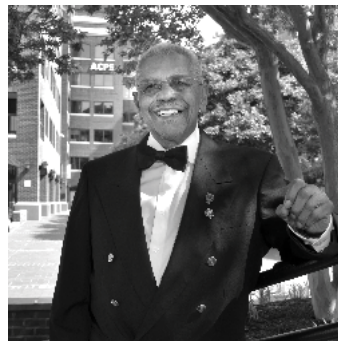
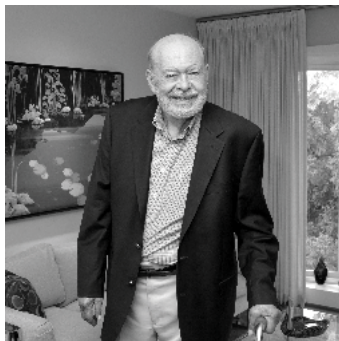
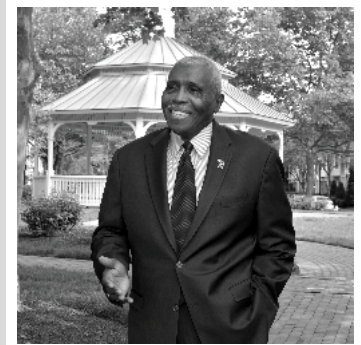
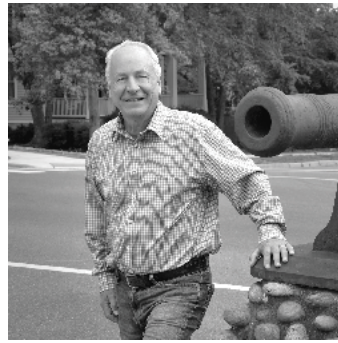




LIVING LEGENDS of ALEXANDRIA

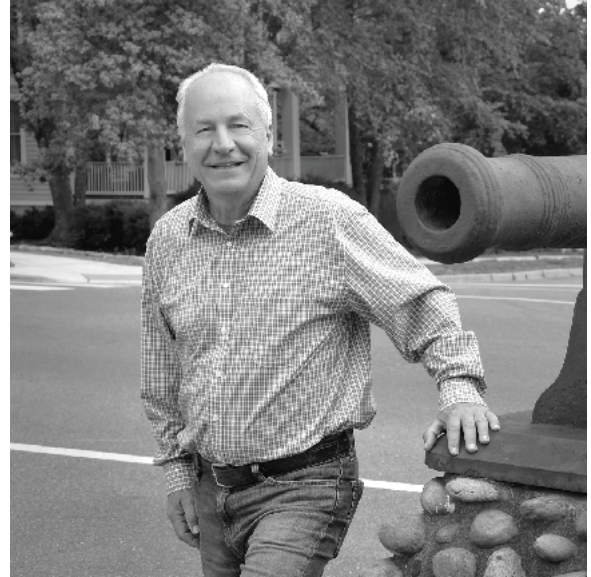
Honoring individuals who have significantly impacted
the quality of life in Alexandria



CONGRATULATIONS!



David Baker



Dana Lawhorne

**Thank you for all the years
that you put yourselves in
danger in order to protect the
citizens of Alexandria!**

**A grateful resident,
Marion Moon
Living Legend 2018**

Table of Contents

Invitation to Nominate a Legend	4
Letter from the Mayor of Alexandria	5
Living Legends of Alexandria Overview.....	6
2023 Board of Directors	6
Acknowledgements	7
Letter From the President	8
Legends Roster by Year	10
In Memoriam	12
The 2023 Living Legends of Alexandria	15
David Baker	16
Nelson Greene, Jr.	18
Dana Lawhorne	20
Carolyn B. Lewis	22
Patty and Kate Moran	24
Gary Oelze	30
James Paige	32
Redella S. “Del” Pepper	34
John “Jack” Sullivan	36
William Vosbeck	40
Charles Wilson	42
2023 Living Legends Through the Years	44

Living Legends of Alexandria Catalog

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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others.

NOMINATE ALEXANDRIA'S NEXT LEGEND

Do you know someone who has given vision, energy and commitment to improve our city of Alexandria? Who is a local hero of our community?

Living Legends of Alexandria invites the public to submit nominations for consideration as Living Legends for 2024.

Living Legends of Alexandria is a nonprofit project to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of those making current history in the City of Alexandria.

Invitation to Nominate a Legend

Join the history makers!

Complete a nomination form and mail it to:

Living Legends of Alexandria

PO Box 918

Alexandria, VA 22313

or submit online at AlexandriaLegends.org

Thank you!

Congratulations to my fellow 2023 Living Legend Honorees. You are all distinguished and inspiring role models. I am honored to join countless others in recognizing your passion, selfless dedication, significant achievements, and notable contributions to the citizens and City of Alexandria. Well done!

- David Baker





City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
Fax: 703.838.6433
justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

October 18, 2023

Living Legends of Alexandria
c/o Mary Wadland, 2023 Board President of Living Legends of Alexandria
P.O. Box 918
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Good Evening:

And a heartfelt welcome to each of you, to the 2023 "Meet the Legends" Reception.

Tonight, we honor 12 new inductees into this historic group of Alexandrians, individuals whose commitment and contributions make a positive and tangible difference to our City.

The Living Legends of Alexandria organization was started in 2006, and was incorporated the year after, setting the stage for its inaugural class in 2008. Since then, a select few of local leaders have achieved this title.

Not only are the Living Legends leaders, they are role models among all of us in our daily lives. Their contributions to our City continue to make it a great place to live, work, learn, and play.

So, tonight, please take this special opportunity to meet Alexandria's new legends, the inductees of 2023. And, may such a chance meeting inspire you to also contribute to the Legend that is Alexandria.

Once again, please accept my sincerest welcome.

Justin M. Wilson
Mayor



Living Legends of Alexandria

A Legacy for the Community: History/Legacy

Living Legends of Alexandria seeks to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria.

The idea was conceived in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara and initiated with support by the Rotary Club of Alexandria and the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

“Living Legends began when within a two-week time in the fall of 2006, the City and the Gazette Packet came to the Tisara Photography studio asking for photos of people who had died to include with stories they were writing,” Tisara said. “When the photos weren’t there, I thought why not photograph people while they’re still alive. From there it was a natural step to capture their stories at the same time and create an ongoing historical record. Today the project also inspires people of all ages to creative action in the community.”

To date, Living Legends has told the stories of 233 citizens and how they made a difference in our community. The stories and photographs—the work of area journalists, writers and photographers—form an artistic product of historic value to our City.

Lance Mallamo, then-director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, in a letter to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, wrote, “Living Legends is doing the research and recording the history of today’s Alexandria. But as important as that is, Living Legends is also an art project. The individual photographs are of extremely high quality. Different from standard head-and-shoulder portraits, these images are akin to master portrait paintings that tell a story. The settings artfully incorporate something about the subject’s passion concerning Alexandria.”

As a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, Living Legends of Alexandria is guided in fulfillment of its historical mission by a community Board of Directors, assisted by partners from business, education, the media, and by volunteers from the community.

Living Legends is now translating the founder-director’s years of energy and devotion into new structures of leadership and programs of service. Living Legends continues to honor the legacy and encourage individuals of all ages to make a difference in Alexandria.

2023 Living Legends of Alexandria Board of Directors

President – Mary Wadland
Vice President – Gayle Reuter
Secretary – Janet Barnett
Treasurer – Pat Miller
Audrey Davis
Willie Bailey
Frank Fannon

Tavares Floyd
Martha Lloyd
Gregg Murphy
Jeanne Theismann

Director Emeritus – Nina Tisara

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors of Living Legends of Alexandria would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their outstanding support of the Living Legends of Alexandria project. We are grateful for your inspiration and leadership in the community.

Living Legends of Alexandria Founder - Nina Tisara with Steven Halperson

Presenting sponsor Marion Moon, Living Legend 2018

Founding media partner -- the Alexandria Gazette Packet

Alexandria Aces

Alexandria Cupcake

Alexandria Police Foundation

Alexandria Rotary Club

Alexandria Sheriff's Association

American Legion Post 24

David Baker, Living Legend 2023

Janet Barnett, Living Legend 2016

Willie Bailey, Living Legend 2013

The Birchmere

Bishop Ireton High School musicians

Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria

Dominion Energy

Enthuse Creative – Reggie Holmes

Everly-Wheatley Funerals and Cremation

Hadeed

Home Grown Restaurant Group

Il Porto Restaurant

Merrick Malone

Martha Lloyd and Ronal Butler, Living Legend 2019

Mayor Justin Wilson and City Council

Mark Mogle Photography and Video

Morrison Family

Gregg Murphy, Living Legend 2014

Roger Parks

The Paige family, Jim Paige Living Legend 2023

Seminary Hill Association

Simpson Real Estate Services, Donald Simpson Jr. Living Legend 2020

Tisara Photography

Ultra Sound and Light – Ray Hume

Jen Walker Team, Jen Walker Living Legend 2017

Donnan C. Wintermute, Living Legend 2014

Yates Family, Jason and Loren Yates Living Legends 2019

Zebra

Very special thanks to Karl V. Hopkins, George D. Seghers, Derrick Sanders and the staff of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for their continued support of the Living Legends of Alexandria project. The Memorial has engaged in the first full-scale restoration of the building since the original cornerstone was laid over 100 years ago in 1923. Please visit www.gwmemorial.org to learn more about this historic Alexandria landmark.

Letter From the President

October 18, 2023

Dear Friends, Honorees, Sponsors, and Guests,

I'd like to welcome you on behalf of the board to tonight's reception where we formally introduce and recognize the contributions, innovations, philanthropy, and leadership of the 2023 Living Legends of Alexandria.

Each person has left an indelible mark on the community and was chosen after a rigorous nomination and review process.

At the same time, we also honor and remember those Legends who are with us in spirit only. In the last year, we have lost eight. We hope you take a moment to cherish their memories in the In Memoriam section of this program.

We thank you for your support tonight, and as a board, we pledge to continue to grow the Living Legends of Alexandria program by inspiring future leaders, recognizing people making an impact, and chronicling the stories of those whose unequivocal influences are unforgettable.

Gratefully yours,



Mary J. Wadland
Board President, Living Legends of Alexandria



CONGRATULATIONS
to the
2023 Living Legends



DONNAN CHANCELLOR WINTERMUTE
Over \$1 Billion in Career Sales

703-608-6868

2014 Living Legend

Named by the Washingtonian as
"The Face of Alexandria Real Estate"



COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL
BROKERAGE

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
310 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.518.8300

Legends Roster by Year

2007-08 Legends

David Cleary
*Ferdinand Day
Carolyn Griffin
*William B. Hurd
*Vola Lawson
David B. H. Martin
Stephen Rideout
Debra Roepke
*Gladys Seisler
*Patsy Ticer
Marian Van Landingham
Joe Youcha

2008-09 Legends

*Engin Artemel
*Donna and *Melvin Bergheim
*Bernard M. Fagelson
*Thomas “TJ” Fannon
*Lillie Finklea and *Louise Massoud
*Carlton A. Funn, Sr.
*Arlene Hewitt
*George Pera
Jane Ring
*Charlene Schiff
*Eula and *A. Melvin Miller
Elbert Ransom, Jr.

