



## NEWS RELEASE

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APRIL 24, 2018

CONTACT: JONATHAN ZUR 804-515-7950  
JZUR@INCLUSIVEVA.ORG

### VCIC ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 51ST ANNUAL LYNCHBURG HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

*2018 Lynchburg Humanitarian Awards Dinner presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities  
May 24, 2018 at Lynchburg College*

(Lynchburg, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 51<sup>st</sup> annual Lynchburg Humanitarian Awards. The awards honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in the Lynchburg Community. The 2018 awards will be presented by the Lynchburg Chapter of VCIC at their annual dinner on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at Lynchburg College.

#### The 2018 VCIC Lynchburg Award Recipients

**Joseph A. Berryman** grew up on a farm in Elam with 8 siblings, attended Sulfur Spring School and graduated from R.R. Morton High School in Farmville in 1946. After serving in the US Army, he earned a BS from Virginia State College. After exploring a few career options, Joe began teaching vocational-technical in high school and never looked back. He helped create the Campbell County Vocational Technical School, and served as principal until his retirement in 1990. In retirement, Joe Berryman has continued to serve his community. He was vice president for financial affairs at Virginia Seminary; president at Legacy Museum; and a former School Board Member, Lynchburg City Schools. Mr. Berryman is one of the founding members of the Legacy Museum and continues to serve as its treasurer. He is also very active at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church where he serves as the Diaconate Ministry Chairman and Church School Superintendent.

**Bert Dodson, Jr.** serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Dodson Bros. Exterminating Co., Inc., where he has been employed since he graduated from the University of Richmond in 1976. Mr. Dodson served on Lynchburg City Council from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 2010, and was on the Board of Directors of Virginia's Region 2000. He currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for Lynchburg Sister City-Plus, Past President for Virginia High School League (VHSL) Foundation, and is a member of the Lynchburg Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Mr. Dodson served as Dinner Chair of the annual Lynchburg Humanitarian Awards Dinner in 2011. Dodson Bros has annually taken a percentage of their profits and donated to nonprofit groups. They also have given in-kind support to Habitat for Humanity for over 20 years, soil treating for termites for every house that has been built.

**Brenda M. Farmer** has been a community volunteer for decades. She holds degrees from Lynchburg College and Virginia University of Lynchburg, and a Masters and Doctorate from Eastern Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Farmer gives her time, talent and energy to an array of organizations for people in need including: the Red Truck; Churches for Urban Ministry's youth summer camp, Training Young Men Successfully initiative, and Community Food Pantry; women at the Amherst Jail; and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. She serves on the Lynchburg Community Action Group board as the Policy Council representative for their Head Start Program, and is a former trustee and Financial Secretary of Court Street Baptist Church.

**Molly McClenon** is a community volunteer who has been active in civic, youth-related, and environmental causes and organizations since moving to Lynchburg in 1966. Ms. McClenon received a teaching degree from Lynchburg College and taught special education for several years, before going to serve on the Lynchburg Community Action Board as a citizen representative, also volunteering as a Girl Scout leader of older girls, and eventually serving on the board of the Blue Ridge Girl Scout Council. As one of the founders of the Friends of Lynchburg Stream Valleys, Molly helped establish the Blackwater Creek Natural Area and Trails. For over 30 years, she has been active in the League of Women Voters of Lynchburg and served on the state League board for 6 years. Molly is active in the First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg (roles held: Religious Education Director, the Administrative Assistant, a Board member and its Chair), and has hosted guests with Legacy International.

**Kathryn M. Pumphrey** is Executive Vice President of the Centra Foundation, where she has raised over \$70 million to help fund projects and programs that enrich and improve healthcare services for a diverse population. In particular, Dr. Pumphrey was instrumental in establishing the Community Health Initiative Fund which funds nonprofits alleviating health disparities. Currently, Dr. Pumphrey serves on the Lynchburg College Board of Trustees as Secretary to the Board and Chair of the Trusteeship Committee and has served as Lynchburg College Alumni Association President where she was instrumental in diversifying Board membership. Additionally, Kathryn serves on the Board of Jefferson's Poplar Forest where she serves on the governance committee and development committee. Kathryn's past Board service includes the Academy Center for the Arts, the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, the Lynchburg Symphony, the Red Cross, Kaleidoscope (President) and the Lynchburg Estate Planning Council. She is a past member of the Lynchburg Rotary Club and a member of First Presbyterian Church where she has served as a Deacon and Elder.

**Robert C. Wood, III** (Robin) has more than 50 years' experience in business and corporate law, family law, commercial litigation, and employment law. Robin is a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation and author of *Civil Procedure in Virginia and Virginia Law and Practice: a Handbook for Attorneys*. He is a member of Order of the Coif at Washington & Lee University School of Law, where he also serves as an adjunct professor of Virginia Law and Procedure. Robin was a member of the 1961 Washington & Lee football team that went undefeated and was named Outstanding Small College Team in the nation by the Washington Post. He was also a head referee for ACC football from 1975 to 2001. Robin has devoted considerable time to the community, serving on the boards of directors of organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Lynchburg Fine Arts Center (former President), Virginia Legal Aid Society, United Way of Central Virginia, YMCA of Central Virginia (former President), and Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (former Chairman).

Fifty-one years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in Central Virginia, "to honor the work of our friends, neighbors, and family members who gave to others the same rights, respect and dignity that they sought for themselves." Today, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. The 83-year-old organization delivers programs to high school students in the region through the Connections Institute and Diversity Dialogue Day. VCIC also provides professional development for many local educators, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success.

The 2018 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is chaired by Nathaniel Marshall of BWX Technologies, Inc.

For more information about the organization or the Awards Dinner, visit [www.inclusiveVA.org](http://www.inclusiveVA.org).

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