

SPIRIT OF VIRGINIA

Photographic Journal





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The Spirit of Virginia AWARD

Established in 2022 by First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin on behalf of Governor Glenn Youngkin, the Spirit of Virginia Award salutes persons who are strengthening their communities through catalytic and compassionate elements of S·P·I·R·I·T. The Award identifies and recognizes key contributors across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Service Oriented, Pioneering, Innovative & Industrious,
Reinvigorating, Imaginative, Transformative**



IN THE Spirit

In the summer of 2020, at the height of an unprecedented, global pandemic, Glenn felt a calling to step out of a 30-year, private sector business career and into public service. Some months later, he launched an effort to serve as the 74th Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In partnership, and with a hunger to better understand the needs and lives of Virginians, we began to crisscross geographies and listen. Setting aside politics, regional realities and the obvious hardships of the pandemic, Virginians demonstrated, time and time again, a devotion to family, community and to a much greater good. It was this spirit of giving that inspired the Spirit of Virginia Award – a recognition of unique qualities and standout achievements that Strengthen the Spirit of Virginia. In celebration, we created this photographic tribute journal to share the achievements and hearts of award recipients while also hoping to ignite and expand acts of reflection, kindness and gifting.

With gratitude and blessings,

Ernaune J. Young *Glenn Young*

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



1
 NATIONAL CENTER FOR
 HEALTHY VETERANS
 Altavista, VA
Pages 6-9



3
 HOPE'S LEGACY
 EQUINE RESCUE
 Afton, VA
Pages 14-17



2
 JILL'S HOUSE
 Vienna, VA
Pages 10-13



4
 AN ACHIEVABLE
 DREAM
 Virginia Beach, VA
Pages 18-21



5
 CHINCOTEAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE
 COMPANY
 Chincoteague, VA
Pages 22-25



6
 WILLIAM KING
 MUSEUM OF ART
 Abingdon, VA
Pages 26-29



THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION IS TO

Return Healthy Veterans to America

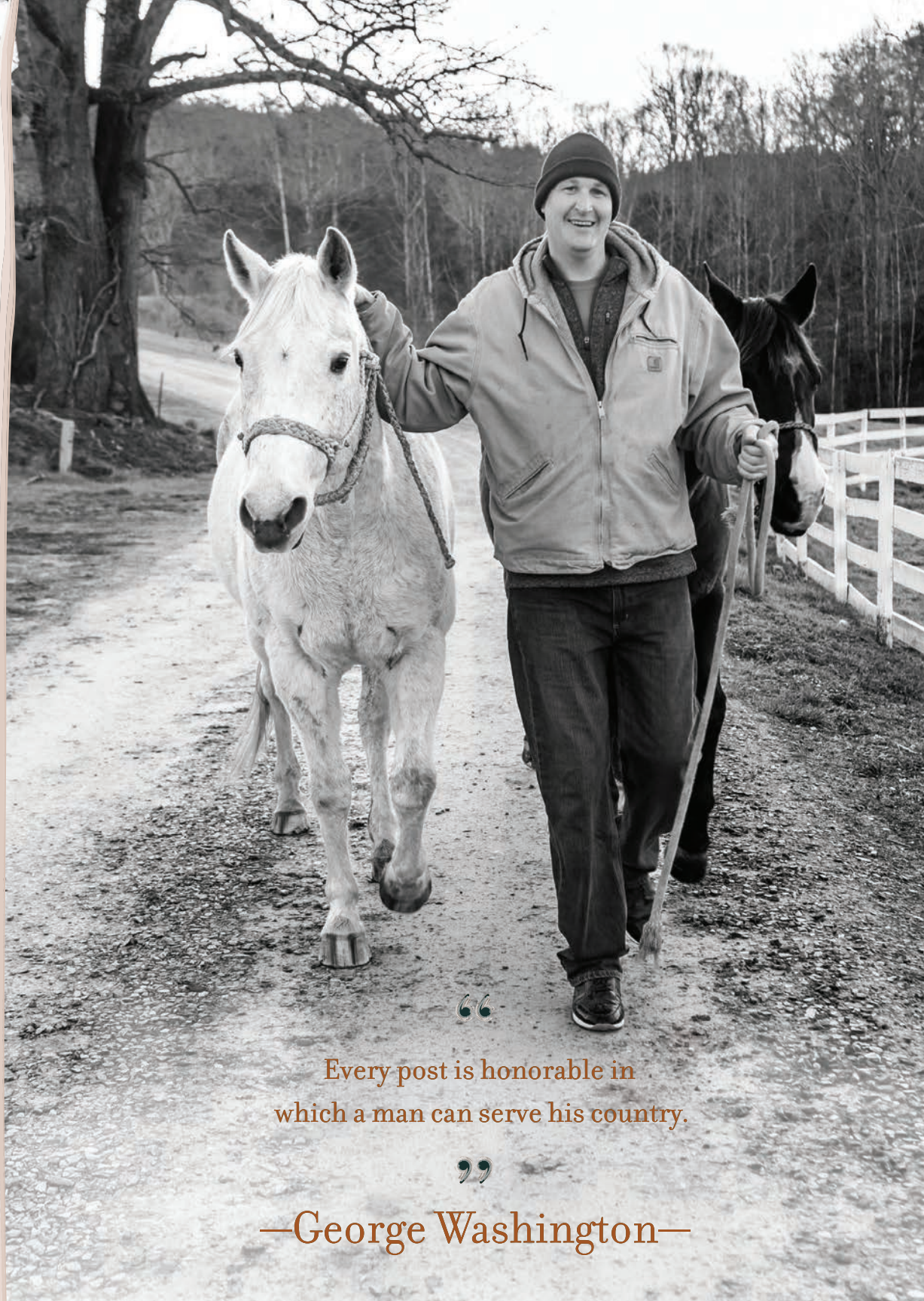
