

#### The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

May 2016 Volume 3, Issue 3

### **Congressional District Conventions**

On Saturday, May 14, the 8th, 10th, and 11th congressional districts (CD) will stage their 2016 conventions. CD 8 meets at Edison High School, CD 10 at Park View High School, and CD 11 at Luther Jackson Middle School. If you are a delegate or alternate, it is important that you pick up your credentials on time. Once that time has passed, unclaimed delegate places are given to alternates for that candidate, first within the same jurisdiction and then potentially across jurisdictions within the CD

Delegates and alternates have already been selected from each magisterial district for each relevant CD convention and the state convention. Delegations were divided between Clinton and Sanders supporters, based on the March 1 primary results. In some cases, there were more delegate candidates for the jurisdiction and candidate than delegate places, requiring caucuses on April 16 to choose the delegates and alternates. In other cases, there were not, so all those filing received places. (See Chair's Report for this month.)

While some delegations are full, others still have places available. If you have not filed to be a delegate or alternate but would like to be one, and there is a place available for you, you can still file before the CD convention. (Depending on the CD, you may or may not be able to file at the convention itself.) For more information, visit these web sites: <a href="Mailto:CD 8 Convention">CD 10 Convention</a>, or <a href="Mailto:CD 11">CD 11</a> Convention.

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### **Message from the FCDC Chairman** Sue Langley

With the unassembled district committee caucuses held on April 16, delegate selection moves into the final phase before conventions in the 8th, 10th, and 11th congressional districts on May 14. During the interim, vacancies are being filled in both the Clinton and Sanders delegations to the district conventions on May 14 and the state convention in Richmond on June 18.

A total of 144 delegates have filed for Hillary Clinton and 93 delegates for Bernie Sanders among the three congressional districts comprising all the precincts in Fairfax County. The table below presents both delegates and alternates by presidential preference and congressional district.

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#### Deadlines for The Democrat

#### June 2016 Edition

Friday, May 27, 2016

#### July 2016 Edition

Friday, June 24, 2016

Articles/ photos must be submitted as attachments to <a href="mailto:thedem-ocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org">thedem-ocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org</a>. All submissions are subject to a word limit and editing. For more information, contact <a href="mailto:thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org">thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org</a>.

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Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the FCDC unless expressly approved by an appropriate committee resolution.

## Message from the FCDC Chairman

Sue Langley

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Congres-	Hillary Clinton		Bernie Sanders		
sional District	Dele- gates	Alternates	Delegates	Alter- nates	Total
Eighth	51	3	32	3	89
Tenth	30	2	19	3	54
Eleventh	63	7	42	4	116
Total	144	12	93	10	259

These Fairfax County delegates will join their counterparts from Arlington County, Alexandria, and Falls Church for the 8<sup>th</sup> District convention; those from Loudoun, Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, and Prince William counties, and Leesburg, Berryville, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester for the 10<sup>th</sup> District convention; and Fairfax City and Prince William County for the 11<sup>th</sup> District convention.

For those attending their first district or Virginia state convention, you will be surrounded by the most active and committed Democrats from nearby locations. Prepare to spend the afternoon with other devoted party activists, elected officials, and volunteers from Fairfax County and surrounding Northern Virginia jurisdictions. You reside in the heart of the swing state of Virginia in national elections, and the reason why Virginia is on the short list of states on which the national presidential campaigns are focusing.

#### **Congressional District Conventions**

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The primary purpose of each CD convention is to elect Clinton and Sanders delegates from the CD to the Democratic National Convention, apportioned by the March 1 primary results and divided as evenly as possible between men and women. (The deadline to apply to run for national delegate at the CD convention has passed.) In addition, the convention selects a presidential elector for that congressional district, considers resolutions, and conducts other business as appropriate. You also get a chance to meet and talk with other Democratic activists. Being a delegate is worth experiencing at least once.

Article was written by Florence Upson, The Democrat Editorial Team.



## **Update From the 11th Congressional District**

### Congressman Gerry Connolly

Last month's announcement by the Department of Interior

that it would abandon its plan to open the Atlantic Ocean, and Virginia's coastline, to offshore drilling was an appropriate and responsible decision and a win for all Virginians.

