

Centreville ❖ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW

MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2017

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Encore Presents 'That's Life'

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Jenna Frisby (left) and Claire Griese get into the swing of things for Encore's upcoming show, "That's Life."

Police Practices Improve, Citizens Demand More

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'Imagine If'

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RAYNOR VAN DER MERWE



Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

EVERY YEAR around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

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OPINION

Project Sticker Shock on June 12

BY VALERIE NGUYEN
CENTREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

It's prom/graduation season with summer break a few weeks away, and high school members of the Youth Council of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County want youth and adults to know the Virginia laws to prevent underage drinking. They'll be taking part in another Project Sticker Shock event June 12 in the Annandale and Herndon areas.

Adolescents and full-time college students most often use substances for the first time during June or July, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. So now is a great time to remind everyone of laws to protect underage youth.

The Project Sticker Shock community awareness program is designed to prevent people 21 and older from purchasing alcohol and providing it to underage individuals. Participants visit partnering stores and place stickers with a warning message about the penalties for providing alcohol to anyone under 21 and using a fake ID to purchase alcohol.

In December, I participated in a Project Sticker Shock in the Centreville area. This was my first time doing this, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I was quite nervous going into the stores as this was a new concept with me.

Thankfully, I went with Ms. Amanda Pusey (a health prevention specialist from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board), and we met up with some other youth members from the Grace Community Center's Youth Council who also were enthusiastic on limiting alcohol and raising awareness for mental health as well.

Fairfax County Police Department officers and school resource officers also help out by taking part



Fairfax County Public Schools students held a Project Sticker Shock event in December. The next scheduled event is June 12.



in the event, along with other adult volunteers.

It was really fun to see other teens my age involved in something so vital to our community. We all started with a large roll of stickers provided by the Virginia ABC education unit. I was unsure if we would ever use up all of the stickers as it was quite a ton, but we managed sure enough to use up all the rolls sticking the stickers on various beer containers warning buyers to not buy alcohol for those underage and the consequences of giving alcohol to teens.

I had a really great time meeting with new like-minded teens who had the same mission statement. It was fun to have a competition to see who could put the most stickers on the most amounts of containers! Who knew just sticking stickers all over (my childhood dream) could be so much fun? While at the same time knowing that I was a small part in a huge impact in my community hopefully one day ending alcohol abuse once and for all.

Valerie Nguyen is an 11th-grade student at Centreville High School and member of the Youth Council Executive Committee. For more information about the Unified Prevention Coalition, see www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org. For information about joining the Youth Council, email YouthCouncil@upcfairfax.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote in Primary

To the Editor:

The Virginia gubernatorial primary is coming up on June 13, and my choice for the Republican nominee is Ed Gillespie.

Ed knows what Virginia needs to start growing again. He's putting forward policies to cut Virginians' taxes, restore faith in our government, improve how our state government operates, boost job creation, and support small businesses.

Looking beyond the June primary, Ed is the candidate best positioned to win in November because he has demonstrated a commitment to serving as governor for all Virginians. He's running a positive, issues-based campaign of which we can all be proud.

Out on the trail, I've often heard Ed talk about how he we get our

economy growing again. He believes that with all of valuable resources, Virginia should be in the top five states when it comes to economic growth — not the bottom five. His policies will make that vision a reality.

I am confident that together we can make Virginia the best state to do business. Ed Gillespie has my vote, and I hope you'll support him, too.

Anna Lee
Centreville

Worthy of Condemnation

To the Editor:

The barbaric attack against innocent civilian lives in Manchester is worthy of condemnation.

Around 10:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22, thousands of excited chil-

dren and their parents were just leaving the Manchester Arena, having spent the last few hours at the concert. They were just out with their loved ones having a good time. It was at that moment lives changed forever. A blast in the walkway between Manchester Arena and Victoria Station went off claiming the lives of 22, and injuring countless others. As Ahmadi Muslims, we extend our condolences to the British people and stand with them in mourning their loss.

