

# **Washington, DC District District Holiday Potluck**

































**December 12, 2017**

**District Award of Merit Recipients  
2015-2017**





# Washington, DC District

## District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Recipients

Name	DAM Year	District	Name	DAM Year	District
Stephen Ansari	2015	DC	Zetta Leftridge	2016	DC
Patricia Armstrong-Lewis	2011	DC	John LeMon 	2005	BB
Ronald K. Austin	1982	BB	Dave Lynch	2011	DC
Chris Barr	2009	DC	Johnny Mack	Yes	BB
Ken Barksdale	Late-80s	HN	Ron Marchessault	2014	DC
Peter Bielak 	2012	DC	Bryan Martin Firvida	2017	DC
G.F. Bingham 	[?]		Kim Matthews	2015	DC
Hank Brothers	2009	DC	John Maxwell 	2009	DC
Lee F. Brown	1982	BB	Dennis McCall	01 or 02	
Vicki Burns	2015	DC	Curtis McCrae	Yes	
Paul Byers 	2003	BB	Dan Mullin	Mid-90s	OOC
John Cates 	2007	BB	Howie Perlman	2016	DC
Milton Coleman 	[?]		Larry Pinkney 	1987	BB
Shirley Cooley	Yes		Marinda Pinkney 	01 or 02	BB
Margaret B. Cooper	1982	BB	Sherri Pinkston	2013	DC
Sam Daniel	2010	DC	Jaime Rodriguez	2005	BB
Chad Deschane	2010	DC	Tony Quinn 	[?]	
Gil Dickinson 	[?]		John Russell 	[?]	
Ray Diggs 	1974		Mike Ryan	2011	DC
Jai Evans	2016	DC	Stanley Scofield 	1987(?)	HN
George Farris 	2001		Joan Sharkey	Yes	BB
Alberta Faulkner 	[?]		Earnestine Smart	2001	BB
Robert Faulkner 	1982	BB	Warner W. Smith	2000	
Walter Fauntroy 	[?]		Nollie Stowers  	[?]	
Chris Gagliano	2004	BB	Wahbe Tamari	2017	DC
Ernest Gardner	Yes		Brad Thomas	03 or 04	
Frank Godfrey	2009	DC	Jim Tompkins 	[?]	
Ernie Green 	[?]		Daniel J. Tyrrell 	[?]	
Charles Hall	2017	DC	Regina Thompson	2013	DC
Hannah Hall	Yes	BB	Sonya Warren-Ham	1982	BB
Clarke Harlefinger	1990	BB	Julius Washington 	1987	HN
David Hamilton	1990	BB	Gilbert Watson	1982	BB
John Higgins 	[?]		Togo West 	[?]	
Earl Holsendorff 	Yes	HN	Bob Whalen	2008	BB
Melvin Horne	1987	HN	Bill Wilson 	Yes	HN
Donald Humphries	1990	BB	Edgar Wilson 	[?]	
James Ingram 	1994(?)		Dan Witt	2010	DC
Phil Jackson	2019	HN	Herbert Wood 	1986	BB
David Jory	2010	DC	Ralph Wooden 	1982	BB
			Angela Woodland	Yes	

DC: Washington, DC District | BB: Benjamin Banneker District | HN: Horizon District  
*The Washington, DC District was previously comprised of the Benjamin Banneker and Horizon Districts.*

 Indicates a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award

 Nollie Stowers received the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award in 1982.

[?] It is unknown if this Silver Beaver recipient earned the District Award of Merit.

“Yes” means they have earned the award, but date is unknown.

**Please help us with our records! If we're missing a name, have a date wrong, or you notice any mistakes, please email [info@scoutingindc.org](mailto:info@scoutingindc.org) and [commissioner@scoutingindc.org](mailto:commissioner@scoutingindc.org)**

# Stephen Ansari

District Award of Merits

Washington, DC District

2015



Stephen Ansari's first involvement with Scouting was in 1987 in Chester County Council (home of Horseshoe Scout Reservation). As a Boy Scout, he was inducted into the Order of the Arrow and became an Eagle Scout in 1994.