In 2010, following the tragic BP Deepwater Horizon Spill, the Obama Administration appropriately put a moratorium on oil and gas leases on the Atlantic Coast. However, in 2015, the Administration announced it would reverse course and lift that ban. This decision meant energy companies would soon earn the rights to drill for oil and gas in the Atlantic Ocean across

the southeastern coast.

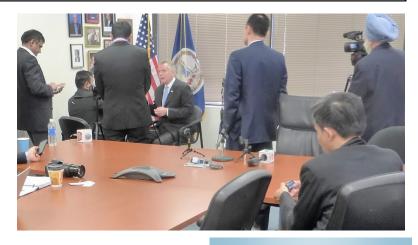
Since the plan was announced, I have repeatedly made the case that drilling off Virginia's coast poses significant and irreversible consequences to Virginia's economy, jeopardizes the Defense Department's presence in the region, and threatens our coastal communities and natural resources. More troubling, the flawed draft proposal asked Virginians to bear all of that risk for less than a few months of national oil and gas supply. Had the Interior Department pursued offshore drilling, Virginia would assume all of the risk with no reward.

After more than a year of backlash from members of the Virginia Congressional delegation, environmental groups, local communities, tourism industries and the Department of Defense, the plan has been reversed. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell stated "now is not the time to offer oil and gas leasing off the Atlantic coast" after hearing many concerns from these communities.

The fact of the matter is drilling in waters off the Atlantic would have damaging effects on Virginia's economy and environment. Offshore drilling would negatively affect our Navy, commercial fisheries, and tourism and recreation industries. I appreciated Secretary Jewell's acknowledgement of these clear concerns. The risks truly outweighed the rewards, and I am relieved the Interior Department came to the same realization.

# Image of the Month Contributed by the FCDC Central Communications Committee

Pictured Left: Governor Terry McAuliffe meets with representatives of minority media outlets of Northern Virginia at FCDC headquarters at a New American Media event organized by Jennifer Oh of the Central Communications Committee.



#### **FCDC Labor Committee**

#### Virginia Diamond, Chair

#### **Verizon Unions Stand Up to Save Middle Class Jobs**

The strike by 38,000 Verizon and Verizon Wireless employees crystallize the struggle of workers to preserve middle class jobs in the face of corporate greed. Both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, as well as several Democratic public officials, have joined union members (Communications Workers of America and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) on picket lines to show their support.

Verizon generated \$4.3 billion in profits in the first quarter of 2016, yet negotiations have stalled for 8 months due to Verizon's insistence on givebacks.

Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam pronounced Sanders' pro-union comments as "contemptible" and "out of touch with reality." Here is the "reality" McAdam is defending:

- Excessive executive compensation.
   McAdam earns \$18 million a year,
   more than 200 times the salary of the average Verizon worker. The top five executives average \$10 million a year.
- Outsourcing union jobs. The company wants to close call centers in southwest Virginia and contract out the jobs to low-wage, nonunion contractors or send those jobs overseas.
- Union-busting at Verizon Wireless.
  Hundreds of Verizon Wireless workers, predominantly African-American and averaging \$35,000 a year, voted to unionize 2 years ago. The company



*Pictured Above:* Delegate Jennifer Boysko (VA-86th) with Verizon picketers.

- refuses to bargain fairly for improvements in compensation or benefits, hoping to discourage other Wireless workers from unionizing.
- Exacerbating the digital divide. Verizon is the only major telecommunications company refusing to accept federal funds to expand broadband to inner cities and rural areas. Low-income communities are disadvantaged economically and educationally because of lack of access to high-speed internet.
- Slashing health benefits for injured workers and retirees. Verizon is insisting on cutting health benefits despite its enormous profitability.

Verizon's unwillingness to negotiate fairly exemplifies the corporate greed that has given rise to populist anger this political season. Policies that weaken unions and destroy middle class jobs are turning our democracy into an oligarchy. The Verizon strike represents an ideal opportunity for Democrats to

## SPECIAL REPORT 2016 FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner

A capacity crowd of 300 Democrats gathered at the McLean Hilton May 1 to hear from keynote



speaker former Secretary of the Commonwealth and current Richmond mayoral candidate Levar Stoney and special guest Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro. We also heard speeches by congressmen Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer, along with congressional candidate LuAnn Bennett. The evening also included a remembrance of the late 11<sup>th</sup> CD Chair George Burke, recognition of FCDC award winners, and silent and live auctions.

