



Winter 2015

Remembering a Stalwart of the Propeller Club: Shirley McKay Savage Knight

The International Propeller Club of the United States lost a key contributor and close friend with the passing of Shirley McKay Savage Knight in September. An active member of The Propeller Club Port of Tampa, Shirley served on the board for both the national organization and the Tampa chapter during her time as president of A.R. Savage & Son, the largest ship agency, ocean freight forwarding and advisory services company on Florida's west coast.

However, her ties to the maritime community date back much further than her time as president of A.R. Savage & Son. Born in 1928 into a long-time Tampa family, her grandfather had pioneered commercial shipping in the region in the middle of the 19th century.

A.R. Savage & Son, the organization that Shirley would one day run, was started by her father-in-law, Arthur Russell Savage, in 1945. At the time, the company was known as A.R. Savage Company but when Shirley's husband Bill joined the company, Arthur renamed the organization to A.R. Savage & Son. William "Bill" Savage served as president of A.R. Savage & Son until his passing in 1982. At the time of his death, he was preparing to assume the office of president of The Propeller Club of the United States after many years of



supporting his local chapter and the national organization. With his death, Shirley McKay Savage became president at A.R. Savage & Son.

In 1986, The Propeller Club Port of Tampa named her the Maritime Person of the Year, an honor previously given to her late husband and to his father. Shirley was the first woman to receive this honor from the Port of Tampa, necessitating the renaming of the award, formerly Maritime Man of the Year. Shirley was also recognized for her contributions to both Port Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay community, receiving the the Captain James McKay Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Port Tampa Bay, in 2002, and the Betty Castor Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the World Trade Center of Tampa Bay, for her work in international trade.

Today, Shirley's son Arthur serves as president of A.R. Savage & Son and continues the family's legacy of supporting Ports of Tampa Bay and The International Propeller Club. He, too, is a recipient of the Port's Maritime Person of the Year honor, and, in 2010, Shirley and Arthur received the International Propeller Club's Lifetime Achievement Award, which honored three generations of the Savage family for their efforts to bring business to Port Tampa Bay and for their leadership and support of The International Propeller Club of the United States.

Shirley McKay Savage Knight passed away Sept. 18, 2014, at Tampa General Hospital. The most important things in Shirley's life were always God, her family, and her many friends. She was an elegant, gracious woman and will be dearly missed by her Propeller Club colleagues.