Stephen rejoined Scouting when his son became a Tiger Cub in 2009. They both joined Pack 230, sponsored by Capitol Hill Scouts. Stephen was Tiger Cub Den Leader, and a year later, he transitioned to Cubmaster. He took all the required training for both positions, as well as Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) and attended Pow Wow and University of Scouting four times each. After three years as a Cubmaster, he stepped back to Assistant Cubmaster, so that he could take a year before his son moved into Boy Scouts in order to "break in" a new Cubmaster.

Early in his tenure as a Cub Scout leader, Stephen was asked to serve as a member of the DC District Commissioner Staff. He became a Unit Commissioner in 2010 and has so served ever since. He is currently registered as Assistant District Commissioner and as a member of the District Committee. Shortly after becoming a Unit Commissioner, he took his Commissioner Basic Training and has taken Assistant District Commissioner Training not once, but twice! He has attended three Commissioner Colleges. During his tenure, he has been recognized as an Outstanding Commissioner (Council Award) and as a Distinguished Commissioner (National Award).

Stephen had an integral part in the establishment of the H.O.S.T. Hikes in NCAC, serving actively on the staff thereof and as a member of the History and Archives Committee for two years.

One of his most significant contributions to the District was his research into youth populations in various areas of Washington, DC leading to District plans that more strongly assist underserved youth throughout the city. This research was converted

into an utterly unique transactional digital database permitting the dynamic visualization of unit populations on a detailed map of the District of Columbia. The digital map thus created has become singularly useful in membership management for the retention of new joining youth as well as youth in established units. This most singular contribution has cast Stephen's support to Scouting in the Washington, DC District into a position of national prominence and wide applicability and utility to Scouting nationally and literally on a global application digital platform.

Outside of Scouting, he is an active member of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church where he has done extensive behind-the-scenes work; he is the self-styled and most widely regarded and well-loved "janitor" in St. Peter's congregation. He has participated in the March for Life for two years. He has also served extensively as chaperon and fundraiser at his sons' schools.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Stephen Ansari.**

# Victoria Burns

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2015



Vicki has been Troop Committee Chair of Palisades Community Church's Troop 61 since 2009 and has been an important part of the troop's success. During the past seven years, she ushered the transition of three Scoutmasters and helped the troop grow from about ten to more than forty Scouts. This is certainly no easy task; yet she did it with amazing skill, grace, and calm, working with parents individually to assure a smooth transition into the troop and supporting them as their sons move through Scouting.

She (obviously) is fully trained in her Scouting position, but has urged and supported both adults and Scouts to go to training courses, even arranging for trainers to come to the troop. She has set the example by taking training not even required for her position, but useful nevertheless. (For example, she has been a fully trained Scoutmaster for seven years, though she never held that position.) In addition to supporting Troop Committee members in their roles of advancement, activities, training, budget-making, fund-raising, service, camping, high adventure, equipment, trailer, and the rest, she has personally taken an active role in each of these areas—and more! Her organizational and leadership skills are a huge part of making the troop a success, but her hands-on work with the youth and leaders (not to mention weeks spent at summer camp) makes her stand out in Washington, DC Scouting, and she never rests until Troop 61 is on track to earning Gold Level in Journey to Excellence each year.

Because of her extensive experience rechartering her troop on time and without problems every year, Vicki was asked this year to be Assistant District Commissioner for Rechartering. In that role, she searched through training records of every Washington, DC Scouter to be sure Youth Protection Training (YPT) was up-to-date. She contacted the key-3 of every unit to apprise them of leaders who needed to renew their YPT early so it would not affect their rechartering, and she remains available to all units to answer their rechartering questions and offer assistance. This year, Vicki

also took over as the Washington, DC District's Scouting for Food coordinator, arranging for bag distribution and drop-off locations and answering questions and concerns from unit leaders. Although the numbers are not in yet, it was a very successful drive.

