

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2017 ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXCEL-
LENCE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving economic development opportunities for Asian Pacific American-owned businesses in the Washington, DC, region. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation.

The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our regional culture as well as to our economic strength and stability. In fact, Asian-American businesses generate more than 52 percent of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region. In Fairfax County, approximately 25,000 businesses are Asian-owned and generate approximately \$9 billion in annual revenue, creating 54,000 jobs.

Each year, the AACC recognizes individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the Metropolitan Washington community and economy. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards:

Member of the Year: Stephanie Shei.

Business of the Year: University of North America, State Farm.

Young Professional of the Year: Jhenileen Libongco.

Citizen/Company of the Year: Jon Peterson, The Peterson Company.

Non-Profit of the Year: AAPIVote.

Asian-American Business Leader: Dr. James S.C. Chao, The Foremost Group.

New Business of the Year: Logos Briosystems.

Chamber Partner: Central Intelligence Agency, Corner Media, MGM.

Mentorship Award: Dr. Gary Jones, Youth for Tomorrow.

Community Leader: Christina Chang, Chiling Tong.

Entrepreneurship of the Year: Terry Hsaio, Hook Mobile, Inc.

Chairman and President's Award: Haiwen Mackleer, Capital Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards and in commending the AACC for its work to support all Asian-American owned businesses throughout our region.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
MONTH AND WEST VIRGINIA
CARING

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to November as being National

Hospice and Palliative Care Month and to recognize a passionate steward of a non-profit hospice—West Virginia Caring.

Under the leadership of Ms. Malene Davis, West Virginia Caring's hospice and palliative care has helped citizens in 12 counties receive attentive and respectful care. As we consider the importance of compassionate and dignified care during one's end of life, we must protect the fair and adequate compensation for non-profit hospice and palliative care provider organizations. I continue to be vigilant of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as the intermediary contractors who review and recommend reimbursement rates on a case-by-case basis. For our families, friends and the American people, this is an important aspect of our healthcare responsibility.

During this month, I call particular attention to the many physicians, nurses, caregivers and volunteers who offer invaluable patient service under the Medicare Hospice Benefit. I thank them for their skills and for their compassionate care.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ANNANDALE CHRIS-
TIAN COMMUNITY FOR ACTION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. In 1967, Fred and Emily Ruffing realized that there was a great need for childcare services for low-income and working poor families who did not qualify for subsidized daycare. They decided that they needed to take action to address this problem so they organized a meeting with representatives from eight local churches to set up a day care center and ACCA was born.

Since 1967, ACCA has continued to grow not only in size but in the number of services provided. What began as a group of eight churches 50 years ago has grown to 26 member congregations. ACCA has also partnered with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and its services and programs as well as the model of faith community and government partnership begun by ACCA has been replicated all throughout Fairfax County.

ACCA gives back to the community in a variety of ways. The Child Development Center (CDC) provides both developmental childcare and early childhood education to over 200 toddlers, preschoolers and infants. The ACCA Pantry collects from churches, schools, community groups and local businesses and delivers food and other necessities on an emergency basis to area households. ACCA's Emergency Assistance program handles financial emergencies such as payment for rent, utilities, prescription drugs, and minor car repairs for low-income families who have few resources to fall back on in a time of crisis.

The 26 partner ministries provide a safety net while the families recover stability. Furniture ministry volunteers collect and distribute gently used furniture to needy recipients, while volunteers from the Transportation ministry

provide rides to medical appointments. Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals every weekday to elderly residents who cannot fend for themselves. ACCA volunteers also spend a Saturday in April repairing houses—more than 110 homes have been repaired or rehabilitated since 1990. With the exception of the CDC, all of these services are provided by volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the staff and volunteers of ACCA and in congratulating them on this incredible milestone. Civic engagement is the foundation of a healthy community, and Fairfax County residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. Their contributions have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 31, I was unable to be in Washington and missed Roll Call vote No. 591, To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include South Carolina as a part of the Virginia/Carolina peanut producing region for purposes of appointment to the Peanut Standards Board. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH COYA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize someone who has had a profound impact on the Northern Virginia community, Ms. Mary Beth Coya. I have been proud to partner with Mary Beth on many issues of importance to the residents of Northern Virginia and the quality of life we enjoy, and I consider her a good friend. This year marks 30 years since Mary Beth Coya began her career with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), beginning in 1987 as a Legislative Assistant. During her career, she has steadily advanced and currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for NVAR.

Prior to joining NVAR, Mary Beth began her career as a staff member with the Virginia House of Delegates Appropriations Committee in Richmond. From there she took her passion for advocacy to the private sector, where she lobbied at both the state and federal levels for a variety of associations and companies. Throughout her career, Mary Beth has used her knowledge and experience to advocate for policies that would improve the lives of the members of her community. This has perhaps most been felt in the area of transportation, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA), a business-citizen coalition focused on advancing highway and transit projects of major importance to the region.