

California, Mr. Caldwell moved back home to rejoin his father's business in 1951.

He had foresight, buying properties dense in trees, then endeavoring to save as many as possible in subdivisions. He predicted the coming of multifamily homes as cities built to their boundaries.

"What has happened in Gulfport will, in many cases, happen elsewhere in Pinellas," he wrote in a guest column for the Times in 1960.

He trusted his know-how, maintaining his 1994 Chevrolet station wagon himself. The car still runs with 200,000 miles on it. He built a single-engine boat he later took to the Bahamas for a fishing trip.

Mr. Caldwell also trusted his instincts with people, quietly helping those he believed were doing all they could for themselves. At least twice, he shipped \$12,000 worth of beans to Haiti.

When his housekeeper couldn't qualify for a mortgage, Mr. Caldwell took one out himself, then collected monthly payments. When the housekeeper's family finished the payments years later, he handed over the deed.

He enjoyed a daily martini with his wife, Adele, and eating smoked mullet with childhood friends, including the mayor and other city officials.

After selling Jordan-Caldwell, the construction arm, to U.S. Homes in 1972, Mr. Caldwell stayed with U.S. Homes until the late 1970s. He remained with the family company as an adviser.

"There are a lot of developers who have taken their piece of the pie and not made a better place to live," said Tina Douglass, wife of former St. Pete Beach Mayor Bob Douglass. "Wherever R. W. was, he always made it a better place. He left a good mark."

#### OBITUARY

CALDWELL, Robert W. Jr. 88, of Gulfport and Boca Grande, was born on Aug. 20, 1920 in Meadville, PA to Gail Jarrell Caldwell and Robert W. Caldwell Sr. He died in Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg this past Saturday, July 4, 2009. His maternal grandparents, George and Abigail Jarrell first brought him to Gulfport in the 1920s. Because of the two week quarantine of new Florida students to avoid bringing in infectious diseases, he fished with his grandparents daily, in lieu of school. After the quarantine, he first attended Roser Park and then the brand new Gulfport Elementary School. He fished at the Gulfport Pier nearly everyday. Back then, Gulfport was open to the Gulf; there was no Bayway, and the waters were turquoise and teeming with fish. When his grandparents opened the Gulfport Market, he helped them out along with his mom and his Aunts Isabel, Anne and Helen. He attended Disston Junior High and St. Petersburg High School. He continued to fish at every chance and took advantage of every opportunity to assist local boat captains. He was an excellent boatsman and fisherman. Known as Bo in the 1920s and '30s, Bob was always an excellent student, too. He graduated St. Pete High in 1938, and, after attending St. Petersburg Junior College for a year, enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at MIT, Bob captained the lightweight crew. He had excellent skills with tools that he had learned from his grandfather Jarrell and returned to Gulfport summers during college and built homes for his father and Ed Markham. He graduated MIT during World War II in January, 1943 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. From many job offers, he chose Convair in San Diego, which later became part of General Dynamics. He built B-24s and other air-