Outside of Scouting, Vicki leads an active volunteer life. At her son's school, she was an active parent participant, helping in the classroom (teaching astronomy), fundraising, and serving as room parent. In 2009, she became the president of the Lab School Parents' Association (and continued as room parent). As PTA president, she broke in a new head of school and worked to improve relationships between parents and the school. But by the time her PTA term was up in 2011, the troop had grown so much that she took a four-year break from non-Scouting activities (not including room parent which she kept up till 2016) to devote *all* her volunteer time to Scouting. In 2015, she got involved with a group called Compass, which does pro-bono consulting work for non-profit organizations. She works with a charter school serving immigrant youth, where in addition to helping with academics and English fluency, she counsels students in "life skills"—like obtaining health care or a driver's license—and helps prepare them to earn their GED.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Victoria Burns.**

# Katharine Matthews

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2015



Katharine Ilyeen Matthews (“Kim”) first became involved with Scouting in Washington, DC when her son joined Pack 230—then part of the Horizon District—sponsored by Capitol Hill Scouts. She served as Assistant Cubmaster where she was in charge of activities for the pack.

She later “graduated” into Troop 500, also sponsored by Capitol Hill Scouts, where she remains registered to this day, first as a Troop Committee member, 2010, then Troop Committee Chair, 2010-2016, and now a Troop Committee member again. During her association with the troop, she has camped extensively, attended summer camp, and been inducted into the Order of the Arrow, where she has actively attended Amangamek-Wipit Lodge Fellowships and Section NE-6A Conclaves, held at various Scout camps in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Kim holds the Triple Crown of National High Adventure award, for attending what were at the time “all three” National high adventure bases: She took groups from Troop 500 to Philmont Scout Ranch in 2010, Florida Sea Base in 2012, and Northern Tier High Adventure in 2013. (With the addition of The Summit as the fourth National high adventure base, the Triple Crown award became the Grand Slam award. Maybe she’ll earn that one of these days.)

Kim was a Founder of Venturing Crew 500 and became its first Crew Committee Chair, 2012-2016. She is currently a Crew Committee member.

Kim served on the District Committee of the old Horizon District, 2008-2009, as Activities and Civic Service Chair and District Webmaster. Upon the formation of the Washington, DC District in 2009, she started as a District Committee member at large, then as Marketing and Communications Chair, 2011-2014. She is currently registered as a member at large.

Kim was active in the formation of the History of Scouting Trail, from the early stages through the completion of all four hikes. She served as Vice-Chair for Events, 2012-2015, and chaired the Dedication Gala in 2013.

Outside of Scouting, Kim has been active in the Capital Futbol Club, the Washington Soccer Club, and Soccer on the Hill. She is a member of Friends of Kim Brenegar/Kim's Garden and has served in the Orange Hat Patrol and as Block Captain. An active parent volunteer, she was co-chair of the McLean School Celebration Auction in 2010 and an executive committee member of the McLean School Parents' Association. At the Capitol Hill Day School, she chaired the Scholarship Auction in 2001, and served as a member of the Board of Directors of The Hill Preschool.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Katharine Ilyeen Matthews.**



# Jai Allen Evans

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2016



Like many of us, Jai Evans's first Scout uniform was a blue one. He started in 1976 as a Wolf Cub Scout in Pack 1792 in what was then the Southern Maryland District of the National Capital Area Council. Three years later, he earned the Arrow of Light and crossed into Troop 1792 where he camped, went on high adventure trips, joined Scouting's National Honor Society (more on that later), and earned his Life Scout award.

Jai's first foray into adult Scout leadership was in 2008, when his son joined Cub Scout Pack 544, sponsored by Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, and he volunteered to be Den Leader. He continued as a Den Leader for successive sons' dens and didn't stop for six years, even after becoming Cubmaster in 2013. He has been Cubmaster ever since and has passed on his Cubbing skills and experience as Washington, DC District's Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner since 2015.

Jai was directly or indirectly responsible for the forming of two new Scout units in Washington, DC. As our District's Cub Scouting expert, he was instrumental in establishing Pack 5776 in 2016, and that pack has recently graduated boys into the newly formed Troop 5776.

In 2015, Jai became Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 544, working to grow the number of Assistant Scoutmasters in the troop and continuing to mentor Scouts he first knew as Cubs in their advancement and leadership skills. One Scout, Willis Thomas—now OA Chapter Chief—praised Jai for always being “encouraging and supportive of me in pursuit of my Eagle rank” and for giving him “great advice” when he was “senior patrol leader of Troop 544 and as a member of the DC Chapter of the Order of the Arrow.”

