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Henry Krages
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Bun B. Bray
Douglas Tepper
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Michael Ellis
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Ed Hoole
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William Bailey
Art Wells
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John Jennison
Jeffrey M. Barnes

Fairfax County
Federation of Citizens
Associations
&
Science Applications International Corporation
62nd Annual Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet
Sunday, March 25, 2012
Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner McLean
Program

Welcome and Introductions
Tania Hossain
President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Remarks
J. Douglas Koelemay
Vice President, Community Relations
Science Applications International Corporation

Dinner

Keynote Speaker
Jeremy Mayer, PhD
Director, Master of Public Policy Program
George Mason University

Presentation of Special Gratitude Award to
Suzanne F. Harsel

Presentation of Citations of Merit to
Ellie Ashford Corazon Sandoval Foley Terrill D. Maynard

Presentation of the Fairfax Federation Cup to
Walter L. Alcorn Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

Concluding Remarks
Tania Hossain

2000 Glenn & Betty Stroup
Richard Bliss
Warren Cikins
Norma Hoffman
2001 Frank de la Fe
Michael Anzillo
Charles Creighton
2002 Mary Anne Leccos
Linda Bestint
William D. Niedringhaus
Occoquan Watershed Task Force
2003 Charles A. Yeatch, II &
Joseph L. Ritchey
Special Gratitude Award
Judith Mueller
2004 Dr. C. Day Worley
Jennifer Cooper
Merrily Pierce
2005 Mary Anne Leccos
Linda Bestint
William D. Niedringhaus
Occoquan Watershed Task Force
2006 Sally B. Ormsby
Lee A. Rau
2007 John Horesjii

Special Thanks...

Awards Banquet and Selection Committee Chair
Jeffrey M. Parnes

Awards Selection Committee

Alliance of Human Services
Marlene Blum
Fairfax Committee of 100
Frank Blechman

Community Ministry of Northern Virginia
Gene Pettit
Fairfax County Federation
Donald Hinman

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
Janey George

Federation Officers 2011-2012

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Tania Hossain
First Vice President
Donald Hinman
Second Vice President
Joe Gibson
Corresponding Secretary
Frederick Costello
Recording Secretary
Edward Wyse
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Since his inaugural appointment to the Planning Commission as an At-Large member in late 1996, Walter Alcorn has contributed countless hours to public service. Walter has served continuously on the Commission, including four consecutive terms as Parliamentarian and as Vice Chairman since 2007. He has been a member of numerous Planning Commission committees, including Housing, Policy and Procedures, and Schools, and is an alternate member, and former Chairman, of the Environment Committee. In addition, he served as the Commission’s representative to the Airports Advisory Committee.

Walter’s most significant achievement as a Commissioner, however, would be as Chairman of the Planning Commission’s Tysons Corner Committee which was established in 2008. Applying his consensus-building leadership, he guided the community and county staff through complex and potentially controversial issues in a transparent manner. The result is the vision for transforming Tysons as set forth in a new comprehensive plan for the area. Walter was responsible for welcoming and incorporating public participation into the land use process and for bringing all interested stakeholders and competing interests together. In his role as Chairman, Walter has spent hundreds of hours leading the planning process to translate the vision and recommendations of the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force into language appropriate for the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

The Tysons Corner Urban Center Comprehensive Plan, which will shape future urban growth in Fairfax County and which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2011, may be the most significant planning project in Fairfax County in our era. The American Planning Association awarded the prestigious, nationwide 2011 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan to Fairfax County for the Tysons plan. The Board of Supervisors has now asked the Tysons Committee to develop an inclusive process to address infrastructure financing and several other Tysons-related implementation issues; the committee is developing recommendations should be delivered to the Board later this spring.

Walter’s style is inclusive, even on issues that would tend to polarize the community. He has taken the time to educate himself on numerous technical issues to help the county make the best possible decisions for the future of this urban area. Without Walter’s guidance, it would have been very difficult for Fairfax County to complete a Tysons comprehensive plan that is so visionary, so doable, and so acceptable to competing stakeholders.

Because of his unwavering dedication and guidance as Chairman of the Planning Commission’s Tysons Corner Committee, leading the way for the Tysons area to redevelop into a world-class urban center, the Federation is honored to recognize Walter Alcorn as the 2011 Citizen of the Year.
CITATIONS OF MERIT

Ellie Ashford

As traditional print media downsizes, it is an increasing challenge to find local news coverage. Ellie Ashford understood the need to fill this expanding gap and created the Annandale Blog, an independent, online site that has become a model for hyperlocal journalism.

