

(FBCM) on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its sanctuary.

First Baptist Church of Merrifield was started in a log cabin between 1871–1872. FBCM had then branched out and began worshipping on property owned by Mr. Robert Bradley of Merrifield. In 1891, the property was purchased from him by church Trustees: John E. Coates, Joshua Ball, and Joshua Pearson for the sum of five dollars. And quickly, FBCM was a church formed from strong community family ties.

First Baptist Church of Merrifield was unable to adequately celebrate their 150th “Sesquicentennial” Homecoming Anniversary in 2020 due to the challenges of COVID–19. This year’s celebration is significant as the spirit of last year is incorporated with the excitement of reaching 151 years. First Baptist Church of Merrifield remains a vital part of the community today partnering with their neighbors both before and during COVID–19. They hosted the Greater Merrifield Business Association Annual Fall Festival in 2018, and virtual Sunday Services and Bible Studies continued to be held each week. They also organized First Baptist Church of Merrifield Community Festivals held in 2018 and 2019, that included free food giveaways, gift card give-away, seminars on anxiety and grief, free tutoring, and mentorship sessions with local schools within the community (Luther Jackson Middle School, Timber Lane Elementary School, Annandale High School) as well as other outreach efforts.

In 151 years, there have been 13 pastors and 2 interim pastors. Each one contributing to the growth of FBCM in their own way. A few of those contributions include: the establishment of the Golden Ages Senior Saints Ministry, the Merrifield Child Development Center, the Recovery of the Historic Bell, creation of a youth mentoring program with Luther Jackson Middle School, tutoring outreach with Luther Jackson Middle School, Timber Lane Elementary School, and Annandale High School, and much more. FBCM truly leads by both faith and example in our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending First Baptist Church of Merrifield for its efforts to better the Northern Virginia region and in congratulating them on the occasion of this anniversary. It is a privilege to work alongside this great congregation in the community, and I wish them continued success through faith, family, and service.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCED COLLEGE’S LOS BANOS CAMPUS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Merced College’s Los Banos Campus on its 50th anniversary. This phenomenal educational institution has been providing the students of Los Banos and the Central Valley with a high-quality educational institution for 50 years.

In 1971, Merced College President Lowell Barker alongside founding Dean Ted McVey decided to begin providing full-time education services to student in a rented facility. From there, the campus eventually moved to a plot

of 10 acres of land donated by resident Richard Menezes in 1982.

They began the process of setting up their new permanent campus after a land donation from Larry and Georgeann Anderson in 2002. Finally, in 2007, the current Los Banos Campus opened its doors for its students, and has continued to provide a wide range of courses to assist students in their path towards a degree or transfer.

The Los Banos Campus also provides a great selection of career technical education courses that, in as little as six months, can prepare students to enter directly into the workforce. In addition to this, the campus continues to expand its use and implementation of various technological resources for its students to ensure they are set up for success.

For the students of Los Banos, this educational institution serves a vital role in providing robust opportunities, while ensuring that these individuals can have access to these experiences right in their own hometown, thus reducing significant barriers to their success.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Merced College’s Los Banos Campus on its 50th anniversary. Its service and contributions to the State of California and the San Joaquin Valley will always be celebrated.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) and to congratulate the recipients of its Annual Awards of Excellence. Founded in 1989, the mission of GOPIO is battling human rights violations committed against persons of Indian origin. Today, while that mission continues, GOPIO has also broadened its mission to include bringing together persons of Indian origin for the benefit of not only themselves and their Indian homeland, but also the communities in which they currently reside.

Indian-Americans have made countless contributions to the United States in the fields of business, education, medicine, science, technology, and public service while preserving and sharing their culture in a manner that promotes tolerance and mutual understanding.

Many of our awardees have been at the forefront of those efforts. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals:

Dr. V.K. Raju—Medicine
Dr. Vikram Raya—Entrepreneurship
Dr. Korok Ray—Innovation & Research
Dr. Ram Gupta—Education
Professor Indrajit S. Saluja—Journalism
Nilima Mehra—Media Journalism
Vinita Tiwari—Arts & Culture Poet, Singer & Dancer
Janetha R. Kancharla—Philanthropy & Advocacy

Northern Virginia, which I am proud to represent in Congress, is blessed by its diversity. We are home to more than 40,000 people of

Indian descent as well as Indian-American owned small businesses. This diversity enriches our entire community and contributes to our region being considered one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the recipients of the GOPIO Awards of Excellence on their accomplishments. I commend them for their service to their communities and to our Nation, and I wish them success in all their future endeavors.

PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, Chairman NADLER, and all my distinguished colleagues for their work to ensure the House passed legislation to protect voting rights. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

We have seen an uptick in voter suppression efforts across our nation to undercut the representation of communities of color, specifically African Americans. With historic levels of voter turnout in recent elections, our Republican colleagues have interpreted this increased participation in civic life as a threat and campaigned to disenfranchise Black voters under the guise of protecting against “voter fraud.”

