INSTITUTE FOR
POLICY STUDIES

IDEAS INTO ACTION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
2015 was a year of historical significance. We saw progress on the issue of marriage equality, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that marriage is a fundamental right guaranteed to same-sex couples. This ruling came about as the result of a massive movement of millions of people around the world calling for equality. In May, Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si*, sent a powerful message calling for intersectional solutions - urging us to tackle poverty and restore dignity to the excluded while protecting Earth, our common home.

We saw the power of movements when we celebrated the ratification of the Iran nuclear deal. When opponents of the deal attempted to undermine it, IPS worked with many of our allies across the country and around the world to defend it. The success of this deal showed us that diplomacy is a viable alternative to military aggression. And in July, some of us were present at the opening of the new Cuban embassy in Washington D.C., a historic victory shared among hundreds of activists who have worked in solidarity with Cuba, to end the blockade and to normalize relations with the island for more years than they could remember.

We saw the movement for black lives continue to gain momentum across the country. In response, we focused much of our inequality work on examining the relationship between inequality and racial justice with the launch of two new areas of work: the Criminalization of Poverty project and the Black Worker Initiative (you can read more about this work on pages 7-8).

Also in 2015, IPS began a long-term planning process in which we revisited our vision of the world we want to see and planned initiatives for the coming years that will help bring about needed change. And finally, we spent the latter half of the year preparing to move from our offices on 16th Street near the White House to a new and improved space in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. The move will bring us closer to other think tanks and to some of our core allies.

At our 2015 Holiday Party, an occasion we used to bid farewell to the treasured conference room mural by IPS board member Andy Shallal, we were reflective. In that room, we talked about the world - the one we dreamed about and the one we wanted to change. As we looked forward to a new office, we recognized that it is also an opportunity to renew our efforts to improve our economic conditions, our environment, and our protection of human rights.

Indeed, as we celebrate the progress we made this year, we are look forward to a new year and a new chapter in our Institute’s history.

Onward,
John Cavanagh, Director
E. Ethelbert Miller, Board Chair
For 39 years, IPS has hosted an annual human rights awards ceremony to honor the memory of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt by celebrating brave changemakers who are making a positive impact on their local communities while championing human rights in the United States and across Latin America and the Caribbean.

DOMESTIC AWARD:

DARYL ATKINSON AND THE SOUTHERN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

In 1996, Atkinson pled guilty to a first-time, nonviolent drug crime and served 40 months in prison. Since his release, he completed college and law school and has become a tireless advocate of second chances for people with criminal records. Now a Senior Staff Attorney at The Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ) - a non-profit organization committed to partnering with and representing economically disadvantaged individuals and communities of color as they seek to dismantle structural racism and oppression - Atkinson is dedicated to ending the second-class citizenship assigned to individuals returning from incarceration.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD:

ALMUDENA BERNABEU AND THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Almudena Bernabeu, a Spanish international attorney with the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), has led the prosecutions of several of the worst Latin American perpetrators of crimes against humanity. Working with international human rights activists, Bernabeu and CJA have also played key roles in several victories this year, including the U.S. extradition of a former Salvadoran military officer to stand trial in Spain for the 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter.
IDEAS INTO ACTION:

SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

IPS IS INVESTED IN WORKING WITH SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE THAT HELPS PEOPLE AND THEPlanet. IPS PUBLIC SCHOLARS BELIEVE THAT THE INTERCONNECTED CRISIS OF THE ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, DEMOCRACY, MILITARISM, AND RACIAL INJUSTICE REQUIRE DEEP SYSTEMIC CHANGE. IPS HAS ORGANIZED ITS OVERLAPPING AND INTERSECTIONAL WORK IN THREE ARENAS THAT ARE VITAL TO CHANGE: SHIFTING THE KEY NARRATIVES THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE WORLD, BUILDING POWER TO STAND UP TO CORPORATE AND MILITARY OPPOSITION TO CHANGE, AND PUTTING FORWARD GAME-CHANGING RULES FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

IPS also reaches broad audiences with bold, progressive ideas through its Foreign Policy in Focus website (FPIF.org) and Inequality.org, which is widely seen as the most extensive and accessible source of analysis on inequality in the country.