At **The National Center for Healthy Veterans**, patriots are immersed in a healing and wellness culture, grow personally through best-practice and faith-based programs and build relationships through community. Residents participate in a 12-month program of community, dignified work, best-practice trauma recovery, spiritual development, life skills programs, economic opportunity and professional advancement. Patriots each receive a mentor and work through a Personal Development Plan (PDP) in accordance with their own needs and goals. Other PDP course electives include equine therapy, financial literacy, effective communication and art therapy.

The National Center for Healthy Veterans is located at Valor Farm, a natural healing environment providing veterans with a restorative community setting. Valor Farm sits on 339 acres of verdant woodland, agricultural acreage, pastures and equine property, bordered by the Big Otter River and within Virginia's Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountain ranges. Valor Farm gives veterans a place to not just live, but also thrive and contribute.

MARCH 2022
Altavista, VA



12



“

Every post is honorable in
which a man can serve his country.

”

—George Washington—



“

Together, we can help Virginia lead the effort to 'Reshape Veteran Care in America.'
We strive to bring healing and care to the ones who have given their whole selves
sacrificially to our country.

”

Bob Dees

Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
President And Chief Executive Officer



The Gift of Respite Care

FOR THE FAMILIES OF INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED YOUTH

Jill's House is a Christian nonprofit organization that provides families raising kids with intellectual disabilities, ages 6–17, with short-term overnight respite care in the DC metro area and around the country. Kids enjoy fun activities tailored to their interests and abilities for 24–48-hour stays, while their parents get a chance to rest and re-charge. Jill's House offers care for the whole family through regularly scheduled sibling nights, parent support groups and family retreats.

Rest is vital for families raising kids with intellectual disabilities, due to the high amount of stress they face every day. Respite care is proven to reduce this stress by 60% within the first night and helps create a healthier environment of balance for the family as a whole.

To date, Jill's House has served over 1,000 families at its location in Vienna, Virginia and an additional 300+ through its Weekend Adventures camps. The organization has provided over one million hours of respite to families of kids with intellectual disabilities.