Driven by her curiosity, Ellie reports on issues of genuinely local interest to residents in the Annandale-area community. Her energy and commitment are exemplary; she volunteers significant hours capturing and delivering reports nearly every day. She attends countless meetings, tackles difficult subjects with clarity and accuracy, succinctly summarizes complex issues and fosters community dialogue on those issues.

Ellie manages the blog not only to inform and educate residents on issues such as land use and redevelopment, transportation, and schools, but also to offer a glimpse into the unique history of the area and a perspective on community changes over the decades. She highlights local government policy and programs, community events, business developments, and the cultural diversity of the Annandale area. The blog is used by officials to reach out to their constituents, and stories first found on the site have been later reported by other media outlets.

Because of her intense passion to keep the Annandale-area community informed, and as the dedicated force behind a well-recognized, locally-driven citizen journalism initiative, the Federation is pleased to honor Ellie Ashford with a Citation of Merit.

Corazon Sandoval Foley

Upon retirement, Corazon Foley realized there was no dedicated county senior center in the Burke-West Springfield area; this limited the ability of the community’s older residents to stay active, engaged, and healthy. She therefore became the guiding force behind the creation of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls. Because of her absolute dedication to this endeavor, the county is implementing a vibrant program in the area that allows older residents to participate in stimulating behavioral and social activities.

As a public-private partnership, the Center operates at minimal cost and provides affordable programs for more than 450 participating older adults. Businesses and organizations throughout the community donate their facilities and resources and over 30 volunteers support the Center’s daily operations. Cora promotes programs and initiatives through social media as well as a website she maintains.

The Center received one of only two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Commitment Awards given nationwide in 2010 and is a model for other neighborhoods planning to develop a center to support the growing numbers of seniors aging in place.

Cora Foley is a community champion. Because of her advocacy and passion on behalf of the health and well-being of older adults in the Burke-West Springfield area and recognizing her selfless commitment in bringing her vision to fruition, the Federation is proud to honor her with a Citation of Merit.

Terrill D. Maynard

Terry Maynard has become a principal spokesperson on Reston-area redevelopment. He is well-known as a researcher on vital development and transportation issues that, while focused on the Reston community, have broad applicability to Fairfax County.

He serves as the South Lakes District Representative on the Reston Citizens Association Board of Directors, a member and former co-chair of the Reston 2020 Committee, and creator and moderator of its blog, “Reston 2020: Citizens Shaping Reston’s Future,” that offers a myriad of information on Reston development issues. He is also a member of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force.

He has authored numerous papers addressing issues affecting Restonians’ quality of life, advocating for a balanced vision for the overall redevelopment of the Reston Town Center area in terms of residential and nonresidential density. He has also focused analyses on the cost and financing of the Metrorail expansion.

Terry dedicates countless volunteer hours in developing his recommendations. His papers are meticulously documented and his ability to effectively communicate his results enables anyone to follow the issues entailed by the redevelopment of an urban county.

His efforts for the benefit of the public are remarkable; he is an effective leader that involves the community in these issues. For Terry Maynard’s selfless work in pursuit of the public interest, the Federation recognizes him with a Citation of Merit.

Suzanne F. Harsel

As a resident for over 40 years, Suzanne Harsel has actively participated in, and greatly contributed to, the outstanding quality of life shared by Fairfax County residents.

Suzanne was first appointed to the Fairfax County Planning Commission in April 1982. Her tenure on the Commission ended in December 2011; her 29 years is the longest span of continuous service for a county Planning Commissioner. She served 22 consecutive years as Commission Secretary and also as a member of numerous committees, including Redevelopment and Housing, Policy and Procedures, Personnel and Budget, and Schools, and as an alternate member of the Parks Committee. She facilitated Area Plans Review work groups for Braddock District residents. Suzanne has been heavily engaged in the Country Club View Civic Association as a board member, Neighborhood Watch volunteer, and currently chairs the Scholarship Committee. She also serves on the George Mason University Campus Community Advisory Council. She represents her church on the Shepherd Center Council of Fairfax/Burke. Suzanne tutors students seeking to pass their General Education Development tests through Fairfax Adult Education and volunteers as a teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages to adults.

Commissioner Harsel’s extensive record of service on the Planning Commission, as well as her commitment to her community and the residents of Fairfax County are exemplary; for her dedication, the Federation is honored to recognize her with a Special Gratitude Award.