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[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Apr. 23, 2016]

SOMERSET BUSINESSMAN WARD CORRELL,  
KNOWN FOR PHILANTHROPY, DEAD AT AGE 88  
(By Bill Estep)

Somerset businessman Ward F. Correll, recognized for millions of dollars' worth of philanthropy in support of various causes, died Thursday at University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. He was 88.

Correll had been hospitalized since suffering what police said were accidental gunshot wounds at his home early March 9.

Correll had business interests in a shopping center, an oil and gas distributorship and a life insurance company, and he was a founder of First Southern National Bank.

Correll had given millions to causes and projects including land for a water park and youth baseball field in Somerset; land and financial support for Somerset Christian School; money to renovate an auditorium at Somerset High School; and \$1 million for a classroom building at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg. The building was named for Correll and his late wife, Regina.

He also made smaller donations, reportedly giving away \$30 worth of gas from his stations to active-duty military personnel in 2009, for instance.

Observers said Correll's philanthropy had touched countless lives.

"It has built the community up from every aspect," said Carolyn Mounce, head of the Somerset-Pulaski County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, a Somerset Republican, said Correll's impact will last for generations.

"His generosity was as vast as his business ingenuity, and he routinely used both to inspire and encourage everyone around him," Rogers said. "Ultimately, Ward loved his God, his family, his community and his country, and spent a lifetime faithfully serving each one with great passion and enthusiasm."

Correll was born in Wayne County, one of 13 children, and grew up in Pulaski County in modest circumstances.

He told the story of leaving home after high school with \$2.67 and hitchhiking to Detroit for work, returning home several months later with a bit more money in his pocket.

He eventually developed a shopping center in the 1960s on what was then a sparsely built stretch of U.S. 27 in Somerset, now crowded with hundreds of businesses.

Correll frequently bought full-page advertisements in the Commonwealth-Journal newspaper in Somerset to publish inspirational quotes.

Correll, a Korean War veteran, is survived by six children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, according to Lake Cumberland Funeral Home.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYS TOWN NEVADA IN THE 12TH ANNUAL JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 25th anniversary of Boys Town Nevada. Serving southern Nevada's most vulnerable children, Boys Town Nevada helps to support and educate children and families in need.

Boys Town opened its doors in Nevada in 1991. Since then, they have pro-

moted valuable skills for boys and girls and their families in the Las Vegas area. The organization has developed family-based services in the home by aiding in the process of reunifying families. Boys Town strives to provide the necessary skills to create and maintain a stable household for all members of the family.

For more than a century, Boys Town has followed Father Edward Flanagan's mission to save children and heal families through the power of love, family, and faith. Because of their positive impact in Nevada, they have been able to improve the lives of nearly 15,000 children over the last two decades. Their dedication and their hard work resembles Nevada's values to sustain healthy relationships and minimize problems that affect the mental health of each family.

As part of the 12th annual Journey of Hope gala, I would like to honor Diana Bennet and Scott Menke for being the 2016 Hope Awards recipients. These philanthropy icons exemplify the generosity and commitment to dedicate their lives to impact the lives of children, families, and all Nevada communities.

I applaud executive director Denise Biden and her team for her strong leadership in one of the most important organizations for children in the State of Nevada. Her dedication through the past 15 years has positively impacted more than 3,000 children each year. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 10th anniversary of Project Real. Project Real will formally celebrate over 10 years of teaching Nevada students the importance of the law and giving them the tools they need to prevent crime.

Since 2005, Project Real has met the challenge of teaching Nevada students from kindergarten through high school about the principles of democracy, law, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The organization is working to bring law and civic education back into Nevada's classrooms by providing programs that give students of all ages the opportunity to learn about our judicial system. Project Real takes pride in ensuring that students are positive contributors to the communities in which they reside.

Since its inception, the organization has also been a strong supporter of academic programs that allow children to gain a better understanding of our judicial system. Working closely with the State bar of Nevada, Project Real prepares Nevada's children to become involved, participating citizens who understand their responsibilities and rights. These programs not only encourage students to act with integrity,

but also foster connections between students and legal professionals.