Jai himself first became a member of the Order of the Arrow as a Scout in 1983 and converted to Brotherhood in 1984. Thirty years later, he became an active adult member in our own Washington, DC Chapter and was appointed Associate Adviser

in 2015. During that year, he worked directly with officers in the Chapter to strengthen program and outside the OA with Scoutmasters to hold elections, and the Chapter was able to more than double in membership (from 48 to 101). That year, they earned the Gold-level Journey to Excellence award and then did it *again* the following year. A three-peat is expected for 2017.

Jai didn't just sit around increasing the number of OA members, advising officers, and going for JTE Gold! He staffed the HOST hike in 2015 (OA's Centennial year), served as co-cook crew adviser (a hot and messy job) for the Three-Rivers Service Area Ordeal in the fall of 2016, and advised OA youth members in running the WDC District's fall 2015 and spring 2016 Camporees.

In 2015, Jai earned the OA Centuries of Service Award (celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of the Arrow), and the following year, he was an inaugural recipient of Amangamek-Wipit Lodge's Golden Tooth Service Award. In 2017, he was chosen to complete his Vigil and earn the highest Honor in the Order of the Arrow. He became a Vigil Honor member in August of 2017.

Jai's leadership abilities have been recognized beyond the Order of the Arrow and beyond the borders of Washington, DC. A dedicated proponent of Scout leader training, Jai earned his own Wood Badge beads in 2015 and has served on two Wood Badge staffs. In the first, he was a Troop Guide (every member of his patrol earned their beads); in the second, he was JASM for technology.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Jai Allen Evans.**

# Zetta Leftridge

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2016



Zetta Marie Leftridge began her association with Scouting in 2002, with extensive training, as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 316 at Rehoboth Baptist Church. In 2005, she became Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 538 at Israel Baptist Church. From 2006 through 2016, she served as Scoutmaster of Troop 538.

Zetta has for more than a decade successfully combated and overcome the membership and support challenges faced by Scout units in central Washington, DC, where racial, economic, social, and cultural challenges have often impeded the creation, sustainability, and developmental expansion of packs and troops and of a quality Scouting program.

Issues of Scout enthusiasm, Troop Committee membership and active participation, and adult leadership for Troop 538, both in weekly meetings and in field and camping events, were daily encountered and successfully overcome with Zetta's unique blend, of enthusiasm, persistence, and adaptive understanding of the Scouting program and experience.

While serving as Scoutmaster, Zetta made certain that the Scouts of Troop 538 attended summer camp every year, though often with other units because of leadership shortages beyond herself. This nimble tactic of associating with other units extended to District Camporees and provided an additional basis for superior Scouting experiences.

At the District level, Zetta has served effectively and most successfully as the District "Popcorn Kernel" through 2014 and 2015 with substantial sales not before or thereafter exceeded. The funds thus realized have proved to be of significant benefit in reaching District Financial goals and in their specific distributions. Since retiring as Scoutmaster, she has served as a member at large of the Washington, DC District Committee.

Zetta is a native Washingtonian and graduated from Suitland High School in 1976. She attended Howard University and graduated in 1986 with a degree in Pharmacy. She earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy from Florida University at Gainesville in 2005. She currently manages other pharmacists at the Washington Hospital Center. She has been involved with the Howard Alumni Association since 1987.

Outside of Scouting, Zetta is an active member of Israel Baptist Church where she serves as president of the church Usher Board, sings in three choirs, serves on the Baptist Council of Ministries and the Pastors' Guild Committee, and heads up the Health Ministry. For fun, she likes to hand dance and is learning the different ballroom dances.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Zetta Marie Leftridge.**

# Howard Perlman

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2016



In the Theodore Roosevelt Council, New York State, Howie became a Cub Scout in 1994 (Pack 423), a Boy Scout in 1999 (Troop 423), joined the Order of the Arrow in 2002 (Buckskin Lodge, Amangi Wulit Chapter), and became a Venturer in 2005 (Crew 412). Howie earned Eagle Scout rank in 2006 and was Eagle Scout valedictorian of the Council's 2006 Class of Eagle Scouts.

