

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ARTSFAIRFAX (formerly the Arts Council of Fairfax County) and the recipients of its 2018 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of those who support the arts in our community including artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church. The economic benefit of that support cannot be overstated.

Each year, ARTSFAIRFAX honors a select group of individuals, companies, or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the local arts community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 recipients:

The 2018 Jinx Hazel Arts Award is being presented to the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation. Founded in 1987 by Dr. Claude Moore, the Foundation works to enhance educational opportunities for young people. Having given more than \$62 million to organizations and programs throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Foundation is one of Virginia's largest philanthropic organizations. Its support in Fairfax County has been broad, consistent, and generative, with donations of more than \$8 million to organizations and programs including: Claude Moore Colonial Farm, George Mason University's Fall for the Book festival, George Washington Teachers Institute at Mount Vernon, Lorton Arts Foundation, Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax Library Foundation, Artist-in-Education Bluemont Concert Series, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Fairfax County Parks Authority, ARTSFAIRFAX, and many more.

The 2018 Arts Education Award is being presented to the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO). Since 1964, AYPO has provided rigorous, conservatory-quality orchestra training and performance experience for thousands of gifted, young musicians from Northern Virginia. Nearly 90 percent of AYPO members live in Fairfax County and more than two-thirds are minorities. All students take part in competitive auditions and all are selected solely on their musical achievements. These ensembles are open to all youth in the region, not just AYPO members. This has allowed AYPO to serve a broader base of students within Fairfax County Public Schools. For 54 years, AYPO has helped young people develop their musical skills and an appreciation for orchestral music to provide opportunities that are rarely available in the schools.

The 2018 Arts Impact Award is being presented to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Each year, nearly 400,000 people enjoy performances at the Filene Cen-

ter, The Barns at Wolf Trap, and Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. Wolf Trap is a cornerstone of Fairfax County's cultural fabric. Education also has long been core to Wolf Trap's mission. Though national in scope, the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts has roots in Virginia and has been partnering with Fairfax County Public Schools for more than 30 years. During the 2016–2017 school year, the Institute served more than 17,000 children, educators, and parents/caregivers across 18 counties in the Commonwealth, including Fairfax.

The 2018 Arts Philanthropy Award is being presented to Virginia McGehee Friend. Ms. Friend is an avid supporter of Washington West Film Festival, Greater Reston Arts Center, Arena Stage, Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Smithsonian Craft Show, Just Neighbors, Loudoun Hunger Relief, Mobile Hope, Canine Companions for Independence, and the National Humane Education Society. Throughout her life, Friend's tireless dedication and immense generosity to the arts in Fairfax County and across the region have served as a model for philanthropy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2018 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances relating to my health, I was physically absent from the House of Representatives on November 16, 2018. On that day, I missed two recorded votes.

On Roll Call No. 419, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5787, had I been present, I would have voted "Aye."

On Roll Call No. 420, on Passage of H.R. 6784, had I been present, I would have voted "Aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my missed vote was due to a family event.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 419.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for roll call vote 420 on Friday, November 16, 2018, I would have voted 'no'.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 4th Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating Our Global Community" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents is foreign born. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD names of the following 2018 Annual Dinner honorees:

Mr. Rodrigo Velasquez

Rodrigo is a proud product of Fairfax County Public Schools where he attended elementary, middle, and high school. Rodrigo graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 2012 and later graduated from George Mason University in 2016 with a Bachelors in Communication with a focus in Public Relations. A formerly undocumented immigrant from Bolivia, he was the President of Mason DREAMers, where he helped build the organization's ability to advocate for undocumented immigrants to have better access to higher education. He was also the first Student Support Coordinator at George Mason University, the first position of its kind in Virginia. In this position, he helped undocumented, low income, homeless, and first-generation college students find financial and social support.

Ms. Afeefa Syeed

Ms. Syeed is a cultural anthropologist who most recently served as Senior Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she worked to develop policy, define best practices, highlight success stories, and build internal capacity and tools to

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