#### Auction

Even before the start of the dinner, silent auction items were available for bidding. During the dinner, Delegate Ken Plum conducted a live auction. Because all items were donated, the auction revenue contributed a significant portion of the total amount raised by the event.

One of the first items to be claimed was the Donald Trump piñata. These piñatas have gained a measure of popularity in Mexico, and should be welcome additions at events here in the United States this year.

More than 100 other items were also available to bid on, including vacation weeks in southern

France, at the beach, and in a mountain cabin. The Clinton campaign donated a copy of Secretary Clinton's book *Living History*, with her personal message and autograph. Many elected officials and candidates donated items as well, as did the district committees and many individuals. Almost every item was sold.

#### The Dinner

FCDC Vice Chair South Dan Lagana presented the color guard and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, while Tilly Blanding of Springfield District deliv-



ered a stirring rendition of the national anthem. FCDC Chair Sue Langley then welcomed everyone,



and Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn introduced the many elected officials in attendance.

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## SPECIAL REPORT 2016 FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner (continued from page 5)

#### **Great Opportunities to Hold White House and Win Back Congressional Seats**

Congressman Connolly spoke of the potential for a "decisive election in November." He noted we

CD10 candidate LuAnn Bennett spoke of the reasons she is running for Congress: the need to get Congress working again, solving problems, and getting results. She highlighted her success in building a small business. Her priorities in Con-





have a chance to take back the Senate, and highlighted LuAnn Bennett's chances to win the House seat in the 10<sup>th</sup> CD, now held by Barbara Comstock. He also confidently proclaimed that the party will be united after the convention.

Congressman Beyer was next to discuss our great opportunities in November, stressing three

points: (1) we can't take anything for to focus on turnout, and (3) we have a chance to take back the House, which would require a net gain of 30 seats. We can pick up seats in Virginia, including LuAnn Bennett in the 10<sup>th</sup> CD.

Thus introduced,

gress would include fighting for families, regrowing the middle class, and investing in people and infrastructure. She also passed on the encouraging news that the Cook Political Report and UVA political seer Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball have both upgraded her race from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

#### **Our Special Guest Speaker**

Former San Antonio Mayor and now HUD Secregranted, (2) we need tary Julian Castro started out clarifying that he was attending in his personal capacity as a good Democrat. After commenting that we have more Democratic elected officials than Texas, he called President Obama one of the finest presidents we have ever had, noting that he had continued the blueprint for Democratic investment in opportunity.

> Secretary Castro then told us his inspiring life story: His grandmother came to the United States from Mexico and never finished school; his mother graduated from high school but did

## SPECIAL REPORT

## 2016 FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner (continued from page 6)

not attend college. Both he and his brother, Texas soon as he became Secretary of the Common-Congressman Joaquin Castro, got into Stanford, but they were only able to attend through their own hard work and the opportunity presented by



Pell grants, Perkins loans, and federal work/study programs. Noting the competition from foreign countries we now face for investment and jobs, he talked about the need for a 21<sup>st</sup>-century blueprint for opportunity.

He finished by thanking us for everything we have court costs done and told us to "make it happen" in November.

#### **Our Keynote Speaker**

The Honorable Levar Stoney, as Secretary of the Commonwealth, was a driving force behind restoring voting rights to over 200,000 Virginians. Like Secretary Castro, his life story is inspirational: He closed with a reference to the November elec-His mother was 16 and father 19 when he was born, and he was raised by his father and grandmother. He was the first in his family to earn a high school diploma, and he went on to graduate from James Madison University before embarking Remembrance on a career in public service.

He described the effort to restore voting rights as "personal to me." He started working on it as

wealth, and 18,000 people had already been restored before Governor McAuliffe's action. He said he was on "cloud nine" the day when the Governor signed the paperwork restoring voting rights to the former felons. According to the New York Times, no state had ever done this.