Howie worked on the summer camp staff of Onteora Scout Reservation, 2004-2008 and 2010. He has been a board member of the Onteora Scout Reservation Alumni Association since 2011. Registering as a merit badge counselor in 2009, he continued in that role when he moved to the National Capital Area Council. He has also been Mentor to seven Eagle Scouts, crossing both councils.

Upon moving to Washington, DC in 2012, he registered as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 319 and on the collapse of that troop in 2015, became Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 524 at Shiloh Baptist Church, where he is still active. He also serves as a Unit Commissioner and member of the District Committee.

But anyone who has been around our district for more than a few minutes knows Howie Perlman as Adviser of the Washington, DC Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. Having joined the OA as a youth and earning his Brotherhood Honor, Howie sought out his new local Chapter, which was not an easy task, as the chapter had not met, run activities, inducted new members, or existed anywhere but on paper for a year and a half. In short, the Washington, DC Chapter of the Brotherhood of Honor Campers was not a Brotherhood of Happy Campers. Of course, Howie saw that as a challenge (it was) and took over as Chapter Adviser in September of 2014.

He first identified some youth and adult members and cobbled together a core group of officers and advisers who managed to induct a few more members and have their first Chapter meeting in December. The New Year dawned happily for the fledgling chapter, and in 2015 they not only increased their membership from 48 mostly

“paper” members to a vibrant group of more than 100 (the largest number since at least 1979) who held monthly meetings, helped Scoutmasters run elections (for the first time in many years for some troops), and even ran the Washington, DC District Fall Camporee. In 2015, the Washington, DC Chapter proudly earned the Gold-level Journey to Excellence award (yes, even OA chapters do JTE). Howie personally was chosen for the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor in 2015.

In 2016, and now with the help of more adults and youth officers—whom Howie continued to train—the Chapter ran two more successful camporees, ever growing in attendance, and further increased the OA’s presence in Washington, DC to 120 dues-paid registered members. Once again, they won JTE-Gold (not every chapter does that, you know).

2017 dawned with the inauguration of a new President, and it was the Order of the Arrow who ran the Scout portions of the event from honor corps to 76 Eagle Scouts marching in the parade. Howie was the overall coordinator for the Council, and our OA chapter hosted Scouts from all over the Council with food to eat and a place to sleep. He used his influence to assure that five DC troops were represented in these goings-on.

Up until this year, all new chapter members were inducted during Ordeals held by the Three Rivers Service Area or combined DC/PG Ordeals. In 2017, in addition to running spring and fall camporees, the Washington, DC Chapter held its first stand-alone spring Ordeal in quite some time. This has been another growth year, though final numbers won’t be known till the end of the month, and for the third consecutive year, the Washington, DC Chapter is a JTE-Gold chapter (Howie’s very proud about that!).

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Howard Eric Perlman.**

# Charles Earle Hall, II

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2017



Scoutmaster Charles Earle Hall, II began his association with the District as an adult volunteer in June 2001 with Troop 524, the troop with which he had experienced Scouting as a youth. Troop 524, sponsored by Shiloh Baptist Church, has a long history of substantial, strong, and productive program opportunities and Scout and adult participation throughout and among all of the Washington, DC Scout troops. As a testament to the strength of Chuck's work with Troop 524, the troop throughout his years as an adult leader has been recognized at Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp Bowman each year, and twice as Troop of the Week!

Chuck participated in that continuing and evolving history as an Assistant Scoutmaster through 2013 developing and supporting the cadres of Scouts from Troop 524 who have earned the Eagle Scout Award.

Chuck assumed leadership as Scoutmaster in June 2013 and commenced a period of rapid and determined growth and expansion in Scout membership for Troop 524 and the annual development of wave after wave of Eagle Scouts far in excess of the contemporaneous experience of most troops in the Washington, DC District.

Parallel with this overall pattern of excellence within Troop 524, an expansion of Order of the Arrow membership and leadership within the Washington, DC Chapter of the OA was clearly instituted and warmly supported by Chuck. Such an expansion could only have occurred through his development of a strong core skills camping and leadership program within Troop 524 to permit and sustain such OA membership and leadership. Among the aspects of Troop 524's outdoorsman program that have been particularly noteworthy under Chuck's leadership are the robust hiking program he implemented for the troop that has increased the physical fitness of many Scouts, the troop's participation in cold-weather tent camping during its recurring Jack Frost camping trip almost every December since 2001, and the

troop's near-perfect record since 2001 of attending camporees of the Washington, DC District and its predecessor, the Benjamin Banneker District.

