

commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Fifty-one members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Silver Medal of Valor Recipients: Lieutenant Thomas L. Flint III and Technician Robert E. Pickel, Jr.

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients: Technician Thomas R. Barnes, Lieutenant Kenneth L. Coffelt, Technician Rolando E. Contreras, Lieutenant Aron J. Corwin, Master Technician Anthony E. Doran, Firefighter Brendan M. Downing, Technician Michael L. Frames, Technician Richard D. Gundert, Master Technician William F. Kight, Jr., Master Technician John P. McDonell, Technician Lawrence G. Mullin, Firefighter Cory S. Parry, Technician John M. Smith, Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughn, Master Technician Reginald L. Wadley, Lieutenant Erick L. Weinzapfel, Master Technician Christopher H. Williams, Technician Eric M. Wyatt, and Lieutenant Earl J. Burroughs

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipients: Fire Medic Eli A. Bredbenner, Captain I David P. Conrad, Technician Edwin E. Flores, Technician James M. Furman, Technician John C. Guy, Jr., Captain II Glenn A. Mason, Technician Shannon G. Reed, Technician Robert G. Ritchie, and Firefighter Rodney D. Washington

2012 Lifesaving Award Recipients: Technician Mica A. Bland (2 Lifesaving Awards), Firefighter Namaste Bosse, Lieutenant Keith W. Cierzullo, Technician Brian M. Chinn, Technician Robin S. Clement, II, Firefighter/Medic Joseph C. Deutsch, Technician Michael S. Eddy, Technician Edwin E. Flores, Lieutenant Thomas Hyden, Technician Peter C. Kehne, Firefighter Salman F. Khan, Firefighter Timothy D. Kim, Technician Michael T. King, Firefighter Heather J. Lefever, Captain Jeffrey L. Mongold, Lieutenant Michael C. Nelson, Technician Laura E. Pollard, Firefighter Placido Sanchez, Technician Clarke V. Slaymaker, II, Lieutenant John J. Tedesco, Captain I Wayne P. Wentzel, and Firefighter Brandon M. Winfield

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL IN HERRIN, ILLINOIS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, in Herrin, Illinois, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Herrin, Illinois, was founded at the turn of the 20th Century and it quickly was populated by immigrants, primarily from Italy, who came to work in the area coal mines. The first Mass for the growing Catholic population was said in the town hall in 1900 but plans were soon in place for a permanent church. The new church, initially named St. Mary's Church, was dedicated in August, 1901.

As with most Catholic parishes, the members of St. Mary's planned for a school to educate the children of the parish. A three room building was constructed in 1912 to house the first 104 students in grades one through three. Two lay teachers served as the faculty for the first two years at St. Mary's before the Precious Blood Sisters arrived in 1914.

St. Mary's school grew so quickly in its first years that the enrollment peaked at 365 students in 1920 and the 1930 graduating class of 54 remains the largest in the school's history. In 1925, a larger church was completed and the parish was officially named Our Lady of Mount Carmel, although many would continue to call it St. Mary's.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School has adapted through many changes over its 100 year history but it has always remained true to its core values of providing the highest quality of education while rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith. Their Mission Statement says it best, that they "exist to enable students to become knowledgeable and active in their faith, to educate students academically, and to develop strong moral character."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff and students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them the very best for many more years to come.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS HONOREES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 honorees of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Awards Banquet.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is a coalition of civic and homeowners associations from across Fairfax County. Through the Federation, individual communities collaborate with other associa-

tions to ensure that their voices are heard and that their communities stay strong.

Each year, the Federation honors a select few individuals for extraordinary contributions to the community that have resulted in tangible improvements in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses and local government. This is the 62nd Annual Awards Banquet, and this year's honorees each have dedicated years of service to their neighbors, their community and all of Fairfax County.

It is my pleasure to recognize the following individuals for their service to the community:

2011 Citizen of the Year: Walter Alcorn for his 14 years of service on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. During his tenure, he has chaired the Tysons Corner Committee since 2008, chaired the Environmental Committee from 1997–2006, and served as Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission since being appointed in 1997. Mr. Alcorn also has been involved in his Reston community through his involvement with the United Christian Parish and also as a little league coach.

2011 Citation of Merit: Ellie Ashford for her professional community journalism, tirelessly working to produce the Annandale Blog (annandaleblog.com), an exceptional local blog that was recently recognized by The Washington Post as a "must read." Ms. Ashford also has received top honors from the Society for National Association Publications, the Association of Educational Publications, the American Society of Association Executives, and the International Association of Business Communicators.

2011 Citation of Merit: Corazon Foley for her efforts to establish the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWOW). Due to her tireless efforts, the Center has succeeded in providing programs for more than 450 seniors in Fairfax County. Mrs. Foley also was named Lady Fairfax in 2009 for founding the Asian American History Project.

2011 Citation of Merit: Terry Maynard for his work in development issues and planning for the Reston community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Reston Citizens Association (RCA) and the Reston 2020 Committee. As the RCA representative to the ongoing Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force, Mr. Maynard has been an outspoken advocate for reasoned, balanced, smart growth policies along the Silver Line Metro expansion.

2011 Special Gratitude Award: Suzanne Harsel for her years of service representing the Braddock District on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. First appointed in 1982, Ms. Harsel was reappointed 7 times and served with distinction until her retirement in December 2011. Having served for nearly 30 years, Ms. Harsel had the longest continuous service on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals and in congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Civic engagement defines a community, and it is thanks to these individuals that Fairfax County residents enjoy such an excellent quality of life. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.