

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 Reever.

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