Fairfax County
Federation of Citizens
Associations

67th
Annual
Citizen of the Year
Awards Banquet

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner
McLean
Program

Welcome and Introductions

Tim Thompson
President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
Representative, 11th District, VA

Dinner

Presentation of Citations of Merit
to

Cheryl Ellsworth
Emily McCoy
Ken Balbuena

Presentation of the Fairfax Federation Cup
to

Joseph Chudzik

Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

Concluding Remarks
Tim Thompson
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Joseph Chudzik

Joe is a model citizen with a passion for serving his community. He serves as a volunteer at polling stations, local Boy Scout troops, the Mason Neck Lions Club, and various other groups in Fairfax County. He also personally organizes multiple road and highway cleanups throughout the year. Joe is a strong advocate and constant proponent for improving our community and helping others.

Joe doesn’t just participate in these organizations, but actually holds leadership roles in them, as well. Since 1995, Joe has served as either the Chief or Assistant Chief Election Officer of the polling stations at Gunston Elementary School and Lorton Regional Library. He has also served as President, Director, and Chairman of several other service-oriented organizations such as the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizen’s Associations, Mason Neck Citizens Association, Mason’s Collar Community Association, Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee, Clean Fairfax Council, Inc., Lorton Federation of Citizen’s Associations, and Mason Neck Lions Club.

Joe is such a respectable and kind individual who is always friendly, enthusiastic, and passionate about helping others. Therefore, there is truly no one more deserving of this award than Joseph Chudzik.

Joe is very active with the Mason Neck Lions Club. He has organized several Mason Neck Lions Club-sponsored community service projects to benefit the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) - Youth Activities Group, including park litter clean-ups, graffiti removal, tree planting, storm drain marking, and biological stream water quality projects.

Additionally, Joe serves as Chairman of the Cultural and Community Activities Committee for the Mason Neck Lions Club, and has organized and managed 155 community service projects since 2002. In 2008, Joe applied to Fairfax County for a Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program grant on behalf of the Mason Neck Lions Club to construct a park bench. After being awarded the grant, Joe used the funds to create molds for the concrete bench supports and to build benches which the Lions Club installed at parks and bus stops. Joe has built 39 park benches that have been installed at seven bus stops on Richmond Highway in Lorton, parks, trails, schools, community centers, and the LCAC. Joe continues to build and deliver benches on behalf of the Mason Neck Lions Club.

Joe supports Eagle Scout leadership projects for Boy Scout troops at Burke United Methodist Church and Ft. Belvoir. Joe coordinated support from Fairfax ReLeaf, and assisted aspiring Eagle Scouts with selecting meaningful community service projects.

Joe performs regular Adopt-a-Highway litter clean-ups along the “Chudzik Family” adopted section of Gunston Road. Since 2009, he has personally performed 16 roadside litter collections.

Joe championed the Mason Neck Trail project, a six-mile long, asphalt paved, and non-motorized trail along Gunston Road. The Mason Neck Trail is designed to improve pedestrian access from the more densely developed neighborhoods of Lorton to the many parks, recreational, and historic heritage areas on Mason Neck. Since 1996, Joe has successfully obtained over $1,650,000 in federal funds for the Mason Neck Trail. Section 2B of this trail is currently under construction and expected to be completed by August 2017. Joe continues to work with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation toward completing the remaining sections of the Mason Neck Trail.

Joe was a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher in Thailand; a B-52 pilot in the USAF Strategic Air Command; and a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State. Not many can say they have served in the Peace Corps, War Corps and Diplomatic Corps!

For his many and diverse volunteer efforts, including his strong advocacy for improving our community and helping others, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Joseph Chudzik as 2016 Citizen of the Year.
CITATIONS OF MERIT

Cheryl Ellsworth

Cheryl Ellsworth is an attorney who spent 25 years practicing international trade law in the nation’s capital. She specialized in representing companies, business associations, and foreign governments in administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in trade negotiations. She made numerous presentations to corporations and business groups on international trade issues, and assisted clients to implement internal audit procedures to minimize their risk of exposure under the U.S. trade laws.

From 2006-15, Cheryl served on the board of directors of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services (GSH). She served as Chair of the Development Committee, Board Chair, and Chair of the Board Development Committee. Cheryl also served as Chair of GSH’s Executive Search Task Force. During the period in which Cheryl served as Board Chair, GSH won the 2012 Center for Nonprofit Advancement Board Leadership Award, the 2012 Fairfax County Nonprofit of the Year Award, and the 2013 Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management.

Beginning in 2016, Cheryl was elected to serve on GSH’s Community Leadership Council.

Currently, Cheryl is an owner-member of Hollin Hall Curves, a women’s fitness center. As President of the organization, she and her team are dedicated to providing a supportive, community-based environment for women to reach their health and fitness goals. Hollin Hall Curves regularly solicits member’s donations of school supplies, food items, books and monetary gifts that are channeled to area nonprofit organizations.