MAY 2022
Vienna, VA



Luke 18:16

“

Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

”





“

I can't put into words how amazing Jill's House was to our family. You took care of our non-verbal son with love and patience during difficult and good times. The care you showed him never changed, no matter the situation. The joy in his face when we walked through your doors said it all. The work you do for special needs families is like no other.

”

Forever grateful,
A Jill's House Family



THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION IS TO

Rescue and Care For Equines

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue was founded in 2008. Since then, it has taken in over 550 horses, ponies, mules and donkeys. Hope's Legacy works to rescue equines from a variety of situations including, but not limited to, abuse, neglect, abandonment and slaughter. An all-breed rescue, Hope's Legacy takes in equines regardless of age or disability.

Hope's Legacy earned accreditation from the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) in November 2020. Hope's Legacy is one of 81 North American organizations accredited by the TAA and one of four TAA-accredited organizations in Virginia. In addition, Hope's Legacy is accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

Rescues are housed at the organization's home base, Castle Rock Farm, and foster farms. Hope's Legacy first moved horses onto the Castle Rock Farm property in December 2017.

JULY 2022
Astoria, VA



124



No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.

—Winston Churchill—



“

I founded Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue in 2008 to be a safe haven for horses, donkeys and mules in Virginia. Our equines come from law enforcement seizures and from owners who are no longer able to care for them. It is special to see healing and life overtake the suffering and loss that these precious animals once experienced.

”

Maya Proulx

Executive Director, Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED K-12 PROGRAM DEDICATED TO THE BELIEF

That All Children Can Learn & Succeed

An Achievable Dream was founded in 1992 as a summer and after-school tennis and tutoring program, but soon grew to a full K-12 program and now operates six schools in partnership with Newport News Public Schools, Virginia Beach City Public Schools and Henrico County Public Schools, serving over 2,000 students.

The organization emphasizes a core approach focusing on children's social-emotional learning, essential life skills, extended academic time to focus on learning and support for the student's entire family through a variety of initiatives, including home visits, parent education, a clothes closet, anonymous services and more.

High school graduates from An Achievable Dream's flagship school in Newport News hold a 100% graduation rate, with 90-95% of students going on to attend college or trade school.

