

Johns Hopkins University as an undergraduate; Amanda M. Gunn who is pursuing her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and, Suzanne Degges White who is pursuing her masters also at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation 1999 scholarship recipients are as follows:

Katie Batza is pursuing a bachelor's degree in history at John Hopkins University. At the age of 15, Katie helped start YouthPride, an Atlanta-based support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth, which has, in less than five years, served over one thousand people.

Amanda M. Gunn is pursuing her doctorate in cultural studies through the Department of Education at the University of North Carolina/Greensboro (UNCG). She will be presenting her thesis, *Lesbian Passing: Identity Construction as a Strategy for Survival in a Perceived Hostile Work Environment*, at the Eastern Communication Association and UNCG Women's Studies luncheon.

Suzanne Degges White is a first-year masters student in the Counseling and Counselor Education program at the University of North Carolina/Greensboro (UNCG). She is enrolled in the MS/PHD track in community counseling at UNCG. Suzanne was instrumental in obtaining a state charter for the North Carolina Association for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Issues in Counseling, a division of the North Carolina Counseling Association.

Mr. Speaker, the Annual Celebration of Women in one of Legacy's most important and widely attended events. The generous contributions of the women in this community who actively support An Uncommon Legacy Foundation make the work vital to the lesbian community possible and represents a true investment in the future leaders of our great country. I ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, its national co-chair, Andrea Sharrin, Board member, Mary Snider—both of whom I am proud to say are members of our D.C. family; and the entire national Board for their leadership and support to women across this nation.

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#### EARTH DAY

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day reminds us all that environmental issues know no political bounds and affects all of the people, plants, and animals of the world community. It is essential that the policies our Government enacts, and the personal activities we undertake reflect our profound concern for safeguarding the Earth.

From combating global climate change to protecting threatened species to providing clean water, we have a duty to act locally and globally to protect the environment for present and future generations.

Saving the planet may seem to be an insurmountable task, but in order for our children to have a brighter future we must commit ourselves to an environmental policy which seeks to establish a clean, safe, and productive environment.

The 106th Congress is working to preserve and protect our Nation's open spaces by reinvigorating the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Designed to protect our Nation's natural heritage, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a vital program which has saved thousands of acres of forest, miles of river, and many of America's mountain ranges. However, this Congress has seen the importance of this program and the unfinished work which still lies ahead. In the face of issues of pollution and urban sprawl, the 106th Congress has responded by looking to preserve our Nation's greenways.

Moreover, we must not forget the air we breathe, our most precious resource. Americans can clearly see, smell, and feel the difference that pollution has made in their lives. As a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act, I recognize the need for clean air standards. By encouraging innovation, cooperation, and the development of new technologies for pollution reduction, these standards build upon the spirit of ingenuity that is the foundation of America's leadership in the world.

As chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I understand the importance of using our leadership in the United States to assist other countries in developing and maintain successful environmental programs. I personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger and national security to environmental degradation. In addition, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful incentive for ongoing environmental education, action, and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems. I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley national heritage area, which would help preserve the history, culture, and traditions of this beautiful region. I am also proud to note that my 20th District of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We cannot continue with the attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better day to commit to this worthy goal than today, Earth Day. I salute the people who observe Earth Day in all ways large and small.

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#### HONORING THE 1999 BEST OF RESTON AWARD WINNERS

### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the individuals and businesses who are this year's winners of the "Best of Reston"

Awards. These awards are made annually by the Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith. The "Best of Reston" Community Service Award was created to recognize companies, organizations, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to community service, and/or who have improved the lives of the people of Reston, Virginia.

HCI Technologies, Inc. for their community outreach and leadership in Reston. HCI has been involved in a number of church activities with Faith Mission Church, Christ Fellowship, St. John Neumann, and Heritage Fellowship. HCI has sponsored intern programs associated with George Mason University and South Lakes High School, and is a major sponsor of youth programs that include Reston Youth Baseball and Softball, Basketball, and a newly created Tennis program for disadvantaged community children. HCI sponsors a monthly food drive to support those less fortunate, and has been a sponsor of the Chamber's Ethics Day for the senior class of South Lakes High School.

Karl Ingebritsen for being an outstanding pillar of our community. He served as the 1st president of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and was the first employee and Executive Director of the Reston Association. He was instrumental in bringing Reston Hospital to our community and served on the Hospital's board of trustees until 1992. In his role as Director of LINK, Karl has worked tirelessly to improve the area's transportation by becoming a strong voice on behalf of the Reston community. Karl is steadfast in his belief that improving the area's transportation is a benefit to all citizens in the region.

Basil Jeffers for his inner drive to make Reston the best possible place to live and to raise a family. Basil has been classified as a "one man moving company." He's first to volunteer his hands and station wagon to anyone needing assistance as they move into a new home. A member of the Heritage Fellowship Church, Basil often brings community needs to the attention of the church. If he is unable to assist a given need, he sees that the church is aware of the situation and that they are able to provide the necessary support. Basil currently serves as the president of the PTA at South Lakes High School and served on the nominating committee for the College Partnership Program, a Fairfax County sponsored motivational program encouraging minority students to attend college. He is also involved with a Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troop.

Susan (Suzi) Jones for her tireless efforts to improve the community. From serving as a board member and President of the Reston Association to Presidency of the Greater Reston Arts Center to her Community Services Board work, people throughout Fairfax County have benefited from her volunteer services. Drawing upon her human resources skills and expertise, Suzi has generously and frequently contributed her time and skills for the development of a pool of community leaders and the identification and resolution of community issues. Her contributions to the Reston community have been, and continue to be, made through her active service to a number of community organizations and institutions, including St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

Alvarez LeCesne for the impact he has had on the lives of many students he's had contact with during his years in volunteer service. He is active in many area associations, including