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PAGE A3

NP to unveil new Hall of Fame

District to recognize people who made significant contributions in their careers

By **LINDA STEIN**
lstein@thereporteronline.com

Seeking to recognize those graduates who have made significant contributions to the world in their careers, the North Penn High School will unveil a "Lifetime Achievement Hall of Fame" this fall.

The North Penn Alumni Athletic Association will continue its mission to provide scholarships to senior student athletes and the NPHS Sports Hall of Fame will continue.

Edwin Kneedler, class of 1963, will be the first inductee and will be honored at a ceremony Oct. 8. Deputy U.S. Solicitor General Kneedler has argued 113 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, more than any other lawyer actively practicing.

His responsibilities include a variety of issues, including separation of powers under the Constitution, the

First Amendment, international law, Indian law, public land and water law, among others.

Kneedler, 65, argued many cases on behalf of the government in the federal courts, as well, including the lawsuit brought by the federal government challenging the controversial Arizona immigration statute. He is now gearing up to defend the constitutionality of the health-care reform legislation known as the Affordable Care Act.

"It was quite a surprise and quite an honor," said Kneedler, about the award.

Asked how it feels to argue cases before the Supreme Court, he said, "It's a privilege to represent the United States government before the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a solemn occasion. It can be daunting. The justices are very active, asking probing

questions. An attorney has to be very well prepared and think quickly and respond to a variety of questions."

Kneedler and his wife, Lynn, who works for the Peace Corps, live in Washington, D.C. The couple has two daughters, Jenny, a lawyer with the Justice Department, and Anne, who works for the Cargill Co. in Minneapolis.

Kneedler, who grew up in Lansdale, said both his parents, now deceased, taught in the North Penn School District, and his father, Harry Kneedler, was a coach in the 1930s. His mother, Isabella (Jones) Kneedler, who became a guidance counselor, retired in 1980.

Thomas F. Strickland Jr., NPAAA president, said the association started in 2000 to provide scholarships for student athletes.

"This will be our seventh Hall of Fame ceremony," he said.

The group will now honor an individual with the Lifetime Achievement award while continuing to give the Sports Hall of Fame award.

Candidates can be considered if nominated by NPAAA members, all nominees must be graduates of NPHS, Lansdale High School, Hatfield High School or North Wales High School. The candidate must be approved by the superintendent and NPHS principal.

Candidates must have made a significant contribution to society in the arts, sciences, legal, medical, business, performing arts, public service or education. Their accomplishments must be documented.

In addition to the award dinner, the inductee will be asked to speak to NPHS students at an assembly.

The NPAAA has given scholarships to 39 NPHS male and female student athletes. A list of their names is at 111.npaaa.org. The NPAAA has more than 326 members and is open to the public. For more information contact Strickland at alumni@npenn.or or tfstrickland@comcast.net.

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