

David G. Brickley Youth Environmental Conservation Award: Alexander Elvir-Herrera

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year Award: Joshua Jones

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year Award: Albert Brooks

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award: Norman "Norm" Catterton

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending all of the volunteers and public servants and in congratulating the 2017 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards recipients. These remarkable individuals have dedicated themselves to the betterment of the Dale City community and the strengthening of this vibrant community. They have all made a lasting contribution to Dale City, and I hope their actions will spur others into serving our community to sustain this tremendous success.

HONORING ALCALDE AND  
ALCALDESSA TED AND PAT ELIOT

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ted Eliot and his late wife Pat Eliot, who have been named Alcalde and Alcaldessa for the City of Sonoma, California.

The title Alcalde, or Alcaldessa is the Spanish word for Mayor. During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. Today in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city. Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. By volunteering their time to protect the beautiful land for our community now and in the future, Ted and Pat Eliot have more than earned the titles of Alcalde and Alcaldessa.

Mr. Eliot has held an advisory role with Sonoma County's Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and was a leader in its formation and reauthorization. This district permanently protects the diverse agricultural, natural resource, and scenic open space lands for future generations. Mr. Eliot is known for his calm, even-handed counsel. He has served on the boards of Community Foundation Sonoma County, the Todd Trust and the Sonoma Valley Fund, organizations which prioritize and support community ethics and projects.

Mrs. Eliot recently passed away. By honoring her as Alcaldessa, Sonoma celebrates her life and work to protect the land in our community. She helped to negotiate the protection of 600 acres of land which included the Grandmother Tree, the largest and oldest redwood tree in our Sonoma Valley. This land has become part of Jack London State Park. Ted and Pat also donated a forever-wild conservation easement over their property which allowed for the completion of the East Slope Sonoma Mountain Trail.

Mr. Speaker, Ted and Pat Eliot's work was essential to protecting our beautiful land and they are excellent role models for community

involvement and action. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today as Sonoma's Alcalde and Alcaldessa for 2017.

CHLOE J. CONEY

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a true champion of progress, Chloe J. Coney. She is retiring this month after 10 years of serving as my district director in Tampa. Her invaluable contributions to the Tampa Bay community are an inspiration to us all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her selfless dedication, honor her valuable service to our community and thank her for her daily efforts to serve our neighbors in Tampa.

Known as a woman who wears many hats, Mrs. Coney is a leader who serves with a spirit of love and excellence. When federal courts ordered Hillsborough County to desegregate its school system, even at an early age, Mrs. Coney became a leader. In 1963, she along with a brave few helped to integrate the school district. In turn, Mrs. Coney attended and graduated from Hillsborough High School with honors in 1968. Her determination to lead and serve pushed her to achieve a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Corrections from Florida A & M University, a master's degree in Biblical Counseling from Florida Beacon Bible College, and an honorary doctorate from Blessed Hope Bible College in Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Coney's passion to lead and serve has followed her throughout her professional and personal career. In 1972, Mrs. Coney began her career as the first Black female Probation and Parole Officer in Hillsborough County. She would then continue as a pathbreaker by becoming Intake Counselor/Mediator with the 13th Judicial Circuit Court of Hillsborough County and Marketing Representative for Florida Power in Clearwater, Fla. She left the private sector in her calling to serve families, seniors and students as the Center Manager of the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, leading the way for it to become a One Stop Social and Medical Center in Hillsborough County. She utilized her role as Center Manager to restore pride, ownership, and community in Tampa's Eastside neighborhoods. Mrs. Coney established the East Tampa Community School partnership and the Back to School Kick-off Fair. Mrs. Coney's passion inspired her to found the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa (CDC) in 1992 and become its first President/CEO, focusing on economic development. The CDC of Tampa's Nehemiah Project Community Building Brick by Brick has since expanded its strategic initiatives to provide job training, promote entrepreneurship and develop youth leadership programs, revitalizing commercial areas and build affordable housing.

In 2006, Mrs. Coney retired as the President of the CDC of Tampa to become a candidate for the local office. While she missed out on the opportunity to serve as Hillsborough County Commission, District 3, she found a new way to lead and serve the community as my District Director. In this capacity, she has addressed an array of constituent concerns, so-

lited citizen input, and performed community outreach activities, such as foreclosure prevention workshops during the economic downturn to help families stay in their homes and job fairs during the economic recovery to connect neighbors with local jobs. As District Director, Chloe Coney, will retire after serving the Tampa Bay community for more than 40 years, improving entire communities, leveraging economic impact and touching the lives of everyone she meets.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor Mrs. Chloe J. Coney. We will miss her wisdom and experience, but most of all we will miss the encouragement she has been to us all. As Chloe would say "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work," and I am proud that she has been part of my team and, importantly, my friend, helping so many of our neighbors achieve their dreams.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR  
THE 2016-2017 TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE  
WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Public Schools. The Teacher of the Year Award recognizes excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in Prince William County Public School System.

The Prince William County Public School System was established in 1869 and was originally managed by individual magisterial districts until the Prince William County School Board was founded in 1923. Today, there are more than 90,000 students in 97 schools within the Prince William County School Division—59 elementary schools, 16 middle schools, 12 high schools, one Governor's school, three special education schools, two nontraditional schools, two traditional schools, one special education school, and one K-8 school—making it the second largest school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In Prince William County Schools, each grade level of course study is grounded in a purposefully designed plan that frameworks the knowledge and skills that will be developed during the school year.

The winner selected will be named the Prince William County Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the following 2016-2017 Prince William County nominees for Teacher of the Year Award:

Charles Aracich—T. Clay Wood Elementary School

Donna Atkins—Neabsco Elementary School

Larry Baker—Gar-Field High School

Jennifer Brown—Graham Park Middle School