

LPGas

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KNAUFF

PECILUNAS

SMITH

TAYLOR

Hall of Fame

2025

Induction Ceremony

The propane industry unites in celebration

The LP Gas Hall of Fame induction dinner and awards ceremony has been one of the most anticipated events on the industry's calendar since its launch in 2012.

Each year, the propane industry comes together to honor a new class of Hall of Famers and celebrate its past and present leaders. This black-tie gathering has become both an industrywide celebration and a reunion. Throughout the ballroom tonight, you'll see familiar faces from the propane industry – some members whom you see regularly during the year but others who aren't as active in the industry anymore but have returned to celebrate this special occasion.

We're all here tonight to honor the Class of 2025: Tom Knauff, a founder of leading propane companies who has helped influence policies ensuring safety and sustainability; Rita Pecilunas, a marketing strategist whose insights at all levels have helped companies – and the industry – adapt and grow; Walter Smith, an inventor whose product became the industry standard on bobtails in North America; and Ken Taylor, a longtime safety advocate and trainer in emergency preparedness. They bring the total number of Hall of Fame inductees to 57.

We wouldn't have the ability to recognize these Hall of Famers without the support of our partners: At the Platinum level, Cetane Associates, EDP, Otodata and Superior Plus Propane; and at the Gold level, Anova, Bergquist Inc., Blossman Gas, Empire Gas, Tankfarm and Tarantin Industries. We thank them for making this night possible.

And we thank you for being here tonight, showing your support for these new Hall of Famers and our great industry.



Brian Kanaba
Publisher



Brian Richesson
Editor in Chief

Cocktails

Dinner

(with opening prayer from the Rev. Joe Rose)

Program

Opening Remarks

Brian Kanaba, Publisher, *LP Gas*

Editor's Address

Brian Richesson, Editor in Chief, *LP Gas*

Induction Ceremony

Thomas E. Knauff, EDP

Rita Pecilunas, Otodata

Walter Smith, Smith Pumps and Full-Circle

Ken Taylor, White Mountain Oil & Propane

Closing Remarks

Brian Kanaba



Thomas E. Knauff

Nearing the end of his 40-year career in propane, industry leader witnesses changes that spur his increasing involvement

*W*ith aspirations of becoming an English teacher, Tom Knauff took a different path and eventually made his way to propane with a job at Ferrellgas, where he began a lifelong stay in the industry.

Since joining Ferrellgas in 1983, Knauff has spent more than 40 years working in the industry in various capacities, forging some of the biggest and most dynamic companies. Over those 40 years, he has overseen more than 100 acquisitions.

When Knauff joined Ferrellgas, the company had 18 retail locations. During his tenure, its retail side grew dramatically. With the leveraged buyout of Buckeye Gas Products in 1986, Ferrellgas became the third-largest propane retailer in the country. By the time he left Ferrellgas, the company was operating 500 retail locations, with Knauff responsible for 150 of them.

After leaving Ferrellgas, Knauff co-founded Propane Continental with funding from Illinois-based Allstate Insurance Co., leading him to Chicago. Propane Continental acquired 36 businesses before being acquired by Cornerstone Propane.

Knauff also co-founded Jordan Knauff & Co., an investment banking firm, before co-sponsoring Liberty Propane, which acquired 26 companies before it was acquired in 2009.

With the acquisition of Linden's Propane in 2012, Knauff founded EDP.

Thirteen years and more than 50 acquisitions later, EDP now has 58 outlets. Last year, the company supplied 118 million gallons of propane to customers in 24 states.

Knauff is known for his active leadership as part of the National Propane Gas Association executive committee and board of directors. In this service, Knauff has fought against existential threats to the industry like the electrify-everything initiative and the anti-fossil fuels movement. He's also known for his genuine care and mentorship of others.

Now, Knauff, 75, nears the end of his propane career with retirement on the horizon, but he plans on keeping busy in other ways, chiefly in spending time with his family.



