

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
FRANK J. MCGUIRE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Frank J. McGuire. Mr. McGuire passed away on July 7, 2020 at the age of 92, after a lifetime of business and community leadership, philanthropy and service to Buffalo and Western New York.

His contributions are so many in so many arenas, including economic, civic, cultural and charitable that even his son found it difficult to describe so he let the quote that guided his father's work speak to how Frank McGuire lived his life. "A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships were built for." As reported in the Buffalo News, this well respected and well-known leader, "was not afraid of risk or challenge, and always described as brilliant, tough, honest and fair."

Frank McGuire was a job creator and a generator of opportunity; he was an entrepreneur for decades before that term became more widely embraced and celebrated. Still working into his nineties as chairman of the McGuire Group, Frank McGuire never acquired titles, he built companies—30 of them—giving 1,700 people employment and careers as an industry leader in the fields of construction, health care, commercial and industrial real estate development.

His roots were anchored into the South Buffalo community as the oldest of five sons of Frank J. McGuire Sr. and the former Mary Kelly, and a graduate of Holy Family School and South Park High School. Sergeant McGuire served his country honorably from 1946 to 1948 having joined the U.S. Army after becoming an electrician.

His ability to lead was recognized by his fellow classmates as he was president of the School of Engineering of the University at Buffalo Class of 1953. His work as an electrician during his college days took him to new heights as he personally climbed to install the aircraft beacon light at the top of a local radio tower. If there was a challenge to be met, Frank McGuire was the man to step up to get it done.

His innate skill set was more fully on display as an employee of General Electric Company where at the age of 26, he became one of the youngest managers and contributed to the design and development of the nuclear reactors used in the first atomic submarines. Those experiences formed the foundation on which this pioneer took his limited savings and with the support of his parents, who mortgaged their home, founded his first company, Industrial Power & Lighting Corporation. This electrical engineering and construction organization became a powerhouse completing more than \$200 million in projects throughout upstate New York, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Colorado and Alaska and became the first American company of its kind to work in the People's Republic of China in 1981. Real estate development in Western New York and Florida would follow as well and expansion into health care operating nursing and rehabilitation facilities in Western New York, Long Island and Michigan.

While expanding his businesses locally, nationally and internationally, he always gave back to his community as he led the Chamber of Commerce in the 1970s with a focus on bringing back jobs. Even an unsuccessful run for political office never steered him from public service as he served as a trustee of the New York State Urban Development Corporation and was chairman of the Western New York Economic Development Corporation. His efforts as a member of the New York Sportsplex Committee secured state funding for the Buffalo Bisons baseball stadium and as a major player on the Business Backs the Bills Committee in the late 1990s, he certainly contributed to our beloved football team still calling Buffalo its home.

I, like many others, sought his counsel and can attest to his direct and no-nonsense way the exchange of ideas, priorities and strategies were debated. You knew where you stood with Frank McGuire as he knew the value of family, faith, friendship and loyalty. He knew the value of a job well done and always kept his focus on creating and expanding employment opportunities for the community that gave him his start.

Though never seeking the spotlight, his generosity and significant contributions to numerous charities were deservedly recognized. These included University at Buffalo School of Management Niagara Frontier Executive award in 2001, the United Way Tocqueville Society Philanthropist of the year in 2007, and Business First's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Madam Speaker, I honor the trailblazing legacy of Frank J. McGuire. He embodied the passion, energy, and commitment to cause that makes Buffalo unique. We will forever be grateful for his outstanding service and leadership. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Donna, his children, grandchildren and the friends and family of the McGuire Group.

THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF
CONGRESS

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HALL. I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement on behalf of my predecessor John Lewis and constituents of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. We have some unfinished business, and I call on Congress to:

1. expunge all records for nonviolent offenders impacted by the war on drugs;
2. permit those individuals who were previously incarcerated to vote and end the practice of disenfranchisement on these bases;
3. make it more difficult for police to escape accountability when the rights of law-abiding Americans are violated;
4. pass legislation that once and for all bans the box and prevents employment discrimination against those previously incarcerated individuals;
5. establish the John Lewis Institute with an allocation of money from Congress to support this endeavor;
6. support the Prince Hall Masons Building;
7. support the renovation and the restoration of Dr. King's office; and

8. support funding for the John Lewis TOD loop which can be a national Pilot and model similar to our esteemed Beltline, without displacing long-time residents.

I challenge my colleagues in this body to pass these pieces of legislation and deliver on the unfinished business of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

I would also like to take a moment to thank leadership in the House and their staff for welcoming me with open arms but more importantly for their leadership in these very challenging times. Their commitment to getting results on behalf of American people is laudable, and the work over the last few years to keep this giant ship on course and to get it back on normal course.

We also need to adapt to the changing times. The post-World War II economy is not coming back. The gig economy is here to stay.

The gig economy is upon us and to remain competitive we have to invest in and reinvest in strategies of empowering people at all stations in life to be their best selves and own their own futures.

As more Americans choose independent and flexible work, this coverage gap will only get bigger, which is why our lawmakers need to update our safety net as soon as possible.

That is why I am proud that today's Coronavirus relief bill delivers \$900 billion in much-needed aid but this is not enough. We need to pass another round of stimulus checks and we need to ensure that state and local governments—which are at the forefront and bearing the impact of paying for this pandemic—are reimbursed.

And, I would like to close on a point of personal privilege.

I have a picture of a man who was a straight-A student at George Washington Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama who was pushed out of the educational system because he chose to stand up for justice and equality for all in the 1960s.

He was a peaceful and law-abiding student who organized hundreds of other students to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March. It was only a few years ago that I found out who he was. I was reflecting with my mother on her photo collection from the civil rights movement one day, and to my astonishment she stated that the peaceful protestor being dragged on the ground by a police officer in 1965 was my father.

His name was Leon Hall and he was the youngest staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, from 1963 to 1968. He was a foot soldier in the fight for justice along with Hosea Williams, who stood on the Edmund Pettus bridge next my predecessor John Lewis. All three of them were beaten, verbally abused, and illegally incarcerated countless times, just as we see today with Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others. This has been an unfortunate reality in the U.S. and around the world for millions of black and brown people for far too long—injustice and unlawful treatment by those responsible for upholding the law has to end and it has to end now.

While I have seen this picture for my entire life, before that conversation with my mother I never realized that the individual in it was my father.

The picture was taken in 1974 and showed my father. Leon Hall, a board member of the