For her many and diverse volunteer efforts to increase access to affordable housing for working households in Fairfax County, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Cheryl Ellsworth with a Citation of Merit.

Emily McCoy

Emily McCoy has been an effective activist for the rights of women and girls for decades, on a variety of issues and through a number of volunteer organizations. She is an incredibly dedicated member of the Fairfax County Commission for Women, now serving her 35th year on the Commission. She provides a depth of knowledge and historical context that are crucial to the work of the Commission. She inspires others through her service and her knowledge of the steps it has taken to bring about concrete change.

Emily has led or participated in a number of Commission-related projects that have yielded long-term benefits to residents of Fairfax County. For example, she was part of the Fairfax County Girls’ Softball Equity Action Review Team that resulted in equal playing fields for female athletes in the county. She engaged a wide range of allies to build a team, and worked effectively with decision makers in the schools, county government, and youth and athletic organizations. This helped to build a community-wide recognition of the value of girls’ sports.

Emily has led many efforts to improve the County’s response to domestic violence, and has served for five years as the Commission for Women’s representative on the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) which provides the county’s
leadership on this important issue. On the DVPPCC’s Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, she established a joint project between the DVPPCC and the Commission for Women that is providing private companies operating in the county with the resources to create workplace violence policies that include provisions for the rights and safety of victims of domestic violence, and makes clear the connection between domestic violence and workplace violence. This project will make victims and workplaces safer.

For her many and diverse volunteer efforts advocating for the rights of women and girls, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Emily McCoy with a Citation of Merit.

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Janette Balbuena

Ken Balbuena’s many contributions to Fairfax County demonstrate the selfless acts of service by one citizen to his greater community. As President of the North Springfield Civic Association (NSCA), Mr. Ken Balbuena has continuously shown himself to be an instrument for positive change. In 2015, Ken acted on behalf of the county to draft a resolution calling for the reinstatement of funding to the grass ordinance (Fairfax County Code §119-3-1), which was absent from the proposed FY16 advertised budget in March 2015. This resolution was passed by the NSCA board and brought to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (The Federation). Since civic associations are disproportionately impacted, this resolution and proposed amendment to the FY16 budget was especially important for communities across the County. Civic associations, unlike homeowner associations, do not have the empowerment to develop or enforce grass height ordinances, thus making them solely dependent on County enforcement. The Federation reviewed the resolution, and ultimately adopted it with minimal amendment. The resolution was then submitted as part of The Federation’s budget recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. As a result, funding to the grass ordinance was restored to the FY16 budget in the amount of $120,000 (of a $3.8 billion budget). The actions of Mr. Balbuena were successful in restoring communities across the county with the tools to enforce their regulations. His keen attentiveness and initiative were tantamount to giving back power to his fellow county citizens.

Other accomplishments Ken has made as President of the NSCA include forming an Ad-Hoc Traffic Calming Committee to address neighborhood speeding, successfully advocating for a school crossing guard to receive proper traffic control and direction training (only 1 of 5 in the entire county authorized for such training), the creation a standing Minority Outreach Committee and a Senior Citizens Committee to meet the needs of these underserved populations of the community, and starting the neighborhood’s participation in the National Night Out program. Last year Mr. Balbuena also organized a special NSCA membership meeting to address neighborhood concerns regarding recent petty crime in the community. The special meeting invited Fairfax County police officers and detectives, as well as specialized home security vendors to present key talking points, address citizens’ questions, and overall help the North Springfield neighborhood to better secure its homes and personal property. The meeting was hailed as one of the most in-touch, informative sessions, and, unsurprisingly, was one of highest attended NSCA membership meetings to date. Mr. Balbuena even utilized state-of-the-art technology leveraging the innovative Facebook Live application to live-stream the meeting for those citizens who could not physically attend. All attendees – both those physically present and those citizens who virtually participated in the meeting from home – regarded the special session with high praise.

For his many and diverse volunteer efforts championing neighborhood improvement, Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Ken Balbuena with a Citation of Merit.
Previous Award Recipients

