

The Cool Counties Initiative to help address climate change at the local level and the development of a regional energy strategy were other important elements in that ongoing struggle. All of these initiatives have improved our quality of life and ensured that future generations can continue to have that same quality of life that we currently enjoy.

Another area we have seen a tremendous return on investment is in demographic research. NVRC was among the first regional bodies to seriously study the coming demographic changes to our region. When I first moved to Fairfax County, the population was 3 percent foreign-born. Today that number is over 30 percent. This diversity has become one of Fairfax County and Northern Virginia's greatest strengths. However, such a rapid demographic change in a relatively short time period could have led to serious disruptions if the region's infrastructure was not prepared to accommodate it. Thanks to cutting-edge research by NVRC, we were able to foresee these changes and plan to accommodate them as they occurred.

Madam Speaker, bodies like NVRC are a testament to good government and all of the benefits that good government can bring. I commend my colleagues on NVRC and all the other regional boards and commissions in the National Capital Region for the work they do every day on behalf of the greater good. I ask my colleagues in this body to join me in congratulating NVRC on its 50th anniversary and in thanking them for their continued service to all our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT PTAs AND PTSAs

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2019 Northern Virginia District PTA Annual Award recipients. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) in Northern Virginia serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with 225 schools representing over 50,000 members. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission, as well as the individual Volunteers of the Year.

I am pleased to congratulate the following PTAs and individuals on being recognized by the Northern Virginia District PTA for their immeasurable contributions to the education of our children:

NOVA District PTA Elementary School Volunteer of Year Finalists: Lisa Farkas, Belvedere ES PTA; Iris Rossiter, Fairview ES PTA; Sandra Honeysett, Little Run ES PTA; Kathy Hughes, Little Run ES PTA; Meera Pillai, Olde Creek ES PTA

NOVA District PTA Secondary School Volunteer of the Year Finalists: Carrie Holmes,

Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Jennifer Downs, Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Kris Whitridge, Mt. Vernon HS PTSA; Sherry Nachnani, Mt. Vernon HS PTSA; Hamid Munir, Mt. Vernon HS PTSA

NOVA District PTA Outstanding Local Units of the Year: Union Mills ES PTA; Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Lake Braddock SS PTSA

NOVA District Outstanding PTA STEAM: Centreville ES PTA

Military Family Engagement: Hayfield SS PTSA

NOVA District Outstanding Educator of the Year: Margaret Summers, Belvedere ES PTA

NOVA District Outstanding Staff Members of the Year: Rosa Landeros, Mt. Vernon Community School PTA; Aida Joranko, Little Run ES PTA

NOVA District PTA Power Partner Principal Finalists: Dr. Diane Leipzig, Canterbury Woods ES PTA; Principal Monica Mohr, Little Run ES PTA; Principal Penny Gros, Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Dr. Anthony Terrell, Mount Vernon HS PTSA

NOVA District PTA Power Partner Superintendent: Dr. Scott Brabrand, Fairfax County Council PTA

Male Engagement of the Year Finalists: Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Union Mills ES PTA

Diversity & Inclusion of the Year Finalists: Buzz Aldrin ES PTA; Hollin Meadows ES PTA

Family Engagement of the Year Finalists: Canterbury Woods ES PTA; Cherry Run ES PTA; Churchill Road ES PTA; Cunningham Park ES PTA; Hollin Meadows ES PTA; Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Little Run ES PTA; Mount Vernon Community Schools PTA; Mount Vernon HS PTSA; Olde Creek ES PTA; South Lakes HS PTSA; White Oaks ES PTA

A special note of appreciation is extended to Debbie Kilpatrick, NOVA District Director, Tony Shivers, District Assistant Director, Denise Bolton, District Secretary/Treasurer, along with honored speakers Jim Accomando, National PTA President and Donna Colombo, Virginia PTA President.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the individuals, PTAs and PTSAs that are being honored tonight. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated members and volunteers.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 600 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax

by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments of the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and are worthy of our praise and sincere appreciation.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2019 Lords and Ladies Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Pam Michell and Lord Randy Sales

Braddock District: Lady Jeanne Kadet and Lord Mike Perel

Dranesville District: Lady C. Melissa Jonas and Lord Wayne Winston Sharp, PhD

Hunter Mill District: Lady Janet Bradshaw and Lord Francis Steinbauer

Lee District: Lady Phyllis Walker Ford and Lord Joe Blackwell

Mason District: Lady Elizabeth "Libby" Novak and Lord Victor Nguyen

Mount Vernon District: Lady Jan Vaughan and Lord William "Bill" Vaughan

Providence District: Lady Janet Kerr-Tenner, PhD and Lord Charlie Hall

Springfield District: Lady Jenee Lindner and Lord Jim Kirkpatrick

Sully District: Lady Audrey Farrar Morton and Lord Brian Aiello

In addition, a number of other awards are being given to individuals for their service to the community and to the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, including four members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors who are retiring at the end of this year. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals:

