

David Guy Brickley



May 24, 2021

Former State Delegate David Brickley is the longest continuous serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Prince William County since it was founded in 1731.

David Brickley came to Prince William County in 1969 after military service in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star as a Captain and Intelligence Officer with the United States Air Force. Since then, his service to the betterment of Prince William County and Virginia has been first and foremost.

#### **NATIONAL TRAIL AND GREENWAY LEADERSHIP**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the horrific terrorist attack on America is September 11, 2021. David Brickley is the founder and president-emeritus of the Prince William County-based non-profit September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail Alliance which is developing a 1,300-mile on-road and off-road trail and greenway connecting the three 9/11 memorials at the Pentagon National Memorial, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, and the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The trail honors those who were lost and celebrates our resilience and perseverance as a nation. This project has received Congressional recognition and state, regional and local support. [www.911Trail.org](http://www.911Trail.org)

Mr. Brickley is also the president and owner of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail in King George County, Virginia. This 15.7-mile abandoned rail corridor was saved from development and converted into a multi-use rails-to-trail. It is officially part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and has been designated by the U.S. Secretary of Interior as a National Recreation Trail.

[WWW.DAHLGRENTAIL.ORG](http://WWW.DAHLGRENTAIL.ORG)

David is currently working with the Governor's Office, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Accomack and Northampton Boards of Supervisors to

convert the 49-mile Eastern Shore Railroad to become a major rails-to-trail promoting the economic, recreational and tourism benefits of the Eastern Shore.

### **CHEESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

In 2016 David Brickley was appointed as one of two Virginia representatives on the Federal Commission for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The federal commission provides advice and recommendations to the National Park Service and Superintendent of the C&O Canal for the management and enhancement of this national treasure.

### **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

In 2020 the Boy Scouts of America announced that David Brickley is the recipient of its highest National Gold Medal Award for conservation and ecology. Created in 1915, only 64 people have been awarded the Gold Medal prior to Mr. Brickley's award. David Brickley's outside volunteer activities includes service with the Boy Scouts of America where, as an Eagle Scout, he has served as Assistant Scout Master for one troop and now years later as Assistant Scout Master for an all-girl Scout troop. He served many years on the Executive Board of the National Capital Area Council, BSA. Delegate Brickley and Senator Chuck Colgan sponsored legislation authorizing the proposed Disney America theme park in western Prince William. When the project was withdrawn by the Walt Disney Company, David worked with the Boy Scouts and the Disney Company to secure a donation of the site to build the Boy Scouts' Camp Snyder in Haymarket.

### **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL**

Serving as the current past chairman in 2020, David Brickley was also the first chairman in 2009 of the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council which promotes, recommends and advises the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on trails, greenways and blueways for the enhancement of our county. As continuing chair of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail subcommittee, his vision in 2009 was for a scenic boardwalk connecting historic Rippon Lodge across Neabsco Creek to Leesylvania State Park. Working with the Board of County Supervisors and Parks Department over a ten-year period, the grand opening of the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk took place on June 1, 2019. The ¾-mile boardwalk is one of the jewels in conservation, recreational and tourism projects on the east coast. In 2020 it was the winner of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.

### **VIRGINIA BOARD OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

From 2002 to 2006 David Brickley served on the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation. During this period, he was one of the Co-Chairs for the 2002 State Parks and Natural Areas Bond. The bond was supported by 69 percent of Virginian and provided \$119 million in funding for park, recreational and natural areas protection throughout Virginia, Prince William and other localities.

### **VIRGINIA DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

From 1998 to 2002 David Brickley was appointed Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The department was responsible for the Commonwealth's state parks, soil and water conservation, natural area protection, and dam safety. Under his direction, DCR was awarded the National Gold Medal for the best state park system in America. His other duties included Secretary of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Board of Conservation and Development of Public Beaches, the Virginia Conservation and Recreation Foundation, Ex-officio member of the Breaks Interstate Park Commission, the Coastal Land Management Advisory Council, the Chesapeake Executive Council's Local Government Advisory Committee, and the State Liaison Officer for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

While Director he supervised Virginia's activity on the land approval with the federal government for the development of the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico.

### **ATTORNEY AT LAW**

While serving in the state legislature David Brickley attended night school at the George Mason University School of Law graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1984. He was a partner in the law firm of Pfitzner, Morley and Brickley until 1998. Subsequent to his position as Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation he founded the law firm of David G. Brickley, P.C. In over three decades of law practice in Prince William County David maintained an active law practice. His most meaningful practice was when the judiciary appointed him as guardian ad litem for children with special needs. His legislative and legal advocacy on behalf of children resulted with him being named Child Advocate of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatrics-Virginia in 1994. He was nominated in 1997 for the National Child Advocate of the Year Award. Mr. Brickley retired from active law practice in 2019.

### **PRINCE WILLIAM NATIONAL BASEBALL TEAM**

In an effort to bring professional baseball to Prince William County, in 1982 David Brickley and other business leaders acquired the Alexandria Dukes class A baseball team and moved the team to our county. With support from the Board of Supervisors and Park Authority, the Davis Ford Park Stadium (G. Richard Pfitzner Stadium) was constructed with the opening home game held on April 19, 1984. The first team was called the Prince William Pirates and was affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Over the years, the team under different names and major league affiliations brought baseball to thousands of fans throughout Northern Virginia. After a number of years, the original organizers sold their interest to a new owner. With the current team owner and the Board of Supervisors not able to reach agreement on a new stadium, the Potomac Nationals played its last game in Prince William County in 2019.

