

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 DUR-
ING 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 cooperation 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,