Stoney talked about how grateful people are to get their voting rights back and the impact it has on their lives, citing several people whose rights

he had worked to restore. One was a lady who had never had the opportunity to vote. Somehow she had run up \$40,000 in she could not



pay, so she could not register to vote. The day her rights were restored, she was so excited and grateful she started helping others to get their rights restored. He said that it is so rewarding to be able to help people.

tions and the importance of electing a Democratic president as well as LuAnn Bennett, noting Fairfax County's central role.

Congressman Connolly delivered a tribute to the late 11th CD Chair George Burke. Connolly praised Burke as a "wonderful member of the Democratic family." He told a story to illustrate Burke's love

## SPECIAL REPORT 2016 FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner (continued from page 7)

for the little things in life, and listed among Burke's other loves life, politics, mentoring, family, and the Democratic cause. In closing, he said that Burke "lived Democratic values every day of his life."

## **Congratulations to the 2016 FCDC Annual Award Winners**

FCDC Unsung Hero Award: Rick and Burma
Bochner (Providence District), Maggi Luca
(Braddock District), Ellen and Marvin Cantor
(Providence District), and Mary Jablonski (Hunter
Mill District).



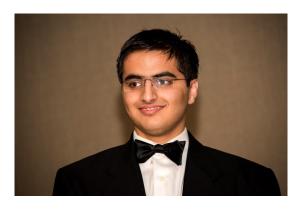
This award is presented to FCDC volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty year after year. This year it was awarded to the FCDC head-quarters team, which keeps the office running while helping with new voters, chasing absentee voters, organizing neighborhoods, protecting the right to vote, and getting out the vote.

Members of the Year: Sue and Marv Rosenberg (Dranesville District).



The Rosenbergs have been volunteering for FCDC for many years. In 2015, they were very active in the Joint Campaign and Absentee Ballot programs. Their many contributions included major roles in Back to School nights, precinct letters, sample ballots, and the amazing joint campaign voter guide.

**Volunteer of the Year: Chirag Mehrotra** (Lee District).



Chirag started volunteering in 2014 while a sophomore at Edison High School, less than 4 years after coming to the United States. In 2014 and

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## SPECIAL REPORT

### 2016 FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner (continued from page 8)

2015, he was very active canvassing and phone banking, while maintaining his membership in the ing community activist ever since coming to the National Honor Society. He also encouraged many fellow Edison students to volunteer.

Charles S. Robb Young Leaders Award: Patti **Dinkelmeyer** (Lee District).



Patti has been volunteering since earning her political science degree in 2008. In the past 8 years she has compiled an impressive record of political leadership, managing a field office, training volunteers, supervising interns, and serving as a campaign field director. She is also an active YD and founding member of the LGBTQA Committee. She now works in Supervisor John Foust's office.

Linda J. Robb Community Service Award: Tania Hossain (Providence District).



Tania has been a passionate, hardworking, inspir-United States from Bangladesh more than 25 years ago.

Her past work has included leading the coalition to update Virginia's human trafficking laws and serving as legislative chair of the Virginia Extension Leadership Council, as well as president of the Fairfax County Federation. She is currently president of the Providence District Council.

#### Magisterial District of the Year: Springfield



In spite of the district's Republican majority, Springfield has enjoyed several successes. The district has been energetic and engaged on many fronts: representing FCDC at community events, giving back to the community, using technology, establishing a bench of potential future elected officials—and having fun! Particularly noteworthy are the video training for outside poll workers, uses of web sites and social media, community outreach, and new member orientation programs.

Article was written by Florence Upson, The Democrat Editorial Team. Photos by Jessica Bowser and Mike Beaty.

## The Fight for \$15 and a Union: Winning a Better Future for Our Children

by David Broder, President, SEIU Virginia 512 FCDC Providence District

#### A movement begins

In November 2012, some 200 brave fast food workers walked off their jobs in New York City. Tired of minimum wage paychecks, which left them unable to support their families, they called for \$15/hour and a union. They had no idea, however, that they were starting a movement that would change the national debate about economic inequality.

