



Friday, April 8, 2022

Pearisburg, Virginia

GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN HEADLINES THE 10TH ANNUAL STAFFORD-MORRIS DINNER

Virginia's 74th Governor, Glenn Youngkin, visited Giles County at the 10th Annual Stafford-Morris Dinner this past Friday, April 8, 2022. The event, hosted by the Giles County Republican Committee, was held at the barn at Walker Creek Retreat in Pearisburg.

After an event-wide reception with the Governor, the Giles G.O.P.'s Vice Chair Zack Thompson welcomed the 250 attendees and kicked off the night. Congressman Morgan Griffith delivered opening remarks, as guests prepared for a meal prepared by the Palisades Restaurant of Eggleston. Griffith noted the first absence of former Delegate, longtime Giles G.O.P. member, Mayor of Pearisburg, and 9th District Congressional public servant, Barbara Morris Stafford, who passed away last year.

During dinner programming, Aidan Williams highlighted the decade of Stafford-Morris Dinner history, which has included a number of permutations, including at venues such as Anna's Restaurant, the Briarwood in Pearisburg, Buckeye Farm in Newport, and this year, at Walker Creek Barn. Past keynote speakers have included former Republican National Committee Chair Ed Gillespie, former Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, former Virginia Governors Bob McDonnell and George Allen, and U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito.

The event is named after former Delegate Jeff Stafford and former Giles G.O.P. Chairman Howard Morris. The Stafford and Morris families were all in attendance for the 10-year celebration.

Following dinner, Virginia Senator Travis Hackworth, who will soon represent Giles County due to redistricting, read Senate Joint Resolution 49—"Celebrating the Life of the Honorable Barbara Stafford." She also received the Giles G.O.P.'s Lifetime Achievement Award last April. Senator Hackworth presented Barbara's three children, Chris Mann, Elizabeth Stafford, and Mary Stafford Zirkle, with framed copies of the Resolution. Delegate Jason Ballard also delivered a copy of the House of Delegates' Resolution honoring Stafford from the 2021 Session.

Before introducing Governor Youngkin, Delegate Ballard presented a certificate of Memoriam from the Virginia House of Delegates to the family of Marvin "Buddy" Hudson, who also passed away at the end of last year.

Before Youngkin took the podium, Delegate Ballard declared that Giles County—and all of Virginia—finally has a Governor that stands strong for conservative values in Richmond.

In his second visit to the Stafford-Morris Dinner, Governor Glenn Youngkin delivered the keynote address to the packed-out room at Walker Creek Barn. The Governor thanked the attendees for their hard work during the 2021 campaign, recognized the members of the Virginia General Assembly and other elected officials in the room, and commended the Giles G.O.P. for its 10th Anniversary of the Stafford-Morris Dinner.

Governor Youngkin highlighted the promises he is working to fulfill in Richmond, including putting parents back at the forefront of their children's education, supporting our law enforcement and educators, providing much needed tax relief, and easing Virginians' burdens at the gas pump.

At the end of the night, Giles G.O.P. Chairman Mae Midkiff and Governor Youngkin presented longtime Committee member, and former Chairman, Phillip Steele, with the Giles County Republican Committee Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022.

Governor Youngkin thanked the Giles G.O.P. and the County for being so welcoming in his first trip to Giles as Virginia's 74th Governor.