2010 Legends

*Chet Avery
Rosalind Bovey
V. Rodger Digilio
*Nelson A. Greene, Sr.
*T. Michael Miller
Alice Merrill and Linda Odell
John Porter
Joan and John Renner
David Speck
*Pat Troy
*Lois Walker
*Betty Wright

2011 Legends

*Mollie Abraham
Lynnwood Campbell
William E. Clayton
*H. Stewart Dunn
*Timothy S. Elliott
Jon Liss
Peter Lunt
*Donald Ferdinand Mela
Fran and Gant Redmon
*Carlyle C. Ring, Jr.
Jack Taylor
Joseph Viar

2012 Legends

*Bob Calhoun
*Al Grande
Harry “Bud” Hart
Wendy McGann John
William “Bill” Kehoe
Allen Lomax
Jimmie McClellan
Pat Miller
Mike Oliver
Lillian Stanton Patterson
*Joseph S. Shumard
C. Eugene Steuerle
*Dorothy Turner and *Gwen Menefee-Smith

2013 Legends

Willie F. Bailey, Sr.
Kathryn A. Brown and *Marlin G. Lord
Rosa Byrd
Elizabeth C. Chimento and Poul Martin Hertel
Joe Guiffre
Thomas Young “Jay” Johnson, Jr.
David M. Martin
Richard E. Merritt
*Joann E. Miller
Lonnie C. Rich
William “Bill” Rivers
*Lewis A. Stearman

2014 Legends

Mike Anderson
Char McCargo Bah
*Rose Enevoldsen Berler
*Lee Fifer
Charles Eugene “Tony” Gee
Richard “Rick” Allyn Glassco
Ramona K. Hatten
Gregory “Gregg” L. Murphy
Tricia Rodgers
*Shirley N. Tyler
*Converse “Connie” West
Donnan “Donnie” Chancellor Wintermute

2015 Legends

Kathleen Baker
Marga Fripp
*Alice P. Morgan
*Fred Parker
Joyce Rawlings
Gayle Reuter
Nina Tisara

2016 Legends

Elizabeth “Betsy” Anderson
Janet Barnett
*Herman Boone
Diane Charles
Ruth and Bill Cleveland
*Wanda S. Dowell
*H. Warden Foley and *William McNamara
Lorraine Friedman
Ulysses James
Kim Allen Kluge
Steve Nearman
Jodie Smolik

2017 Legends

*Kerry Donley
Bill Euille
Carter Flemming
Sandy Modell
Gwen Mullen
*Ethel Underwood
Jen Walker
Mary Anne Weber

2018 Legends

*Sherry Wilson Brown
Ann and Rick Dorman
Jason A. Ellis
*Charles Euripides
*Florence M. King
Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis
Marion Moon
Lori Morris

2019 Legends

Ronal Butler
Brooke Sydnor Curran
*James Henson
Jane King
Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel
Lawrence “Robbie” Robinson
Jason and Loren Yates

2020 Legends

Carol Bailey and Ryan Bailey
Frank Fannon IV
Magaly and Tom Hirst
Rosa Landeros
McArthur Myers
Virginia and Richard Obranovich
Bill Reagan
Donald Simpson Jr.
Lindsey Swanson and Katey Halasz

*deceased

In Memoriam



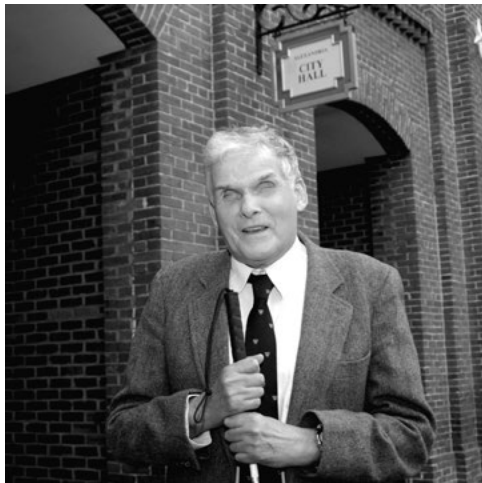
**Mollie Abraham
(1926-2023)**

Mollie Abraham consistently spoke out against bigotry and for equal rights. She founded Virginia NOW and chaired the Alexandria Commission for Women for four years. She worked for legislation requiring better options and information for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Abraham was honored as a Living Legend in 2011.



**Sherry Brown
(1945-2022)**

Sherry Wilson Brown served as Executive Director for Agenda Alexandria, Vice-Chair of the Alexandria Arts Forum, Chair of the Alexandria Performing Arts Association, and Director of Resources and Management at MetroStage. Brown was honored as a Living Legend in 2018.



**Chet Avery
(1937-2022)**

Chet Avery's service over more than four decades encompassed 12 different local, state and national boards and commissions, including a major role in establishing the forerunner of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities. Avery was honored as a Living Legend in 2010.



**Kerry Donley
(1956-2022)**

Whether as the Mayor of Alexandria, member of city council, a banker or a coach, Kerry Donley dedicated his life to serving his community. From bringing the Patent and Trademark Office to Alexandria to the construction of Beatley Library, he worked tirelessly to improve the city. Donley was honored as a Living Legend in 2017.



**Lillie Finklea
(1939-2022)**

Lillie Finklea, at right, and Louise Massoud formed the Friends of Freedmen’s Cemetery to ensure that the cemetery, a burial ground for African Americans, was recognized and restored after generations of neglect. Finklea was honored as a Living Legend in 2009.



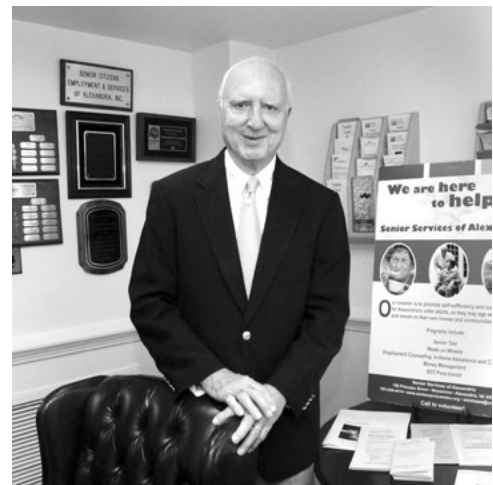
**Marlin Lord
(1937-2022)**

The team of Kathryn Brown and Marlin Lord, at right, contributed to Alexandria through their efforts in the Del Ray Artisans, the King Street Gardens Park Foundation and the Arts Forum. A founder of the Del Ray Artisans, Lord also served as president of the Del Ray Citizens Association. Lord was honored as a Living Legend in 2013.



**Warden Foley
(1927-2023)**

Because of his position of leadership at American Legion Post 24 over many decades, Warden Foley, at right, along with Bill McNamara, were the driving force behind gifting historic Gadsby’s Tavern and the adjacent City Hotel buildings to the citizens and City of Alexandria. Foley was honored as a Living Legend in 2016.



**George Pera
(1929-2023)**

George Pera came to Alexandria as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, a role he served for 15 years. Seeing the value seniors brought to the community and the services they might need, he worked with Senior Services of Alexandria as president. He helped found and chair Agenda Alexandria and was president of the board of Elder Crafters. Pera was honored as a Living Legend in 2009.



**Congratulations to the
2023 Living Legends of Alexandria!**

**Thank you for all that you do
to make our city a great place
to live, work and visit.**

1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

(703) 998-9200

Jim Zalewski, Managing Partner

2023 Living Legends of Alexandria



**David
Baker**



**Nelson
Greene, Jr.**



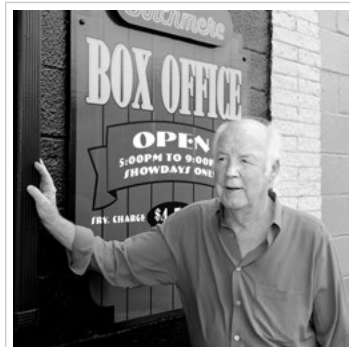
**Dana
Lawhorne**



**Carolyn B.
Lewis**



**Patty and Kate
Moran**



**Gary
Oelze**



**James
Paige**



**Redella S. "Del"
Pepper**



**John "Jack"
Sullivan**



**Charles
Willson**



**William
Vosbeck**



David Baker

By Jeanne Theismann

For David Baker, community service has been an integral part of a long and accomplished career in law enforcement.

The son of an Air Force officer, Baker grew up in a military family and moved often before settling in the DC area as a 10-year-old when his father was reassigned to the Andrews AFB Strategic Air Command.

“From a young age I grew up wanting to be a police officer,” said Baker of his chosen profession. “At least according to my mother, who said I spent time playing sheriff and chasing bad guys around the neighborhood.”

“My father was a nuclear physicist who also served in World War II and Korea,” said Baker, who also has a twin sister and two brothers. “He chose the military over a lucrative job offer he received after graduating from college. It was important to him to first be a patriot and to serve his country and that inspired my future service.”

Baker served as Alexandria’s Deputy Chief and Chief of Police after serving more than 20 years with the DC Metropolitan Police Department. He retired from the MPD as a Captain.

He first joined the MPD as a 20-year-old, assigned to the old #11 Precinct in Southeast Washington.

“It was the highest crime and lowest income area of the city, but to me it was full of hard-working people,” Baker said. “In those days most officers walked foot beats alone without a radio and pulled call boxes to check in with station. You learn a lot of life lessons when you are out there by yourself. You learn to build relationships. You learn humility. And you learn and respect how people navigate through human suffering and difficult situations in their lives.”

Baker joined the Alexandria Police Department in 1990, serving 19 years including three as Chief of Police.

Throughout his law enforcement and community service careers, Baker earned the reputation as a caring, intelligent, innovative, and highly respected leader. He was known to be visible, compassionate, and engaging.

In the police department Baker initiated a Strategic Response Model of Policing that significantly improved police response and accountability. The department achieved record reductions in crime, increased community engagement, and benefitted from advanced use of crime analysis and other technologies to help guide the department's response to new or emerging challenges. Throughout, he believed in openness and transparency with staff and members of the community.