While some may claim that the perpetrators have acted in the name of Islam, nothing could be farther from reality. The irony is all the more apparent as the holy and peaceful month of Ramadan is less than a week

away. Instead of preparing for

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VDOT Virginia Department
of Transportation

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax County and Prince William County Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6-8:30 p.m. A brief presentation at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Monday, June 12, 2017

Oakton High School Cafeteria
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Stone Middle School Cafeteria
5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Find out about plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495/ Capital Beltway to University Boulevard in Gainesville to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view the preliminary concept plans submitted by I-66 Express Mobility Partners, VDOT's selected partner for the project, and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7 p.m. VDOT and I-66 Express Mobility Partners staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.Transform66.org, at the meetings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Preliminary concept plans and project schedule will be available at the meetings for review and public comment. Staff will also be available to answer questions regarding environmental, right of way and civil rights information.

Give your oral or written comments at the meetings. You may also email comments to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mail them to Susan Shaw, P.E., Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office address above. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. A summary of comments submitted by **June 30, 2017** will be posted on the project website.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-497 UPC: 110741

'A Day to Remember'

Students with special needs enjoy their own Day Prom.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

More than 16 years ago, Poplar Tree Elementary School's then special education teacher, Chris Pascarella, had a vision of her students' upcoming high school experience. She just couldn't accept the reality that the students before her, who loved music and moving to all kinds of rhythms, might not get to experience a high school prom. Pascarella felt that they deserved a signature dance where they could make some lifelong memories. So, she organized a small prom specifically for high school students with special needs.

Since the early 2000s, this prom, with each year's theme being "A Day to Remember," has grown into an annual springtime event that brings hundreds of students together from schools across Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). This May, 336 high school students were able to experience the 16th Annual Day Prom — all with the help of 205 teachers and general education student volunteers.

"When I taught special needs students at Poplar Tree, I knew they loved music," Pascarella said. "When they were old enough to be going to high school, I started organizing a small dance for the special needs students at Herndon High School and two other schools. At first, we had the event at the Hyatt in Reston, but we've since outgrown that space. It grew from three schools, to now students in special ed programs from 18 schools."

Day Prom, hosted at the Waterford in Fair Oaks, has become an annual event that students anticipate for much of the academic year. The annual dance has gotten so large that organizers had to break the event into two days. This year, the two dances took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, and the again on Wednesday, May 24.

"Of course, it's so rewarding to see Day Prom come together every year," said Pascarella. "The students start asking about it at the beginning of every school year."

Although this prom is not an official FCPS event, its execution takes the collaboration and cooperation of special needs teachers and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) from each school that participates. The Waterford donates the space to hold the event, and the deejay contributes his time and service free of charge. The rest of it is up to teachers and parents to make sure these students get the prom they look forward to every year, even getting creative where necessary.

"In previous years, many of the schools used to send the students in limos," Pascarella said. "Many schools now use the FCPS buses. Some schools fund-raise, and some PTSAs make donations in order to collect money for food, transportation, and everything else."

The morning of Wednesday, May 24, students from nine high schools arrived at the Waterford — Chantilly, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Lee, Oakton, Robinson, Stuart,



Students from Westfield High School gather outside their school for the buses to take them to the Day Prom.

Westfield and Woodson.

Girls stepped off the school buses in vibrant dresses, and the young men entered the Waterford in button-down shirts, suit jackets, and, many in ties. Before they entered the ballroom, with a wide wooden dance floor surrounded by round tables for taking breaks and eating lunch, teachers and student volunteers pinned boutonnières to the boys' suit jackets and slid corsages onto the girls' wrists.

David Raich, a special education teacher at Westfield High School, arrived at the dance with two busloads of students. He said the energy among his students was nothing short of electric.

"They look forward to their prom," Raich said. "They talk about it all year. And, we as teachers spend classroom time preparing them for meeting new people from other schools, for dancing, and we review the proper manners for the event. Before the dance starts, some of the female teachers will do hair and makeup for some of the students. Male teachers will help tie and

fasten the ties. It's really like Christmas for them. They get off the bus with big smiles. It's really good for self-esteem."

Teachers and case managers from special needs programs attend the dance as both chaperones and as part of a support system for their students.