craft. He married Adele Allport in 1945. All three of their children were born in La Jolla, CA. Bob arrived back in Gulfport with his family on July 4, 1951. His plan was to work with his Dad and open the building division of R.W. Caldwell, Inc., a real estate and insurance business originally started by his father in 1937. In late 1952, Bob found himself running the entire company after his father's untimely death. He was a successful investor and land developer and was elected in 1954 President of the Contractors and Builders Association of Pinellas County. Bob was the first President of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce and was President of the Friends of the Gulfport Library when the new library was built at 28th and Beach Boulevard. He was an over 50 year member of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Some of the subdivisions he developed in his career included Pelican Creek and Catalina Gardens plus he built hundreds of individual homes throughout Pinellas County. He was an organizing director and built the First Bank of Gulfport, was chairman of the Pinellas County branches of Royal Trust Bank and was an organizing director of First Gulf Bank. He was President of Jordan-Caldwell, Inc. that developed San Clemente East in Pasco County. When bought by U.S. Home Corp., Bob became, among other projects, the original developer of Timber Oaks in Pasco County and then became vice president of U.S. Home Corp. in charge of construction for the Central Florida Division. Bob's largest Gulfport business venture was when he became the Managing Partner of the Pasadena Partnership that bought the land known as Skimmer Point and later Pelican Bay and arranged the annexation of this part of Pasadena Yacht and Country Club into Gulfport. Further, he was currently President of Palm Island investment Corp. in Charlotte County and Chairman of R.W. Caldwell, Inc. in Gulfport. Bob lived a very modest life style. He maintained both his boat and auto engines himself. He even built his own 26 foot single engine boat from scratch in his front driveway in the late 1950s and took it on a five week adventure to the Bahamas with his wife and his wife's sister and brother-in-law. He enjoyed along with his wife in taking their children on car trips in the family station wagon to visit many of America's national parks, frequently camping out along the way, and, a generation later, repeating those car trips with their grandchildren. Growing up in the fifties and sixties, Caldwell family weekends were for water recreation and fishing trips. Those were idyllic happy times. Bob was active and smart with a good sense of humor to his last days and enjoyed driving all about town in his 1994 Chevy station wagon. He loved fishing till his end and really enjoyed a fishing trip he took this past Father's Day weekend with his son when they went over 55 nautical miles out into the Gulf of Mexico, and Bob showed that he was still an expert at catching 'em. Bob quietly and without fanfare helped many area people in need, but he had a special feeling for people suffering in Haiti. He personally donated, in the last few years at least four entire containers full of more than 150,000 pounds of beans through For HAITI, With Love to help feed the hungry Haitian people. Bob is survived by his loving and devoted wife of over 63 years, Adele A. Caldwell; three children; a daughter, April Caldwell Hornsleth (Poul); a daughter, Elise 'Desi' Caldwell McCarthy (Vaughn); a son, R.W. 'Bill' Caldwell, III (Katie), and three grandchildren, Poul Hornsleth, Ill. Jody Hornsleth Sepúlveda (Rob) and Kyle McCarthy. There will be a memorial gathering this Saturday, July 11th

at 10 am in R.W. Caldwell Park at 64th Street and Gulfport Boulevard. Parking will be available, and a reception will follow. R.W. Caldwell Park was dedicated just this past April 18th, less than three months ago. The entire Caldwell family is very grateful and appreciative to the City and citizenry of Gulfport that their patriarch, R.W. 'Bob' Caldwell Jr., who first came to Gulfport more than 80 years ago, was able to receive and appreciate this wonderful honor before he died. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to either For HAITI, With Love, the Gulfport Historical Society or the Friends of the Gulfport Library. Arrangements by R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home 5730 15th Avenue South Gulfport 33707 727-345-7797 www.rlwilliams.com

#### HONORING CHATHAM GLENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL TITANS SOFTBALL PROGRAM

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of talented student-athletes from Chatham, Illinois.

The Chatham Glenwood High School Titans defeated the Glenbard South Raiders in a 4-2 victory to advance to the Illinois High School Association Class 3A state softball championship. The Titans finished runners-up after a hard fought championship game.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Vondel Edgar and assistant coaches Terry McDevitt, Brittany Koester and Paul Gray for their work with this outstanding group of student-athletes. But most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the 2009 Chatham Glenwood High School Titans state champion runners-up softball team: Sami Estill, Erin Fleischacker, Alyssa Esperum, Mariah Cole, Cassandra Harvill, Kaitlyn England, Kim Franke, Lauren Galloway, Abbie Xanders, Jessica Meyer, Kasey Oliver, Ashley Backus, Sarah Garrison, Liz Rupel, Shelbi Tudor, Brittany Osborn, Brittany Hembrough and Beka Ferguson.

They have represented themselves, their school and the community in an exemplary fashion, and I want to join with the other members of this House in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

#### HONORING BRANDON SCOTT UNDERWOOD

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Scott Underwood, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the