Baker led efforts to maintain the department's national certification by the Commission on Accreditation in Law Enforcement. He partnered with George Mason University to bring a criminal justice "cohort" college degree program to the department. This allowed officers and civilians interested in pursuing criminal justice degrees to do so after work hours at the police station. Approximately 40 officers of various ranks earned their undergraduate degrees. An additional 15 went on to earn graduate certificates or degrees.

Baker helped create a Citizen's Police Chief's Advisory Committee, which was the early precursor to what is now the Alexandria Police Foundation. He helped manage a successful city-wide police community liaison program to promote and enhance police-community partnerships. He then volunteered to be the long-time police liaison to the then Potomac West Business Association where he spent countless hours on and off duty meeting and interacting with residents and community leaders.

Baker brought these same qualities to Goodwin House Alexandria (now Goodwin Living) where he served almost 12 years after retiring from the police force. There he distinguished himself as one of the primary contact people for many residents and their families. He worked to ensure and maintain resident safety, comfort, and well-being and was known as a "go to" person who worked tirelessly to solve whatever issue residents had. Many times, he simply spent quality time sharing stories and learning from residents about important life lessons they experienced throughout

their lives. For this and more, Baker received the 2012 Alexandria Commission on Aging Lois Van Valkenberg Excellence in Aging Award.

While at Goodwin House he joined the Senior Services of Alexandria Board of Directors where he served in many roles, including Board President. He was also appointed by City Council to Chair the Beauregard Small Area Development Plan Implementation Committee, for which he and his committee received a Proclamation of Achievement from City Council.

One of his favorite things to do was partner with former Goodwin Living resident and Senior Services Board member Admiral Mike McCaffree to deliver Meals on Wheels.

In addition to the Alexandria Police Foundation and SSA, Baker has served on the boards of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, the Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Community Advisory Committee, City of Alexandria Budget, and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, Carlyle Council Community Services Board; Jamieson Condo Association, City of Alexandria Commission on Information Technology; and Alexandria Child Advocacy Center Board of Directors.

Baker holds a master's certificate in Criminal Justice Management from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in leadership and criminal justice management, also from GMU. He graduated from Session 139 of the F.B.I. National Academy, and from the Police Executive Leadership School, Jepsen School of Leadership, at the University of Richmond.

"Throughout my life many people have inspired me in so many ways," Baker said. "Alexandria is a city with role models and mentors everywhere. It is unique in that regard. Everywhere I turned I met and was inspired by accomplished people who gave of themselves, who unselfishly volunteered their time and talents for the greater good of the community. I simply wanted to be a part of that by contributing as much as I could, wherever I could, for as long as I could. I highly recommend it."

Baker fully retired in 2021 and he and his partner, Sandra, split their time between Alexandria and a new home outside Rehoboth Beach. He has two grown sons and especially enjoys being "Poppy" to his four grandchildren.



Nelson E. Greene, Jr.

By Mike Salmon

In the 1950s, being “progressive” may not have had the same meaning as it does today. But it stood for taking a stance, and that was the spirit of Nelson Greene Jr., a founding member of the Departmental Progressive Club who took a stance throughout his lifetime in Alexandria and got things done.

His voice against injustice in Alexandria went a long way and through that, he righted a few wrongs along the way, including his service at the club, three terms on the Alexandria City School Board and work as an adjunct professor in the Mortuary Science program at the University of the District of Columbia. The Departmental Progressive Club works frequently with Carpenter’s Shelter and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to provide food to many of the area families.

In 1954, his father Nelson Greene Sr. started the Greene Funeral Home with his wife Gloria. Greene Jr. took over after his father’s death in November

of 2014. Although he had a tough exterior, friends knew him as a big old teddy bear.

“Nelson had the biggest heart and was the most giving person I knew,” said Merrick Malone, who served as an officer with Greene at the DPC. “He was an incredible asset not just to our club but to the entire city. He comes from a tremendous family legacy and he advanced that legacy but he was never in anyone’s shadow. He created his own legacy.”

Greene briefly attended Parker-Gray High School before graduating from what is now Duke Ellington High School in Washington. He spent three years serving as an officer in the U.S. Army before returning to Alexandria to work in the family business.

“Nelson loved the City of Alexandria,” said Donita Greene, his wife of nearly 25 years. “He did what he could to make the city the best it could be.”

Greene received his Mortuary Science education from John Tyler Community College in Chester, Va., and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia State College.

Greene was well-known for his dedicated service in the funeral industry as well as to the many organizations he served in the community.

He served as National President of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity and chapter president, as chairman of the Life Membership committee and District Governor of National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, and on the Scholarship Committee and State President of Virginia Morticians Association, as well as Chairman of the Board.

When Greene was a member of the school board he supported the various sports programs as a way for high school students to have a good start and to know the value of teamwork. One thing he did was to make sure all athletes maintained a C average at school. This didn't go over well with some of the parents but he stood by his rule and in the end, everyone benefited.

Greene also supported the talent shows at school as another way for the students to express themselves. Mentoring young men was a big part of his efforts, and he hoped they would become the next police and firemen in the city.

He was a member of Meade Episcopal Church, where he served as Licensed Lay Preacher. He also served as Junior Warden eight other times, and as Senior Warden three times. He was a life member of Omega Psi Phi since 1974.

“Nelson served this community in all kinds of capacities,” added Malone. “Some people may have thought he was gruff but he was never afraid to be a voice against injustice. He was very forceful and a champion in that.”

The Greene Funeral Home is located on Franklin Street between South Washington and South Patrick Streets and the city is considering naming one of the side streets after Greene to uphold the legacy that he and his family have instilled on the City of Alexandria. Donita Greene said this was in the works and is hoping it comes to fruition soon.

Said Donita Greene, “Nelson truly wanted to do whatever he could to help the people in his community.”



Nelson Greene Jr.



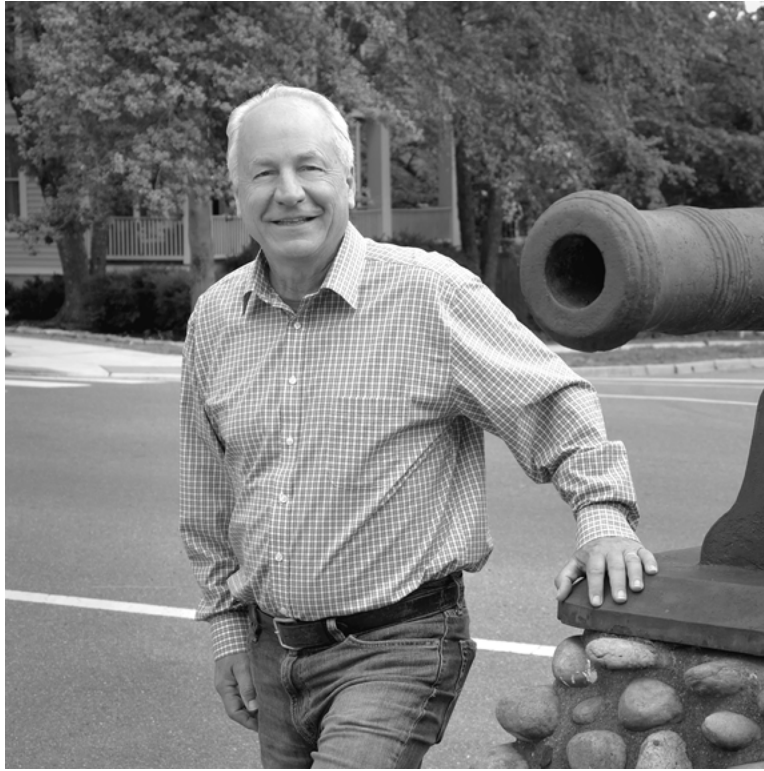
Gary Oelze



William Vosbeck

**In memory of Nelson Greene Jr., Gary Oelze and William Vosbeck.
Your spirit continues to inspire us.**

***With gratitude,
Janet Barnett***



Dana Lawhorne

By Shirley Ruhe

Dana Lawhorne's police career all started on a Friday night "drive around" in a police car when he was 14-years-old. "My teacher made me do it. I listened to the police radio, bummed a cigarette. I didn't have anything better to do; I hated to go." But from that time on he knew he wanted to be a police officer.

Lawhorne says his home life was a disaster and he didn't want to go home so he stood on the corner and waited for a police car to drive by so he could talk to them. "Hey turkey,' they would call—I had long hair and looked like a hippie. 'What are you doing out here?'"

"I grew up in this neighborhood," he says pointing across his backyard on W. Alexander Street. "But education was always a struggle for me and I didn't have any help at home. I wanted to drop out in 8th grade." He explains, "There were so many other things going on I couldn't focus. School was like doing time for me."

But he says he was lucky a couple of police officers shepherded him through high school along with some help from some neighbors who helped him through the hurtful times. "They told me I had to have a high school education if I was going to be a police officer. I wanted to be an officer so bad. I felt like there was no hope and I was attracted by the car, uniform, radio and I love helping people, solving a problem."

This early encounter led to his long and dedicated 43 years of local law enforcement service including as police officer for 27 years, detective for 19 years and Alexandria sheriff for four terms— running unopposed the last three terms. He attended T.C. Williams High School, earned his associate degree in Administration of Justice from Northern Virginia Community College and completed the Executive Leadership Institute offered by the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. Over his career he served on numerous public safety task forces and committees and

earned countless honors, awards, and expressions of appreciation for his dedication to excellence and his compassion for people.

Lawhorne says he realized later when he became sheriff how important education was to him, and one of his goals as Alexandria Sheriff was to offer educational opportunities to inmates. As a result, he hired a full time person to assist inmates with classes and tutoring to earn their GED and funded it out of his budget along with the necessary tools and equipment. “The staff knew this was important to me; it was non-negotiable; it was near and dear to my heart.” He says they established a special program unit to house these inmates with others who wanted to change their lives so they were around others with good attitudes.”

Lawhorne says when he became sheriff in 2005 he wanted to put the Sheriff’s office back on the map. “It wasn’t as respected as it should have been. I wanted it to be more invested in the community. Public trust is so important; people believe in us.” The first thing he did was look at diversity on the force of about 400. “It was mediocre at best.” So he directed his attention to increasing women and Hispanics on the force and about tripled the number while he was in charge.

“Also your philosophical and management style has to be so people can flourish and have a path to succeed.” So he increased the training opportunities for his staff. He says his biggest challenge was management of staff. “Every person is unique. They have different needs, are struggling in life, are parents trying to balance family life with work.”

Lawhorne’s priorities for inmates were sobriety and mental health as well as assistance with reentry. “I hired a reentry person. Everyone needs help with the transition back into the community.” He adds, “It doesn’t take much to trigger a person back to jail.” As a result he held job fairs with potential employers, helped the inmates find housing, birth certificates, taught them life skills while they were still in jail.

“You can’t wait until the inmates are released; you have to get them ready ahead of time.”

