

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVESTIGATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the Criminal Investigation Division of the Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region located at Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCINCR/MCBQ), and congratulate the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Investigative Merit Award recipients.

The mission of the MCINCR/MCBQ Command Inspector General is to promote combat support readiness and program efficiency of subordinate commands and tenant activities, as required, in accordance with the Marine Corps Inspector General Program. This includes, but is not limited to, effectiveness, efficiency, discipline, morale, economy, ethics, and integrity.

On February 22, 2017, the U.S. Marine Corps was notified of gender discrimination and harassment occurring on social media sites, as illustrated by Marines United, a private Facebook group. Within days of notification, the Marine Corps and NCIS took action to investigate the defamatory matter and provide support services for all impacted by the online misconduct. The subsequent investigation, entitled "Operations Purple Harbor," analyzed the countless degrading images, comments, and videos to identify more than 100 victims and locate those responsible for posting the explicit material online.

Through the collection of evidence, interviews of witnesses, interrogations of subjects, and coordination with various law enforcement agencies (both federal and civilian), the Marines and civilians were able to assist victims in obtaining justice for their images being circulated without their knowledge or consent, and subsequently change the way the Marine Corps views social media misconduct.

It is my honor to include in the Record the following names as the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce-Investigative Merit Award recipients for their extraordinary dedication and outstanding performance in initiating, investigating, and consequently resolving "Operation Purple Harbor":

Warrant Officer Nicholas Van Effen.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Bates.

Gunnery Sergeant Paul Lawless.

Staff Sergeant Ryan Martin.

Staff Sergeant Daniel Walker.

Sergeant Shawn Foley.

Sergeant Cody Smith.

Sergeant Andrew Timms.

Sergeant Mica Hamons.

Sergeant Sean Lyon.

Mrs. Estrella Carpenter.

Mrs. Liane Best.

Sergeant Logan McEachern.

Mr. Speaker, sexual harassment and gender discrimination must never be tolerated in any arena. We have all seen the courage of those who have dared to speak out against these

wrongs despite negative public scrutiny or damage to their reputations or even their livelihoods. I stand with all who promote safe environments free of discrimination, harassment, or fear. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Investigative Merit Award recipients of the Criminal Investigative Division of the Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region located at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DIANE BLACK**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Thursday, June 29, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage for H. Res. 970, a resolution to compel the Department of Justice to comply with the request of the House investigators and turn over the remaining documents regarding the FBI's investigation of Russian influence over the 2016 election. The accusations of FBI abuse of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act have serious consequences for our Fourth Amendment and the American people deserve nothing less than complete transparency.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNADINE AND JOE SOBOTKA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernadine and Joe Sobotka of Diagonal, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2018.

Bernadine and Joe's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their many years together. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE TRAINING FUTURES GRADUATES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable group of individuals who

are making invaluable contributions to our Northern Virginia community. Founded in 1927, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) has provided assistance to tens of thousands of individuals who otherwise might have gone without the most basic of needs. NVFS does this through a variety of services, including homelessness prevention & housing, early childhood development, health & nutrition, mental health, foster care, and youth initiatives services.

One program that deserves special recognition is the Training Futures program. Training Futures works with motivated, talented unemployed or under-employed individuals who have been largely overlooked in our communities, and who lack the skills needed to obtain better paying jobs offering real futures. Over the course of the six-month program, clients attend classes and programs designed to develop tactical office skills, including a Microsoft Office certificate that will better prepare them for a full-time, office-support position.

Through this training, graduates gain the skills, confidence, and cultural know-how to excel in professional, office support positions across industries. This creates a powerful and diverse talent pipeline for local businesses. Over the last twenty years, Training Futures has graduated over 2,200 individuals, with 75 percent of those individuals obtaining employment in office careers within six months of graduation. These jobs not only pay 60–65 percent more on average than what these graduates previously earned, but they also provide regular schedules and real opportunities for professional growth and promotion.

I meet often with Fortune 500 companies in my district, and a constant refrain among leadership is the difficulty in finding qualified applicants to fill their vacancies. This program and others like it help fill that gap, and put skilled professionals in positions throughout Northern Virginia. This provides economic benefits not only to our community, but to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Training Futures graduates:

Bahtye Top, Beatriz Silva Aldana, Caroline Thai, Catalin Enamorado, Chiharu Adams, Edith Chistelle Toukam, Elias Abebe, Elizabeth Degeffa, Ester Lopez, Eyob Gebremariam, Fannie Ndemou, Fatima Khachab, Fatma Saeed, Feyzan Hajiesmailoo, Geraldine Sierra Parrado, Jonathan Angles, Koshan Jelani, Kyung Wha Hong, Manal Abdelmalak, Mieraf Demissie, Muna Addus, Nasser El Kekli, Neelad Haidari, Nibret Kebede, Roxana Saravia Ortiz, Salome Messa, Seung Hee Lee, Sophia Hassen, Steven Smaw, Tariq Habib, Tsering Choedon, Victoria Slaughter, Wendy Medrano, Zabiullah Nekzad, Zarema Dugrichilova.

