

in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.”

The annual recipients include one representative from each of the nineteen metropolitan public school systems, a representative from the Washington metropolitan area private schools and a representative from the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools.

The winner selected from the Prince William Public School Division will also be named the Prince William County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 Prince William County nominees for The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Edward Abram, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Rebecca Anderson, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Amy Aylor, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Michael Ciampaglione, Bristow Run Elementary School.

Phyllis Cooke, Sudley Elementary School.
Andrew Cossaboon, Leesylvania Elementary School.

Sherril Croghan, Pattie Elementary School.
Adam Dove, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Carmen Hankerson, Neabsco Elementary School.

Toni Anne Harris, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Lisa Jacobsmeyer, Henderson Elementary School.

Elizabeth Johnson, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Stacy Ross, King Elementary School.
Robert Wallingford, Ashland Elementary School.

Timothy Wilson, Williams Elementary School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Christina Barcalow, Graham Park Middle School.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Erin Anderson, Pennington Traditional School.

Stacie Bonat, Independent Hill School.
Kathleen Dail, New Directions Alternative Education Center.

Stephen Dittmer, Battlefield High School.
Nancy Dow, Independent Hill School.

Carrie Gahagan, Osbourn Park High School.

Megan Hostutler, Patriot High School.
Lorri Jones, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Kieffer, Osbourn Park High School.

Ann Lightfoot, Potomac High School.
Stephanie Nash, Stonewall Jackson High School.

Juan Sampedro, Hylton High School.
Karen Shaver, Gar-Field High School.

Lauren Wilson, Hylton High School.
Alison Young, Forest Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the 2016 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award in Prince William County and in thanking them for their dedication to our children. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William

County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

RETIREMENT OF BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORTESE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bell County Commissioner Richard Cortese. His extraordinary commitment to community service over nearly a quarter century reflects the best values of Central Texas.

A native son of Little River-Academy, a growing community in the heart of Central Texas, Richard has led a life devoted to causes bigger than him. Upon completion of his U.S. Air Force career, he returned home to build a ranch while continuing to dedicate himself to his community. In 1992, he was elected to county commissioner and later was active in the Texas Farm Bureau.

Even outside of his professional career, Richard has dedicated himself to his community. He has been active in the Young Farmers of Texas Association and even served as president of the Little River-Academy Lions Club. He has been a member and has acted as president or chairman of various associations and committees that worked to make Texas a great place to live. He has even been involved with the development of the consolidated 911 dispatch center in Bell County as well as the planning and construction of additional courts and jail facilities for Bell County.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Richard Cortese's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUAN R. LOPEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV- ANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his tireless work as my District Director.

Starting in 2004, Juan R. Lopez began his career working as a Constituent Advocate in the United States Senate. In 2008, I was elected to serve Florida's Eighth Congressional District for the 111th Congress. I asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 111th Congress, Juan was instrumental to managing staff, casework, and assisting thousands of constituents. His work on behalf of veterans was outstanding.

When I returned to Congress in the 113th Congress, this time representing Florida's Ninth Congressional District, I once again asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 113th Con-

gress, Juan continued to excel at assisting my constituents and worked his way up to Deputy District Director, and in the 114th Congress, District Director.

As District Director, Juan was instrumental in assisting thousands of Floridians. In Juan's spare time, he ran for and won Chairman of the Orange County Florida, Democratic Executive Committee. Under his leadership, he helped guide the Orange County Democratic Party to wins in almost every local, state, and Congressional race in Orange County.

In recognition of all those in Florida that Juan has helped, I am honored to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 140TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 47 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed eight weeks of EMT training and twenty weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Recently, members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal last year.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 140th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction.

It is my great honor to enter the names of the 140th Recruit Class into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Roberto C. Acha Melgar, Adam A. Boyd, Jr., Quincy D. Branch, Casey P. Braswell, Timothy G. Breslin, Jr., James M. Brittenham, Rachael A. Callison, Jesus E. Castro, Michael J. Coppersmith, James C.