

2023 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, 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. Today, ArtsFairfax operates programs and Initiatives that include grant opportunities, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for more than 23 arts and culture organizations.

ArtsFairfax envisions a thriving arts and culture community accessible to all of Fairfax County. To support this vision, ArtsFairfax awards over \$795,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to more than 60 organizations annually.

The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Impact Award, the Education Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2023 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2023 Jinx Hazel Arts Award, ArtsFairfax's premier award recognizing an individual or organization whose vision and commitment has helped shape the cultural life of Fairfax County, will be presented to the Workhouse Arts Center.

The 2023 Impact Award will be presented to Inova Schar Cancer Institute in partnership with Smith Center for Healing and the Arts.

The 2023 Education Award will be presented to The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University.

The 2023 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Lola Reinsch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2023 Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

RECOGNIZING THE LIVONIA SYMPHONY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, the premier professional orchestra serving the people of Livonia, Wayne County, and Oakland County, as they celebrate 50 years of musical programming.

Founded in 1973 (originally as the Oakway Symphony), the Livonia Symphony Orchestra has been a musical force that brings a wide array of music, from Broadway to the classics, as well as world-renowned performers to the community. The Livonia Symphony has only had two musical directors in its entire history, founder Francisco Di Blasi and currentjy Maestro Volodymyr Shesiuk who also serves as the orchestra's conductor. Under their leadership, the orchestra has thrived.

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra is also a champion for music education. The group encourages all young people to engage in music

education. Their Musical Outreach Program helps provide musical instruments to students across the Livonia and Clarenceville upper elementary and middle schools. In keeping with the Symphony's belief that accessibility inspires interest and engagement, the organization encourages young people to explore music by providing these instruments free of charge to those in need.

Please join me in recognizing the Livonia Symphony Orchestra as they celebrate 50 years of music and community engagement in Michigan's 12th District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEAL BROOKS BIGGERS, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Neal Brooks Biggers, Jr., who died at his home in Oxford, Mississippi, on October 15, 2023, at the age of 88. Judge Biggers was born in Corinth, Mississippi, to Neal B. Biggers, Sr., and Sara Cunningham Biggers. He was a graduate of Corinth High School and Millsaps College where he received his bachelor's degree in 1956.

After graduation, Judge Biggers enlisted in the United States Navy, subsequently graduating from Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Newport, Rhode Island. He served four years on active duty during the Cold War, attaining the rank of Navy lieutenant. For a young man, he later recalled, it was the experience of a lifetime. When his active duty ended, this grandson of a Methodist preacher attended the Union Presbyterian Seminary before deciding the church was not his calling. It was at the University of Mississippi School of Law, however, that he found the work that would intrigue and challenge him for the next 60 years.

In law school, Judge Biggers was associate editor of the Mississippi Law Journal and president of the judicial committee. After graduating cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree, he went back home to Corinth, Mississippi, to set up a solo law practice. After five years of private practice, Judge Biggers ran for public office, winning elections as Alcorn County's prosecuting attorney and district attorney for the First Judicial District. Later, he was elected as circuit court judge for that district. In these positions, he served his county and state for a combination of 20 years. President Ronald Reagan nominated Judge Biggers for the federal bench in 1984. After Senate confirmation, he began his almost 40-year career as a federal district judge in Mississippi's Northern District.

Judge Biggers served as chief judge of the court from 1998 to 2000. He was a member of various councils and committees of the Fifth Circuit, including the Judicial Council, the administrative arm governing federal courts in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. He also was a member of the American Judicature Society and The American Inns of Court. In 2010, the Alumni Association of Corinth High School honored Judge Biggers as its distinguished alumnus of the year. Millsaps College presented him with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 2012.

One of his great pleasures as a district judge involved the selection and mentoring of interns and law clerks over the years. Many were from the University of Mississippi School of Law and Mississippi College School of Law; some were from other states. All, he hoped, would become better lawyers because of their experiences in his chambers and courtroom. Each year, the University of Mississippi School of Law presents the Judge Neal B. Biggers, Jr., Constitutional Law Award to the top first-year students showing excellence in the school's constitutional law classes. In 2000, Judge Biggers took senior status, serving as a senior district judge until his death.

Other than the law, Judge Biggers' great passion was the game of golf. As a boy in Corinth, he caddied for his father and played the game through his time in high school, college, and military service. Throughout his life, he regularly took trips with golfing friends, playing notable courses across the country from Florida's Sawgrass to Torrey Pines in California. He traveled to Scotland several times to watch the Open at St. Andrews, sometimes playing golf himself at the Old Course and other renowned Scottish courses like Carnoustie. Judge Biggers was a Presbyterian, brought up in Corinth's First Presbyterian Church; a long-time member of Sigma Chi; and a man who cared deeply about his country and the rule of law.