Rita Pecilunas

Versatile marketing and communications professional elevates propane industry through innovative projects, efforts behind the scenes

For more than 30 years, Rita Pecilunas has worked to position the propane industry for success. With a background in event planning, marketing and communications, and journalism, she became accustomed to undertaking important programs or projects for the industry when few others were willing to take them on. In her own words, she's typically the "behind-the-scenes gal."



A 2025 Hall of Fame inductee, Pecilunas is now front and center, as her propane peers recognize what her varied roles and responsibilities have meant to the industry at critical moments in its history.

Pecilunas served as vice president of marketing and member services for the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), where for 10 years she helped to shape its marketing strategies, campaigns and financial growth plans. She helped to launch Pinnacle 2000, the industry's first national educational conference, which ran from 1995 to 2006, and revitalize the Southeastern Convention. Pecilunas led the industry's centennial celebration that culminated in 2012's acclaimed "Clean Air Parade" and helped position propane as a relevant, reliable and clean-burning fuel. She also has served as a facilitator for the NPGA Benchmarking Council.

At NPGA, she went on to manage three departments and, at 29, earned the distinction of being the first woman to serve as a vice president in the association.

Pecilunas also managed projects for the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) and what is now known as the World Liquid Gas Association.

In her capacity with PERC, she helped to develop and roll out the "Marketer Technology Training" initiative that educated marketers about ways to promote the safe and efficient use of propane in their communities and traveled the nation teaching customer service and sales training to customer service representatives as part of the program.

In 2019, Pecilunas joined tank monitoring provider Otodata to help educate propane marketers about the role technology can play in their operations.

Walter Smith

Conversation at 1991 trade show changes engineer's career,
leads to sought-after solution for LPG industry

*W*alter Smith turned a conversation with a propane industry colleague into an idea for a new product. That idea – sparked at the 1991 Western Propane Trade Show & Convention in Palm Springs, California – led to the formation of a new company as well.

An engineer, Smith formed Full-Circle later that year after engaging in a discussion with the colleague about the problem of hoses twisting during propane delivery. The colleague saw a need for a UL-listed, hose-end swivel designed for propane, and he had asked Smith for a solution.

Hesitant at first during the conversation, Smith began to see the possibilities of developing a listed swivel for the industry. That night in his hotel room, he began to sketch product designs on hotel stationary. About a week later, he was back in his office, on track to develop a prototype for testing.

Smith calls the events in Palm Springs “a perfect storm” that led him to envision and ultimately design the first UL-listed, hose-end swivel for the propane industry. In fact, Full-Circle would develop a series of listed hose-end and hose-reel swivels (various SMAC and JO models). The hose-end swivel allowed for a 360-degree rotation of the filler valve at the end of a delivery hose, and it became a standardized piece of equipment on bobtails in North America and in other markets around the world.

Prior to his work on the swivels, Smith was fueling the family's legacy with pumps. His grandfather founded Smith Precision Products (Smith Pumps) in 1938, and his father developed many of the company's original products. Smith served as president and CEO of Smith Pumps from 1986-2022 and designed several of its products.

Smith, 72, a quiet and humble leader for his company and the industry, retired in 2022 but still works as a consultant for both Smith Pumps and Full-Circle. His son, C.J., is now the fourth-generation president of the companies.



Ken Taylor

Propane industry veteran develops lifetime commitment to safety with a focus on emergency response

A chance encounter during high school changed the trajectory of Ken Taylor's life and, in doing so, changed the state of safety training in the propane industry.

Taylor's career began with a chance meeting at a gas station when a man in a Mercedes asked him, "What do you want to do with your life?" That fateful conversation led to a job installing and troubleshooting industrial propane ovens used in textile manufacturing. This opportunity sparked a lifelong dedication to propane safety and industry advancement.

Forty-five years later, his contributions to safety, training and mentorship have earned Taylor a place in the *LP Gas* Hall of Fame.

