

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. I missed roll call votes No. 245 and No. 246.

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 245, I would have voted "YEA".

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 246, I would have voted "YEA".

HONORING BETTY DEAN AND HER SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of outgoing Chairman of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, Betty Dean and to thank her for her immeasurable contributions to Prince William County businesses and residents.

In 2000, Betty moved to Occoquan in Prince William County from Delaware. For nearly 20 years she has given much back to our community through her advocacy, volunteerism, and desire to leave a positive impact in the county. Betty joined the Prince William Chamber in 2001, and she has been one of the most active members since that time. She spent nearly two decades in marketing research and planning, but most importantly, she worked diligently to strengthen business-to-business ties and business-to-community ties. In 2016, she started Betty Dean & Associates, which provides marketing and strategic planning advocacy services for nonprofits and small businesses. Due to the success of her business, her active community involvement, and continued work in the Chamber, she was elected Chairman of the Chamber in July of 2018.

Betty said that as Chairman she wanted to be a vocal advocate for the business community and continue encouraging chamber members to do business with one another. Through her leadership the Chamber did just that, and her hard work did not go unnoticed. This year she was named one of Prince William's Most Influential Women by Prince William Living, a well-deserved recognition of her leadership in empowerment and commitment to service and our community. She is truly one of the most influential persons in both the county and the Northern Virginia region. Betty is a pillar of the community and we thank her for her service to the Prince William Chamber.

Betty's dedication to improving our community has extended far beyond the Chamber. She is the immediate past president and current president of the Greater Prince William Coalition for Human Services, is the co-founder and president of Occoquan River Communities, serves as a member of the board of directors and chair of the communications committee of People, Inc., and is past secretary and service chair of the Rotary Club of Lake

Ridge. She is fondly known as the "Queen of the Occoquan," a title she has earned through her advocacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Betty Dean on a successful term as Chairman of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. I commend her for her efforts on behalf of the business community and County and wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE MANASSAS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company 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. These 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. In recognition of their acts of valor, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company public safety personnel:

Bronze Medal for Valor: Firefighter Terry Norling.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 TOWN OF VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedi-

cation to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 41st Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 123 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

MPO Neil Patrick Shaw of the Town of Vienna Police Department is being awarded the Certificate of Valor this year for his exceptional service in the line of duty. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD his name.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the 2019 Valor Award Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who serve in the Town of Vienna Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on its 50th anniversary. This momentous occasion carries great significance for me, as I served as Chairman of the NVRC during my time as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Serving on a regional board or commission is a unique responsibility and can place a politician in an unusual position: advocating for and working for someone else's constituents. More often than not, you have to travel outside of the district or community that you represent and you have to make decisions that balance the interests of the region, not just your constituents. It can often be a thankless task, but it is so important to the continued long-term health and viability of our community as a whole. That's why it is so critical that we continue to plan at the regional level and beyond. Indeed, in Northern Virginia, part of the reason why we enjoy such a high quality of life is because we have placed such a high emphasis on coordination and planning at the regional level. That emphasis goes back decades, as evidenced by this anniversary.

While there are many different ways that regional planning has benefitted Northern Virginia, two areas in particular come to mind. The first is the environment, where NVRC has been an invaluable partner on a hosts of projects including expanding solar power through Solarize NoVa, protecting and maintaining local water resources through the Occoquan Basin Nonpoint Pollution Management Program, and cleaning up and preserving the Chesapeake Bay for future generations.

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.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT PTAS AND PTSAs

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

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

NOVA District Outstanding PTA STEAM: Centreville ES PTA

Military Family Engagement: Hayfield SS PTSAs

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 PTSAs; Dr. Anthony Terrell, Mount Vernon HS PTSAs

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

Male Engagement of the Year Finalists: Lake Braddock SS PTSAs; 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 PTSAs; Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Little Run ES PTA; Mount Vernon Community Schools PTA; Mount Vernon HS PTSAs; Olde Creek ES PTA; South Lakes HS PTSAs; 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.

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RECOGNIZING THE 2019 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

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**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 commanding 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.

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RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327 AMERICANISM AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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**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