He said you are dealing with a vulnerable population which was 400 inmates when he entered office in 2005. This included 150 inmates, some high profile, held in the Eastern District for the Feds as well as 250 local inmates with a few accused of murder and grand larceny and mostly drugs and theft.

Lawhorne looks back at his life and gets overwhelmed by fate. “Fate, just think of all the times fate intervened.” He points to his wife Linda who he met because he was riding around an apartment complex as a security guard “having the time of my life” when he stopped to talk to a friend and there happened to be a cute girl there at the time. A brief conversation made an impression and it led to a date and marriage in 1984.

“I’m so blessed I’m married to a strong, independent woman. When I would come home after a hard day I’d walk in and you could feel the energy coming back to your body. And I have three strong and independent daughters who live nearby and three grandchildren.”

And it was fate that intervened with that drive around in the police car when he was 14 that led to his 43-year career in law enforcement.

He still lives in the neighborhood where he grew up and attended Maury Elementary. “It was good in the early years but then my older brother, who was the strong one in the family, left for the Navy, and things went bad.” But Lawhorne still walks around that neighborhood and memories come back from those early years—his best friend’s house, the neighbor who helped him through hard times and, of course, that street corner where it all started.

He decided to retire in 2022 “because of the math. I still loved what I did but I would have been 68 after another term. I miss the public service but I don’t miss the stress.”

Now Lawhorne works part time at the First Baptist Church as facilities manager, is active with the Rosemont Citizen’s Association, does a little consulting with local business and “is lucky to be able to spend a lot of time with my family.”



Carolyn B. Lewis

By Mike Salmon

Since her early days in Alexandria, Carolyn B. Lewis put her energy into improving the lives of young people and helping them move forward with a promising future. Although she has been involved with a number of programs, Project Discovery Alexandria was her baby and she's seen it grow to an organization with 20 chapters in seven states providing guidance to students pursuing higher education.

Project Discovery Alexandria (PDA) prepares and motivates low income and first-generation college-eligible students to access opportunities in higher education. Through workshops and trips to college campuses, PDA provides vital information about how to set and achieve educational goals. This program is supported by the Project Discovery Advisory Board whose mission is to raise funds, promote community involvement and foster positive public relations.

"A former superintendent of schools was one of our Project Discovery kids," Lewis said, looking back on her many accomplishments.

Iburia Hall-Haynes has known Lewis for more than 30 years and saw the result of her efforts including Project Discovery. "Through her leadership as co-founder of Project Discovery of Alexandria as a teacher, mentor, principal, church member, family member and friend, she has made a substantial difference," said Haynes in a summary of her experiences with Lewis.

Project Discovery wasn't the only thing on Lewis's plate in Alexandria. She was involved with Brother's Keepers, a community organization, Feed the Five Thousands, and Tree of Lights, while she volunteered at the polls, AARP and those attending adult high school. Along the way she's seen generations of families grow through the city programs.

One Alexandria resident who is now a grandmother went on to explain her impact. “Ms. Lewis is the person who contributed to my success and is the one responsible for my graduation from high school,” the woman told Haynes. She stated that Lewis would come to her home and make sure that she came to school and encouraged her every step of the way.

Brother’s Keepers is a community initiative, run by the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church that Lewis has been involved with since 1969. In July, Lewis was involved in a church initiative giving out school supplies to families in the D.C. area. It’s the initiative’s 22nd year helping families in underserved communities. The church choir is one of her passions. “I love singing, only in the choir though, no solos,” she said.

In 2002, Lewis was recognized by Alexandria’s Commission for Women in the Annual Salute to Women Awards in the Education/Training category.

Lewis was born and raised in Whitakers, N.C. She was one of 12 children – eight girls and four boys. “It was wonderful growing up with so many siblings,” said Lewis, who was the youngest girl and third youngest in her family. After graduating from Swift Creek High School, she attended North Carolina Central University majoring in physical education with a minor in education and biology.

“I didn’t want to have a career that kept me inside,” Lewis said. “I wanted to be able to go outside. I didn’t really want to teach but back when I was coming along they really only told you that you could be a teacher or a nurse.”

Following her college graduation, Lewis learned that the Alexandria school district was looking for a PE teacher at what was then T.C. Williams High school. She applied but was instead sent to Parker-Gray, where she began her career in 1969. When that school closed its doors she ended up at T.C. She met her husband at T.C., where he was a music teacher. Now divorced, they had one son, Elwood “Woody” T. Lewis Jr. and she has one granddaughter, Sophia.

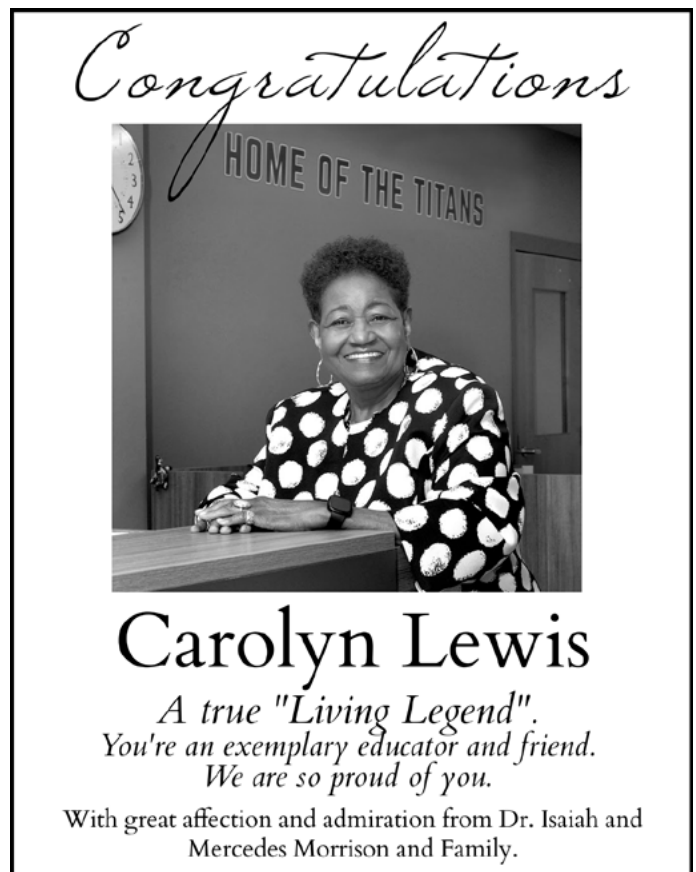
“But you can’t tell kids in Alexandria that I only have one son,” she laughed, “because according to them I have hundreds of kids.”

One of those hundreds, Joseph Williams, is especially close to Lewis.

“Joe really considers himself my son and he is really close to me,” said Lewis, who is also close to Williams’ wife Meryl, daughter Lillian and son Warren.

It’s her family along with the network of friends that she has cultivated over more than 50 years in Alexandria that keep her optimistic as she is being treated for Stage IV breast cancer.

“No matter what I am going through now I know I have had a good life,” Lewis said. “I am truly blessed.”





Patty and Kate Moran

By Shirley Ruhe

Patricia “Patty” Moran and her husband moved to Alexandria from Boston for a year in 1976 and “we never went back.” She says her son was three years old and her daughter Kate was two-months old.

“We moved into my cousin Jim Moran’s house and have been in Del Ray ever since. It’s addictive here; the people are so easy to get along with.”

Moran started teaching preschool every Sunday at Blessed Sacrament and then taught in the nursery for 20 years so she was always around kids. That and the fact that she is the 4th child of 12 siblings in her family. “We always made our own entertainment.”

She coached her son’s basketball team in middle school and some of her daughter’s sports teams but she began her volunteer work in the schools at what was then TC Williams High School in 1988 when her son entered high school. “I helped the principal with things all the time, and I was so involved with

all of the activities that they gave me my own key to the building and my own mailbox. I spent all day there; I couldn’t help myself.” It wasn’t until 2006 that they finally gave her a paying job as the administrative assistant to the principal, which is where she is today.

When she wasn’t working at her official job, Moran served as PTSA President, ANGP Co-Chair, Titan Expo Co-Chair, Athletic Boosters Committee, Scholarship Fund. Whenever there is an event in the schools or the community Moran is part of it “acting as an Indian under the chief.” Every December she takes a week off work to volunteer for the Alexandria Department of Social Services Holiday Sharing Program.

Moran has served as the sponsor of the Key Club for six years, an organization that brings together students to volunteer for school and community events. “We have 180 members and participate in 65 events a year.” Moran says the students provide

valuable assistance for these events, and it also gives them a great chance to meet each other with different cultures and nationalities and ages that they wouldn't otherwise have the chance to know. Moran says she has seen kids over a long time and doesn't think kids have changed. "But what has changed is the things around them. "In the 80s kids had face- to-face contact and had to converse but now there is social media. The kids are the same but the tools are much more sophisticated." And of course the clothes are different. "Society is much more accepting."

Moran and her daughter Kate work on many of the community events together with one of the most important being the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden Committee. The purpose is to help plan and design a meaningful and peaceful garden in Del Ray dedicated to her sister Nancy Dunning's memory after Dunning's murder in 2003. Every year Mount Vernon Avenue is lit with 1,000 luminaries in remembrance, and Kate Emcees the Holiday Tree Lighting and reminds the community of her aunt's contributions to Del Ray.

Moran was awarded the coveted annual Del Ray Business Association Award in 2007 for her years of dedicated work in organizing, supporting, volunteering, fundraising and making a difference in Del Ray. She has received many other awards including the Salute to Women Making a Difference Award, the Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Award, Alexandrian of the Year, the Alexandria Red Cross Burke Award and was Grand Marshal for the Annual Turkey Trot.

Moran says she was born a volunteer. "Whenever I see anyone needs help on Facebook, I'm there. I'm a soft touch."

Kate Moran couldn't decide which way to go. Lucky for Del Ray she made the decision she did. Moran grew up in Alexandria and was active in drama in high school. At the same time she took a special high school class where she was paired with a student who was verbal but cognitively challenged. "I helped him with reading and writing. It was a great experience. I learned some of the basics of teaching."

Moran majored in theatre at Catholic University and followed it with a Master's in Special Education from the University of Virginia. When she graduated she headed to Europe with three friends "to see the world. But when I came back I had to get a real job."

So she headed for a teaching career and has spent 25 years working in special education. Her first job was teaching students K-2 with intellectual challenges in Loudoun County. She moved to middle school where she eventually established a behavioral program "back when this was fairly new." The suspension rates were cut in half, and no student was put in private placement while she was there.

She left to teach in Alexandria where she started as a teaching assistant in the Alexandria Public Schools and later became a Special Education Coordinator. Now she is working at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Special Education Programs.

But she always did music on the side and has been able to combine her passion for helping kids with her love of music and performance. She says the purpose behind all of these things was to bring people together.