Speech pathologists Erin Andreani and Stacy Pete, both from Lee High School, came to the dance prepared to help their students exercise communication skills.

"If we see one of our students needing an intervention as they try to communicate with any of the other students here, we're here to step in and help them facilitate a conversation," said Andreani, who also works at West Springfield. "Being here allows us to see how our kids are reaching their communication goals outside the classroom. And, for the kids here who do go to the general ed prom with their own school, Day Prom is great preparation."

Pete enjoys being at Day Prom both to see her students demonstrate what they've learned in the classroom, and to witness

them enjoying themselves in a typical social setting.

"We like to see our kids out in the community, and, in this case, getting to have a prom of their own," Pete said. "They don't have to miss out on fun things. Here, they get to enjoy what everyone, including the gen ed kids, does."

Even though their time at the Day Prom was a work day for school staff members, the teachers said there is no way that Day Prom can compare even remotely to a regular day in the classroom.

"For most of these kids, a late night prom would just be too much," said Marianne McKeon, a career preparation teacher at Robinson. "Here, they get to experience a semi-formal dance. They all love music so you get to see their little walls come down. This is a day they can be with their buddies, having a good time, without us hovering."

Just like any classic high school dance, teachers stood at the edge of the dance floor nodding to the beat of both today's hits and more classic party songs like the "YMCA" and "The Cupid Shuffle." At this prom, some teachers and student volunteers were on the dance floor, making sure that everyone, even the students in wheelchairs, could lose themselves in the cheerful music.

After 16 years of Day Prom, Pascarella said that planning for it has almost become second nature to her. Booking venues and designating tasks to different groups of teachers is practically reflexive to her. What she will never get used to, or take for granted, is the feeling she gets from seeing all the students soaking in everything at their own prom.

"They are just so happy," Pascarella said, watching some of the students skip from the room where their photos were taken, into the ballroom. "I have no doubt that when I retire, someone else will take over. This event has become too important. Every year, without fail, both parents and students start talking about it in September, and everyone involved is excited to start the planning process in winter."



Students from nine high schools — Chantilly, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Lee, Oakton, Robinson, Stuart, Westfield and Woodson — take to the dance floor.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Baby Toddler Sign Classes. 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays in May at the NOVA Natural Birth Center, 4200 Technology Court, Suite A, Chantilly. Lisa Carlson of Toddler Signs has ways to teach a baby or toddler to how to express themselves with signing months before they can in words. Cost is \$60 for all four classes or \$20 each. Classes will be taught again in June. Visit www.novabirthcenter.com for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Practice English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

English as Second Language Book Club. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

Advanced English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a



Wine, Whiskers and Wags

On Sunday, June 4 it's Wine, Whiskers and Wags, from 1-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Benefit hosted by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Wine tasting, food, a silent auction, raffle and much more. Well-behaved children and dogs welcome. Admission is \$40 per person in advance and \$45 at the door. Visit ffcas.org for more.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more.

One-on-One English Conversation. Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Grand Opening. 9 a.m. at At Home, at 13910 Metrotech Drive. Ribbon cutting of a 100,000-square-foot home decor store. Visit www.athome.com/ for more.

Forks, Corks and Kegs. 6-11 p.m. at St Andrew the Apostle School, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. A tasting festival of local breweries, Virginia wines, and food trucks with a live band, lawn games, and silent auction. Old Bust Head, Bad Wolf, Heritage, Forge Brew Works, and Growling Bear breweries will be pouring. \$55 in advance, \$65 at door. Visit hand.bid/standrew.

Imagine If! 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road. Comedy for the whole family. \$5. Visit www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Family Discovery Day. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 14150 Upperridge Drive, Centreville. Learn how to find your ancestors. Free. Email starksinva@aol.com for more.

Fair Lakes SpringFest. 1-4:30 p.m. in the parking lot at 12450 Fair Lakes Circle. Live performances, strolling characters, Whole Foods Market Kids Marketplace, dance troupes, instrument petting zoo, carnival games, face painting, fire and police vehicle tours, food, and community booths. Email beth@theskygroupinc.com or call 301-452-1459.