The overall Scout program and demonstrated advancement results within Troop 524 under Chuck's leadership and direction demonstrate his full understanding and application of the Scout Oath and Law through advanced program participation, implementation, and execution during the many years of his leadership.

The integrated youth advancement and leadership of Troop 524 under his tenure have led to extensive outreach and service to the laity and clergy of Shiloh Baptist Church and far beyond its borders to the broader Washington, DC community. Troop 524's service to others has thus become a most well-known hallmark throughout the District and Council of the troop's operations, and an equal beacon showing from the light of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Most importantly, Chuck Hall has maintained and significantly strengthened Troop 524's relationship with and gained universal accord with the Shiloh Baptist Church laity, pastoral, and clerical membership. He has established and maintains the dynamic and fact of such warm reciprocal regard, thus assuring and further solidifying the critical relationship between Troop 524 and Shiloh Baptist Church as the troop's sponsor and strong continuing supportive base in a faith community.

In assessing and understanding all of these factors of institutions and dynamic operations of the Scouting program for Troop 524, and in his quiet execution of an outstanding Scouting program at the highest levels of National B.S.A. standards, Chuck has demonstrated to the entire Washington, DC District a most exemplary standard of personal and program excellence worthy of emulation by all Scouts, Scout troops and adult leaders in Washington, DC.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Charles Earle Hall, II.**



# Bryan Martin Firvida

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2017



Bryan Martin Firvida's first involvement in Scouting was as a Cub Scout in Pack 451 in Kronenwetter, Wisconsin. He earned his *Parvuli Dei* religious emblem and later the Arrow of Light. He graduated into Troop 451, went to Philmont (his first time on an airplane), was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, and became an Eagle Scout in 1989.

Like so many others, he was not involved in Scouting again until his own son was ready to become a Cub Scout in 2011. So, Bryan dusted off his uniform and became a Tiger Cub—and later Wolf—Den Leader in Washington, DC's Pack 98, sponsored by St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Two years later, he became Cubmaster, growing the Pack from about 20 boys to well over 100. During those years, he took his Cubs to day camp nearly every summer and attended both Cub Scout resident camp at Camp Snyder and Camp Ross Webelos Camp at Goshen. He is currently on the pack committee.

Bryan is fully trained in every position he has held, and earned the Den Leader Training Award, the Scouter's Training Award for Cub Scouting, and the Cubmaster's Key Award, as well as the Unit Leader Award of Merit. He attended Pow Wow four times and University of Scouting once and successfully completed Wood Badge training, earning his beads in June of this year. During his Cub Scouting years, Pack 98 earned the Journey to Excellence Silver level once and Gold level the rest of the time.

In June, Bryan "retired" as Cubmaster and three days later became Scoutmaster of Troop 98. We will need to wait and see if he distinguishes himself in that position.

On the District level, Bryan started attending Cub Scout Roundtables several years ago and was asked to "sort of" run them. In 2015, he became the official Assistant District Commissioner for Roundtables and at some point, started running the Boy Scout Roundtables. Overall, during his tenure, Roundtable attendance grew from 16%

to 46%. Last month Bryan was “relieved” of Roundtable responsibilities, but continues to serve as Assistant District Commissioner. He has earned the Arrowhead Honor and Commissioner’s Key Award.

Bryan became a member of the District Committee three years ago and after serving a year as a member at large, became District Vice-Chair for Marketing and Communications. Since then, he has created an online presence, all under a single digital brand, establishing a Washington, DC District website address ([www.scoutingindc.org](http://www.scoutingindc.org)), a [Facebook page](#), accounts in [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) (got any videos to share?), and [Flickr](#), at least nine Google Groups, several Google Sheets for one purpose or another, and expanded and grew the district’s email outreach list. He created the monthly “Roundtable Review,” put a scary picture at the top of “The WDC Commissioner,” and sends announcements to the entire district as needed. In addition, he helps individual district Scouters with their communications needs, answers questions that make it to his desktop, and has become our district’s expert on Scoutbook.