Mr. Speaker, programs like Training Futures provide invaluable experiences for their graduates, while also helping them to create a better life for themselves and their families. I congratulate all of the graduates of this year's Training Futures program, as well as the Board of Directors and staff of Northern Virginia Family Service for all they do to make our community a better place. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing them great success in all their future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF CONCORD

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of the City of Concord, California.

The history of Concord begins with the Miwok people, Californian Native Americans who inhabited areas of North-Central California. Originally founded as the community of Todos Santos by Salvio Pacheco, the name was soon changed to Concord by the city's residents. During its early years, Concord thrived as an agricultural community, first having many vineyards which gave way to walnut orchards as a result of prohibition.

One of Concord's most significant drivers has been the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS), a military base established in 1942. The station functioned as a World War II armament storage depot, supplying ships at Port Chicago. CNWS continued to support war efforts during the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War, processing and shipping thousands of tons of materiel out across the Pacific Ocean.

A portion of CNWS has since been closed and is scheduled to be transferred to the City for a residential and commercial development while reserving approximately two-thirds for open-space and parks projects. The site is also home to the GoMentum Station proving groups, which is used to test self-driving cars. CNWS is helping to keep Concord evolving and an attractive location for Bay Area residents.

Today, Concord's classic old downtown has a multi-story skyline and it is now the largest city in Contra Costa County.

As a longtime resident of Concord and someone who has represented it in the city, county, state, and federal government, I am grateful to represent such a diverse city and extend my congratulations on its 150th anniversary.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN FOREMAN

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Rep. SHIMKUS, to honor John Foreman, longtime editor of the News-Gazette who tragically passed away over the weekend.

John graduated from Atwood-Hammond High School in 1970 and first joined the newspaper after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1977. He was a part-time weekend reporter, and eventually made his way to editor-in-chief by 1986. In 2003, John was made publisher of his hometown newspaper.

John loved everything about working at the News-Gazette. He loved local journalism and knew better than anyone the importance of the

relationship between a community and its newspaper. To many, he embodied the spirit of everything the News-Gazette stands for.

John was widely-respected in his career as an established journalist and a fierce advocate for the freedom of the press. He dedicated his professional life to protecting this First Amendment right and held several leadership roles in organizations like the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois Associated Press Editors, Mid-America Press Institute and many more. He was the first recipient of the James C. Craven Award for Freedom of the Press from the Illinois Press Association and he was also named Illinois Journalist of the Year in 2006.

He was both a mentor and friend to us, and many at the News-Gazette, and his absence will not go unnoticed.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Sharon, his News-Gazette family and all those who knew John. He was a valued member of the Champaign-Urbana community and will be truly missed.

## A TRIBUTE TO LOIS FIGGINS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois Figgins of Atlantic, Iowa who recently retired after 50 years of service within the banking industry. Lois began her banking career in 1964. She started working at First Whitney Bank and completed her career at TS Bank in Atlantic. She had a hiatus from work at the bank when she lived overseas when her husband was serving in the military.

Lois said she has seen many changes at the bank over the years. When she started working, everything was done on paper; there were no computers. Lois has worked in many different aspects of the banking industry, including bookkeeper, teller, assistant cashier, secretary of the installment loan department and most recently as the Credit Administrative Assistant for TS Bank in Atlantic. Lois said her favorite part of her job was waiting on the customers and greeting them as they came in the door. She said she is, "grateful for the time she has spent in the banking industry, especially the last few years at TS Bank." Lois is active at Zion Lutheran Church, Relay for Life and a sewing group called, "The Knotty Ladies."

Mr. Speaker, Lois Figgins has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in applauding her accomplishments. I thank her for her service to TS Bank and Southwest Iowa, and wish her continued success in the future.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2018 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 3, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. 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 2018 Lords and Ladies Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Gretchen Bulova and Lord Edward L. Long, Jr.

Braddock District: Lady Meena Bhinge and Lord Tom Kennedy

Dranesville District: Lady Carole L. Herrick and Lord Jeff Fairfield

Hunter Mill District: Lady Carmen L. Powell and Lord Ronald Copeland

Lee District: Lady Annetta Sheriff and Lord Robert Kohm

Mason District: Lady Sarah Shannon and Lord Melvin L. Cotner

Mount Vernon District: Lady Catherine C. Ledec and Lord Colonel Marion "Barney" L. Barnwell

Providence District: Lady Fran Wallingford and Lord Tom Fleury

Springfield District: Lady Lori Stillman and Lord Harold Y. Pyon

Sully District: Lady Alice Foltz and Lord Steven Vandivere

In addition, several students will be recognized as Celebrate Fairfax Community Spirit Scholars and Emerging Artist Scholars. I congratulate the following honorees on receiving these awards:

Community Spirit Scholars: Kyle Gatesman, Sohale Hessavi, Cooper Rapp, Vandana Subramanian, Charisma Henry, Samantha Lane, Jonathan Daniel, Justin Laiti, Christine Shan, Sherry Xie

Emerging Artist Scholars: Cameron Hobbs, Sun Ahn

Mr. 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 provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve to strengthen and enrich the Fairfax County community.