

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. I missed roll call votes No. 245 and No. 246.

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 245, I would have voted "YEA".

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 246, I would have voted "YEA".

HONORING BETTY DEAN AND HER SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of outgoing Chairman of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, Betty Dean and to thank her for her immeasurable contributions to Prince William County businesses and residents.

In 2000, Betty moved to Occoquan in Prince William County from Delaware. For nearly 20 years she has given much back to our community through her advocacy, volunteerism, and desire to leave a positive impact in the county. Betty joined the Prince William Chamber in 2001, and she has been one of the most active members since that time. She spent nearly two decades in marketing research and planning, but most importantly, she worked diligently to strengthen business-to-business ties and business-to-community ties. In 2016, she started Betty Dean & Associates, which provides marketing and strategic planning advocacy services for nonprofits and small businesses. Due to the success of her business, her active community involvement, and continued work in the Chamber, she was elected Chairman of the Chamber in July of 2018.

Betty said that as Chairman she wanted to be a vocal advocate for the business community and continue encouraging chamber members to do business with one another. Through her leadership the Chamber did just that, and her hard work did not go unnoticed. This year she was named one of Prince William's Most Influential Women by Prince William Living, a well-deserved recognition of her leadership in empowerment and commitment to service and our community. She is truly one of the most influential persons in both the county and the Northern Virginia region. Betty is a pillar of the community and we thank her for her service to the Prince William Chamber.

Betty's dedication to improving our community has extended far beyond the Chamber. She is the immediate past president and current president of the Greater Prince William Coalition for Human Services, is the co-founder and president of Occoquan River Communities, serves as a member of the board of directors and chair of the communications committee of People, Inc., and is past secretary and service chair of the Rotary Club of Lake

Ridge. She is fondly known as the "Queen of the Occoquan," a title she has earned through her advocacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Betty Dean on a successful term as Chairman of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. I commend her for her efforts on behalf of the business community and County and wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE MANASSAS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company and its outstanding members who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and are the 2019 recipients of the prestigious Prince William Chamber of Commerce Merit Award and Valorous Unit Award for their service. The annual Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery above and beyond the line of duty exemplified by our public safety and law enforcement professionals.

For the past 33 years, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce has paid tribute to our firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel for their extraordinary service. These brave men and women put their lives at risk on a daily basis to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. These dedicated service members of a combination career and volunteer system fight fires, provide emergency medical services, perform rescues, and work in our community to promote fire safety and prevention. In recognition of their acts of valor, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company public safety personnel:

Bronze Medal for Valor: Firefighter Terry Norling.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipients of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company. The selfless acts of heroism by this distinguished group of men and women truly merits our highest praise. I thank each honoree, as well as all the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company public safety professionals for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 TOWN OF VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedi-

cation to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 41st Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 123 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

MPO Neil Patrick Shaw of the Town of Vienna Police Department is being awarded the Certificate of Valor this year for his exceptional service in the line of duty. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD his name.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the 2019 Valor Award Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who serve in the Town of Vienna Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on its 50th anniversary. This momentous occasion carries great significance for me, as I served as Chairman of the NVRC during my time as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Serving on a regional board or commission is a unique responsibility and can place a politician in an unusual position: advocating for and working for someone else's constituents. More often than not, you have to travel outside of the district or community that you represent and you have to make decisions that balance the interests of the region, not just your constituents. It can often be a thankless task, but it is so important to the continued long-term health and viability of our community as a whole. That's why it is so critical that we continue to plan at the regional level and beyond. Indeed, in Northern Virginia, part of the reason why we enjoy such a high quality of life is because we have placed such a high emphasis on coordination and planning at the regional level. That emphasis goes back decades, as evidenced by this anniversary.

While there are many different ways that regional planning has benefitted Northern Virginia, two areas in particular come to mind. The first is the environment, where NVRC has been an invaluable partner on a hosts of projects including expanding solar power through Solarize NoVa, protecting and maintaining local water resources through the Occoquan Basin Nonpoint Pollution Management Program, and cleaning up and preserving the Chesapeake Bay for future generations.