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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith Announce 2010 Best of Reston Honorees and Strategic Partners

The 2010 Best of Reston Honorees and Strategic Partners were formally announced Wednesday, February 24, 2010, at the "Revealing the Best" Reception, generously hosted by Vinifera Wine Bar and Bistro, located in the Westin Reston Heights.

#### This year's honorees in the following categories are:

- **Individual Community Members**
  - IMAM MOHAMMED MAGID AND RABBI ROBERT NOSANCHUK**  
*For Building Bridges Between People of Different Faiths*
  - HOLLY NORRIS**  
*For Providing Compassionate Service to our Nation and Community*
  - EMILY WARD**  
*For A Life-Long Commitment to Education and Child Care*
  
- **Civic/Community Organization**
  - RESTON HISTORIC TRUST**  
*For Preserving Reston's Past and Preparing for Its Future*
  
- **Corporate Business Leader**
  - RESTON HEIGHTS HOTELS:**  
**THE SHERATON RESTON HOTEL AND THE WESTIN RESTON HEIGHTS**  
*For Incorporating Care for Those in Need Into Corporate Culture*
  
- **Small Business Leaders**
  - THE VIRGINIA SPINE INSTITUTE**  
*For An Ongoing Investment in the Well-Being of Our Community*
  - WETLAND STUDIES AND SOLUTIONS, INC.**  
*For Protecting Reston's Natural Resources*
  
- **Fairfax County 2009 First Responder Officers of the Year**
  - OFFICER ERIC R. GLUECKERT**, Police Officer
  - RONALD A. MCNEW AND CRAIG S. FURNEISEN, JR.**, Fire Department

#### Best of Reston 2010 is presented by the following Strategic Partners:

|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The CORE Foundation                 | Freddie Mac Foundation       |
| The JBG Companies                   | Northrop Grumman             |
| Reston Hospital Center/HCA Virginia | The Virginia Spine Institute |

Best of Reston honors businesses, organizations, and individuals who have put forth tremendous effort in their commitment to community service and improving the lives of others. The annual event is produced in partnership by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith. Nominations for the awards were submitted between October and January from the community. An anonymous panel reviewed all nominations and selected the winners of this year's awards.

The 2010 Best of Reston honorees will be formally recognized at the **19th Annual Best of Reston Gala on April 15, 2010**, at the Hyatt Regency Reston. Sponsorship, tables, and tickets are now available; details are available at [restoninterfaith.org](http://restoninterfaith.org). Proceeds from Best of Reston support the social service programs of Reston Interfaith.



2010 HONOREES

### **Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. Small Business Leader**

At a time when "green" consciousness is rapidly growing around the world, Reston is fortunate to have an environmental leader setting the example in our neighborhoods. Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) is the leading natural and cultural resources consultant in Northern Virginia. Their staff includes wetlands scientists, engineers, regulatory specialists, and archaeologists who assist developers and public works agencies with the permitting process and create innovative solutions to water quality issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay region. WSSI has been working in Reston for over five years developing and implementing an innovative stream restoration project, which will restore approximately 29 miles of degraded streams. The project, called the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank (NVS RB), is a partnership between WSSI and the Peterson Companies, working in concert with the Reston Association. This project addresses the problem of increased storm water runoff from the paved surfaces that have replaced former open land as Reston has been developed—an issue that has been building over the past 40 years. WSSI has presented a broad-based and affordable solution to one of Reston's major concerns. Reston's natural areas along these stream values are being enhanced through this initiative, and WSSI's presence has brought an environmentally-sensitive value to the entire community. WSSI has engaged local schools, such as South Lakes High School and Terraset Elementary School, as well as local nature centers in conservation-oriented environmental education. Students are more connected to their local environments and learn how young people can act responsibly and enhance Reston's natural well being. The staff at WSSI has gone far above and beyond their professional responsibilities in volunteering well over 3,000 weekend and evening hours to meet with Reston residents and committees to explain their work and educate the broader community about how to get involved. The team has hosted "Plant-Save Days," donated over 2,000 plants, and hosted hands-on booths at Reston's Earth Day celebrations. WSSI's office in Gainesville "walks the walk" of the organization, designed as a LEED Platinum building with a wide variety of environmentally-friendly programs and features. This outstanding organization has been recognized as a leader in the field of environmental preservation by Washington SmartCEO, Fairfax County Government, the Greater Washington Business Green Awards, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. has engaged Reston residents of all ages in a community-wide effort to protect and enhance our natural resources—an outstanding example for communities around the country and globe to follow.



## Reston's Best Revealed

Winners of this year's Best of Reston announced; Gala set for April 15.

By Mike DiCicco

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mark Ingrao told the crowd gathered for the announcement of this year's Best of Reston award recipients last Wednesday, Feb. 24 that he and the chamber thought any community, like a stool, was held up by three legs — the government, business and nonprofit sectors. "We believe the whole community needs to be strong," he said, noting that nonprofits even contribute directly to commerce by making up 18 percent of local job opportunities.



