

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO LORI KIMBALL

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I always look forward to this event as we pause to celebrate the accomplishments of an individual, who over a period of years, has contributed to the preservation and enhancement of the unique heritage of Loudoun County.

We can reflect on the pioneers of preservation who have gone before. Ms Pickens, Powell Harrison, John Lewis, Evelyn Johnson and so many others. Each in their time making their contribution which provided the foundation for those who have come after them.

And we should not forget the literally thousands of local residents who have given their funds to Heritage Organizations, attended the meetings, and rallied before the Board of Supervisors, because they have recognized the economic, cultural, and aesthetic value of preserving Loudoun's unique heritage.

Yes, much has been accomplished, but our heritage is never safe. It is always under pressure. And now more than ever the heritage and environmental community must be ready to mobilize.

As we speak the Board of Supervisors is considering zoning amendments which will permit more development on our very steep slopes, and allow parking, open storage, storm management ponds and even swimming pools in the floodplains.

Already there is serious community damage occurring from poorly located "by-right breweries," which bring 100's of patrons along narrow gravel roads nightly, with noise and disturbance to neighbors, and draw huge quantities of water from our ground water.

We need to differentiate between the rural economy which we support and the rural industrial uses which threaten us all.

Next year the 2002 General Plan will be reviewed and changed. Participation in this process should be a high priority for all of us in the heritage and environmental community.

The future of Loudoun's rural area depends on restoring the balance between the key elements which make it unique:

1. The viable growth of the rural economy.
2. The maintenance and enhancement of our heritage and environment which provides the context for our rural economy including the many historic houses and gravel roads, stone walls, tree canopy, mountains and steep slopes, and clean streams and rivers.

3. The recognition of the valuable role of land stewards, those who are not agricultural producers, but are consumers of rural services while preserving their land in open space and conservation easements.

These three elements must be kept in balance. If we allow the essential rural economy to morph into a rural industrial economy with large commercial uses then our land stewards will begin to move out, our historic heritage will be compromised and slowly but surely this vital asset will be lost to the housing developers.

And so this evening we can renew our dedication to these very causes that our award winner has fought for over many years.

I'm proud to say that Lori Kimball and I have been friends and colleagues since we served together as president and vice president of the then Preservation Society of Loudoun County in 2005.

Under Lori's leadership we worked together on the merger with the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society in 2008. And in 2009 we worked with the other heritage and environmental organizations to form the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. And Lori served as the first Chairperson bringing her leadership skills to

play on numerous issues, but by far the most significant was joining with Bob Shuey and others to draft the Heritage Plan for Loudoun County and getting it adopted by the Board of Supervisors which in turn led to the formation of the Heritage Commission in 2011 on which Lori serves to this day.

Lori has also given of her time and talents to other organizations in the heritage field:

1. The Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library 2005 to present.
2. Friends of the Tomas Balch Library Board 2008-2010
3. The Waterford Foundation Board 2008-2011
4. Preservation Virginia Northern Virginia Regional Branch Board 2011-2012

And Lori has still somehow found time to work as the Director of Planning and Education at Oatlands from 2012 on. Plus she has found time to do independent heritage research including the History of Ashfield Farm, my farm in Round Hill, which my family treasures.

Finally, we are not the first to recognize Lori Kimball's huge contribution to Loudoun's heritage. She received the Thomas Balch Library History Award in 2010; and the Mosby Heritage Area Association's Heritage Hero Award in 2012.

And so with great admiration for Lori Kimball's professional expertise, her career dedicated to heritage preservation, and her many volunteered accomplishments contributing to the

preservation of Loudoun's unique and vital heritage; it is my honor to present to Lori Kimball, the Loudoun Preservation Society's highest award: **PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR.**