

Chair of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), 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. Harrison, a testament to her lifetime of extraordinary accomplishment in service of the humanities, culture, philanthropy, and diplomacy.

The granddaughter of an Italian immigrant, Ms. Harrison is a native of Brooklyn, New York and a graduate of the American University School of International Service in Washington, D.C. Thereafter, she began an enormously successful career, starting a public relations firm focused on serving the public interest in the fields of environmental, labor, and agricultural policy. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush appointed Ms. Harrison to the President's Export Council in the United States Department of Commerce.

In recognition of her prowess and expertise in the humanities and the arts, in 2001 she was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell. While serving in this critical role, Ms. Harrison also assumed the position of Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Ms. Harrison then continued her public service, being appointed the Chief Executive Officer of CBP in 2005, where she continues to serve today.

Under Ms. Harrison's leadership, the CPB launched “American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen”, a nationwide public media initiative to help combat the nationwide high school dropout crisis. To date, over 100 stations in 48 states are working with over 1,700 local partners and schools to help students graduate. For her work and commitment to helping young people stay on the path to a high school diploma, Ms. Harrison was honored in 2016 with a Promise of America Award from the America's Promise Alliance. Ms. Harrison's deep commitment to public media producing nonpartisan, commercial-free, educational content for the public good has ensured CPB's continued success and critical place in our society.

Ms. Harrison has drawn from her life of experience to help foster a new generation of woman leaders, authoring two books, “A Seat At The Table: An Insider's Guide for America's New Women Leaders and America's New Women Entrepreneurs.” In 2019, Ms. Harrison was appointed to the voting council for the inaugural, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg Woman of Leadership Award, which recognizes the achievements of exceptional American women. Ms. Harrison is the recipient of many additional awards and honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award and the U.S. Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award.

Ms. Harrison 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 LIP MAR 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 Lip Mar for his courageous service to our country during World War II.

Lip Mar is a Chinese-American veteran who bravely accepted the call to protect and serve his nation. Soon after his eighteenth birthday, Mar joined the military and served as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, where he treated American soldiers fighting in the Pacific theater.

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 Lip and the many veterans who have so selflessly answered the call to service.

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

CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC HALE FOR BEING THE 2021 TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eric Hale for becoming the first African American man bestowed with the honor of Texas Teacher of the Year in the 51 years of this award's existence.

Last month, the Texas Association of School Administrators announced that Mr. Hale had been named the 2021 Texas Teacher of the Year for his outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching kindergarten and first-grade students at David G. Burnet Elementary School.

Mr. Hale understands the challenges some of his students' face daily, from hunger, poverty, or domestic violence. He has experienced some of this in his own life growing up. He has successfully countered this negative energy thanks to his unique teaching style that is like no other. He uses music in an innovative way to engage with his students while flooding them with positivity and encouragement so that the students are able to step away from their worries for a moment and learn in a fun environment. This positivity and energy in the classroom is exactly what is needed for our students as they, just like the rest of us, navigate through this challenging time.

Mr. Hale has been recognized for his work previously as the winner of the 2019 Urban Teacher of the Year award among others. He has also had the opportunity to appear on multiple television shows including the Kelly Clarkson show and TODAY.

Madam Speaker, I am so thankful that the Dallas Independent School District is home to

one of the very best teachers in the country. I wish Mr. Hale the best of luck as he competes with other teachers around the country to receive the prestigious National Teacher of the Year award.

HONORING CITY OF LOUISVILLE
MAYOR LARRY MORGAN

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Larry Morgan, a man who faithfully serves the City of Louisville located in the Tenth Congressional District of Georgia, which I have the honor of representing.

In 2007, he was duly elected as a member of the Louisville City Council, and two years later, the residents of this small, unique town chose him to serve as their mayor. Throughout the years, Mayor Morgan has demonstrated his commitment to the community by serving in various roles with his church, the county board of health, the downtown development association, the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Airport Association, and the local Rotary club.

In his own words, he values the “gentle way of life that still allows time to visit and listen to each other's stories, to enjoy a leisurely meal together,” and “to help out neighbors who are struggling. It's a small-town life, but not just any small town.” And he's a small-town mayor, but not just any mayor.

Madam Speaker, he is a diehard Georgia Tech fan, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, a devoted Christian who is an advocate for his community, and a dear friend to our office. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Larry Morgan for his devoted public service and to extend to him wishes for good health, encouragement for the future, and gratitude for his continual leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I commend several remarkable leaders who have been honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2020. This year's inductees include Edward Garza, Nick Popovich, Dr. Edward Williams, and Janice Wilson. Additionally, Cimcor was presented with the Enterprise of the Year Award.

Edward Garza is the president and owner of El Popular, Inc., which holds the distinction of being the oldest Mexican-owned business in the state of Indiana. Edward is the third generation of the Garza family to carry on the Mexican food corporation, which was started by his grandfather, Vincente Garza, in 1925, in East Chicago, Indiana. In 2001, Edward purchased the company and downsized the product line to four items: chorizo, mole paste,

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