Taylor was vice president of White Mountain Oil & Propane in North Conway, New Hampshire, for over 20 years. At White Mountain, Taylor oversaw safety, delivery, service and repairs.

But his contributions extend far beyond his work with White Mountain Oil & Propane. As a member of the Propane Gas Association of New England, he played a crucial role in shaping safety initiatives.

Taylor helped create and develop the Propane Emergency Response Program, and he spearheaded the development of the well-known guidebook "Propane Emergencies."

Taylor also served on a number of committees, from the New Hampshire Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness to National Propane Gas Association safety and transportation committees.

Taylor's influence was instrumental in establishing the first dedicated propane training facility at the Massachusetts Fire Academy. He continues to participate in fire training programs in New England, serving as a mentor to new instructors and volunteers.

It's this commitment to mentorship that gives Taylor confidence for the future of the propane industry. With a new generation of professionals stepping up, Taylor knows that his work will continue to influence industry standards and practices for years to come.



LPGas *Hall of Fame*

Past Inductees



Mark Anton

Suburban Propane

Class of 2012



John Blossman

Blossman Gas

Class of 2012



James Ferrell

Ferrellgas

Class of 2012



Sam McTier

McTier Supply Co.

Class of 2012



Robert Myers

Petrolane Inc.

Class of 2012



Walter Snelling

American Gasol Co.

Class of 2012



Milford Therrell

Squibb-Taylor Inc.

Class of 2012



H. Emerson Thomas

Continental Tank
Car Co.

Class of 2012



John Wallace

Petrolane Inc.

Class of 2012



Eugene V.N. Bissell

AmeriGas

Class of 2013

LPGas *Hall of Fame*

Past Inductees



Ronald "Zane" Chastain

LP Gas magazine
Class of 2013



William C. Hill

Pargas
Class of 2013



Herbert V. Hills

Imperial Machine
Products Co.
Class of 2013



Walter H. Johnson

Liquefied Petroleum
Gas Association
Class of 2013



Robert B. Nicholson

Eastern Propane Corp.
Class of 2013



Casey Jarvis

Jarco Inc.
Class of 2014



William B. McHenry

Pro-Gas Sales &
Service Co.
Class of 2014



Daniel N. Myers

National Propane Gas
Association
Class of 2014



J. Charles Sawyer

Sawyer Gas Inc.
Class of 2014



Dwain Willingham

Propane Resources
Class of 2014

LPGas *Hall of Fame*

Past Inductees



James E. Bertelsmeyer
Heritage Propane
Class of 2015



Stewart Kean
Utility Propane Co./
World LPG Association
Class of 2015



Glenn Miller
Miller's Bottled Gas
Class of 2015



Charles Revere
Revere Gas
Class of 2015



Bill Byrne
Warren Petroleum Co.
Class of 2016



Robert Y. Love Sr.
Lampton-Love Inc.
Class of 2016



Daryl McClendon
DFM Enterprises
Class of 2016



Thomas Nunan Jr.
Suburban Propane
Class of 2016



John D. Capps
National LP-Gas
Association
Class of 2017



Theodore Lemoff
National Fire
Protection Association
Class of 2017

LPGas *Hall of Fame*

Past Inductees



Darrel Reifschneider

Manchester Tank

Class of 2017



William Young

Superior Energy
Systems

Class of 2017



Bill Clark

Butane-Propane News

Class of 2018



Al Linder

Coast Gas

Class of 2018



Stuart Weidie

Blossman Gas

Class of 2018



Roy Willis

Propane Education &
Research Council

Class of 2018



Ramon González, Sr.

Empire Gas Co. Inc.

Class of 2019



David Lugar

AmeriGas

Class of 2019



Bill Mahre

Propane Technical
Services

Class of 2019



Ray Murray III

Ray Murray Inc.

