



PRESS RELEASE

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Regional Commission to Honor Aylor, Coates with 2016 Distinguished Leadership Awards

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission will honor two Culpeper County citizens, one posthumously, with the 2016 RRRC Distinguished Leadership Awards, to be presented on Wednesday, October 12th at the Regional Commission's 2016 Annual Meeting. 2016 marks the 10th year that the Regional Commission has solicited nominations for the awards that honor one government leader and one citizen representative of the region for outstanding contributions to the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, and facilitation of enhanced communication, coordination, collaborative governance and regional planning across the region.

Mr. John Coates was selected as the 2016 Regional Distinguished Leadership Government honoree. Mr. Coates has had a long career of service to the public in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region as both an appointed and elected official. His service includes a nearly 30 year career as a transportation engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation, and 16 years as an elected member of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors with eight years as Chairman. Mr. Coates presently serves on the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission as a citizen representative from Culpeper County. Mr. Coates' transportation and engineering background has made him cognizant of the regional, as well as the local implications of any project or issue on the public's agenda, and he continues to bring a cooperative and collaborative leadership style to his work.

Dr. G. Russell Aylor, Jr. was posthumously selected as the 2016 Regional Distinguished Leadership Citizen honoree. Dr. Aylor was appointed as a founding member of the Culpeper County Planning Commission in 1976, served as Planning Commission Chairman for 27 years, and served continuously to the time of his passing in 2010. Dr. Aylor's leadership guided Culpeper County through the development of the County's first Comprehensive Plan and subsequent revisions, a comprehensive rezoning in 1989, and periods of unprecedented growth. Dr. Aylor also sought to advance historic preservation in the region as a member of the Brandy Station Foundation and Civil War Preservation Trust, amongst many other interests and contributions.

The awards will be presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission on Wednesday, October 12th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Culpeper Center on Main Street in Culpeper. Registration for the Annual Meeting is \$40 and includes dinner and a keynote address from Sonya Waddell, a regional economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on regional economic

conditions. To register, please contact the Regional Commission at (540) 829-7450 or shromyak@rrregion.org.

About the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Washington, and Warrenton. The 21-member RRRC board includes elected and appointed officials appointed by each member jurisdiction. Localities with greater than 3,500 residents appoint two members to the regional commission, while localities with fewer than 3,500 residents appoint one member to the regional commission.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission facilitates a collaborative approach to regional cooperation, and serves as a convening forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials, regional stakeholders and citizen members. The Regional Commission coordinates a broad range of regional planning activities – including multi-modal and human services transportation, environmental planning, homelessness and affordable housing coordination, regional tourism, agricultural, and economic development activities. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission is located in Culpeper, VA, and can be found online at <http://www.rrregion.org/>.