Moran started her award-winning Rainbow Rock Band where she performs as a singer- songwriter in the metropolitan area and as far away as New York. Her mother Patty serves as Pattycake Patty in the band. Moran released an award-winning CD "Meet the Rainbow" in May 2015 based on her show.

Moran and the Rainbow Rock Band went to Haiti after the disaster and worked with the kids to get school supplies. With her job at the Department of Education she spent 45 days in Puerto Rico walking door-to-door through remote areas in the mountains working on disability integration—making sure people there had generators and needed medical supplies.

profile continued on next page

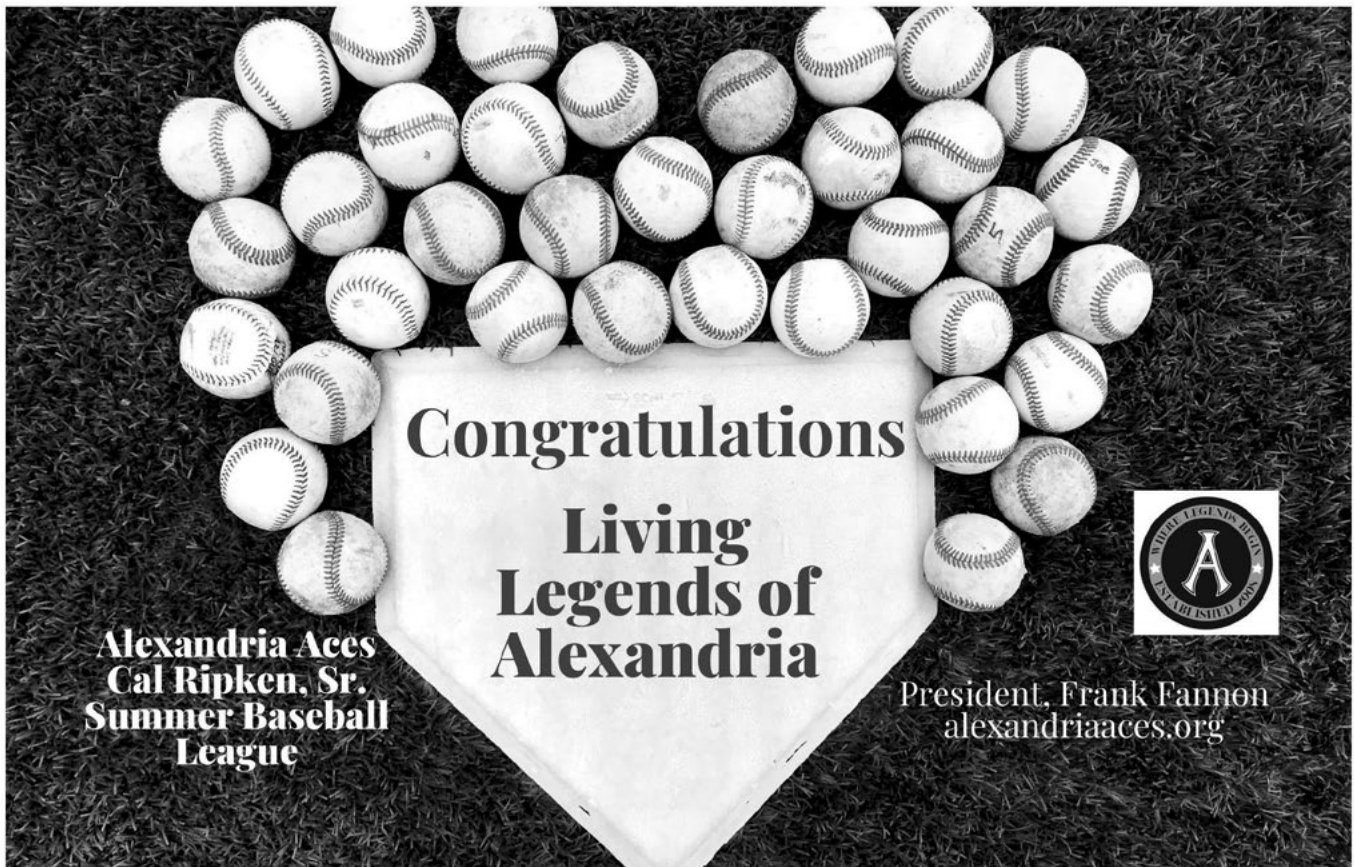
Moran established Rock the Rainbow, a non-profit dedicated to meeting the needs of children in her Del Ray neighborhood and beyond, and partnered with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to collect coats for kids in foster care.

With the help and support of her mother Patty, Moran founded the very successful Del Ray Music Festival which has become a popular yearly event. Moran was also a lead organizer with Well Del Ray from 2014-2018.

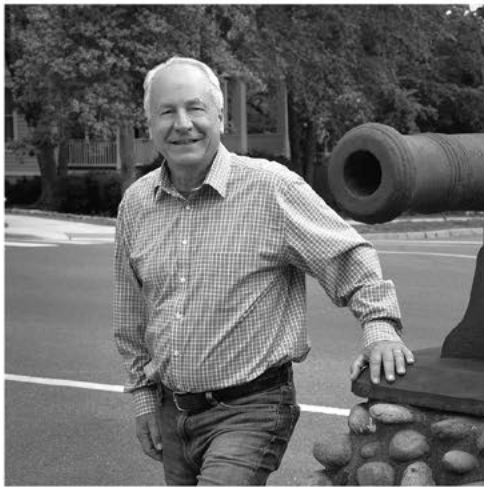
Moran and her mother co-chair the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden Committee to create a peaceful garden in her aunt's memory. "When my aunt was murdered in 2003, I wanted to keep all the things she did going for her legacy. She did Halloween, Carpenter's Shelter, so much in the background to support and help all these events

in the community." At Christmas Kate and Patty help fill the 1,000 luminaries lining the Avenue, put them out and light them in memory of her aunt and Patty's sister, and Kate gives a speech recounting her aunt's many accomplishments.

Moran along with her mother received a Star Award from the Del Ray business Association for their years of dedicated work in organizing, supporting, volunteering, fundraising and making a difference in Del Ray. Moran has received the National Parenting Products Award, Mom's National Choice Gold Award as well as Family's Choice Gold Award, US Department Peer Recognition Customer Service Award, and has served as an advisor to the Washington DC Recording Academy. She is currently a Recording Academy Washington D.C. Chapter Governor, supporting children's musicians in the DMV.



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Dana Lawhorne



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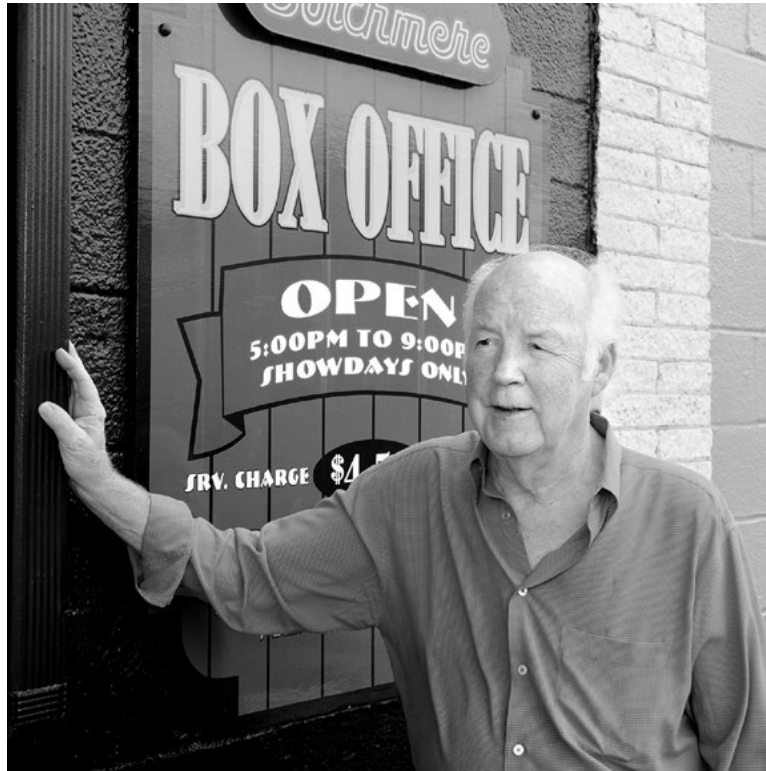
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Gary Oelze

By Steve Houk

Legendary Birchmere owner Gary Oelze was, if anything, an extraordinarily humble man. He was legitimately proud of what he had done over five-plus decades as the owner and facilitator of one of America's most cherished music venues. But he never wanted the ascension, reputation, glory, or even the cherished book about the Birchmere that he co-wrote to be about him.

He wanted the legacy of the Birchmere to be about all the people who have had unforgettable experiences playing shows there, or indelible moments attending those shows, and even the comrades who worked with him at the Birchmere over those many years. To Gary, it was always about all of them, not him.

Gary Oelze came from Kentucky and, although he never became a full-time musician there, his musical experiences helped pave the way for his achievement as the revered Birchmere maven. As a young man, he struggled to learn guitar, but

those challenges gave him insight into how hard it is to become an accomplished musician.

Gary often played what were looked upon as out-of-control local gigs with no security, teaching him the good and bad of accommodating talent and audiences. In the military, he learned discipline and routine, two staples of success. All those experiences helped him eventually create and maintain a genuinely beloved music venue people could rely on, relish in, and never forget being a part of.

Gary arrived in the Northern Virginia area in 1963, soon after being discharged from the Air Force. He got work at a local drugstore where a fellow employee, impressed with Oelze's management skills, offered him a job that included stock in a restaurant in Shirlington that was later razed. With Oelze as co-manager, it re-opened in a north Del Ray strip mall as the Birchmere in April 1966.

Early on, it kept up a successful lunch business, but to boost the venue during the evening slots, Oelze, who played in the restaurant's first band, decided to add live music to the mix, and bluegrass kicked things off.

“Bluegrass was very popular here in the beginning,” Gary described, “I had a lot of trouble getting into the bluegrass business. Bluegrass people in those days thought the pie was only so big, and it was like, what was I doing sticking my nose in it? But I just knew people wanted to hear this music.”

Over the years, every possible act from bluegrass and country to rock and roll and comedy has come through town and played on the Birchmere's legendary stage, with musician after musician relishing their experiences playing there. One thing Oelze instituted was a steadfast commitment and appreciation for not only the headline acts there but also the opening ones, reminding his employees to treat those opening acts like the closers.

Many artists like Vince Gill and Lyle Lovett, who were largely unknown when they first played there, would become superstars after opening at the Birchmere. They began the flow of their stellar reputations in this place that, to this day, they love dearly and deeply respect for kicking off their successful careers.