I applaud executive director Tom Kovach and his team for strong leadership in an important organization for children throughout the State. I am pleased that through your and other's selfless efforts, incalculable numbers of students and communities have been positively affected by Project Real. I would like to recognize Irwin Molasky and Sam Lionel, as well. It was because of their vision for children in Nevada to become responsible citizens that they founded Project Real. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

#### REMEMBERING LAURA CHA-YU LIU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I share the news that Judge Laura Cha-Yu Liu passed away last week. A longtime resident of Chicago, Judge Liu was only 49 years old. Although her time with us was far too short, her accomplishments were many. Judge Liu broke barriers. She was the first Chinese American woman to become judge in Illinois, the first Chinese American elected to public office in Cook County. And in 2014, Judge Liu became the first Asian American to serve on the Illinois appellate court.

Her story is the story of the American dream. Born in Carbondale, IL, her parents were immigrants fleeing a dire political situation and the terrors of war. They came to this country as foreign exchange students in the hopes of providing a better life for their children. Liu's first language was Mandarin, and she started school speaking very little English. She overcame the language barrier and graduated as her high school's valedictorian. In 1987, she received a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1991.

As the daughter of immigrants, Judge Liu took extraordinary pride in her work on the Illinois Supreme Court's Access to Justice program, aimed at making the system more accessible to immigrants and non-English speakers. She helped draft requirements that courts provide qualified interpreters for parties and witnesses. Throughout her career, Judge Liu was a staunch defender of individuals' rights, especially the most vulnerable in our community. It wasn't uncommon for Judge Liu to delay court proceedings when people struggled to understand, saying: "We're going to wait for an interpreter." And no one did more to ensure that language barriers would not stand in the way of justice for all at Daley Center.

Five years ago, Judge Liu was diagnosed with breast cancer, but that didn't slow her down. She continued working, running for election in 2012

and, 2 years later, winning her appointment to the appellate court. She never complained; she just kept going. During chemotherapy, she said, "I put on my wig, put on my eyebrows, lots of blush, happy face, get out of bed and went to work." That is courage.

Judge Liu was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Here are just a few: the Asian Pacific American Community Service Award; the Chinese American Bar Association of Greater Chicago's Sandra Otaka Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Illinois' Judges Foundation's "the Leader Who Shares Experience Leaves a Legacy of Success" Award; Asian American Bar Association's 2014 Vanguard Award for her work to make "the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at large"; Illinois Secretary of State's Distinguished Leadership Award—and the honors go on and on. Judge Liu was also a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, and Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

She was an extraordinarily accomplished professional, but Judge Liu's proudest accomplishment was being a mother to her 7-year-old daughter, Sophie, and a wife to the love of her life, Michael Kasper. Despite her busy schedule, she always put family first. She made time to teach Sophie Mandarin and the piano. She even took Sophie to Paris, in the midst of dealing with an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. But she simply said, "I'll sleep it off on the plane." And she did. She also could frequently be found on the sidelines of Sophie's soccer matches cheering her on.

Judge Liu was a force of nature. She authored nearly 150 judicial opinions in her 2 years on the Illinois appellate court. In her final days, while working from home, Judge Liu filed her final opinion before she passed. What commitment and what an inspiration. To the very end, Judge Liu understood that these issues and her opinions affected people's lives, and cancer wasn't going to keep her from doing her job.

She once said, "I wanted to fit in more than I wanted to be a trailblazer. I didn't want to be an Asian-American on the rise." Well, she didn't get that wish. In fact, she accomplished just the opposite. Her career was groundbreaking and she became a role model for countless Chinese American kids—and an inspiration to the rest of us—especially her friends and family. Judge Liu will be sorely missed.

#### SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AND VERMONT ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, the Small Business Administration sets aside the first week of May to acknowledge small businesses that are doing extraordinary work and recognizes them during Small Business

Week. In March, the SBA announced the slate of 2016 Vermont small business award winners, which included three tremendous businesses from Lamoille County. The award winners included the Small Business Person of the Year, Tom Stearns of High Mowing Seeds; Woman-Owned Business of the Year, Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering; and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Caleb Magoon, of Power Play Sports.