Last month, less than 3½ years after that first strike, California and New York raised their minimum wages to \$15/hour, following dozens of cities and states with similar measures, thus lifting millions of American families out of poverty.

#### How did they do it?

How did workers grow this effort so quickly and position themselves so successfully? By making bold demands, building an inclusive movement, and engaging young people and communities of color.

Bold demands: Though many scoffed at a \$15 minimum wage, these workers were undaunted. Their clear, bold demand reset the economic agenda and held elected officials accountable to making real change.

Inclusive movement: What began as a campaign of fast food workers quickly grew to incorporate home care providers, child care teachers, airport workers, adjunct professors, janitors, security guards, and many others. In our new economy, far too many Americans make less than \$15/ hour (\$30,000/year).

Engaging young people and communities of color: The Fight for 15 workers also embraced Black Lives Matter activists, DREAMers, environmental advocates, and more. They recognized that it was impossible to achieve economic justice without also addressing racial, social, and environmental justice, marriage equality, voting rights, and comprehensive immigration reform.

## Fighting for 15 in the Old Dominion

Here in Virginia, low-wage workers have been helping lead the Fight for 15 from the beginning. Thousands of the Commonwealth's fast-food workers, home care providers, child care teachers, and airport workers have united with students, faith leaders, and local Democrats to speak out for \$15 and a union at rallies, lobby days, town halls, and more, in Richmond and across the state. Home care provider and SEIU Virginia 512 leader Laura Clark has been at the forefront of this movement. A caregiver for 20 years, Laura never made above \$9.04/hour. When the woman she cared for passed away in 2014, she was left with no job, no

"To me, the Fight for 15 is about a better future for our kids. The economy we have now is broken.

savings, and no retirement.



I've worked my entire adult life, and I was never able to get ahead. I have no savings. I have no benefits. I've never even gone on vacation."

"It may be too late for me," she added. "But I can try to give my daughter something better."

Despite this grassroots mobilization, the Republican-controlled General Assembly killed bills to raise the minimum wage and ensure paid sick days without even allowing a floor vote. Though they found time to pass bills to defund Planned Parenthood, legalize discrimination and attack immigrants, the General Assembly has done nothing to help working Virginians get ahead.

## You can make a difference—here's how!

Despite the General Assembly's inaction this year, we believe that we will win this fight. After all, we have seen how continuing to mobilize and demand economic justice, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, has resulted in victories across the county.

Four things you can do today:

- 1. Visit fightfor15.org
- Talk to your family and friends about the need for \$15 and a union
- Ask your elected officials where they stand on \$15, paid sick days, etc.
- 4 VOTE

#### **Non-Citizens United** by Jim McCarthy, Springfield District

Citizens United, girt snugly and deeply within the Capital Beltway on Pennsylvania Avenue, advocates that it is *Devoted to Restoring Our Government to Citizen Control*. As commonly understood, "citizen" means a person legally recognized, native or naturalized, of a state, who has sworn loyalty to it, enjoys the protections thereof, and acknowledges the duties therein. One may trace a reasonably direct line in Constitutional phraseology from "people" to "citizen" and "person" to appreciate their meanings.

At the same time, "corporation" does not appear in the Constitution, and is generally defined as an association of people who, for policy reasons, cannot be sued individually; nor may a corporation be imprisoned, meaning that owners, i.e. investors or shareholders, risk only as much as they invest.

Beginning in the 1850s and for over 100 years, corporations were prohibited from contributing to federal political campaigns. Then came *Citizens United v. FEC* in 2010, wherein the U.S. Supreme Court unraveled virtually all limits on corporate spending by extending the rights of a person or citizen to corporations as a matter of political free speech, endowing and equating the associated and collective entity with that of individuals. Or, as some critics say, "money equals speech." The text of the decision references the phrase "associations of citizens" as the constituency of corporations. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote,

"If the First Amendment has any force, it prohibits Congress from fining or jailing citizens, or associations of citizens, for simply engaging in political speech."