Another respected aspect of Oelze's reputation at the Birchmere was his mandatory message on each table in the main hall, a “quiet” sign asking people to watch the acts and keep voices down. It's still on every Birchmere table today. Oelze admitted he stole the idea from the legendary Cellar Door, a Washington D.C. club, but he called the Birchmere “a listener's club” where being able to hear the musicians was, and still is, the top priority.

In 2021, Gary Oelze and music writer Stephen Moore released their best-selling book, *All Roads Lead to The Birchmere*, which shares the history of a music venue that is among the most famous music halls in the country. “It's been overwhelming,” Oelze replied when asked about his experience making the book. “I didn't want to do the book. It scared me. I didn't know how to do a book. But Steve did, and it's been a lot of fun. It's

brought back a lot of memories. But it's not about me. It's more about the club, the people, and the musicians. That's what matters.”

Moore added, “The thing about Gary is, first he's humble, and then it's amazing how brilliant he is. He always leaves you feeling that he cares about you.”

Gary Oelze's widow Susan Pilchard Oelze, who married the Birchmere owner in 2013, loved her husband because of his kindness and dedication and how he ran his business. “I was truly blessed to have married somebody who was so amazing, treated me so well, and took such good care of me. And I learned a lot from Gary about how you treat people, especially how I watched him run the Birchmere and how he would treat and care for his employees. It was an amazing experience being with him. I was very lucky.”

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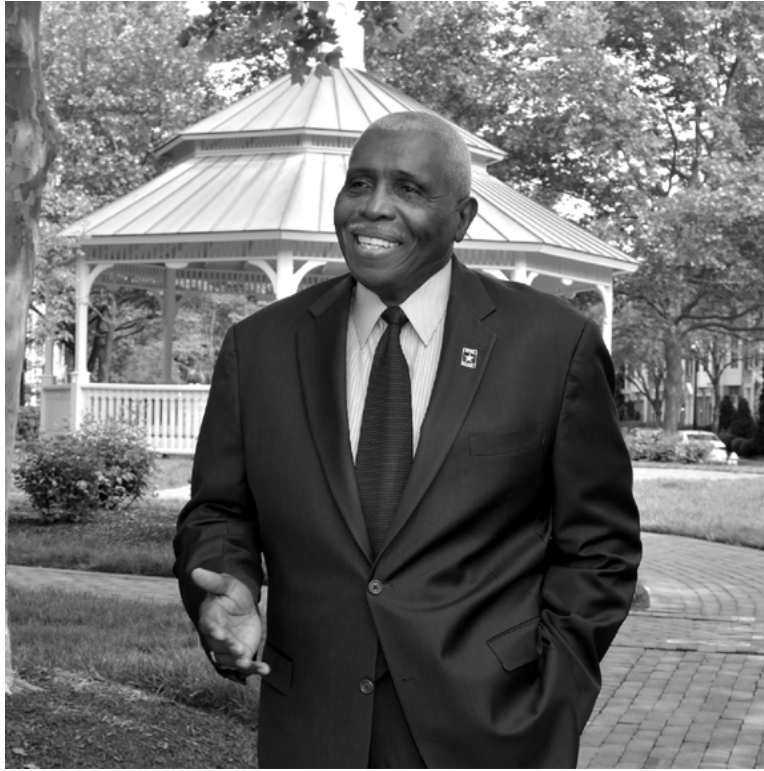
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James Paige

By Jeanne Theismann

When Jim Paige was growing up in Robinson County, N.C., he had dreams of becoming a professional baseball player. The youngest of five siblings, he was a gifted athlete but realized the odds were against him.

“I realized in high school a professional baseball career wasn’t going to happen so I pivoted to do something else,” Paige said. “I went off to college and was in the Army ROTC during the heart of Vietnam.”

That something else turned into a nearly 30-year career as a military officer, shaped by the Vietnam era and turbulent events of the ‘60s.

“Some flagship moments happened when I was in school,” Paige said. “In 1968 Martin Luther King got killed. Bobby Kennedy was killed. I had a classmate who was shot by the National Guard in the dorm, so there were some sentient moments that shape the way you see life.”

Now a retired colonel, Paige is a distinguished leader and visionary who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community and the promotion of education, healthcare, and social justice. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, Paige’s journey towards community empowerment began in 2009 when he co-founded CCNA alongside his colleague, Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis.

“At that time, the Washington Post had an article about T.C. Williams being the worst high school in the state,” Paige recalled. “So Mr. Ferdinand Day and Gwen Lewis said ‘Hey Colonel, why don’t we try to do something about this dropout rate?’ So that’s how we got into CCNA.”

Over the years, CCNA’s mission has expanded to encompass a wide range of equity-related issues. Their work now extends to addressing affordable housing, ensuring access to quality healthcare, promoting mental health awareness, and enhancing academic performance for students.

Before CCNA, Paige founded the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy in 2004.

“We started the leadership academy because we saw a lot of minority kids who were not ready to go into the workforce,” Paige said. “I want my students to be ready to rock and roll when they step into corporate America. The first class was in the University of Houston in 2004, which included underserved students in the Native American community.”

Paige graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1970. Following his military service, Paige retired in Alexandria, where he founded an international consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, health affairs, executive coaching and youth development.

Paige regularly works with city officials, the faith-based community, and institutions such as the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. Additionally, his involvement with Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) reflects his commitment to building bridges and creating positive change.

“Along the way you develop a cadre of family members, a continuum of folks you connect with – like a ripple in a pond,” Paige said.

Added colleague Jackie Burrell, “The Colonel sees CCNA as putting that first pebble in the water and letting it ripple out. He is the catalyst of bringing organizations together and watching them benefit one another and the community at large.”

Paige serves on several boards and committees, including the Alexandria City Public School Law Enforcement Partnership Advisory Group, the Alexandria Racial Equity Task Force, the Saved Hands Foundation, the Commonwealth Attorney Community Advisory Board, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Alexandria Region Action Committee Workgroups. He is a founding member of the Community Health Improvement Planning Committee Task Force.

Paige’s leadership shone during the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest following the death of George Floyd in 2020.

“COVID and social unrest had us adjust the way we do things,” Paige said. “We sat down and said we can give up and let it go away, but Gwen Lewis said ‘that dog is not going to hunt.’ So we reinvigorated ourselves. This is the hand we got so let’s play it.”

Paige adjusted CCNA’s program delivery to provide continuous support to students and families, including more Community Forums for information sharing. Under his guidance, CCNA established the Reach and Rise for Excellence program.

Collaborating with community partners, Paige leads a coalition offering free eye exams and glasses to families and sponsors citywide community resource days. In partnership with APAF, he established the Mental Health Coalition of Virginia to address mental health wellness for Alexandria and the surrounding communities.

As Senior Advisor for the U.S. Army National Museum Project, Paige conducted oral interviews with military veterans, including the Tuskegee Airmen and Sioux Code Talkers. He also worked with several minority-serving institutions to develop the Student Development Mentoring Program, cultivating curators and historians for the museum system.

Paige served as a project manager on behalf of the World Bank’s Post Conflict Unit and served as a security advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Paige is co-founder of the Page1 Foundation College Prep and Mentoring Academy, which, along with his children Kai and Kevin, assists underserved high school students in navigating the college admissions process and finding scholarships.

An advocate for veterans and their families, Paige works to address issues such as veteran homelessness, PTSD, and suicide prevention.

Paige is a lifetime member of the Omega Psi Fraternity, “the best fraternity in the world,” and was recognized at the 2006 Trumpet Awards for his support to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Earlier this year, Paige was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service.

Said Paige, “My vision is to continue to shape the area so that it is a good place for people to live and grow and survive.”



Redella S. “Del” Pepper

By Shirley Ruhe

It seems inevitable that Redella S. “Del” Pepper would end up as the longest serving member of the Alexandria City Council after her early beginning as a 10-year-old campaigning door to door to urge Omaha residents to vote for her dad for City Council. Pepper remembers he didn’t win “but what he taught me is he hurt easy but he healed quick. He told me if I ran I would have to learn that.”

Then when she was in high school, she used to take the bus to join her dad who was having lunch with the other council members. “I sat and got to listen to what they talked about, and I guess it just sunk in.” Later after graduation from college she ran the Democratic headquarters. “My parents were Republicans but at that time Nebraska was a state where you could register Independent.”

Pepper met her husband, Dr. Franklin “F.J.” Pepper, when she was in college working in the Omaha library in the summer.

“In walks this guy with all these children, and I thought they were his. Then I found out he had made a bargain with his brother that he would take his nieces and nephews to the library in exchange for borrowing the car for a date that night.”

They later met again through mutual friends when she was in graduate school. “I kind of liked him” and the rest is history.

They moved to Alexandria in 1968, and Del Pepper was first elected to City Council in 1985. She served as vice mayor from 1996 to 1997, from 2003-2006 and from 2007 to 2009. Pepper announced her retirement in January 2022 and at 36 years on the Council she was the oldest and longest serving member of the body. Mayor Justin Wilson said, “There is nobody who has given more of herself to our City.”

In June she was honored for 35 years on Alexandria City Council at the virtual Council meeting. Wilson

took a moment to remember that 1985 was the year that “Back to the Future came out in theaters, Ronald Reagan was sworn into his second Presidential term and Pepper was elected for the first time to the Alexandria City Council.” Wilson explained, “You are there whether it is a new business, a Scout troop or an award for someone from Alexandria. If a garage door opens in Alexandria, some might say you are there.”

U.S. Senator Mark Warner said, “Del started as a tireless voice for the West End and has left her mark on virtually everything in Alexandria.”

She says “I did go to the opening of all of the restaurants and businesses. I got to meet people and each one changed the city an itty bit.” She continues, “I identify with the pain of people. I like to hear what they have to say. I like people in general. I identify with their joys and hopes.” Pepper thinks it all goes back to when she worked as a social worker in Chicago for five years before moving to Alexandria.

Pepper reflects that her dedication to a diverse city with livable and safe neighborhoods where children are well educated and elderly are well served came from her years as a social worker in Chicago. “I had the feeling of identifying with people. As a City Council member I got to know all kinds of people.”

Pepper has been active on a number of commissions including the Commission on Aging, Commission on Information Technology, Facilities Naming Committee and the Council of Governments Air Quality Committee and Board of Directors. She co-chairs the Beauregard Street Corridor Task Force, the Alexandria-Arlington Task Force on the Waste-To- Energy Plant and the Welfare Reform Committee.