Imagine If! 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road. Comedy for the whole family. \$5. Visit www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

JUNE 3-4

Civil War Living History weekend. Various times at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Demonstrations of camp life, musket firings, candle making, Civil War re-enactors from the Victorian Dance Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation in formal ball dress of the time dancing and teaching authentic dance steps of that period. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Fairfax Choral Society encourages children between the ages of 5-19 to audition for one of the five choirs that meet at the Annandale campus. Visit fairfaxchoralsociety.org/youthprograms/youthchoruses/ for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 9

Combo Classic Golf Tournament. 11 a.m. at the Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. This tournament pairs golfers with and without disabilities to compete. \$180 per team. Call 703-324-8782 or email robeta.korzen@Fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 10

Festival to Fight Cancer. 7:30-11 a.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. A 2-mile run with all of the funds will be donated to Special Love, a non profit organization that provides camps, programs, and financial aid for families affected by childhood cancer. Visit wildcatsvscancer.wixsite.com for more.

Combo Classic Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at the Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. This tournament pairs golfers with and without disabilities to compete. \$180 per team. Call 703-324-8782 or email robeta.korzen@Fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Musical Production. 8-10 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Annandale NOVA Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Encore Theatrical Arts Project presents their 21st original Broadway-style spring musical "That's Life." A song and dance musical about life, love and the journeys we take along the way. \$19-\$26. Visit www.Encore-tap.org for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 19

Dulles Chamber's Annual Golf Scramble. 7 a.m. at Chantilly National Golf & Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road. Registration and Breakfast at 7 and tee-off at 8. Visit www.dulleschamber.org or call 571-323-5304.

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Police Practices Under Public Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 5

2015 protests demanding “Justice for John Geer” were held outside police headquarters and the county government center.

The public did not learn the name of the officer involved in the shooting, or many of the relevant details until 17 months after the incident, when the information was released by a court order. The demand for more transparency did not fade away. In March of 2015, Bulova received the board’s support to create the Ad Hoc Commission with the mission to “review FCPD policies and practices related to critical incidents, use-of-force training policies, threat assessments, as well as those within the Internal Affairs Division.”

While insisting that avoiding any loss of life during police-public interaction had always been the guiding standard, at the meeting Cook said that one result of the commission’s efforts was a re-commitment to the “Sanctity of Life” philosophy. Cook referenced revisions made to FCPD policies. Last updated in 2013, revised General Order 540 on the subject of the use-of-force by county law enforcement personnel took effect on March 31 of this year. The order will be reviewed again in January of 2019, to determine its effectiveness and make any additional revisions if necessary.

Roessler also made mention of the revised policies, explaining that a number of policies had been consolidated into “one concise document” to clarify the appropriate actions to be taken while carrying out their duties, and the proper reporting required after the use of force by county police officers.

WITH 52 ADVISEMENTS, the communications sub-committee of the commission came in second, targeting the transparency complaints and addressing the timeline gap between a use-of-force event and the public’s access to the details.

Roessler announced the establishment of a Public Affairs Bureau within the FCPD. The chief also mentioned pages on the FCPD’s website where information on use-of-force incidents are made available, including links to press conferences and briefings by Roessler and other officials.

Shirley Ginwright is the chair of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee (COTC), a diverse citizen group “focused on strengthening and building positive relationships between public safety agencies and the communities they serve.” Since its inception in December, 2014, COTC has been looking for ways to connect law enforcement with the residents they serve. They have a particular interest in programs that focus on the county’s youth, and cutting off the “supply” of youngsters in the school-to-prison pipeline. Ginwright invited the audience to attend the COTC’s upcoming “Public Safety Day” on June 3 in Lorton.

Despite the numerous high notes in the one-year Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission’s report card, things got heated during the public commentary session. Caycee Utley, lead organizer with Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia, castigated all of the panelists over the death of 37-year-old Natasha McKenna, diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression from the age of 14. The 5’ 4,” 130-pound African-American McKenna, in custody at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center on an outstanding warrant for attacking a police officer, was tasered multiple times when sheriff’s deputies tried to put her in a wheeled restraint chair. At the time, McKenna was handcuffed behind her back, shackled around the legs with a bobble strap connecting the restraints, and had a

spit mask placed over her face.