Beyond our in-house media outlets, IPS worked to advance progressive ideas and innovative solutions in mainstream and alternative media.

For example, our research on a long-time IPS CEO pay reform idea - the elimination of a loophole that now allows firms to deduct unlimited "performance" pay from their taxes - received unprecedented media coverage in 2015, even showing up on an episode of the popular Netflix series House of Cards. We also produced a report revealing that the Wall Street bonus pool was twice as large as the combined earnings of all U.S. full-time minimum wage workers. Working with our allies, we also compared the size of the bonus pool to the cost of lifting home health workers, restaurant servers, and fast food workers up to a wage of $15 per hour. The report received coverage in most of the mainstream print media, including two pieces in the New York Times and two articles in USA Today. Another path-breaking report, "Money to Burn: How CEO Pay is Accelerating Climate Change," was the first to spell out how our short-termist executive pay system is bad for the planet.

In April, anti-tax forces in Congress mobilized to abolish the estate tax, a public policy that effectively reduces the concentration of wealth and power. IPS sprang into action, working with allied groups including the Patriotic Millionaires and Americans for Tax Fairness. We assembled the best research and talking points, wrote and placed op-eds, and provided tools to grassroots groups, policy-makers, and media. One of our op-eds by Ben & Jerry's Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield was published in USA Today and syndicated nationally. The Wealth for the Common Good network, nurturing hundreds of new members, IPS staff provided key research and communications to amplify the important voice of business leaders and wealthy individuals advocating for fair taxes, living wages, and reduced influence of money in our political system. Patriotic Millionaires spokespersons had several media appearances, including The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Finally, IPS launched the Criminalization of Poverty project in 2015, which aims to look at the ways our criminal justice system disproportionately impacts poor people and people of color. The project’s first report, The Poor Get Prison: The Alarming Spread of the Criminalization of Poverty, garnered significant attention in news outlets and social media. Described as “groundbreaking” by activist Marian Wright Edelman, the report put the phrase “criminalization of poverty” into the media lexicon and is helping tell the criminalization of poverty story as it relates to the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

At IPS, we are shifting the narrative by amplifying progressive ideas though our own online publications and in the mainstream and alternative media.

In 2015, the Institute’s own op-ed service, OtherWords (OtherWords.org), steadily expanded its reach. It distributed over 400 newsroom-ready opinion pieces that garnered at least 5,000 hits in the nation’s op-ed sections. In 2015, OtherWords also attained a longstanding goal: Women now are the authors of half of the op-eds and columns that it distributes. In addition to achieving gender parity in our bylines, we developed an op-ed writing curriculum designed for a series of hands-on workshops, increased the number of youth-authored commentaries that we distribute, and introduced two new columns. OtherWords also gained new exposure in newspapers and online. Among the latest newspapers to start running our work are the Sanford, North Carolina Herald, the Willmar, Minnesota West Central Tribune, and The Mt. Clemens, Michigan Macomb Daily.
In 2015, IPS worked closely with economic justice and low-wage worker organizations, including National People’s Action, the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC), the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), Jobs with Justice (JWJ), and the National Guest Workers Alliance, to develop strategic research and communications plans highlighting their core issues. For instance, IPS co-published a detailed infographic with the National Domestic Workers Alliance on the homecare industry at a time when the U.S. Supreme Court was considering a case on extending basic rights to these workers. After the court made a historic decision in favor of the workers, IPS partnered with NDWA to create easy-to-understand materials for NDWA affiliates to unpack the results of the ruling. IPS also published several op-eds related to this Supreme Court case over the past year.

This year, under the leadership of Marc Bayard, IPS launched our new Black Worker Initiative (BWI), a project deeply committed to helping achieve both the historic and contemporary aims of the labor and civil rights movements. Black workers have been particularly hard hit by the rising tide of inequality in today's economy, and we hope this initiative will be a part of the solution to helping expand opportunities for black worker organizing.