The annual Best of Reston reception, as well as the awards ceremony that will follow in April, are carried out through a partnership between the Reston chamber and the community's most prominent nonprofit organization, Reston Interfaith. All proceeds from the events go to Reston Interfaith, and Lynn Gilmore of Northrop Grumman directed the crowd gathered at Vinifera Wine Bar and Bistro in the Westin Reston Heights Hotel that evening to a model house representing the nonprofit's 42nd home, which she said last year's Best of Reston event paid for. The house was dedicated to the chamber in May.

"It's wonderful what we're about — supporting people who have great needs," Gilmore said, adding that those needs were now greater than ever.

This year's fund-raising goal was \$300,000, and it was announced that \$218,000 had already been raised. "Now is the time not to meet \$300,000 but to exceed it," said Georgia Graves of Bridgeman Communications Inc.

THE AWARDS recognize individuals, civic organizations, corporations and small businesses that have shown a commitment to community service and improving the lives of others, as well as police officers and fire fighters of the year.

This year's individual awards will go to Imam Mohammed Magid of the All Dulles-Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation for their longtime work in promoting an ongoing dialogue between their members; Holly Norris, director of environmental services at Reston Hospital Center, for bringing English as a Second Language courses to the hospital, spearheading a variety of local charitable events, and supporting active troops and wounded veterans; and Emily Ward for her volunteer work at Reston Interfaith's affordable child care center, the Laurel Learning Center.

Reston Historic Trust will take the civic organization award for its work to preserve and interpret Reston's history, maintaining the Reston Museum, which underwent major renovations last year, and providing educational programs and hosting events like Founders Day and the Reston Homes Tour.

The Sheraton and Westin hotels at Reston Heights will share the corporate business award in recognition of the care they show their employees, their donations to the community, their

sponsorship of various charitable events and the many hours of volunteer work performed by their employees.

One small business award will go to the Virginia Spine Institute for its donations of time and money to various local and national philanthropic organizations, its environmental stewardship and its progressive, successful track record of patient care. Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc., which is in the middle of a major stream restoration project throughout Reston, will receive the other small business award in recognition of its environmental leadership, its various conservation-oriented education efforts and the thousands of weekend and evening hours its staff has dedicated to engaging the community in its work.

OFFICER Eric Glueckert is to be named Police Officer of the Year for his work on several high-profile cases, including his attempted resuscitation of a suicide fatality, a grand larceny case that also led to the resolution of an auto theft and the recovery of a stolen rifle left in a car parked in a residential neighborhood, and others. And the firefighters of the year are Ronald McNew and Craig Furnesen Jr. of the Wiehle Avenue Fire Station, who rescued an unconscious resident from a house fire and helped save the house from sustaining total fire damage.

Residents are invited to learn more about the awardees at the 19th annual Best of Reston Gala on April 15 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.



Feb. 26, 2010

## 2010 Best of Reston Unveiled

By Leslie Perales  
Observer Staff Writer

Four individuals, three businesses and one community organization were honored at the 19th annual Best of Reston "Revealing the Best" reception on Wednesday. Honorees include Imam Mohammed Magid of the All Dulles Area Muslims Society and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation for building bridges between people of different faiths. Holly Norris was honored for providing compassionate service to the nation and community, and Emily Ward was recognized for her life-long commitment to education and childcare.



Observer Photo by Leslie Perales

Honorees include Imam Mohammed Magid of the All Dulles Area Muslims Society and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation for building bridges between people of different faiths. Holly Norris was honored for providing compassionate service to the nation and community, and Emily Ward was recognized for her life-long commitment to education and childcare.

Reston Historic Trust was honored for its role in preserving Reston's past and preparing for its future. Reston Heights hotels, Sheraton and Westin, were honored for incorporating care for those in need into corporate culture. The Virginia Spine Institute was honored for investing in the well being of the Reston community, and **Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc., was honored for protecting Reston's natural resources.**

Also honored at the event were Fairfax County 2009 First Responder officers of the year, including police officer Eric Glueckert and firemen Ronald McNew and Craig Furneisen.

Lynn Gilmore, one of three event chairs for this year's Best of Reston gala, said they hope to raise \$300,000 or more this year. Reston Interfaith CEO Kerrie Wilson said the updated total for fundraising so far is \$218,000.

Gilmore said it was last year's Best of Reston gala that helped Reston Interfaith purchase its 40th home last May. The organization buys homes in the area to provide housing assistance to those

in need to get them back on their feet as productive members of the community. Currently Reston Interfaith has 41 properties for its housing programs.

For the past 19 years Best of Reston has honored individuals, community organizations and local businesses for their commitment to the community through service and improving the lives of others. Reston Interfaith and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce produce the event. The honorees will be recognized at the annual gala, which will be held April 15. Visit [restoninterfaith.org](http://restoninterfaith.org) for more info.