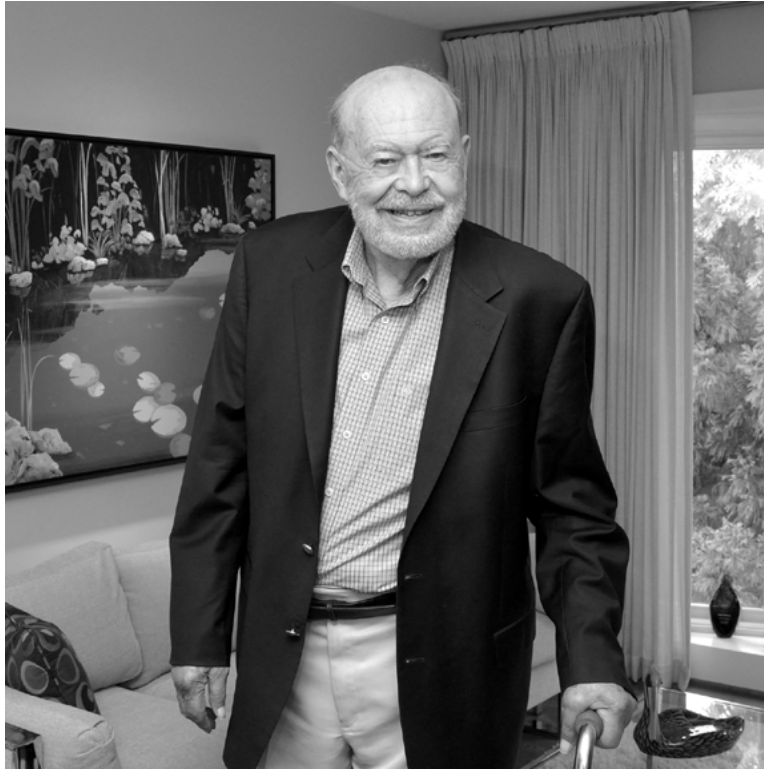
She serves on the boards of the YMCA, the Alexandria City High School PTSA, the Alexandria Arts Forum, Bienvenidos and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She is the former first vice president of the local NAACP and former board member of the City’s Community Services Board. Each one of these organizations where she serves gave her an additional perspective on the City.

Pepper says, “One thing I’m most proud of that most people don’t identify with me is I brought the City to early recognition about the need for computers. In 1994 I outlined that I wanted computers at every desk where it was appropriate. I wanted people to be able to access what was on the docket when it was a weekend and everything was closed and businesses to be able to get access to the rules—there is a rule for everything—without going to the courthouse.” She says, “The City Manager told me not to pursue it because it would cost millions but I said that is the future of business. It caught on and it gave me satisfaction that other jurisdictions wanted to know how we did it.”

She says when she decided to retire there was no reason in particular. “I just reached a point when I had a feeling it was time.” Now it’s ok. She has another life. She has spent the last few months getting a new bathroom and kitchen. “I have shown everyone who comes; it’s gorgeous.” She says when this all settles down she has to update their genealogy. “I’m the genealogist for the family. Our son is interested, too.”

Pepper says the last day she went to City Hall she assumed it was for a regular Council meeting. Then she heard a loud clatter and it was the town crier in his costume basically reading a goodbye on his scroll. The mayor announced H.J. Res 632 commending Redella S. Pepper, and it passed unanimously. The mayor ended by announcing the new City building would be named after Del Pepper. “I was just stunned. There is no other word for it.”

But she says, “It sounds so corny but every day I served there was something I could be helpful with.”



John “Jack” Sullivan

By Jeanne Theismann

Jack Sullivan was destined to be involved in community affairs. Born John H. Sullivan in Toledo, Ohio, he observed his father, a dentist, get involved in helping the middle-class neighborhood where he was raised.

“My father was very much a civic activist,” Sullivan said. “I was paying attention to him and what he was doing. I learned from him the difference that one can make in a community.”

Educated in parochial schools, Sullivan served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and Ohio Air National Guard from 1959 to 1965. He began his professional career in 1959 as a newspaper reporter for the Springfield Ohio Sun and the then Milwaukee Sentinel. He moved to Washington in 1961 as an aide to Rep. Clement J. Zablocki of Wisconsin and joined the Foreign Affairs Committee as a staff consultant in 1969.

“For 20 years I worked on Capitol Hill,” Sullivan said. “For a time I was the youngest on the Hill – I was maybe 22 years old.”

Sullivan was active in legislative initiatives of the 1970s, including heading the House staff on SALT I arms control legislation, economic aid to wartime Vietnam, implementation of the Sinai Accords, and passage of the War Powers Act. In 1976 he was named Deputy Chief of Staff of the Committee.

Sullivan served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly session in 1973, and in 1976 was with the first Congressional staff group to visit China.

In 1977 he was chosen by the newly-elected Carter Administration to manage the transition process at USAID and subsequently selected to head its Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. In 1978 he was awarded the Agency’s Superior Honor Award for “outstanding leadership in the areas

of equal opportunity and affirmative action,” for his appointment of women and minorities to executive positions.

Following his tenure with the Carter Administration, Sullivan turned to consulting, which allowed him more time to focus on issues closer to home in Alexandria.

“I can think of no one else who has made as many exemplary contributions to our community than Jack Sullivan,” said Carter Flemming in nominating Sullivan as a Living Legend. “For more than 40 years, Jack has tirelessly advocated to educate and involve his fellow residents on issues of importance. He has set a high bar for others to follow.”

Sullivan served as chair of the Cable Television Commission, where he widened public affairs broadcasts to cover important city meetings that are now taken for granted, such as the Planning Commission meetings. This had not been done previously and Sullivan’s vision brought new transparency to city government.

He served on the HIV-AIDS Taskforce in the 80s and also chaired the committee to select Alexandria’s first Poet Laureate in 2007. He has served on 11 various boards and commissions.

Sullivan was a volunteer curator and cataloguer for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum’s collection of artifacts and served as a volunteer cataloguer and transcriber for a Civil War diary for the Alexandria Library. A long-time member of the Seminary Hill Association board, Sullivan twice served as president and was treasurer for many years. He also served as a member and co-chair of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations.

Of his many accomplishments, perhaps the two most impactful have been centered on environmental issues: The creation of Boothe and Brenman parks, and the expansion of the Combined Sewer Outfalls project.

Sullivan was a member of the Citizen Advisory Group on the Conversion of Cameron Station from 1988-1995. While the city focused on the potential revenue to be gained by adding more than a thousand housing units on the site, Sullivan and Col. Ben Brenman focused on the need to provide open space for the new residents. They obtained concessions from the original plan to create both Boothe and Brenman parks.

In 2017, Sullivan was appointed as a member of the Combined Sewer System Stakeholder Advisory Group II to consider the state mandate that the city cease polluting the Potomac River with sewage overflow when it rains.

While the state originally mandated that Alexandria remediate three of the city’s four outfalls, and the Advisory Group recommended that plan to City Council, Sullivan wrote a minority report which argued that the fourth outfall at Oronoco Bay, which is the largest source of pollution into the river, should be included in the project to end the pollution that has been discharging into the Potomac for over a century.

“The major outflow in Old Town was not going to be fixed,” Sullivan said. “Every year we were dumping the equivalent of 200 tanks of raw sewage into the Potomac. This outfall in Old Town was the equivalent of the other three – we were basically only fixing half the problem.”

Sullivan’s report caught the attention of Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell, who brought it to the state legislature.

“The state passed a bill mandating that the city fix all four outfalls by 2025,” Sullivan said. “At that point the city had no option but to include the Old Town outfall in the project.”

Said Flemming, “Future generations of Alexandrians will enjoy a clean and safe Potomac River, and we owe Jack Sullivan a huge debt of gratitude for guiding us to the correct decision.”

profile continued on next page

As a result of this effort, Sullivan was given the Ellen Pickering environmental award in 2022.

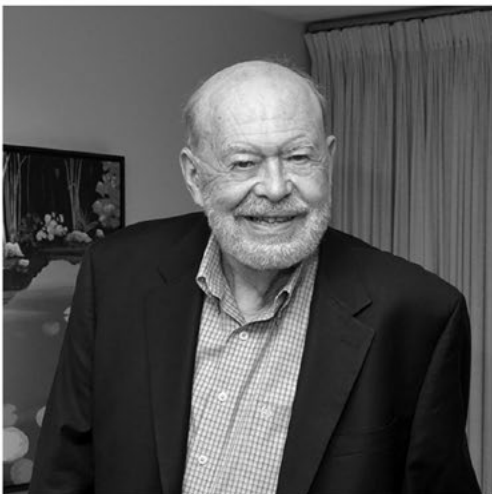
Sullivan holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in journalism from Marquette University and a doctorate in international relations/political science from the American University. The university bestowed its Distinguished Alumni Award on him in 1976 and again in 1979.

A resident of Alexandria for more than 55 years, Sullivan and his wife Paula recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, John and Brian, and one granddaughter. He is an active member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Arlington. He retired professionally in 2015 at the age of 80.

“I think I have done some positive things,” Sullivan said looking back on his community activism. “I hope I made a difference over the years.”

Congratulations!

Jack Sullivan Alexandria Living Legend 2023



With admiration and appreciation for your many decades of leadership and dedicated service to the residents of Alexandria and the Seminary Hill Association. You have been a tireless champion and protector of our city’s river and parks, and have made a lasting and significant difference in our quality of life, both now and for future generations.

With gratitude,
The Seminary Hill Association



This group is
phenomenal, and we
congratulate this year's
amazing Legends.

We bow to you.

Zebra

Good News in Alexandria



William Vosbeck

By Mike Salmon

If it wasn't for the dedication and energy that William "Bill" Vosbeck Jr. put into preserving some of the historical aspects of Old Town Alexandria, things that are pertinent around town today might not have survived. Vosbeck was an active architect and preservationist that put a big emphasis on the city.

In the 1970s, emphasis on preserving structures in Old Town was not on the top of many lists but Vosbeck was put in charge and eyed the "area where the fountain and courthouse are," said Jim Carmalt, who nominated Vosbeck as a Living Legend of Alexandria. "He was tasked to rebuild that area."

Around town Vosbeck also worked on churches, homes, schools and historic structures that really needed some TLC."

Vosbeck was born in Mankato, Minnesota, May 13, 1924, and met his wife Betty shortly after high school while attending the University of Minnesota. After graduation he enlisted with the US Marine

Corps, serving during World War II and the Korean War. He was eventually stationed at Quantico, which brought him to the Alexandria area in 1957.

"I joined the Marine Corps during World War II since I knew the Marines were being so successful overseas at that time," Vosbeck told the Connection Newspapers in 2020. "I remained in the reserves when the war ended and when the Korean War came along, I had to report to duty immediately. When my time in the service ended, my wife Betty and I decided to make Alexandria our home and I started my architectural firm."