In May, the Initiative released its flagship report, And Still I Rise: Black Women Labor Leaders’ Voices, Power and Promise, which profiled 27 inspiring black women labor and worker rights activists from across the country who are in different stages of their careers and work in a range of different sectors of the economy. The report also featured the results of a national survey of over 450 black women in the labor movement about their experiences as workers and as union and workers’ rights activists. The report and the Initiative garnered attention from a wide range of media outlets, including The American Prospect, BuzzFeed, The Clarion Ledger, Ebony, In These Times, MSNBC, The Nation, Huffington Post, The National Journal, NBCNews.com, PBS, RH Reality Check, and Women’s eNews.

Finally, as the U.S.-led, U.S.-armed, and U.S.-backed wars and occupations continued across the Middle East in 2015, IPS Middle East expert Phyllis Bennis spent much of the year working with partners in the U.S. and global peace movements, challenging military policies and working to defend the rare victories of diplomacy over war. Bennis strategized with many allies, including Win Without War, Peace Action, Code Pink, and the National Iranian-American Council to defend the Iran deal from congressional efforts to scuttle it. Bennis also worked with the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation to mobilize Congressional opposition to the efforts of Israel and AIPAC, including the joint congressional address by Binyamin Netanyahu, to undermine the deal. These efforts resulted in 60 members of Congress signing on to publicly skip Netanyahu’s speech.

In 2015, Bennis published her newest book, Understanding ISIS and the New Global War on Terror, as well as the latest (6th) updated edition of her popular Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer. She then spent much of her time on the road, speaking and strategizing with various students groups, organizations, and others across the world on how to build movements to fight for the alternative approaches outlined in her writing.

With her customary lucidity and talent for judicious interpretation, Phyllis Bennis provides an authoritative introduction to all that is now known about ISIS. It is more than a ‘primer,’ offering an indispensable account of the complex turmoil afflicting the Middle East.”

— Richard Falk, Professor Emeritus of International Law & Practice at Princeton University
Ideas into Action: Changing the Rules and Shifting the Status Quo

Our Country and the Planet Need a Transformation from a Militarized, Fossil Fuel, Wall Street Economy to a Peaceful, Clean, and Caring Main Street Economy.

For six years, IPS has played a leadership role in U.S. and international campaigns for a tax on Wall Street speculation. In 2015, this issue moved into the center of the Democratic presidential debate and 10 EU countries are on the verge of finalizing the details of a regional financial transaction tax.

In August, the SEC beat back fierce opposition and voted to require corporations to report the ratio between their CEO and worker pay—something IPS has been advocating for nearly 20 years. As Sarah Anderson, director of the Institute’s Global Economy project, explained in a column featured in the New York Times, there are active efforts in Rhode Island and California, and now Washington state, to build on this disclosure requirement by linking the ratio to tax and procurement policies. We are collaborating with living wage and other economic justice groups to build on this mechanism for both lifting up the bottom and bringing down the top.

The Institute’s Global Economy project has also been at the forefront of opposing corporate trade agreements since the fight over NAFTA 25 years ago. In particular, IPS has focused on exposing the negative impacts of the investment rules in these agreements that favor corporations over governments, communities, and the environment.

In this work, IPS has worked closely with groups in El Salvador that have come together in a National Roundtable Against Mining, and that are fighting a lawsuit by OceanaGold, a Canadian gold mining company, against that country’s government. In 2015, IPS helped expose the activities of OceanaGold’s foundation in El Salvador, and helped publicize four Salvadoran municipalities where majorities voted to make the towns “territories free of mining.”

This year, our Peace Economy Transitions project continued its work to reduce the hold of militarism over our economy through a new effort to help communities adjust to lower levels of defense spending. Through planning grants offered by the Pentagon’s Office of Economic Adjustment, we are now working with experienced organizers in five states—two “blue,” two “purple,” and one “red”—to push these transitions in the right direction: toward real community dialogue about a future beyond defense dependency, giving priority to green manufacturing.

