese-American veteran who bravely accepted the call to protect and serve his nation. During World War II, Fung

was a staff sergeant and general clerk. He served in five European battles and campaigns. Fung is a recipient of the World War II Victory Medal and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. He was also awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

For far too long, our veterans of color, including Chinese-American veterans, did not receive the proper recognition they deserved for their service. Although we will never be able to thank him enough for his service to our nation, we remain grateful to Cal and the many veterans who have so selflessly answered the call to service.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I honor Cal Fung and all Chinese-American veterans for their distinguished service to our country during World War II.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE JOHN A. KELLEY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable John A. Kelley for his service as a veteran of the U.S. Army, distinguished Federal Service Career of about 31 years, and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was a Director of the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District (NNSWCD) representing the County of Northumberland Virginia for 2 terms of 4 years each helping provide oversight through leadership, education, and technical assistance for all resource users. Additionally, he served as the Chair of the Operations Committee for the NNSWCD during these 8 years that brought many improvements to the operation of the District.

He also served on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, a Regional government-citizen forum that promotes collaboration and co-operation among local governments and stakeholder interest groups promoting conservation.

He was Chair of the Potomac Council for several years. It serves as a collaborative body promoting and facilitating water quality management practices necessary to achieve nonpoint source pollution reductions in the Potomac River Watershed.

He served almost 7.5 years on the Commonwealth Board for Waste Management Facility Operators, the last 3 as Chair. His outstanding leadership brought significant improvements and efficiencies to the functioning of the Board and operations.

Mr. Kelley served on the Board of Trustees of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for many years. He was the Operations Committee head during this time, and helped improve operations of the organization.

At the Federal level, he served as the Director of Administration for the United States Commission of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. His efforts helped make the 200th anniversary of our constitution a magnificent success.

He was also the Executive Director of the U.S. Office of Special Council, improving the management processes and case tracking systems.

While working for the U.S. Army Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment,