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For Immediate Release

Springfield District Resident Brett Coffee Named Community Champion

Fairfax, VA – Volunteer Fairfax and Springfield District Supervisor Patrick Herrity will honor Brett Coffee of Burke, with a Community Champion award during the sixteenth annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at the McLean Hilton.

Nominated by Supervisor Patrick Herrity, Brett's career of service has brought him to a variety of different organizations. As a current board member of Leadership Fairfax, Brett is working on a wholesale reorganization of the group. Brett is also the secretary of the Springfield District Council, an umbrella group of more than 200 civic and homeowner's associations. Working with his wife Lara, this Rotarian also helped found the SemperComm Foundation, an organization that provides free communication and entertainment equipment to our troops serving in remote locations.

Through Volunteer Fairfax each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selected one volunteer to receive a Community Champion award. The award honors volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County by bringing together volunteers, employees and interested citizens to address needs and issues in the County.

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Ten Community Champions will receive an award at the breakfast ceremony. The full list of Community Champion winners include:

- Janyce Hedetniemi, Annandale
- John C. Cook, Springfield
- James Edmondson, McLean
- Joseph Ritchey, Reston
- Tawny Hammond, Springfield
- Mary Weaver, Falls Church
- Dallas Shawkey, Alexandria
- Mary Ann Beall, Falls Church
- Kelly Levin, Centreville

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who serve as honorary chairs for the program, will present awards to each of the Community Champions and the other volunteer winners during the breakfast ceremony. Dr. Alan Merten, president of George Mason University, will serve as this year's keynote speaker and Doug McKelway, ABC7/WJLA-TV Anchor, will emcee the event.

More than 500 individuals attend the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards each year to recognize people throughout the community that are making a difference. In addition to the 10 Community Champion awards, more than 270 individuals will also receive awards in either the 13 competitive categories or a Benchmark award. A Benchmark award is a noncompetitive category that awards individuals who have volunteered 100, 250, 500 or 1,000 hours of service.

Tickets for this popular event, scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 8 a.m., at the McLean Hilton, are \$35 each. For more information about the other awards or to purchase tickets, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

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Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. The Awards honor individuals, groups, and organizations, which have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. Over the last 15 years, Volunteer Fairfax has recognized more than 1,400 individuals for their commitment to the community.

Volunteer Fairfax is building a better community through service. As a respected leader of community volunteerism for more than 33 years, Volunteer Fairfax connects individuals, youth, seniors, families and corporations to volunteer opportunities at more than 700 organizations in the Fairfax County area.

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