In addition to supporting the transition from a militarized economy, we are also helping local and regional communities build an inclusive, sustainable, and fair economy for all. In 2015, our Program on Inequality and the Common Good based in Boston, MA helped two local businesses transition away from dirty energy to clean renewable energy in a way that builds community power and local resilience. In 2015, we worked with allies in securing a micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise program at the global Green Climate Fund that focuses on bringing renewable energy access to communities across the global South and strengthening the leadership of women in the clean power sector.

The World Bank faces serious challenges in matching its pro-climate discourse with its fossil-heavy lending... at a time when climate change is recognized by the bank itself as one of the greatest risks to development, its actions need to reflect its rhetoric.

— Janet Redman, Director, Climate Policy Program, IPS

This is a huge victory for ordinary Americans who are fed up with a CEO pay system that rewards the guy in the corner office hundreds of times more than others who add value to their companies.

— Sarah Anderson, Director, Global Economy Project, IPS
During the Institute’s 50th anniversary year in 2013, our board and staff made a major commitment to increasing the Institute’s programs to mentor a next generation of diverse public scholars. IPS now has six fellowship programs that focus on this mentoring.

NEW ECONOMY MARYLAND FELLOWS

In 2015, IPS launched a pilot program in Maryland to mentor the next generation of public scholars working to build the New Economy movement. This first cohort of 15 New Economy Maryland fellows not only gained a personal understanding of the systematic change that needs to occur, but they were mentored in op-ed writing, and learned to share their perspectives widely. Every fellow who wrote an op-ed had it placed in mainstream newspapers—gathering nearly 60 appearances, with several hits in the Baltimore Sun.

The fellows were able to make connections with our broader network of key Maryland groups, which culminated in the outstanding success of a September 19 event with over 200 participants in Baltimore, featuring Annie Leonard of Greenpeace USA and local leaders. The gathering addressed how to build on the Baltimore uprising, following the death of Freddie Gray in police custody, to generate a sustained and powerful movement for lasting social change.

IPS is building on this momentum with our 2016 program, where fellows are meeting more frequently and participating in media training to expand the message of the New Economy even further.

ERIC VAN DREASON
CAROL JEAN AND EDWARD F. NEWMAN FELLOW

Each year, IPS selects a fellow, based on an endowment left by Carol and Ed Newman. As the 2015 Newman Fellow, Eric VanDreason designed the layout and created infographics for some of our most widely circulated reports, while broadening our base of followers on social networks. His infographics accompanying our 2015 Executive Excess report were featured by Greenpeace USA and 350.org. He has created digital materials promoting the Institute’s major accomplishments with our Giving Tuesday campaign and Year In Review highlights.

Eric will pursue a Master’s in City Planning at MIT in the fall of 2016.

CECILIA VEALASCO
NEW MEXICO FELLOW

During her time as a New Mexico fellow, Cecilia Velasco focused on issues of immigration and education policy. Cecilia wrote a series of op-eds for OtherWords that were published in newspapers throughout the country, including her firsthand experience of the 100-woman pilgrimage from York, Pennsylvania to Washington, DC for immigration reform.

Cecilia also dedicated much of her time at IPS to our leadership development programs. She created a proposal for the implementation of an IPS Associate Board, participated as a New Economy Maryland fellow and played a vital role in launching our Next Leaders program. She was also crucial in the planning and execution of our 2015 Letelier-Moffitt Awards ceremony.
Communications fellow Jeanette Origel worked with New England New Economy Transitions director Sarah Byrnes to publish *A Tale of Two Supermarkets* - an article that makes the argument that gentrification systematically undermines people who are working hard to improve their communities.

Student Debt Action Fellows

Summer 2015 saw the launch of a new internship program created by Chuck Collins and Josh Hoxie at the Institute’s Boston office, in partnership with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA). Student Debt Summer brought a dozen young leaders to study, organize, and advocate around an issue that is considered by millennials to be among the top political crises facing the country today. The students staged protests at for-profit colleges, like ITT Tech, that are defrauding veterans and other groups by providing substandard education at an extremely high cost, both on their campus and at their corporate headquarters. The summer interns produced original research focusing on how to fund debt-free college and eliminate student debt. Participants in the program have gone on to engage in student activism on campus and with groups like the Student Labor Action Projection, the student wing of close IPS ally, Jobs with Justice.

