

The goal of the Braddock District Council is to promote the civic, community, and general welfare of the citizens of the Braddock District. The Council represents the interests of community associations, facilitates cooperation and coordination between associations, and provides a path of communications between associations and officials or elected representatives of the Braddock District.

I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2015 Best of Braddock Awards:

Citizens of the Year:

Amy Zydell for her selfless devotion of time and talent to foster care children and foster care parents in the Braddock District and all of Fairfax County. She also is a key supporter of "Let's Help Kids," a local charity aimed at giving a helping hand to elementary school children whose parents are suffering financial hardship.

Duwain Ketch for his many years of working with the Kings Park and Burke Centre Libraries. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Fairfax Library Foundation and heads the Foundation's Scholarship Committee. Mr. Ketch previously has served as a member of the Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees, and he is a member of the Rotary Club of Burke.

Young Person of the Year: Jonathan McCarty—a member of Boy Scout Troop 1115—for his Eagle Scout project. Jonathan led a group of volunteers in completing trail improvements in Accotink Park by digging a ditch next to the trail which will help reduce the amount of standing water on the trail after rainstorms. All of the work was done by hand because it is located in an area of archeological importance.

Most "Can-Do" Public Employee: Dennis Barton of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) for volunteering to work overtime with Jonathan McCarty to haul away thirteen cubic feet of dirt that was removed when digging a trail ditch. Without his help, the project couldn't have been completed.

Club or Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District: Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley. Less than a year old, this group organized itself for the express purpose of improving both environmental and recreational opportunities in the Long Branch Stream Valley, a part of the Accotink Watershed.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District (2 honorees):

The Commonwealth Swim Club. When declining membership and tight budgets caused the pool board to cut back on grounds maintenance funds, the grounds began to show signs of neglect. James Watkins, a member of the club and a handyman, offered his time and resources to remedy the problems. He repaired the entrance to the pool, restored the primary storm water runoff channel, installed new lighting, and landscaped and beautified the area leading to the clubhouse.

Kings Park West Townhouses HOA. When Marilyn Stoney's property began experiencing flooding, she came to the board with a simple request which led to a community-wide storm water management project. Ms. Stoney volunteered her experience as a program manager to research the problems, develop solutions, solicit bids, oversee the work, and obtain a grant to assist with replanting once construc-

tion was completed. A dozen members of the community assisted with the planting.

Special Recognition also is being given to the employees of the Fairfax County Park Authority who worked with the residents of Olde Forge/Surrey Square to build the new community playground.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING ALBERT SORANO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a community is only as strong as the commitments of its citizens to its success. Albert Sorano has been one of those committed citizens, a true visionary in the city of Yonkers.

Albert was born in the Bronx and became a communicant of St. Bartholomew's Church. A graduate of New York City Schools, Albert served honorably in the United States Military during the War in Vietnam. Following his service, Albert moved to Yonkers where he became one of the most sought after mentors in the city.

Albert dove into serving the Yonkers community by assisting and leading in Career training and Job Placement. He excelled as a major Fundraiser and Event Coordinator for non-profit organizations, including organizing a major fundraising effort to benefit the Ursuline Sisters in New Rochelle. The \$125,000 raised was used to establish an infirmary for ill and disabled retired Sisters has been a Yonkers resident for close to 40 years. In 2004, Albert became a strong member of the Exchange Club of Yonkers, rising to the position of President for three terms from July 2006 to June 2009, and has been on the Board of Directors for many years.

Albert continued using his gifts to rally the community to fundraise for the Child Abuse Prevention Center in White Plains, College Scholarships for Yonkers High School graduates, the Yonkers 5th Grade City Wide Spelling Bee, and the Freedom Shrine installations in schools, libraries and city facilities with recognition of outstanding private citizens.

Albert's greatest commitment however has always been serving the young people in the neighborhood, including those individuals that had been at risk or just released from jail.

This year, the Exchange Club of Yonkers is honoring Albert at the club's annual "Book of Golden Deeds Gala." He is incredibly deserving of this recognition, and I count myself fortunate to represent such a fine individual in the Halls of Congress. Congratulations to Albert for receiving this wonderful award.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation to enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, half a century later, the legacy of these programs have proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and well-being of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98% of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured (27.6%) in the nation,