James M. Scott Community Spirit Award: Cathy Chianese and Lynn Strobel

Celebrate Fairfax Volunteer of the Year: Faiyaz Faruque

Celebrate Fairfax Ambassador Award: Chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisor John Cook, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, and Supervisor Linda Smyth

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and expressing our gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts, which are deserving of our highest praise, provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327 AMERICANISM AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 in Springfield, Virginia and the winners of its 2019 Americanism Awards.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) traces its beginnings to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish American War established local organizations to bring awareness to their service

and to advocate for veterans retirement benefits and improved medical care. Annually, the nearly 2 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries contribute more than 8.6 million hours of volunteerism in the community, including participation in Make A Difference Day and National Volunteer Week.

With approximately 600 Comrades and 150 Ladies Auxiliary members, the Springfield VFW Post 7327 stands out for the depth of its commitment to our community. Often called "The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia," Post 7327 has one of the most aggressive ADOPT-A UNIT programs in the entire VFW organization to support our service members stationed overseas. VFW Post 7327 visits the VA hospital at least quarterly, bringing along goodie bags for our Wounded Warriors. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, VFW Post 7327 adopts military families in need through the USO and provides them with meal baskets for each holiday, gifts for children, commissary cards for the parents, and a Christmas party where the children can meet Santa and receive a gift-filled stocking. The Ladies Auxiliary members collect, sort, and distribute more than 2,000 pieces of clothing each month to various charitable organizations.

VFW Post 7327 is a strong supporter of local youth organizations including the Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Little League Baseball that contribute greatly to the education and well-being of our children.

Each year, VFW Post 7327 bestows awards to local students who have submitted outstanding essays on a specific theme and to local teachers and public safety officers in recognition of their extraordinary actions and dedication to the community.

I am honored to include in the RECORD the names of this year's award recipients:

Patriot's Pen: 1st Place—Madeline Elizabeth Chambers, 2nd Place—Miriya Gyalokay, 3rd Place—Tyra C. Lovell.

Voice of Democracy: 1st Place—Austin Houck, 2nd Place—Dorian M. Dore.

Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Carrie Messina, Poe Middle School, Ms. Heather Sable, Bush Hill Elementary School.

Firefighter Award: Firefighter/EMT Michael See.

EMT Award: EMT Anna Morgan.

Law Enforcement Award: PFC Scott Reeve.

National EMT Award: EMT Tory Albertson.

National Firefighter Award: Firefighter Samantha Green.

Community Americanism Award: Christopher Reese, Samantha Mulvaney.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking VFW Post 7327 for its continued efforts on behalf of our community and in congratulating the honorees of the 2019 Americanism Awards.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William County Department

of Fire and Rescue 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. For fire and rescue personnel, no two days are alike. Always on the front lines, the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue is comprised of three sections: community safety, operations, and support systems. 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.

The Department of Fire and Rescue was founded in 1966, when just about 50,000 people lived in Prince William County. Through the years, the Department has had to continuously adapt as the population rapidly expanded to over 430,000 people. Yet, our Fire and Rescue department continues to provide high quality and efficient firefighting and emergency medical services to our community. They provide around the clock services from 22 fire stations in a county spanning 348 square miles.

In recognition of their acts of valor, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue public safety personnel:

Merit Award for Valor: Technician I Cody Durham, Lieutenant Nick Feliciano, Technician II Chris Gott, Lieutenant Kenneth Zack.

Valorous Unit: Technician II Christopher Clark, Technician II Daniel Jackson, Technician I Kevin Ganssle, Technician I Michael Baker, Captain Brian Ferguson, Technician I Victor Vega, Technician I Aldo Bonilla, Technician I Michael Chergosky.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipients of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. 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 Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue public safety professionals for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community.

Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year, 250 volunteers provided 3,000 hours of service to the Northern Virginia community. Volunteer drivers provided more than 900 round-trip rides for medical reasons and other errands. Volunteers also made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. In 2014, SCOV was recognized for these efforts as an Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use and share their experience, training, and skills. This year, a number of volunteers are receiving awards for their dedicated service to the community through the Shepherd's Center and its programs. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals:

Bob Abbott, Jean Bastien, Marsha Komandt, Jerry O'Shaughnessy, Lynn Rafferty, Lynn Rhoads, Burt Sharp, Wanda Snuggs, Kathy Tugenhardt, Pat Wood.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are truly deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 ASIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2019 Excellence Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving economic development opportunities for Asian Pacific American-owned businesses in the Washington, D.C., region. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation.

The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our regional culture as well as to our economic strength and stability. In fact, Asian-American businesses generate more than 52 percent of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region. In Fairfax County, approximately 25,000 businesses