Since May, Bryan has served on the National Capital Area Council Strategic Marketing Plan Development Committee.

An active member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Bryan is a member of the Knights of Columbus, where his official service to the Church is to be active in its Scouting programs.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Bryan Martin Firvida.**

# Wahbe Tamari

District Award of Merit

Washington, DC District

2017



When Wahbe Tamari's son was a Webelos Scout in 2007, Wahbe was signed up as an Assistant Den Leader in the Unified Webelos Den of Packs 61&100. In that role, he attended meetings and activities and even camped with the den. Later, when the first boys crossed over into Troop 61, Wahbe moved along with them, attending the troop's first campout (a Banneker District Camporee where the brand-new Scouts won first place). But it wasn't until the summer of 2008, when the troop went to Camp Hidden Valley in Pennsylvania and Wahbe followed the first-year Scouts everywhere (they were *all* first-year Scouts), helping with their instruction and advancement and consulting with camp staff members, that he became a true believer. Wahbe says, "I went to camp a father, and returned an Assistant Scoutmaster." And he's never looked back.

That fall, Wahbe took courses to become a fully trained Assistant Scoutmaster and attended nearly every meeting and *every* camping trip throughout the year. He was also still working with the Webelos den and took his Cub Scout Leader training, attended Pow Wow, and earned the Cub Scouter Award. To this day, he is still registered in Pack 61 as a Pack Committee Member.

For five-and-a-half years, Wahbe served as Assistant for two different Scoutmasters as the troop grew from one to four patrols and from one to more than 40 Scouts. In 2014, he took over as Troop 61 Scoutmaster, and with the help of a strong Troop Committee Chair (whom he helped recruit), he has developed a cadre of Assistant Scoutmasters, including some former Scouts, who help him serve the Scouts and program. In his time with the troop, he has helped develop 20 Eagle Scouts, including 18 as Scoutmaster.

Wahbe has been to camp every summer since 2008, sometimes to Goshen and sometimes to other council camps in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and once as far away as Rhode Island. He has led high adventure trips to Lenhok'sin and

Kandersteg and supported assistant leaders' taking Scouts to Philmont (three times), Florida Sea Base (twice) and Northern Tier. Wahbe will be leading a trip to England next summer where the troop plans to hike 84 miles across Northern England (following Hadrian's Wall) from the North Sea to the Irish Sea. They will also visit Gilwell (happy land) and attend a Jamboree called The Rose.

Closer to home, the troop has visited the Capitol, the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the embassies of China, Sweden, Jordan, Switzerland, and Canada, and "tons of museums" (some years they have had a museum scavenger hunt on the National Mall). He's led the troop to important sites in American history such as New York City, Philadelphia (twice), Williamsburg, and camped with them at "all" the local Civil War battlefields; they even camped at Gettysburg and attended a mini-Jamboree at Valley Forge. Wahbe took twenty-two Troop 61 Scouts to serve at Barack Obama's second Inauguration, and the troop has conducted flag ceremonies at the Museum of American History and the American Historical Society.

A strong believer that a good troop cannot be a great troop without participating in district activities, Wahbe has brought his troop to at least one Camporee each year. Troop 61 runs annual Order of the Arrow elections, and he attends most OA meetings, even when no Scouts from his troop are there. (Wahbe became an OA member in 2011 and earned his Brotherhood in 2012.) The troop sends Scouts to Merit Badge University each year, where he is nearly always a counselor for one of the Citizenship badges.

After being trained way back in 2008 (he has earned the Scouter's Training Award for Boy Scouting), Wahbe has required that his Assistant Scoutmasters also become fully trained, as well as Committee members and parents who aspire to lead trips. He also conducts Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) training for his youth leaders each year. Wahbe has attended University of Scouting several times, serving on the faculty and earning his doctorate in the College of Boy Scouting Science. In 2016, he participated in Wood Badge training and earned his beads in June of 2017.

It is with great pride that the Washington, DC District presents its highest award to **Wahbe Ludwig Tamari.**