

Gary Ambrose Selected as Fairfax County Citizen of the Year
(FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA)

Citizen activist Gary Ambrose will be honored as the 2017 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year at the annual awards banquet sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations on Sunday, April 15 at the Waterford in Springfield.

Gary Ambrose is a retired Air Force general and command pilot. He then served as IBM's Vice President for the Department of Defense. Now he devotes much of his time to advocacy on behalf of people living with mental illness, intellectual disability, and/or substance use disorders. He serves as a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Concerned Fairfax, a grassroots mental health advocacy group. Gary was an active member of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket. Gary has been a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's board of directors since 2013, and served as board chairman from 2015 to 2017. He is also the Chairman of Fairfax County's Diversion First Stakeholders Group. For his many and diverse volunteer efforts behalf of people living with mental illness, intellectual disability, and/or substance use disorders, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Gary Ambrose as Citizen of the Year.

The Federation will also recognize as 2017 Citation of Merit honorees Barbara Lippa, Lyle "Chet" McLaren and Richard Raines.

Barbara Lippa has had a long history of service to Fairfax. She served on the Business Curriculum Advisory Curriculum Committee at Northern Virginia Community College, as a Project Opportunity Board member and a Corporate Volunteer Committee member for Celebrate Fairfax. Barbara also served on the Community Council on Land Use Engagement. Following a career with the Fairfax County Planning Commission, including as Executive Director, Barbara has focused her retirement activities primarily on women's empowerment activities. She serves as the Sully District representative on the County Commission for Women and is Vice Chairman. She played a primary role in the Commission's focus on human trafficking, including a community program jointly sponsored with the Arlington, Alexandria and City of Fairfax Commissions for Women. She has also served as treasurer and a member of the Executive Board for the National Association of Commission for Women. Barbara has served in many leadership roles at the local, District and International levels for Zonta International, which strives to advance the status of women through service and advocacy. For her many and diverse volunteer efforts in support of women's empowerment activities, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Barbara Lippa with a Citation of Merit.

Lyle "Chet" McLaren is recognized for his decades of service to Fairfax County and its residents. Not only has Chet served on the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Trails and Sidewalk Committee, the Environmental Quality Advisory Commission, and the Tree Commission, he has also participated in countless meetings in the Braddock District Office. His calm and focused demeanor during discussions (both contentious and calm) pertaining to the environment, land use, the budget, etc., over the years has made the Braddock District and the county as a whole a better place. Chet has served as President of the North Springfield Elementary School PTA, the Annandale High School PTA, the Annandale High School Band Boosters, and the North Springfield Swim Club and as a coach for the North Springfield Little League. Chet has also served on the Board of Directors of the North Springfield Civic Association nearly every year since 1965. In addition to serving on official volunteer boards, commissions and committees throughout the County, Chet has also volunteered immeasurable hours to his North Springfield community and its nearby schools and parks. Chet organized the creation of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park, a group of volunteers whose efforts benefit the Park. He further served as the emcee during the Braddock Nights concert series at Lake Accotink for many years. For his many and diverse volunteer

efforts in the areas of environment, land use, and the budget, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Chet McLaren with a Citation of Merit.

Reserve Deputy Richard Raines has volunteered over 23,500 hours with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Initially assigned to review and update all the Sheriff's Office emergency plans and standard operating procedures, he assisted in the submission of applications for federal grants for the enhancement of security of the Fairfax County judicial center. These projects provided much needed enhancements to the facilities. He and his partner formulated a plan for and conducted a full-scale exercise for the emergency evacuation of the Fairfax County Confinement facility. This plan became the basis for the National Sheriff's Associations class for the emergency evacuation of jails. The American Jail Association named him the association's volunteer of the year. He has taught classes on emergency response and jail evacuation at the local, state and national levels. He has also been responsible for the monitoring of the inmate calling system, responding to requests for evidence collection, and processing of applications for new and renewal of ATF Class 3 and dealer's licenses. His current assignment is with the Internal Affairs Sections where he supports that section's activities. The Fairfax County Board designated a Richard Raines Day in recognition of his service to the county. Mr. Raines is a retired Marine with over 34 years of service. For his many and diverse volunteer efforts in the enhancement of security of the Fairfax County judicial center, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Richard Raines with a Citation of Merit.

The Federation will also recognize Earl Flanagan with a Special Gratitude Award on the occasion of his retirement from the Planning Commission. Earl Flanagan has been active in public service for decades and particularly with land use and community activities. He has served as Mount Vernon District member of the Fairfax County Planning and Fairfax County Transportation Advisory commissions, on the Planning Commission's Policy & Procedures, Land Use Process, Housing, Parks and Telecommunications committees, as President of the Riverside Estates Civic Association and of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, on the boards of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, as a member of Woodrow Wilson Bridge stakeholder panel, Richmond Highway Revitalization study, and the District of Columbia Prison replanning. He was honored as Mount Vernon District Lord Fairfax and Citizen of the Year. In addition, Earl was an artillery non-commissioned officer with General Patton's 3rd Army in Europe during the Second World War. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for an advance landing of the 71st Division at Le Havre, France. Earl was one of the American soldiers involved the liberation of Gunskirchen Lager, a German concentration camp north of Lambach, Austria, and has spoken to audiences across the country about his experience, and been interviewed for a documentary film about that historic event. After combat, he served in the military government of Germany, attended the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, and toured Europe as a member of the SHAEF GI Symphony Orchestra. He was commissioned as an Air Force officer during the Korean War, serving as a psychological warfare officer and an airbase commandant. He currently serves as the President of the 71st Infantry Division Association. For his many and diverse efforts land use and community activities in the Mount Vernon District, and countywide with the Fairfax County Planning Commission, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Earl Flanagan with a Special Gratitude Award.

"I am delighted that so many outstanding members of the community who give continuously, have been selected as this year's honorees." said Federation President Tim Thompson.

The Federation, established in 1940, is the countywide voice for homeowner, civic, and community associations. More information on the 2017 honorees and banquet RSVP are available on the Federation's website at www.fairfaxfederation.org. Media contact Jeff Parnes – (703) 424.2956 / fedcoy2018@fairfaxfederation.org