

Privilege Award Community Recognition and Celebration Explained

Through the Bernie L. Bates Foundation, Inc., Community Recognition component, The Privilege Award and Community Recognition Celebration seeks to formally recognize members of the Fairfax County community who most closely follow the tenets and principles practiced by the late Lord Fairfax, Colonel (Retired) Marion L. "Barney" Barnwell. These community members exhibit excellence and commitment to community welfare, all while being pillars in the Fairfax County community who demonstrate a "pay it forward" mentality.

The Foundation looks forward to honoring staffers, donors, or volunteers whose gifts of time, expertise and resources have significant and positive impact within Fairfax County. Recognized individuals will be community activists, considerate, unselfish, and kind, with a demonstrated history of community involvement, and volunteerism. Based solely on each organizations submitted nomination form, the nominee's service will be highlighted, and they will receive a commemorative memento during the Community Recognition portion of the Celebration.

In addition, the appointed President's Privilege Award Nominations Committee will review all submitted nominations. This three-member committee chaired by former Alexandria Mayor William "Bill" Euille, will select the most impactful nominee, and designate them as the overall President's Privilege Awardee for 2024.

Keynote Speaker
The Honorable Charles F. Bolden Jr.
Major General, USMC (Ret.)
12th NASA Administrator



Founder and CEO Emeritus, The Charles F. Bolden Group

This year's guest speaker is Charles F. Bolden Jr. charted a pioneering career in the U.S. Marine Corps and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He flew over 100 combat missions in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and orbited the Earth on four separate occasions as a NASA Space Shuttle pilot and commander. In 2009, President Barack Obama asked Bolden to serve as the 12th Administrator of NASA. He was the first African American confirmed by the US Senate to take on the role, a precedent that Bolden insists is only important if he is one day followed by women or other persons of color. With a focus on the future, he tells his audiences that he is just an ordinary person who has been blessed with opportunities to do extraordinary things as he challenges them to consider what can be accomplished when people dream big dreams together.