

U.S. SEN. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO SPEAKS AT 9TH ANNUAL GILES GOP STAFFORD-MORRIS DINNER

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NEWPORT, VA—The Giles County Republican Committee hosted its ninth annual Stafford-Morris Dinner on Friday, April 16, 2021, at beautiful Buckeye Farm in Newport. Republicans from Giles County, Southwest Virginia, and the entire Commonwealth converged on the eastern end of the county to support the local G.O.P. committee and prepare for the upcoming party convention on May 8. Zack Thompson, Vice Chairman of the Giles G.O.P., emceed the event and thanked the numerous sponsors and guests throughout the night.

Congressman Morgan Griffith kicked off the Dinner, giving an update on his efforts in the House of Representatives. Republican Party of Virginia Chairman Rich Anderson also stepped up to the podium to welcome the group of Republicans and commend the local G.O.P. for its event.

After dinner, the group warmly applauded Jason Ballard, the Republican nominee for delegate in the 12th district, as he headed to the microphone to discuss his campaign and thank the attendees for their support. Ballard went on to introduce the Dinner's headline guest, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

Capito spoke with Aidan Williams about issues in Washington such as protecting the Senate filibuster and the Republicans' role in infrastructure talks. The U.S. senator also offered her thoughts on how statewide G.O.P. candidates can win in Virginia this November. Capito was recently re-elected to a second term—earning more votes than any statewide Republican in West Virginia history.

Other speakers included nearly all the announced G.O.P. candidates for Virginia governor, including Delegate Kirk Cox, Senator Amanda Chase, Peter Doran, Sergio de la Peña, Pete Snyder, and Glenn Youngkin. The Committee also hosted several of the statewide Republican candidates for lieutenant governor, Glenn Davis and Winsome Sears, and for attorney general, Leslie Haley, Delegate Jason Miyares, Chuck Smith, and Jack White. The Stafford-Morris Dinner is one of the few happenings in the entire state that has attracted this many candidates from the statewide G.O.P. field.

Delegate Cox won the Stafford-Morris Dinner 2021 Straw Poll for Governor, followed closely by both Glenn Youngkin and Pete Snyder. Winsome Sears and Delegate Miyares won the Straw Poll for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, respectively.

Giles G.O.P. Chairman Mae Midkiff then presented the Committee's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime member Barbara Stafford and praised her for a lifespan of tireless efforts for the Committee and community as a whole. Stafford has been a staple in local and regional G.O.P. politics for decades. Midkiff stated, "I know of no other person that I have worked alongside that has meant so much, and done so much, and helped do the work of the Republican Party." All attendees were on their feet in applause as Barbara received the Award.

The Stafford-Morris Dinner, in its ninth year, is named after former Delegate Jeff Stafford and former Giles G.O.P. Chairman Howard Morris. In its nearly-decade long tenure, the Dinner has been held in all three regions of the county—Narrows, Pearisburg, and now, Newport—and is considered a paramount political event in statewide Republican circles.

As he concluded the event, Thompson stated that there will be a special Stafford-Morris Dinner in 2022 to celebrate the event's ten-year anniversary. The Committee will release more details in the coming months.