Class of 2019

LPGas *Hall of Fame*

Past Inductees



Doug Auxier

Auxier Gas

Class of 2022



Richard Barker

Silgas

Class of 2022



Nancy Coop

Cetane Associates

Class of 2022



Joe Rose

Propane Gas
Association of
New England

Class of 2022



Steve Ahrens

Missouri Propane Gas
Association

Class of 2023



Tom Jaenicke

ATomiK Creative
Solutions

Class of 2023



Billy Prim

Blue Rhino

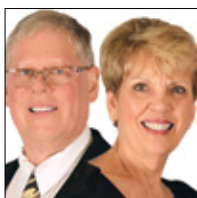
Class of 2023



Don Schultz

Schultz Gas Service

Class of 2023



**Joe & Rosie
Buschur**

McMahan's
Bottle Gas

Class of 2024



Randy Doyle

MAPCO/Thermogas

Class of 2024

Past Inductees



Bruce Swiecicki

National Propane
Gas Association

Class of 2024



Mike Walters

Superior Energy
Systems

Class of 2024

**For coverage of the
LP Gas Hall of Fame or to
nominate a deserving individual,
visit LPGasHallofFame.com**

Congrat

The image features a dark blue background with a gradient. It is decorated with numerous gold-colored bokeh circles of varying sizes and a dense shower of fine gold confetti. Several bright, multi-pointed starburst effects are scattered across the lower half. The word "Congrat" is written in a white, elegant cursive script in the upper right corner. A thin, light gray border is visible on the left and bottom edges of the main content area.

ulations!

Cetane Associates would like to congratulate the 2025 LP Gas Hall of Fame Inductees. Thank you for your many years of dedication to the industry.

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— ASSOCIATES —

www.Cetane.com

2025 Hall of Fame Platinum Sponsor



CONGRATULATIONS

...to EDP's Executive Chairman Tom Knauff on being a 2025 Hall of Fame Honoree. Over the course of Tom's 30-plus year career, he has made enormous contributions to the propane industry. We applaud you, Tom!



WWW.EDPLP.NET



2025

Hall of Fame Honorees

We also applaud the other Honorees. Your hard work, dedication and active involvement in the propane industry has made a positive and valuable impact for all of us. Thank you!



**Congratulations to the
2025 LP Gas Hall of Fame
Inductees, and Rita
Pecilunas of the Otodata
team for driving growth
and innovation.**

Your passion and dedication fuel a
thriving industry—keep leading the way!





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We Salute Superior Service

Congratulations to Thomas E. Knauff,
Rita Pecilunas, Walter Smith, and Ken Taylor!

Your contributions to the industry fuel our success.



“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”

– Benjamin Franklin

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our industry.

The Class of 2025



ANOVA CONGRATULATES THE LP GAS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025!

On behalf of the entire Anova team, we thank you for your contribution, commitment, and leadership.

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2021 Business Improvement Category Winner



2023 IoT Analytics Platform of the Year
2022 IIoT Innovator of the Year

ANOVA

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*Congratulations
to all the 2025
LP Gas Hall of Fame
Annual Inductees*





CONGRATULATIONS

TO THIS YEAR'S LP GAS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

A background image showing two champagne glasses being clinked together in a toast. The glasses are filled with a bubbly liquid, and the background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a formal event.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS
GREAT INDUSTRY.

CONGRATULATIONS

2025 Hall of Fame Inductees!

In his passing, our founder Ramon Gonzalez Sr., left his four children: Ketty, Waleska, Ramon and Xavier at the steering wheel of our company to continue the five-decade legacy of the family and to the extended family of more than 600 employees that have so vigorously worked for. As a result, Empire Gas has grown to be the top Propane Gas Company in Puerto Rico.

At Empire Gas, we know hard work pays off; and so it is with immense pride and honor that we congratulate the 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees: Thomas E. Knauff, Rita Pecilunas, Walter Smith and Ken Taylor for their service and determination to grow the Propane Industry.



empiregaspr.com

Congratulations

to the Hall of Fame Class of 2025!