Next Leaders Program

In 2015, IPS intentionally bucked the trend of unpaid internships and offered a new and diverse cohort of fourteen Next Leaders paid internship positions. We made this move not only because we believe in fair compensation for labor, but also because we know that unpaid internships reduce the participation of potential change-makers of color and people from low-income communities.

Out of an applicant pool of 500, we selected a brilliant and diverse group of young activists to participate in a comprehensive skills training and progressive frameworks curriculum. Over 10 weeks, we exposed this first cohort to the practice of public scholarship and positioned them for long-lasting careers in our social justice community. They published 15 pieces of writing and research that have been cited in notable places, such as “Morning Reads” by Bill Moyers and in the National Journal. IPS helped more than half of them find jobs or receive scholarships or awards of recognition within our social justice community and among the Institute’s closest allies.

Community Leaders Fellowship

In 2015, the Institute’s Boston-based Community Leaders Fellowship was able to bring together twelve stellar leaders who wanted to invest more permanently in their communities – from Annie Hamilton who launched the Time Exchange, which connects more than 200 neighbors, to Sobeida Pena who organized the first ever Spanish-language overview of JP NET.

The fellows supported the Cancer Free Economy project, which helped Jamaica Plain’s Salcedo Auto Center stop using lead and switch to toxin-free materials. They forged a partnership with the Jamaica Plains Adult Learning Program to help English language learners connect with the broader community and access mutual aid networks. Others worked at the Boston Food Forest, supporting harvest parties and garden raisings in neighborhood yards.
IN THE NEWS

IN 2015, IPS EXPERTS APPEARED ON DOZENS OF TELEVISION AND RADIO SHOWS, WROTE HUNDREDS OF OP-EDS, WERE QUOTED IN DOZENS OF NEWSPAPERS, AND OUR STUDIES WERE COVERED IN THOUSANDS OF MEDIA OUTLETS AROUND THE WORLD. HERE IS A BRIEF SAMPLE:

THE EUROPEAN UNION MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE
JOHN FEFFER
JANUARY 27, 2015
http://www.thenation.com/article/196193/european-union-may-be-verge-collapse/

NETANYAHU SIDE-STEPS WHITE HOUSE IN BID TO SABOTAGE [sic] IRAN TALKS
PHYLIS BENNIS
JANUARY 22, 2015

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, INCOME INEQUALITY KEEP RISING
MARJORIE WOOD
FEBRUARY 9, 2015
http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/youth-unemployment-income-inequality-keep-rising/

ONE CHART THAT SHOWS JUST HOW RIDICULOUSLY HUGE WALL STREET BONUSES ARE
SARAH ANDERSON
MARCH 17, 2015
http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/03/one-chart-shows-just-how-ridiculously-huge-wall-street-bonuses-

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INCOME INEQUALITY, IN ONE COMPARISON
SARAH ANDERSON
MARCH 13, 2015
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/14/upshot/wall-street-bonuses-vs-total-earnings-of-full-time-minimum-wage-

MITCHELL: SHOOTING OF UNARMED BLACK MAN IN S.C. MAKES CASE FOR VIDEO CAMERAS
KAREN DOLAN
APRIL 8, 2015
http://www.chicagosuntimes.com/2015/04/08/mitchell-shooting-of-unarmed-black-man-in-s-c-

5 WAYS IT’S BECOME A CRIME TO BE POOR IN AMERICA, PUNISHABLE BY FURTHER IMPOVERISHMENT
KAREN DOLAN
APRIL 26, 2015
http://www.aljazeeraamerica.com/2015/04/5-ways-it-became-crime-be-poor-americas-punishable-further-

LABOR MOVEMENT PUSHES, YET AGAIN, TO GET MORE BLACK WOMEN IN CHARGE
MARC BAYARD
MAY 10, 2015
http://www.aljazeeraamerica.com/2015/05/labor-movement-pushes-more-black-women-in-charge-