McKenna went into cardiac arrest shortly after being tasered. She was revived, but died five days later when it was determined that she had no brain activity, and life support was discontinued.

“Whose side are you on?” shouted several members of the SURJ group, waving their posters and pointing to an empty seat with a sign reading “Natasha McKenna” placed upon it.

“We don’t want to be on sides,” answered Cook.

The new police internal auditor, Schott, added, “This is what I have been hired to address.”

Both Roessler and Bulova tried to explain that the case of McKenna and some of the others being referenced by the SURJ supporters were not within their direct purview, citing that the Sheriff’s Office does not report to the Board of Supervisors.

“So nobody protects us from them?” Utley replied. “What pressures have you put on the sheriff?”

Attendee Jenifer Hitchcock “couldn’t understand how they cleared the deputies” involved in McKenna’s death.

AT ONE POINT during the public comment phase, Cook refused to respond to “people yelling out of turn” and Bulova threatened to adjourn the meeting.

After Utley said, “There can’t be any trust until there is justice,” Bulova invited her to “talk personally” after the meeting.

Several of the citizen speakers described the Civilian Review Panel and the police auditor as “toothless” — lacking in the power to do anything. “Smoke and mirrors,” said Mary Tracy of Alexandria. “The county has a long way to go on this. What about body cams? The Department of Justice was offering \$1 million grants, but we made no efforts to get them.”

Several of the panelists explained that the auditor is prohibited under Virginia Law from investigating or conducting interviews. Citizens responded that they were willing to help the board get those changes made at the General Assembly, “just show us what to do. Support us.”

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax NAACP, took a more conciliatory approach in his remarks, calling the work done so far “a good start,” but he challenged the county to look into the disparity in the treatment of blacks versus whites within the legal system and in detention. Annan called for measures to track such information and make it easily available to the public.

George Becerra of Burke, a community advocate and familiar face at public meetings on diverse issues around the county, asked a different kind of question of the panelists. He glanced around the large auditorium, then, pointing to the small numbers in attendance, Becerra asked “How will you change your outreach efforts?”

In response, Ginwright with Communities of Trust referred again to her organization’s Public Safety Days campaigns. After the meeting, Becerra expressed his disappointment with the answer. He acknowledged that citizens were equally responsible for informing themselves and in becoming engaged, but said that the information is often hard to find and overwhelming. With so many media relations personnel and staffers, Becerra thinks just a bit more of the work should fall on the county’s side of the fence.

“During campaigns, politicians find a way to bombard your email with information and requests for donations and support.” Becerra wants to know why something similar can’t be done for these important issues and meetings. “There’s maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That’s a lot of voices going unheard.”

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE – Centrowood Dr. AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct an 88-foot bell tower at 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, Fairfax County, VA. Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Amanda Sabol – CBRE, 4 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604, whiteplainsculturalresources@cbre.com or (914) 694-9600.

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Memorial Day 2017

FROM PAGE 6

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Yard Sales. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly members will have individual Yard Sales in the church parking lot. Rain date is Saturday, June 10.

Sexual Trafficking Walk. 8 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Help raise awareness and prevent teen sex trafficking by participating in the Just Ask Walk/Run for Freedom. Sponsored by Just Ask Trafficking Prevention. Visit justaskprevention.com for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Democratic Candidate Forum. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Mountain View School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Meet the three Democratic candidates for the 67th House District and make an informed selection for one of these candidates on June 13th in Virginia's Primary Election. State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) will moderate the forum. Candidates are John W. Carey, Karrie Delaney, and Hannah Rishq. Visit sullydemocrats.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 6

Sully Democratic Committee. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Meet like-minded neighbors and learn how to become involved in our political process. Free. Visit sullydemocrats.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 8

Public Comment Meeting. 7 p.m. at Brookfield Elementary School, 4200 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly. The Fairfax County Park Authority will gather public input on the draft master plan revision for Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The draft master plan revision is available for review on the project's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/eclawrence.htm. To speak at the meeting or for more information, contact Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662 or parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg					

Price Points — In the Wrong Direction



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/non-typical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless; I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's long-standing — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed rounds.