SEPTEMBER 2022
Virginia Beach, VA



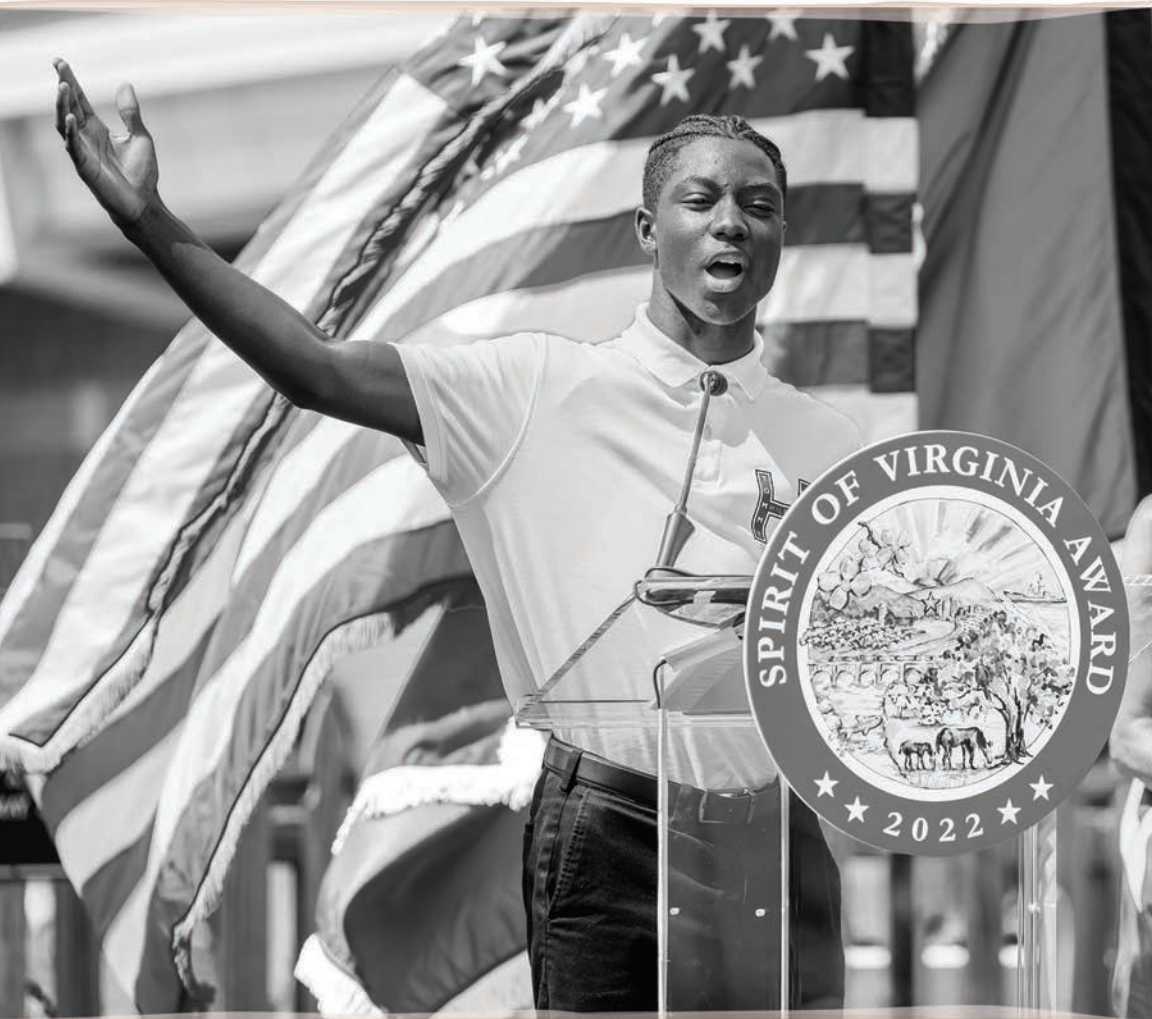
Proverbs 22:6

“

Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

”





“

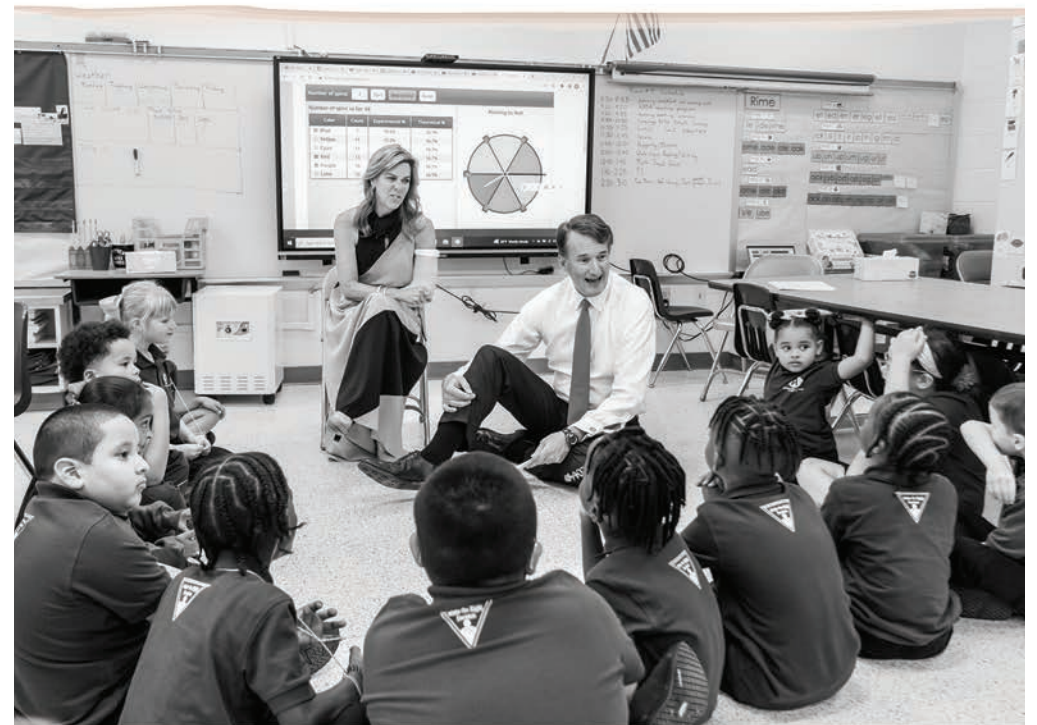
There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about how far I have come and know that it is because I was a member of An Achievable Dream.