He is survived by his beloved life partner, Robin Hendrickson of Oxford, Mississippi; his daughter, Sherron Biggers of Collierville, Tennessee; his brother, the Ret. Rev. Jack Cunningham Biggers, Bishop Emeritus of Northern Malawi, Africa; and numerous cousins.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on November 2, 2023, due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: NAY on Roll Call No. 592; NAY on Roll Call No. 591; NAY on Roll Call No. 590; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 586; NAY on Roll Call No. 585; NAY on Roll Call No. 584; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; NAY on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 581; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; and NAY on Roll Call No. 579.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, I was unable to physically attend proceedings in the House Chamber due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 559 (Motion to Table H. Res. 807—Censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib);

YEA on Roll Call No. 560 (H. Res. 559—Declaring it is the policy of the United States that a nuclear Iran is unacceptable);

YEА on Roll Call No. 561 (H.R. 340—Hamas International Financing Prevent Action, as amended);

YEА on Roll Call No. 562 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4364—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024);

NAY on Roll Call No. 563 (Passage of H.R. 4364—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024); and

PRES on Roll Call No. 564 (Adoption of H. Res. 773—Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the House of Representatives).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on November 3, 2023. However, had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on Roll Call No. 597, H.R. 4821, Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill makes significant cuts that hinder the U.S. response to climate change. It exacerbates environmental discrimination and prohibits funding for necessary DEI programs. I do not support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING PENELOPE GROSS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Penelope "Penny" Gross on her retirement after 27 years of serving as the Fairfax County Mason District Supervisor and 21 years of chairing the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

Elected in 1995 to represent the Mason District, Penny has been an advocate for affordable housing, expanded public transportation, and violence prevention. Penny represents Fairfax County on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the INOVA Health System Board of Trustees, and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR).

Shortly after becoming the chair of PWR, she encouraged the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to help in developing strategies that will bring the state of Virginia up to the standard that Maryland had already set, regarding efforts that support the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Program. With that, in July 2003, the Potomac River Tributary Strategy was developed by DCR.

In January 2004, Penny led the PWR in discussions for a 2004 vision, whose focal points influenced many water-related issues, such as Stormwater Management, Wastewater Treatment Plants, and Total Maximum Daily Load. In April later that year, Penny was appointed by then Governor Mark Warner to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Funding Panel. A panel tasked with finding alternative sources

for funding the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup. By October 2004, Chairman Gross announced some recommendations on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Bay Ribbon Finance Panel.

On the state and national level, Penny is a past president of the Virginia Association of Counties, vice-chair of the National Association of Counties' Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee, and past president of the National Association of Regional Councils. She was first appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council, which she chaired from March 2006 until August 2008, and continues to serve.

I had the great pleasure of serving with Penny during my 14 years on the Board, first representing the Providence District and then as Chairman. The work that she has done for Fairfax County is outstanding, and we will continue to honor her legacy as a public servant. Penny Gross's commitment to our community and the mission of local government is unparalleled. She leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. Her career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. All through her tenure as Chair of the PWR, she proved to be an exemplary leader, and continues to attract very influential and dedicated environmentally minded individuals to the roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, Penny Gross's commitment to public service is seen through her tireless work on behalf of the people of Fairfax County. Though she may be retiring, I suspect that she will continue to remain active in the causes that are important to her. I commend her for her service and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.

HONORING MARY ANN RILEY OF INMAN, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Riley of Inman, South Carolina for her decades of service to our community and dedication to the South Carolina Republican Party.

Mrs. Riley moved to South Carolina in 1982. That same year, Mrs. Riley began attending community meetings, getting involved in local campaigns, and was appointed President of the Spartanburg County Republican Women, where she has served ever since.

More than politics, Mrs. Riley is a major contributor to her local pregnancy center, she has volunteered her time with the mental health divisions, the foster care community, and supports Upstate veterans undergoing hospice care. She is also active in her church and other organizations that work to assist our fellow South Carolinians every single day.

She has served the South Carolina GOP in many roles and has attended local, state, and national meetings and conventions. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the "Woman of Achievement Award" from the South Carolina Legislative Republican Women

Caucus, "Woman of the Year" from Spartanburg County Republican Women and has received the honor of "Catholic Woman of the Year" twice.

A former teacher, her life's work has been to make the world a better place for her students, her neighbors, and future generations.

Mrs. Riley is a true public servant who has made a significant and lasting impact on Spartanburg County, the South Carolina GOP, and the lives of countless South Carolinians. We will never be able to fully thank her for over 30 years of service to the people of Spartanburg County and the Upstate as a whole. She has left an indelible mark on the Palmetto State.

I thank Mary Ann Riley for her years of service and friendship. May God continue to bless her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2023, I was unavoidably detained attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call vote 593, No on Roll Call vote 594, No on Roll Call vote 595, Yes on Roll Call vote 596, No on Roll Call vote 597, and Yes on Roll Call vote 598.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX TREE COMMISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Fairfax County, Virginia Tree Commission.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chartered the Tree Commission as a board of public members in August 1973, and in 1976 it was expanded and incorporated into the county code to advise the Board on implementing the newly enacted Tree Planting and Preservation Ordinance. The Tree Commission's has operated for 50 years in service to the health and well-being of the county's urban forest, which in turn affects the health and well-being of all county residents.

In 2005, as then Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I recognized that the county's population had grown exponentially and so had the stressors on our tree canopy. I appeared before the Tree Commission and asked it to develop a Tree Action Plan the county could use to manage and enhance the county's forests and trees. That Plan was adopted by the Board in 2006.

In 2008 the county successfully sought new Virginia state legislation to better protect trees, which led to the county enacting the Tree Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 122). It requires a minimum percentage of tree canopy to be preserved or replanted during the development process and established within 10 years.

The Tree Commission worked to update the Tree Action Plan, which the Board adopted in