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, so too is it difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: desert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Urban League Honors Community Leaders

And presents \$50,000 in scholarships at its 27th Annual Awards Gala.

What do Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green, Korean Commander General Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott and the Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL) have in common? The Northern Virginia Urban League honored six champions in the community for leadership and community service and awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to local minority Northern Virginia high school seniors at its 27th Annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala on Friday, April 28 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The theme was “Celebrating Champions in Our Community.”

Those recognized as Community Champions included:

- ❖ Darrell Green (former Washington Redskin and Pro Football Hall of Famer) - Champion of the Community, Man of the Year Award. Green spoke of his challenging upbringing and despite the success of his NFL career his life beyond #28 is devoted to God and community.
- ❖ U.S. Rep. Robert “Bobby” C. Scott (D-3) - Congressional Leadership Award. Scott spoke of the critical value of historic preservation and advocacy for affordable healthcare
- ❖ Mele Melton (founder of Culturified



KEL B. PICS PHOTOGRAPHY

Champion in the Community honorees from left are Darrell Green (former Washington Redskin and Pro Football Hall of Famer) - Champion of the Community, Man of the Year Award; Brigadier General Leo A. Brooks, Jr. (USA, Retired) - Leadership and Military Service Award; Mele Melton (founder of Culturified Foundation) - Emerging Leader Under 40 Award; Brigadier General Leo A. Brooks, Sr. (USA, Retired) - Leadership and Military Service Award; and U.S. Rep. Robert “Bobby” C. Scott (D-3) - Congressional Leadership Award.

Foundation) - Emerging Leader Under 40 Award. The owner of 27 Taco Bells spoke of changing culture and the need for children to become “Culturified.”

❖ Brigadier General (Retired) Leo A. Brooks, Sr., Brigadier General (Retired) Leo A. Brooks, Jr., and General Vincent K.

Brooks - Leadership and Military Service Award - African-American family with father and two sons to attain rank of general in the U.S. Army. History making, press-averse, family with two generations of generals and three generals in the family is an unprecedented milestone. Son Vincent who

commands Korea is managing the conflict for the Trump Administration.

Seniors receiving a college scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 each were:

- ❖ Yosaph Boku - Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Jessica Brisco - T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Christian Clark - Washington-Lee High School, Arlington.
- ❖ Nicholas Conklu - Washington-Lee High School, Arlington.
- ❖ Abigail Darko - Heritage High School, Leesburg.
- ❖ Morgan Hobson - Fairfax High School, Fairfax.
- ❖ Miranda Merritt - Thomas A. Edison High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Oshae Moore - Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield.
- ❖ Aaron Mooror - Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Matthew Ritchie - Loudoun Academy of Science, Sterling/Broad Run High School, Ashburn.

Monies raised from the gala will benefit preservation of the Freedom House Museum, STEM Education Programs, STEM Summer Camps, STEM Technology Expositions, Mentoring Programs, Leadership Development Programs for Young Professionals, and \$50,000 in Scholarship Awards to Minority Youth. Visit www.nvul.org.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

this month of spiritual elevation by focusing on good deeds and prayers, terror groups such as ISIS continue to disgrace themselves and Islam.

The Holy Quran states, “Whosoever killed a person ... It shall be as if he killed all mankind (5:33).

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) counted the “killing of a soul” among the four “major sins” (Nasai).

The Khalifah of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, stated, “... those who seek to justify their hateful acts in the name of Islam are serving only to defame it in the worst possible way.”

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association USA (AMYA USA) challenges radicalization and extremists’ claim on Islam by showing through words and deed the true essence of Islam. The Muslim Writers Guild of America, an auxiliary of AMYA USA, published nearly 400 pieces in U.S. newsprint media in 2016 presenting the true teachings of Islam. In that same time span, AMYA USA has fed upwards of 170,000 people and collected 5,000 units of blood in service of our fellow Americans.

Zahid Yousaf
Centreville

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