After completing his service, Vosbeck encouraged his younger brother Randy to move East. They became partners in the architecture firm Vosbeck, Vosbeck & Associates, which was opened on Madison Street. After a merger with an engineering company, the firm became known as VVKR. Based in Alexandria, the firm became nationally and internationally known, designing projects such as

Alexandria Hospital, various local schools, and the former headquarters of USA Today and Gannett in Arlington. VVKR won more than 60 awards for its work in the Metro area and Mid-Atlantic Region.

As VVKR, the firm landed two awards from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1984 for the design of the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis and for its renovation of a 70-year-old American Security Bank building.

The firm was responsible for buildings such as Alexandria's Public Safety Center, the American Trucking Association headquarters, and the Duncan Library. He also served as the design architect for Yates Gardens in Old Town. Vosbeck was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor bestowed by the Institute on AIA-member architects who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

According to Carmalt, a brainstorm Vosbeck had was to get engineers and architects working together. "He was one of the innovators to that concept," Carmalt said.

The Vosbeck brothers wrote a book edging on this concept called "Design Matters: The Story of VVKR Architecture, Engineering, Planning," written by brother Randy who credited Vosbeck throughout. The book is full of pictures and historical records chronicling the works of VVKR, spanning three decades primarily in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States from the 1960s to 1980s.

Around Alexandria, Vosbeck's innovative attitude paid off in many things that he was involved with. That included Belle Haven Country Club, where he was a longtime member, and the Alexandria Rotary Club. Vosbeck was honored by the Rotary Club in 2018 at its Scout Award Luncheon with the Cliff Dochterman Award "for his lifetime achievements and contributions as an Eagle Scout." Vosbeck attained the rank of Eagle Scout while living in Minnesota.

Some of Vosbeck's architectural ingenuity rubbed off on his wife Betty and she put it to good use on the Jones Point Lighthouse. She worked with the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to save the lighthouse in the 1970s.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Bill was involved in many nonprofit organizations, most significantly as a founding member of Senior Services of Alexandria.

"Bill was nice enough to meet with me when I became executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria in 2007," recalled Janet Barnett, who worked with Bill on many projects over the years. "I wanted to learn more about the history of the founding of the organization in 1968."

Vosbeck shared his concerns regarding age discrimination among older adults.

"At the time, some older people were experiencing age discrimination, or wanted part time work," Barnett recalled. "Bill advocated for these seniors who wanted or needed to work. The organization was formed and found jobs for older workers. This included professional positions as well as domestic. In fact, I found a babysitter for my son through Senior Services of Alexandria. Bill remained committed to SSA for the remainder of his life through financial support and encouraging others to support the organization. He was proud of how the organization sustained itself and grew to provide other important programs to allow seniors to age with dignity."

As a founder of SSA, Vosbeck became the organization's second president, succeeding Marion Galland. The all-volunteer group started with a \$15,000 budget to provide services and opportunities for elderly citizens who wanted to remain active in the affairs of their community and maintain their individual independent living.

Vosbeck served as President of the Alexandria Hospital Board, Trustee on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Trustee on the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

He was also respected for his work with individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. He earned the Citation for Meritorious Service from the President's Committee for the Handicapped.

Vosbeck died in his sleep Dec. 15, 2021, at The Fairfax Retirement Community in Ft. Belvoir. He was the last surviving founder of Senior Services of Alexandria.



Charles Wilson

By Jeanne Theismann

Charles Wilson, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, is a dedicated advocate for the youth of Alexandria. He has served in numerous advocacy positions and made a difference in countless situations, including through his service as vice chairman of the school board for Alexandria City Public Schools.

“I was influenced by mentors like Ferdinand Day and Lynnwood Campbell,” said Wilson. “They said I was blessed and that I needed to give back to the community. So I jumped in where I thought I could make a difference.”

Wilson grew up in Ohio and credits his early education for setting him on a path to success.

“I was one of two minorities selected to attend an elite Jewish high school,” Wilson said. “Being accepted to that school was a turning point in my life. It helped me see what I might be capable of achieving.”

Wilson went on to study at Southern Illinois University, where he was part of the ROTC program. Upon graduation in 1964, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. He was deployed to Vietnam, where he served with the 82nd Fighter Squadron and the 315 Air Commando Wing.

For nearly a quarter century, Wilson served his country, including as executive director of the U.S. Department of Defense executive leadership program at the Pentagon. He was also a military liaison to the Republic of China, advancing through the ranks and retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force in 1988.

Upon his retirement from the military, Wilson began a career in financial planning and human resources development. He ran for and won election to the School Board in 2003, serving nearly 10 years including as vice chair.

During this time, he was encouraged by fellow School board member Sheryl Gorsuch to get involved with the newly formed Parent Leadership Training Institute, a nonprofit that seeks to enable parents to be better advocates for their children. Wilson committed to the program and serves on the Alexandria chapter of the PLTI advisory board.

In 2009, one of Wilson's Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers, Jim Paige, was in the process of establishing the Concerned Citizen's Network of Alexandria. Paige asked Wilson to join the organization, where he serves today as the CCNA treasurer.

"I know the importance of education and see firsthand the difference CCNA has made in the lives of young people and their families," Wilson said.

Like Paige, Wilson touts the successes of his fraternity, which was founded at Howard University in 1911, a first for a historically black college.

"We are committed to community service," Wilson said of the African American collegiate fraternity. The Alexandria chapter of the organization is heavily involved in service to the community through events like coat drives and with members volunteering with special needs children and adults at the Miracle League baseball games.

Wilson has served as a municipal consultant to the City of Dayton, Ohio, and an adjunct professor at Park University. He was PTA president and also served as vice chair of the Northern Virginia Hotline.

In addition to his professional roles, Wilson earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1976 and an MBA from Webster University in 1979.

Wilson utilized his knowledge and experience to establish a vending machine business in San Antonio, Texas. And when you use a microwave, you can thank Wilson, who is also credited with the invention of the microwave oven carousel.

Since his retirement from the military, Wilson has remained active with various endeavors. In addition to serving as vice chair of the Alexandria School Board, he is a past chairman of the Washington D.C. Area School Boards.

A fellow of the D.C. Life Underwriters Council, Wilson is also involved with the American Society for Training and Development, the human rights commission of the International Personnel Management Association, and Toastmasters International, among other organizations.

Wilson has been honored by Marquis Who's Who for Excellence in Community Service for his many achievements. Additionally, he was chosen to be featured in the Who's Who in Finance and Business, and the Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He has also appeared in multiple editions of Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

Wilson has four children: Audrey, Angela, Andrew and Aaron. His first wife, Shirley, was a fellow Air Force officer who died of cancer at a young age. He has been married to his current wife, Mona, for 35 years.

"I go back to that turning point in my life – being accepted into that Jewish school," Wilson said. "I am thankful to all those who encouraged me along the way. I truly have been blessed."

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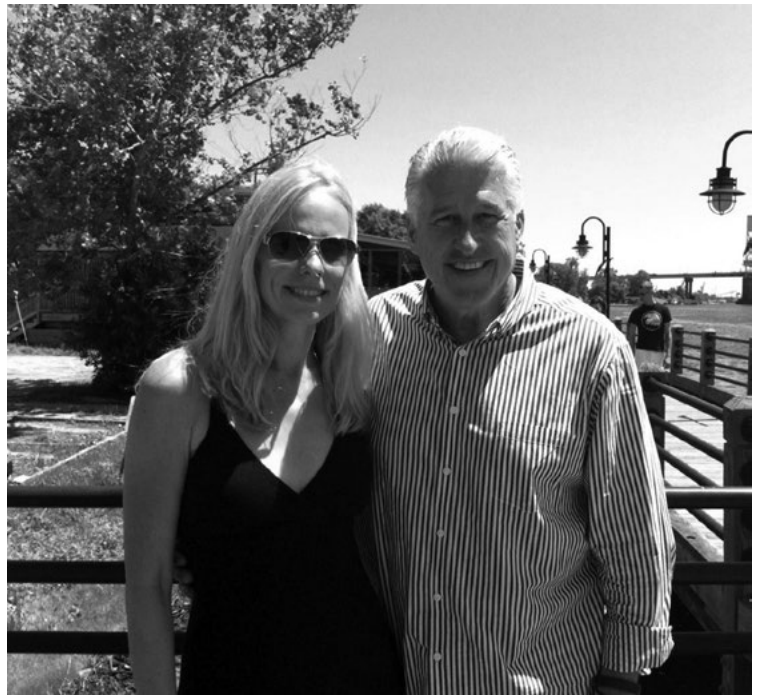
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2023 Living Legends Through the Years











CCNA

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Congratulations to **Charles Wilson** and **Jim Paige** for Their **Well-Deserved Recognition**



2023

Charles Wilson
Col USAF Ret
CCNA Board Treasurer

Longtime friends, Charles and Jim are both life members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

They join three other CCNA leaders honored as Alexandria Living Legends.



2023

Jim Paige
COL US Army RET
CCNA Executive Director

CCNA Living Legends



2008
Ferdinand T. Day
First Class of Living Legends






2017
William "Bill" Euille
Former Alexandria Mayor



2018
Gwendolyn H. Lewis
CCNA Co-Founder

Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) is a nonprofit organization committed to equity in education, health, and social justice.

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Thank you for over 40 years of service to the City of Alexandria and all your support to the Alexandria Sheriff's Association.

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 LIVING LEGENDS

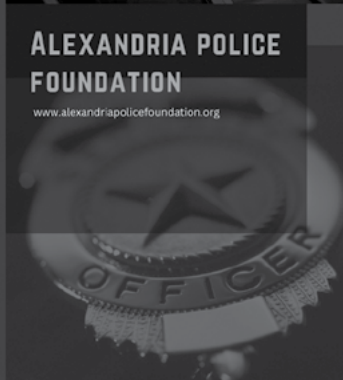
DAVID BAKER, RETIRED
ALEXANDRIA CHIEF OF
POLICE AND ALEXANDRIA
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY POLICE
CHIEF

DANA LAWHORNE, RETIRED
ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF AND
POLICE OFFICER AND
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and commitment to the community.

Ronal Butler
(2019 Living Legend) and
Martha Lloyd
(Living Legends of Alexandria
Board Member)



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William Vosbeck on his selection as 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria!



William Vosbeck

We salute you and your fellow Rotarian Living Legends through the years.



Thomas "T.J." Fannon
2008



Joan and John Renner
2010



Gant Redmon
2011



Bob Calhoun
2012



Janet Barnett
2016



Brooke Sydnor Curran
2019



Frank Fannon IV
2020



Donald Simpson Jr.
2020



Thank you for your many selfless contributions to the Alexandria community.

The Rotary Club of Alexandria
Celebrating 92 years of "Service Above Self"

Dear Dad,
Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We are immensely proud of your dedication and desire to serve, and your legacy of service inspires us.

With love and admiration,

Kai, London, Kevin



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Jason Yates, Jr. and 2019 Living Legends, Loren and Jason Yates

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