SCOTUS seems to have overlooked the fact that corporations are not wholly constituted of citizens of the United States, as foreign individuals and corporations may also be investors and/or share-

holders forbidden by law directly or indirectly from making political contributions. In this way, the libertarian orthodoxy of SCOTUS, in extending the right of corporations as equal to the right of a single person or citizen, has only opened the door to increasing corporate dominance in politics.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the decision is the effect such unfettered free speech may have upon voting and who may be elected or what policies influenced. The responses of the governors of Indiana (ultimately) and Georgia to the messaging from corporations in vetoing "religious freedom" laws is an example of the power of corporate broadcasting in the political sphere. This phenomenon is greater than "simply engaging in political speech."

It is also possible that foreign individuals and corporations could simply and legally associate in any state without including American citizens to pursue this newly created right.

Since no one of us will ever have a voice louder than the one that can be purchased by a corporation or an association of citizens, perhaps the older rule prohibiting corporations from making political contributions is the fairer and more equitable one. Only citizens may vote in American elections, or, conversely, noncitizens may not vote in American elections. Why, then, permit noncitizens to buy free speech in elections, thereby influencing the outcome of those elections?

Recently, Ellen Weintraub, a member of the semipermanently deadlocked Federal Election Commission, indicated that she was prepared to propose new rules in this matter. In an op ed in the March 30, 2016, *New York Times*, she argued that states can take action with respect to campaigns and expenditures under their jurisdiction "to insure that those corporations are indeed associations of American citizens." Wow! There's a suggestion that should be considered in Richmond.

## **Uncharted Territory: "Call-of-Duty" and Civil-Military Relations** by Dan Lagana, Vice Chair, South

I stood in a big-box store, sometime shortly after returning from my second deployment to Iraq, and watched a group of just-barely-teenagers play "Call of Duty." I couldn't believe what I saw. Or better put, I couldn't suspend my disbelief: No cover and concealment, lots of running while shooting, and throwing grenades like baseballs (not practical or advisable).

But despite these obvious shortcomings, the game is realistic and, conveniently, in a Middle Eastern setting. "Call of Duty," and first person shooter games in general, are highly addictive. So admittedly, I kept watching. The kids were goofing off and smack talking one another, and then something blew up on screen. The game slowed down, the player's vision was blurred, the screen shook, dust and smoke filled the air, and a ringing noise hummed in the background as the player struggled to get his bearing.

I was stunned. And the kids kept playing. It was as graphic and as realistic a detonation as one could get without experiencing the real thing. More astonishing, the transfer of this realism is for the benefit of the user, to enhance the game's experience. "Real combat" sells games.

Video games today strike me as marked departures from sandbox battles with plastic green army men. The thinking and imagination required to play with toys are removed—or, rather, transferred—from this equation.

The result? Inherently, the player becomes reactive. He reacts to the game's twists and turns, but without the imagination required to play in the woods. The effect is a desensitizing, a numbing,

and a conditioning of the nervous system to combat. In desensitizing ourselves to warfare, and especially in the era of the "All Volunteer Force," we widen the gap between citizen and soldier.

In eliminating the draft, we unmoored ourselves from the social consequences of mass conscription, and rightfully built a professional and modern military. But in so doing we have separated the military from American society. This separation, taken in combination with modern technology and consumer-driven media, may put us in uncharted territory.

The Sevastopol Sketches, Leo Tolstoy's quasiautobiographical tale of the siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War, delivered the totality of war to the reader: He depicts combat as chaotic and fast. No fanfare. Instead, Tolstoy spends considerable time articulating the effects of war and those living through it, rather than focusing on the particularities of combat.

War is imagined in combat. When we think of war, we think of the fighting, which itself is only one component. The boredom, the exhaustion, the smell, and the mud usually aren't part of one's imagination. Tolstoy enhanced understanding of war by addressing his readers' imaginations, or preconceived notions, of what they thought it to be.

So where does that leave us today? Not long ago, I was in Target and I noticed "Call-of-Duty" was marketed alongside four packs of Monster Energy Drinks. Where does understanding and communicating begin if imagination is less prevalent? Personally, I don't know.

#### People in the News

#### **Congratulations**

*Linda Waller (Lee District)* received the Volunteer Fairfax Community Service Community Champion Award.

Kathleen Murphy (Dranesville District) received the Volunteer Fairfax Community Service Community Champion Award.