"If I had seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Sir Issac Newton

We as a propane industry are standing on the shoulders of this year's HOF inductees and all those that came before. Because of them, **we can see further and achieve more!**



Thomas E. Knauff
EDP



Rita Pecilunas
Otodata



Walter Smith
Smith Pumps/
Full-Circle



Ken Taylor
White Mountain Oil &
Propane

Congratulations and Thank You for your valued contributions to the propane industry.



333 Commerce Street, Suite 800, Nashville, TN 37201

to all the

Propane Hall of Fame Inductees

Thank you for your dedication
to the propane industry.



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CONGRATULATIONS

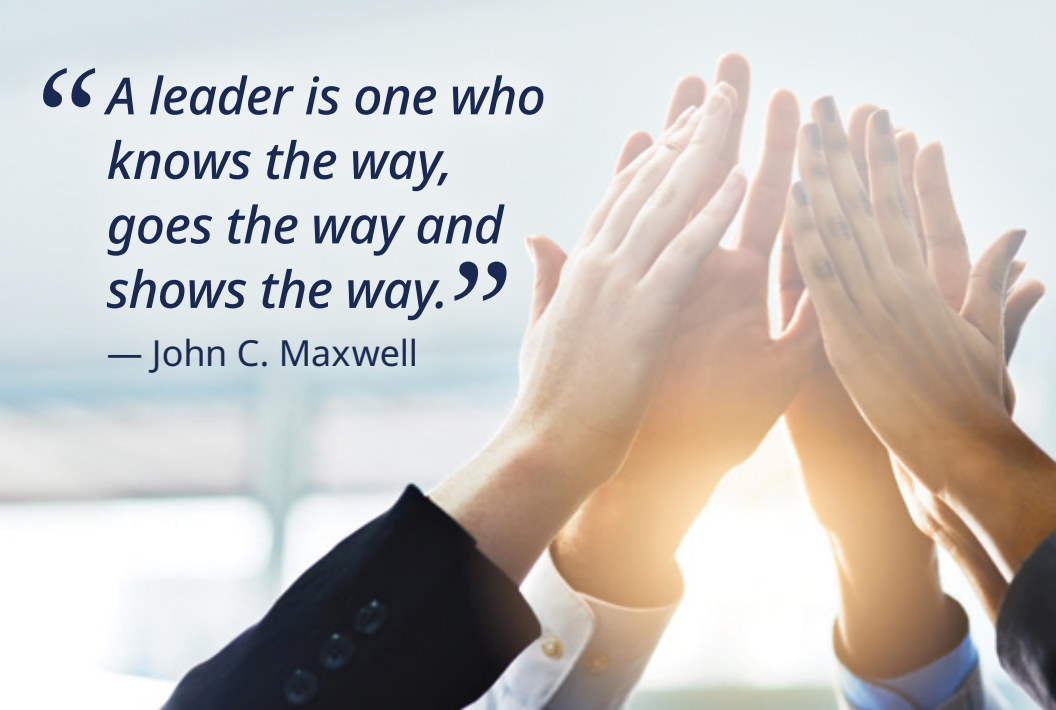
to the 2025 LP GAS
Hall of Fame Inductees



ADD
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*“A leader is one who
knows the way,
goes the way and
shows the way.”*

— John C. Maxwell



Congratulations

2025 LP Gas Hall of Fame Inductees!

On behalf of everyone at Emerson / Fisher LPG Equipment,
we would like to recognize the members of this year's class
and thank each of you for your contributions.

Your dedication and efforts have made an impact in our industry!

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Fisher™ LPG is committed to helping build the next generation in the LP-Gas industry.



Congratulations

2025
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES



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Congratulations
to the
LP-Gas
2025 Hall of Fame
Inductees

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to the 2025 LPG
Hall of Fame Inductees

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Congratulations

to each of the inductees. Your devotion to this industry and its members is genuinely worthy of this distinction!



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CONGRATS

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LPGas *Hall of Fame*



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