

(EEC) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 62nd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of EEC is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. This past year, they have served over 2,000 adult learners, with the help of at least 500 volunteers who gave over 20,000 hours of service.

Each year EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of EEC. EEC will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship along with the Mid Allen Rees Award. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2024 EEC honorees and scholarship recipient:

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mainstreet Bank
Fairfax County's DPWES, Solid Waste Management
Philip Graham Fund

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Dan Clancy
Eva Kaplan
Kathleen McCleary

PARICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT

Carminia Zurita

MID-ALLEN REES AWARD

Jackie Corkins

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with EEC. Volunteers are being recognized for the service milestones of 20, 15, 10, and 5 years.

20 years: Elizabeth Magee

15 years: Naomi Gittins, Mary Kalfatovic, Kenneth Portnoy, Anne Spear

10 years: Mark Charette, Stan Citron, Pam DiRamio, Cheryl Heidel, Corrie Paeglow, Dennis Shannon, Marie Tibor, Linda Zenker

5 years: Parisa Ashraf, Eric Barboriak, Robert Brown, Ann Therese Carlozza, Madeline Chulumovich, Zoe Danon, Jacqueline Davey, Linda Debrewer, Astrid DeJesus Rivera, Eric Dittmeier, Glen Finland, Harriette Kinberg, Nisha Kumar, Karen Lillard, Mario McMillan-Okuadido, Bill Meara, Elaine Michl, Sandra Olson, Debra Pfaff, Ray Potter, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Jane Schulman, Maura Sleeve, Natalie Southwood, Anuradha Srirangarajan, Janet Swanson, Kathleen Utgoff, Joy Yamamoto

I have always believed that education is one of the most fundamental and important skills to have in one's life. As we have learned here in our own community, reading is one of the basic foundations on which to build a young person's education and their career opportunities. I want to extend my personal thanks to the Center and its many volunteers for your tireless efforts to promote literacy as a lifelong skill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 62nd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COLONIAL WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the First Colonial Patriots were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The First Colonial Women's Soccer Head Coach, Joe Tucia, led this talented team to a two to zero victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

CELEBRATING CHEF BOBBY ANDERSON

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible member of our community, Chef Bobby Anderson. A trailblazing culinary artist, passionate leader, and dedicated mentor, Mr. Anderson has shaped the futures of countless young people in Western New York.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson studied at the Culinary Institute of America, pursuing his passion for sharing culture through food. After graduating, Mr. Anderson returned to Buffalo to begin his career at the Hyatt Regency's EB Green's Steakhouse. Under his leadership, EB Green's Steakhouse was recognized as the fourth-best steakhouse in the nation. Following this success, Mr. Anderson spearheaded the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino Restaurant and Buffet, which received a four-star recognition.

Mr. Anderson then entered the national culinary stage, competing on Chef Gordon Ramsay's TV series, Hell's Kitchen. His outstanding performance allowed him to finish in the top four. Gordon Ramsay then extended the rare opportunity for Mr. Anderson to work at two of his restaurants in Manchester and London.

Upon returning home to Niagara Falls after his time abroad, Mr. Anderson wanted to use his skills to give back to our community. In 2009, Mr. Anderson founded his nonprofit, Food Based Interventions with Technology, Science, and Energy, better known as F BITES. By providing students with culinary

training, F BITES equips youth with hard and soft skills necessary for their future success in the industry. Over 85 percent of F BITES program graduates have enrolled in higher education or entered the workforce, improving the youth poverty rates and employment rates in Western New York.

Under Mr. Anderson's stellar leadership, F BITES has become a comet stone of our community. Beginning as an afterschool program in Niagara Falls City School District, F BITES has now expanded to over 60 institutions in the region, ranging from schools, community centers, city programs, and reentry initiatives. From opening the first Barista Training Program in America at Niagara Falls High School, to giving students their first job opportunity at F BITES eateries around Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson has made our community a more equitable place.

Despite his numerous culinary achievements, Mr. Anderson remains most proud of the transformative impact he has had on countless individuals in our community. Today, we thank Chef Bobby Anderson for his tremendous work in using his culinary talent to bring opportunities and joy to all.

RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MR. GREG PORTER

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Porter, City Manager for the City of Cedar Hill, TX in my District. Mr. Porter assumed this role in January 2015 and has steadfastly served since then. While he has played a key role in putting Cedar Hill on the map and driving the growth of this rapidly developing City, it is important to acknowledge that Mr. Porter strayed away from his core of being a servant.

Mr. Porter began his career with the City of Cedar Hill as an intern in 1987 and has dedicated the entirety of his 37-year career to the city. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand his unwavering dedication to our neighbors and his unwavering commitment to building community. Serving in roles with the city's planning, parks & recreation, human resources, economic development, public safety, animal control, emergency management, utilities, and public works departments, it's safe to say that Mr. Porter is well-versed with the ins and outs of the city.

Although Mr. Porter is set to retire from the city at the end of this month, I am confident that he will never cease to be the epitome of a true public servant. Because of him, I know that our communities across Cedar Hill have grown stronger, and many will continue to benefit from his leadership, impact, and foundation of service that he laid. Congratulations to Mr. Greg Porter on a job well done.

HONORING FAIRFAX ACE HARDWARE FOR 100 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairfax Ace Hardware as a cornerstone of the Fairfax neighborhood and an exemplary example of commitment to service, innovation, and community spirit.