### **VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

In 1975 David Brickley was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates where he served until 1998. During those years, his leadership included Chairman of the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee, Vice Chairman of the House Finance Committee, Chairman of the State Parks Subcommittee, member of the Courts Committee and Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.

During his tenure in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1976 to 1998 just some of his major accomplishments for the benefit the citizens of Virginia included:

#### **VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS**

\*Chief sponsor of legislation creating Virginia's commuter rail system; the Virginia Railway Express. He served first as the chair of the legislative subcommittee in Richmond planning for development of the rail system, then as its Chairman of the Operations Board culminating with the inaugural run of the VRE in June 1992 at the new Broad Run/Manassas Airport station.

#### **LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK**

\*Chief sponsor of legislation in 1978 creating Leesylvania State Park on the Potomac River in Prince William County. Senator Chuck Colgan and Delegate Brickley worked closely on this legislation; especially when the state did not

initially support this proposal. The park was acquired by Virginia from Daniel K. Ludwig, who at the time was the richest man in the world.

#### POTOMAC RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

- \* Chief sponsor of legislation creating the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation District and Commission for Prince William, Stafford, Manassas, Manassas Park and Spotsylvania. He was a long-standing member of PRTC.

#### ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS

- \* Chief sponsor of legislation allowing elected school boards in Virginia. Signed by Governor L. Douglas Wilder in 1992, the legislation not only allowed citizens to elect their school board members for the first time, but ended the system of systematically excluding minorities from representation on school boards throughout the Commonwealth.

#### MAJOR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

- \* Senator Colgan and Delegate Brickley as chief Senate and House sponsors had major transportation funding legislation passed in 1990 for the Route 234 Bypass, Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express.

#### WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE

- \* Chief sponsor of Woodrow Wilson Bridge Compact which authorized the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River.

#### CHILDRENS HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

- \* Chief sponsor of the Childrens Health Insurance Program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. This was a major initiative in Virginia providing a program of comprehensive health insurance for Virginia's children.

- \* Secured in Governor Wilder's budget bill authorization for the initial planning of George Mason University's Prince William campus.

- \* Chairman, Virginia War Memorial Board

- \* Member, National Conference of State Legislatures

- \* Selected three times as one of the top ten legislators in Virginia by the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

- \* Member of the Governor's Northern Virginia Transportation Coordinating Council

### **PRINCE WILLIAM ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

During 1974 and 1975 Mr. Brickley was selected by the Prince William Board of Supervisors to serve as the Assistant County Executive; the second ranking executive officer for the administration and operation of Prince William County Government. During that time one of his responsibilities was the coordination of federal and state assistance to those communities in the County devastated by the impact of Hurricane Agnes.

### **POTOMAC MILLS SHOPPING CENTER**

In 1973 Brickley was a financial adviser in the private sector. He arranged the initial seed money for a newly formed company, Western Development, to build a new type of shopping center; Potomac Mills, which became the largest retail center, and major job creator for Prince William County. Potomac Mills became the prototype for similar large shopping centers across the country, and it continues to be a significant source of income and employment for Prince William County.

### **DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND COMMUNITY LEADER**

Moving to Dale City, David quickly became involved in community affairs especially with the Dale City Civic Association which he was elected president from 1972 to 1973. Under his leadership the Dale City Civic Association became one of the largest civic associations in Virginia. It had its own newspaper (the Hill and Dale) and a community news program on cable. During that period, he led the successful effort to obtain a new Dale City interchange off of I-95. At the time the backup in traffic to enter or exit I-95 in the morning and evening was horrendous. For his leadership David was selected the Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1973 and 1977. He also received the Virginia State Jaycees' Freedom Guard Award for Civic and Patriotic Activities. He was also named the Vietnam Veterans of America Virginia Point Man of the Year (1981).

Resigning his commission as a military officer David ran for the Virginia House of Delegates in 1973 for a district that included Prince William and Loudoun Counties, Manassas and Manassas Park. Despite large voter margins in Prince William County, he lost a very close election late on election night when the last Loudoun County precinct vote was counted.

David Brickley came to Prince William County in 1969 after military service in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star as a Captain and Intelligence

Officer with the United States Air Force. From 1969 until 1973 he was the Arabian Peninsula Desk Office with the Defense Intelligence Agency.

#### **OTHER COMMUNITY AND STATE INVOLVEMENT**

Past Chairman of the Prince William Heart Association

Past Secretary of the Prince William Industrial Development Authority

Past member, Prince William Chamber of Commerce

Member, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (1983-1984)

Vice President, Eastern Lands Resources Council (1999-2002)

Virginia Chairman and National Trustee, East Coast Greenway Alliance (2003-2012)

Board of Director, BikeWalk Virginia (2004-2008)

David Brickley lives at 5000 Liberty Woods Lane, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193 which was placed under historic easement to protect history Bel Air, home of Parson Weems. His loving wife of 38 years, Lori, passed away in 2020. Three adult children and five grandchildren all live in Northern Virginia.