Sadly, voter suppression efforts are not new to African American communities. I remember growing up in El Paso, Texas when the poll tax was still being collected. We have endured decades of abuse by political parties and election officials seeking to deny us our constitutional right to vote. Therefore, it is urgent that the Senate pass The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. This critical legislation would restore Section 5 and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racially discriminatory changes to the voting process and restrictions to the right to vote.

Lastly, I’d just like to say that the world is watching us. As Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and having served as an election observer in other countries, I know the importance of a free and fair election and how it strengthens a democracy. Across the country we are witnessing a coordinated assault on the integrity of our electoral process. We need to live up to our own ideals to stand as an example for other countries to follow.

The Senate must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. It will strengthen our democracy and give us the tools to fight voter suppression.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 10TH ANNUAL ARTSFAIRFAX AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the

2021 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the formally named Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. ArtsFairfax operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations.

Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to the arts community, in FY2020, ArtsFairfax awarded over \$550,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped fund over 23,500 arts programs which reached more than 440,700 audience members: ArtsFairfax's resiliency and adaptability allowed the organization to continue meeting the needs of the arts community even during these unprecedented times.

The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Impact Award, the Arts Education Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2021 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2021 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to the National Museum of the United States Army.

The 2021 Arts Impact Award will be presented to 1st Stage.

The 2021 Arts Education Award will be presented to the Traveling Players Ensemble and artist Kelli Schollard-Sincock.

The 2021 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to the Reston Town Center Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2021 Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF HISTORY OF TOLEDO CHAPTER ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Toledo Chapter of Zonta International. The members of the chapter are gathering on Saturday November 6, 2021 to celebrate this milestone event.

Two years after the formation of Zonta International, on November 25, 1921, Toledo women joined forces to form the Zonta Club of Toledo. Those early founders, leading professional women of the day, carried forth the organization's vision as a women's service organization that would advocate for policies ensuring gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls, reduce the incidents of violence against them, and empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

To that end, in its century of service the women of Zonta Club of Toledo have led the

way in efforts to promote the development of women while providing planning, financial and volunteer support to numerous initiatives. Zonta has assisted the Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator program, Bethany House shelter, YMCA Storer Camps and YWCA battered women's shelter, purchased HIV/AIDS test kits for Plan Parenthood, raised awareness regarding human trafficking and domestic violence, provided scholarship opportunities and offered volunteer support to a variety of services in our community and globally. Through one hundred years, the members of the Zonta Club of Toledo have continued to build the organization into one of excellence and inspiration.

Zonta's mission is to improve "the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women through service and advocacy" while "working for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a global fellowship of Zonta members." As one of the oldest chapters, the Zonta Club of Toledo serves this mission well and its members truly reflect Zonta's efforts to promote "justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel prize laureate and Pakistani activist, said "When the whole world is silent even one voice becomes powerful." Throughout a century of service, the women of the Zonta Club of Toledo have united many and varied voices into one powerful voice and in the process are changing the world. Onward Zonta, for the next hundred years.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 LORDS AND LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

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 2021 Lords and Ladies Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Pamela Montesinos and Lord Andres Jimenez

Braddock District: Lady Leeann Alberts and Lord Robert W. Cosgriff

Dranesville District: Lady Janie Strauss and Lord William Canis

Hunter Mill District: Lady Brenda Irons-LeCesne and Lord Alvarez LeCesne Jr.

Lee District: Lady Renee Grebe and Lord Keith Foxx

Mason District: Lady Nancy Joyner and Lord William D. Lecos

Mount Vernon District: Lady Lisa Sales and Lord Keary Kincannon

Providence District: Lady Mercedes Dash and Lord Ken McMillon

Springfield District: Lady Christy Hudson and Lord Evan Drain

Sully District: Lady Debbie Kilpatrick and Lord Carlos Carrero

Madam 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, 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK VAJDA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Frank Vajda, a dedicated public servant who passed away on January 27, 2021, at the age of 84.

Frank Vajda grew up in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and went on to attend Rutgers University on a full academic scholarship. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering which he used throughout his 28 years of service in the United States Air Force. His military assignments included the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, the Los Alamos, NV Test Site, the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Defense Nuclear Agency, two tours at the Pentagon and a tour with the Foreign Technology Division, where he met his future wife, Judith.

After retiring from the Air Force, Frank and Judith relocated to Fairfax County where he became very active in community activities. Frank quickly got involved with his local civic association, the Court of Camelot Civic Association, where he went on to serve as president. He also founded the Camelot annual holiday charity fund drive which raised thousands of dollars for the Children's Hospital. Frank's years of dedication to the Court of Camelot was recognized in 2016, as Frank was named a Knight of Camelot by the civic association.

In addition to his work with the Civic Association, Frank served on the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Group, which is the oldest continuing Neighborhood Watch in the nation. He organized and promoted the first park watch group at Pine Ridge, a local neighborhood park, and because of his public safety efforts, the Park Authority, the Fairfax County Police, and the Rose Purple have established the countywide PARKWATCH system.

Frank dedicated countless hours to the Fairfax County Parks, starting with his time as a member of the Steering Committee for the Friends of Mason District Park. He went on to serve as a park volunteer for numerous festivals and events and was selected as the