1950    Harold Ward
1951    David Lawrence  
1952    Arthur Bissel  
1953    Charles Platt  
1954    Joseph Freehill  
1955    Warren Quenstedt  
1956    Dr. Harold Kennedy  
1957    Nan Netherton  
1958    Frank Watters  
1959    Jeannette Smith  
1960    William Perlik  
1961    Omer Hirst  
1962    William Loving  
1963    Ira Gabrielson  
1964    Beatrice Fiks  
1965    Walter Kurylo  
1966    Connie Johnson  
1967    Mr & Mrs. Fred Ruffing  
1968    Harriet Hunt  
1969    William Morrill  
1970    Elizabeth Hartwell  
1971    Louise Palmer  
1972    Carl Zimmer  
1973    William & Polly Houston  
1974    J. Sidney Holland Zoning Ordinance Commission  
1975    Laura McDowall S. John Davis Lilla Richards  
1976    William Hart Norman Cole  
1977    Vivian Watts  
1978    Gerald Hopkins Omer Hirst James Goins Max K. Hinds Joseph T. Flakne  
1979    John Lynch Louis Guy  
1980    Carrington Williams Pat Watt Maya Huber Mary Grace Lintz Toni Winters McMahon Marty Tredwell Eleanor Kennedy Michael Horwatt  

1999    Robert G. Hunt  
2000    Glenn & Betty Stroup  
2001    Frank de la Fe  
2002    Mary Anne Lecos  
2003    Charles A. Veatch, II  
2004    Dr. G. Ray Worley  
2005    Marlene Blum  
2006    Sally B. Ormsby  
2007    John Horesji  
2008    Anne A. Andrews  
2009    M.L. Clark Tyler  
2010    Mollie Morison-Loeffler  
2011    Walter Alcorn  
2012    Peter Murphy  
2013    Katherine Hanley  
2014    Special Gratitude Award

1999    Celestino Beltrain  
2000    Richard Bliss  
2002    Linda Bestint  
2003    Judith Mueller  
2005    Mernly Pierce  
2006    Bill and Janie Strauss  
2007    John Horesji  
2008    Christine Morin  
2009    James B. Southworth  
2010    Andrew Tener  
2012    Suzanne F. Harsel  
2013    Rose Chu  
2014    Special Gratitude Award

1999    Lawrence V. Fowler  
2000    Warren Cikins  
2002    Norma Hoffman  
2003    Michael Anzilotti  
2004    Charles Reighton  
2005    Judith Mueller  
2006    Lee A. Rau  
2007    John Horesji  
2008    Linda Byrne  
2009    Harrison A. Glasgow  
2010    Mollie Morison-Loeffler  
2011    Ellie Ashford  
2012    Peter Murphy  
2013    Rose Chu  
2014    Special Gratitude Award

1999    Louise L. Meade  
2000    Richard Bliss  
2001    Warren Cikins  
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2008    Linda Byrne  
2009    James B. Southworth  
2010    Mollie Morison-Loeffler  
2011    Ellie Ashford  
2012    Peter Murphy  
2013    Rose Chu  
2014    Special Gratitude Award
   Harry Doyle, Jr.  Alan E. Mayer  Aubrey D. Tarkington  Special Gratitude Awards
   Shirley O. Nelson  Thomas E. Waldrop  Special Gratitude Awards
   Mary Lee DiSpirito  2013  Janyce Hedetniemi

   Les Dorson  Mildred Corbin  2001  Frank de la Fe  Special Gratitude Award
   Sharon Kelso  Shirley O. Nelson  Michael Anzilotti  Shirley Ginwright
   Jacqueline dcMoras Rosen  Thomas E. Waldrop  Charles Creighton  Special Gratitude Award

1993  Dr. Richard Ernst  1994  Martha Glennan  1998  Celestino Beltran  Special Gratitude Award
   Tom Grubisich  Louise L. Meade  Gerald T. Halpin  Mary Agee
   Jinx Hazel  Lawrence V. Fowler  Robert G. Hunt  2016  Viva Voce

   2000  Kenton Pattie  2001  Warren Cicins  Special Gratitude Award
   Kay Brooks  Queenie Cox  Richard Bliss  2016  Olga Hernandez

   Jerry Corbin  2000  Mary Lee DiSpirito  2013  Janyce Hedetniemi
   Margaret Goralski  2001  Frank de la Fe  Special Gratitude Award
   Kenton Pattie  Michael Anzilotti  Richard Bliss  2014  Michael O’Reilly
   Connie Houston  Norma Hoffman  2011  Janyce Hedetniemi
   Laura McDowall  2003  Matthew Bell  Special Gratitude Award
   Special Gratitude Award  Kyle Talente  Mary Agee  Special Gratitude Award

Federation Officers 2016-2017
President  Tim Thompson
First Vice President  Ed Wyse
Second Vice President  Bill Barfield
Corresponding Secretary  Matthew Bell
Recording Secretary  George Becerra
Treasurer  Alejandro Mattiuazzo

Event Photographers
Sharon Okrend  Steve Okrend

Special Thanks
Awards Banquet and Selection Committee Chair
Jeffrey M. Parnes

Awards Selection Committee
Wendy Fox-Grage  Ed Wyse
League of Women Voters Fairfax Area  Fairfax Federation
Linda S. Sullivan  Tania Hossain
Arts Council of Fairfax County  Fairfax Committee of 100
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