Tuesday March 2, 2010

## Community heroes named for Best of Reston honors

Annual awards gala to be held April 15

by Janet Rems | Special to the Times

Last Christmas, Kerrie Wilson did not have much time to think about the holiday. Instead, Reston Interfaith's CEO was too absorbed in making sure a quadriplegic man, who had just lost both his parents and his home, was safely settled into a new place to live.

Speaking at a reception held Feb. 24 at the Vinifera Wine Bar and Bistro in the Westin Reston Heights Hotel to announce the 2010 Best of Reston honorees, Georgia Graves, co-chair of the 19th annual Best of Reston Gala to be held April 15, told that anecdote to illustrate the work done by Interfaith.

"We all know that business is tough for everyone right now, but if you think that times are tight for us, just take a moment to imagine what families served by Reston Interfaith are facing," said Graves, president at Bridgman Communications Inc., and a former chairman of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

The Best of Reston awards and gala, a major fundraiser for Interfaith's social service programs and an opportunity to honor individuals and businesses for their exceptional community service, is annually co-sponsored by the 40-year-old nonprofit and the chamber.

"I can't think of a better or more special partnership," said gala co-chair Lynn Gilmore, adding that Interfaith dedicated its 40th transitional housing townhome in May.

Founded in 1970 by area religious organizations, Interfaith provides transitional housing, encourages the development of affordable housing, supports the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, furnishes child care at the Laurel Learning Center and offers parent education and support as well as food and financial assistance.

A leading social service provider in Northern Virginia, its programs served more than 13,000 individuals and families last year.

Gilmore, Northrop Grumman's director of community affairs and philanthropy, who lives and works in Reston, said that despite its relative affluence, this area is far from immune to need.

People, she said, are often surprised to learn there is a homeless shelter, operated by Interfaith, within walking distance of Reston Town Center.

"People are struggling; we read about it in the papers every day. Needs are greater than ever," she said.

Mark Ingraio, the chamber's new president and CEO, said while he is still learning about this longtime partnership between the chamber and Interfaith, he knows from experience how important nonprofits like Interfaith are to the health of a community.

"For a community to thrive, all three sectors -- government, business and nonprofits -- must be strong," he said.

Matt Brennan, Chairman of GRCC's board of directors, an attorney with the law firm of Brennan & Waite, P.L.C., formally presented the "best of the best," the 2010 recipients of Reston's most prestigious civic honor.

Honorees are nominated by community members between September and December and are then selected by a panel, chaired this year by Judy Redpath, president and founder of Reston-based VISTA Wealth Strategies.

Also recognized were the event's Strategic Partners: The CORE Foundation, represented by Douglas Bushee; The Freddie Mac Foundation; the JBG Cos., represented by John Schlichting; Northrop Grumman, represented by Gilmore; Reston Hospital Center/HCA Virginia, represented by Jane Raymond; and The Virginia Spine Institute, represented by Dr. Thomas Schuler.

Because of these partners, the Best of Reston is more than halfway to its \$300,000 goal. Contributions from Strategic Partners and other supporters now total \$218,000, reported Gilmore and Graves.

Like Interfaith, the Best of Reston honorees stand out, Graves said, because they think of those in need "not as a responsibility but as an opportunity."

The honorees included:

-Individual community members -- Imam Mohamed Magid, of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, for "building bridges between people of different faiths;" Holly Norris, director of environmental services for Reston Hospital, for her "compassionate service," work with many non-English speaking employees and for spearheading hospital support for community events that help people in need; and Emily Ward, for her "lifelong commitment to education and childcare," volunteer work with the Laurel Learning Center and her significant impact on the "lives of Reston's most disadvantaged children."

-Civic/Community Organization -- The Reston Historic Trust for "preserving Reston's past and preparing for its future."



-Corporate Business Leaders -- Reston Heights Hotels, the Sheraton and Westin, for their "deep commitment to giving back to the local community" and for genuinely caring for the "well-being and advancement of its employees," including the mentally and physically challenged.

-Small Business Leaders -- The Virginia Spine Institute for immersing itself not only in the health of its patients but also its community through philanthropic and volunteer efforts and community partnerships; and Wetlands Studies and Solutions Inc. for its environmental leadership and its development of an innovative stream restoration program for Reston.

-Fairfax County 2009 First Responder Officers of the Year -- Officer Eric R. Glueckert and firefighters Ronald A. McNew and Craig S. Furneisen Jr.

#### Best of Reston Gala

The 2010 Best of Reston honorees will be formally recognized at the 19th annual Best of Reston Gala on April 15 at the Hyatt Regency Reston. Sponsorships, tables and individual tickets are available at [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org) or by calling 571-323-9555. Proceeds support the social service program of Reston Interfaith.