I was once lost as a young child, not knowing what the future would hold, but it was An Achievable Dream that found something in me.

”

Franklin Roberson

Class of 2004



24-HOUR FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE TO THE

Citizens & Visitors of Chincoteague Island



The **Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company** provides 24-hour fire and emergency medical response to the citizens and visitors of Chincoteague Island. The company also provides fire and emergency medical response to Assateague Island and assists the United States Coast Guard with search and rescue cases. The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company owns and manages the world-famous Chincoteague wild ponies and puts on the annual Chincoteague Island Pony Swim.

OCTOBER 2022
Chincoteague, VA



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“

Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

'What are you doing for others?'

”



“

We protect the island through top-of-the-line fire protection and first-class emergency medical services. We are also the proud owners and caretakers of the Wild Chincoteague Ponies, who every year are rounded up and swim from their native, Assateague Island over to Chincoteague. We protect the island while also enriching the culture, community and spirit of who we are as Islanders as well as Virginians.

”

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company

SERVING RESIDENTS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AS A DISTINGUISHED

Visual Arts and Cultural Museum

William King Museum of Arts' mission is to provide arts education, exhibit fine art and preserve the Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee region's cultural heritage. The museum's Art Lab learning hub includes a Digital Lab, where anyone in Southwest Virginia can access, learn and use digital tools for art, design and life. It is the only nationally accredited art museum west of Roanoke, which underpins its commitment to the community. Fifteen of the museum's 17 staff are women.

"Our always-changing exhibitions offer a look at the world through art, and our cultural heritage research promotes an appreciation of the rich culture of this region. It is so special to come alongside students and enrich their learning with our many grade-level programs."

NOVEMBER 2022
Abingdon, VA



“

Inhale possibility, exhale creativity.

”

Laura Jaworski
Author and Artist



“
Our always-changing exhibitions offer a look
at the world through art, and our cultural
heritage research promotes an appreciation of
the rich culture of this region. It is so special to
come alongside students and enrich their learning
with our many grade-level programs.

”
William King Museum of Art

It is with
thanksgiving and
a nod to
1 Corinthians 16:14,
which says,

“
Do Everything
IN LOVE
”

that we dedicate
this journal to you,
to encourage
introspection
and reflection.



Reflections

Galatians 5:13

“

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

”



1 Peter 4:10

“

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

”



IN GRATITUDE

The Spirit of Virginia Awards and the reflections they inspire are the fruit of a creative collaboration by special and talented, Virginia women. This Journal is intended to honor them and to bless all Virginia's Women+girls (W+g).

Jennifer Bethel

Book and Graphic Designer
Owner, JMB Design Center
Arlington, VA

Shealah Craighead

Principal Photographer
Owner, Shealah Craighead Photography
Alexandria, VA

Hannah Stone & Virginia Beckett

Event & Operations Advisors
Salem Strategies LLC
Arlington, VA

Julia Norflect

Special Assistant to First Lady
Suzanne S. Youngkin
Richmond, VA

Natalie O'Dell

Book Illustrator
Owner, Natalie O'Dell Fine Art & Illustration
Lexington, VA

Shari Maruca

Director, Civic Engagement,
Spirit of Virginia
Great Falls, VA

Carlin Maurer

Scheduler to First Lady
Suzanne S. Youngkin
Richmond, VA

Colleen Dugan Messick

Chief of Staff to First Lady
Suzanne S. Youngkin
Richmond, VA