CUBAN FLAG OVER THE NEW EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SIGNALS A VICTORY SHARED BY AMERICAN ADVOCATES
PHYLIS BENNIS
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35 SOUL-CRUSHING FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN INCOME INEQUALITY
SARAH ANDERSON
JULY 15, 2015
http://www.salon.com/2015/07/15/35_soul-crushing_facts_about_american_income_inequality-

POPE FRANCIS HAS A BIG TO-DO LIST FOR WORLD LEADERS
SANHO TREE & PHYLIS BENNIS
SEPTEMBER 25, 2015
http://www.refinery29.com/2015/09/94611/united-nations-pope-francis-new-york-visit-climate-

THE COAL INDUSTRY IS HURTING, BUT ITS EXECs ARE STILL GETTING RAISES
SARAH ANDERSON
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015
http://time.com/money/4020724/coal-industry-executive-pay-

100 CEOS HAVE MORE IN RETIREMENT SAVINGS THAN 41 PERCENT OF AMERICANS COMBINED
SARAH ANDERSON
OCTOBER 30, 2015
http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/10/top-100-ceos-retirement-savings-racial-

THE WEALTHIEST DOZEN AMERICANS OWN MORE THAN THE BOTTOM HALF
JOSEH NOXIE & CHUCK COLLINS
DECEMBER 2, 2015
http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/12/the-wealthiest-dozen-americans-own-more-than-the-bottom-half-

Page 16
Page 17
FINANCIALS 2015

2015 INCOME
TOTAL: $4,200,000

INCOME
- FOUNDATIONS $3,578,000 (68%)
- OTHER $103,909 (2%)
- INCOME FROM BEQUEST $430,000 (10%)
- INDIVIDUALS $801,276 (19%)

2015 EXPENSES
TOTAL: $4,183,000

EXPENSES
- PROGRAMS $3,578,000 (86%)
- ADMINISTRATION $266,000 (6%)
- FUNDRAISING $339,000 (8%)

NOTE: THESE FIGURES ARE UNAUDITED AND SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENTS.

THANK YOU

All of us at the Institute for Policy Studies draw great strength from our community of donors*, including those who give anonymously. Our accomplishments in 2015 are a credit to each of you.

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THE NEXT GENERATION LEGACY SOCIETY

For more than half a century, the Institute for Policy Studies has played the key role of providing public scholarship to cutting-edge social movements in the U.S. and the world.

We can’t predict what new issues will emerge in the next half century and beyond, but we do know that IPS will be needed to provide the intellectual groundwork to support movement-building groups, and to speak with an unwavering independent voice – unfettered by any political party, and steadfast in promoting equity, sustainability, peace, and democratic participation, the values we uphold as progressives.

Looking toward the future, IPS is intentionally mentoring the next generation of public scholars, especially individuals from low-income backgrounds and communities of color. Working closely with public scholars who helped build and inform the movements for social and economic equality, the new economy, demilitarization and diplomacy, and environmental justice, they will rise to be the next generation to build on the Institute’s legacy of inspiring progressive ideas and actions to serve the people and planet.

By including IPS in their estate plans through a bequest or other planned gift, members of the Next Generation Legacy Society demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that IPS has a future in putting progressive ideas into action for the people and our planet.

IPS would like to express our deepest gratitude toward the extraordinary commitment, generosity, and thoughtfulness of the following Next Generation Legacy Society members:

Ann Barnet
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Marvin Stender and Drucilla Ramey

*Denotes members who are deceased, but live on in our memories and the work we are able to accomplish.

In 2015, an extraordinary lawyer and activist for justice, Allan Brotsky, passed away and left a gift to IPS in his will. His children continue his work for peace and justice, and IPS salutes his lifetime of service. We miss our friend.

If you would like to become a member of the IPS Next Generation Legacy Society but want to speak to someone about the details first, please call our Development Director at (202) 787-5235 or email legacy@ips-dc.org.

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