From humble beginnings to becoming a cornerstone of neighborhoods all over the country, Ace Hardware has been a hub for DIY enthusiasts, builders, and neighbors alike and since its opening in 2011, Fairfax Ace Hardware has become a helpful place, in more ways than one, for their Fairfax neighbors.

For 13 years, Fairfax Ace Hardware has been more than just a place to purchase tools and grilling supplies. It has been a gathering place where neighbors connect, share stories, and support one another. The employee-owned store's knowledgeable team, led by CEO Craig Smith, has always gone above and beyond to ensure the consistent delivery of outstanding customer service, a dedication to customer service and a no-hassle return policy.

The dedication of the Fairfax Ace Hardware team has led to multiple instances of being noticed by Ace Hardware's national offices, most recently and most monumentally being chosen as one out of ten stores to host a celebration commemorating 100 years of operation of Ace Hardware. This celebration, aptly named "The Biggest Block Party" and hosted on June 29, 2024, serves as a glowing manifestation of years of superb customer service and community engagement.

In addition to retail success, Fairfax Ace Hardware has been an outstanding corporate citizen sponsoring countless Fairfax events, fairs, and initiatives, supporting youth sports teams, and contributing to numerous charitable causes including raising over \$20,000 over the last two years for Children's National Hospital through a national partnership with Ace Hardware. Their generosity and community spirit have left an indelible mark on our town, fostering a sense of unity and pride among its residents.

As we celebrate this achievement, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to the Fairfax Ace Hardware team. Your hard work, dedication, and love for our community have made a lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Fairfax Ace Hardware for its outstanding contributions to Fairfax and in being an example of Ace Hardware's century long commitment to fostering community spirit. We look forward to many more years of success and service.

RECOGNIZING THE GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S TRACK TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the

Grassfield High School Women's Track team on winning the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Grassfield High School Grizzly Bears were able to bring the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Grassfield High School Women's Track team star runner, sophomore Sophie Ranbo, took home three top place positions in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 400 meter dashes. Head coach, James Nixon, led this group of young women to victory and concluded a great season.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Grassfield High School Women's Track Team on winning the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship.

CONGRATULATING THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the "Federation") and to congratulate its recently elected officers who will serve in leadership positions for the 2024–2025 term.

Founded in 1940 and re-incorporated in 1995, the Federation is a coalition of civic and homeowner's associations who work together to promote and support initiatives that will benefit the community as a whole. The Federation realized early in its existence that by joining with other civic and homeowner's associations from every corner of the county and speaking with one unified voice, its influence and contributions would be far more powerful and effective.

The Federation is composed of thousands of volunteers who actively participate in matters of local and state government that impact then communities. Individual members serve on countless task forces, boards and commissions to help preserve the quality of life that is enjoyed by all who call Fairfax County home. As a former two-term President of the Federation, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a vital role in making Fairfax County one of the best places in the nation in which to live, work, and raise a family.

The Federation would not be nearly as successful and effective without the leadership of its officers. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following newly elected Federation officers:

President: Tim Thompson. Tim is currently a Federation Past President and is co-Chair of the Budget Committee and, as co-Chair of the Legislation Committee, frequently represents Federation issues to Fairfax General Assembly members. He served as the Federation delegate to the Fairfax County Redistricting Committee.

First Vice President: Morgan Jameson. Morgan has served the Federation as Corresponding Secretary and as the Federation representative to and Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Airports Advisory Board. He previously served as the Federation 1st Vice President and has represented Federation legislative issues to the Fairfax delegation to the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond.

Second Vice President: Sue Shuman. Sue has served on the Mantua Citizens Association (MCA) Board as president, vice president, and parks and environment chair. Sue is the Neighbor Network founder and president. She previously served on the Federation board as co-Chair of the Citizen Association Services and as an MCA delegate to the Federation. She was appointed in 2021 to the Fairfax County History Commission and has served as treasurer. Sue served on the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee.

Treasurer: Jeff Parnes. Jeff has been active in the Federation for 20 years, including the elected offices of Treasurer, First Vice President, and President. Jeff is the Federation webmaster and chairs the Transportation, Resolutions, and Citizen of the Year committees. He has been active in Providence, Hunter Mill, and Sully District Councils over his forty-four years in Fairfax County. He served the Sully District Council as its vice-president, president, land use and transportation chair and webmaster. Jeff served as the Greenbriar Civic Association Land Use Committee chair and as President, Treasurer and Civic Affairs Committee chair for the Chantilly Highlands Homes Association.

Recording Secretary: Bill Barfield. Bill is a Federation Past President and a Past 2nd Vice President. He is currently Chair of the Nominations Committee, the Citizen of the Year Committee, and co-Chair of the Legislation Committee from which he produces the annual Federation Legislative Issues report for the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly. He has been President of two community associations, Chairman of the Braddock District Council of Community Associations, founding member and Vice Chair of the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, and was 1st Vice President of his current community.

Corresponding Secretary: Luann Whittenburg. As a Federation member since 2019, Luann is ready to serve as Federation Corresponding Secretary. In 2023, she served on the Federation's Bylaws Committee. Her other community activities include representing the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corp on the Fairfax Citizens Advisory Council, 2022-present. Her ongoing activities in her community association include creating Neighborhood Watch and supporting the annual Fairfax National Night Out and community emergency and disaster preparedness events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the members of the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations and in congratulating the 2024–2025 officers on being elected to lead this dynamic organization. I commend them for their efforts on behalf of the community and wish them continued success.