In Vermont, we place a high value on small businesses. They make up the backbone of our economy and the heart and soul of our communities. I am incredibly proud of the three Lamoille County businesses being recognized both because of their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit, but also because they represent a true cross section of the Vermont economy.

Vermonters share an inherent bond with our State's natural resources. Our State prides itself on our strong agricultural history and the renaissance we are seeing in diversified agriculture and value added food production. For many farmers, this connection starts with their soil and the seeds they plant in the ground. What started as a hobby for Tom Stearns 20 years ago has grown into a dynamic business that is one of the top organic seed companies in the country, now supplying those farmers and home gardeners across the country with the seeds that become the food we feed our families. Part of what sets Vermont businesses apart is their ability to innovate and help define or create new markets. High Mowing has done just this in the seed market—by ensuring that all of their 700 varieties of seeds are both organic and GMO-free—and are among the gold standard in the market. Now they are branching out to experiment with new varieties that will bring new specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers to the market.

When imagining a startup business, it is common to think of someone working out of their garage. Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering is precisely one of those entrepreneurs. Debbie founded her business in 2001 in her home garage, and since then, her products have received great acclaim and attention. Sweet Crunch baked goods are made from scratch, with no preservatives. It comes as no surprise to this Vermonter that their maple cookies are one of their best selling products. In fact, Sweet Crunch's maple cookies were featured on the Food Network, and Sweet Crunch products can be found in locations across New England and, in fact, the country. I will take a moment of personal pride to note that Debbie's delicious products will be a featured part of the annual Taste of Vermont celebration happening in Washington in a few weeks.

The mountains and valleys that played such a significant role in determining the settlement of Vermont continue to be a significant force in the lives of Vermonters. These resources

attract skiers, riders, bikers, paddlers, and many other adventurers to our State both to live and to visit. Naturally all of these outdoor enthusiasts need some place to be outfitted. Power Play Sports has been a staple of the local sporting goods scene for more than 20 years, but was recently purchased by Caleb Magoon. Caleb first worked at Power Play as a teenager and returned to manage the store after living in Boston for a number of years. He has demonstrated a great entrepreneurial vision, consolidating his other business under one roof and opening a new store in Waterbury, VT. This type of passion and growth are qualities we want to encourage in Vermont and deserve recognition.

I want to congratulate these three businesses and all the Vermont businesses who were recognized by the SBA for a job well done. I look forward to their future successes. At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the following article written by Kayla Friedrich of the Stowe Reporter recognizing Tom, Debbie, and Caleb for their awards be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Stowe Reporter]

STEARNS, BURRITT, MAGOON WIN BUSINESS AWARDS

(By Kayla Friedrich)

Tom Stearns, founder and owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, has been named Vermont Small Business Person of the Year by the federal Small Business Administration.

In addition, two other Lamoille County businesses won major awards:

Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering Co. in Hyde Park, Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Caleb Magoon of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports, Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

For more than 50 years, the federal agency has honored small businesses for their contributions in their communities and to the economy.

Stearns was recognized for expanding his company, increasing sales, hiring more employees and contributing to the local community.

High Mowing is a farm-based company that produces and distributes vegetable, flower and herb seeds throughout the U.S. and Canada. It began in 1996 with just 28 varieties, produced in Stearns' backyard and packaged in his shed.

First-year sales were \$2,000, but what started as a hobby soon expanded beyond his backyard. By 2001, his business had grown to the point where Stearns began contracting with other local farms to grow his seeds, in addition to continuing to produce on High Mowing's 5 acres.

High Mowing was the first organic company to guarantee all its seeds are not genetically modified, and 20 years later, his company is one of the top organic seed companies in the U.S., with more than 60 employees.

"It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of all the work done by our team for the last 20 years since this hobby was born," Stearns said. "It has been a joy to see it grow and to know that we are just getting started. I get to do what I love every day and the work is diverse, challenging and creative."