



City of Alexandria & The Chamber ALX's
Disability Awareness Awards
American Physical Therapy Association
June 30, 2026

5:00PM

- Event Begins
- Reception on APTA terrace

5:25PM

- Attendees encouraged to move into the meeting space

5:30PM

Joe Haggerty

- Welcome!
- Thank you all for joining us for this year's Disability Awareness Awards.
- The Chamber ALX has partnered with the city for many years to put this program together.
- Our goal as an organization is to support businesses and cultivate community. In an effort to continue to cultivate our community, we are bringing you a panel discussion to inspire you to make our community more inclusive and equitable.
- I'd like to recognize a number of individuals with us



- Mayor Alyia Gaskins
- Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities members
- Please join me in welcoming Mayor Alyia Gaskins to the stage.

5:32PM

Mayor Gaskins

- Mayor's Remarks

5:37PM

Joe Haggerty

- Thank you, Mayor Gaskins!
- I'd like to thank American Physical Therapy Association for sponsoring and hosting this event. Please join me in welcoming Justin Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the American Physical Therapy Association to the stage.

5:38PM

Justin Moore

- Sponsor Remarks

5:41PM

Joe Haggerty

- Thank you, Justin.

- Introduce Panel

- I now have the pleasure of introducing this afternoon's speakers for an important conversation on supporting caregivers.
- Caregivers are an essential part of the disability community, providing the daily support, advocacy, and stability that enable individuals with disabilities to live, work, and thrive. Whether they are family members, friends, or professional caregivers, their contributions often extend beyond physical care to include emotional support, coordination of services, and championing inclusion and independence.
- I'd like to welcome to the stage:
 - Lucy Beadnell, Chief Advocacy and Policy Officer with the Arc of Northern Virginia, where for nearly 15 years she has coordinated advocacy efforts on behalf of 50,000 residents with disabilities.
 - Colleen Duewel, Founder, President, and Eldercare Consultant at LionHeart Eldercare & Consulting, a careerlong support and care professional, a certified speaker, and support group facilitator with Virginia Hospital Center.
 - Christine Friedberg, Director of Griswold Home Care for Northern Virginia East, a



compassionate non-medical in-home care specializing in companionship, homemaking, and personal care.

- And facilitating today's conversation is Rachel Dixon, a commissioner with the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, a member of the Alexandria City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee, and VCU Doctoral Student on Equity and Disability Inclusion.

5:42PM

Panel

- Panel Discussion

6:05PM

Joe Haggerty

- Please join me in a round of applause for our panelists.
- Please join me in welcoming Megan Prince, Chair of the City of Alexandria's Commission on Persons with Disabilities to the stage to present the City's awards.

6:07PM

Megan Prince

- Chair Remarks
- Present Gerry Bertier Scholarship

- The Gerry Bertier Scholarship is awarded based on merit to a student with a disability seeking post-secondary education. The scholarship was established to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Gerry Bertier, a T.C. Williams graduate, who became severely disabled in an automobile accident after he co-captained the Titans during their fabled 1971 football season. Gerry became a strong advocate for disability rights and devoted his life to the service of persons with disabilities.
- This year the ACPD is pleased to present the Gerry Bertier Scholarship to Louis Tremante IV.
Notes about Louis.
- Please join me in congratulating and welcoming to Louis Tremante IV.
- Present John Duty Collins III Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Award
 - I will now present to you the John Duty Collins award. This award was established in 1989 in memory of John Duty Collins III, founder and Vice Chair of the ACPD. During his lifetime, Mr. Collins worked tirelessly to improve accessibility in facilities throughout Alexandria including the Courthouse, City Hall, and Chinquapin Center. Mr. Collins also served as co-chair of the task



force that established the DOT Paratransit program. The award is a \$500 donation in the recipient's name to an organization of the recipient's choice that contributes to the promotion of equal opportunity for persons with disabilities within the City of Alexandria. Funding for the John Duty Collins III Outstanding Advocate Award is provided by the Collins Family.

- This year's John Duty Collins III Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Award is presented to Danielle Johnson. **Comments about Danielle.**

- Welcome Joe back to the stage to present the Chamber's award.

6:15PM

Joe Haggerty

- Each year, the Chamber's Commitment to Disability Award recognizes a business or organization that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities and creating meaningful opportunities for inclusion and success.
- This year, we are proud to jointly honor ServiceSource and the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund for their collaboration on the B.E.S.T. Gift Shop.



- Located in Old Town Alexandria, the Building Employment Solutions Together Gift Shop is an inclusive storefront featuring artwork, handcrafted goods, and accessories created by talented individuals with disabilities. Each one-of-a-kind piece reflects the creativity and skill of its designer while showcasing the tremendous abilities and potential within our disability community.
- Beyond providing a platform for artistic expression, every purchase directly supports the financial independence and empowerment of the shop's artisans.
- By creating a platform where ability is celebrated and talent is recognized, ServiceSource and the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund are helping to break down barriers and redefine what is possible.
- Please join me in welcoming the teams from ServiceSource and the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund to the stage to accept the Commitment to Disability Award.
- Every purchase directly contributes to the financial independence and empowerment of their talented artisans.
- Please join me in welcoming the ServiceSource and Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund teams to the stage, to accept the award.



- Thank you again to
 - Mayor Gaskins
 - The Commission on Persons with Disabilities
 - American Physical Therapy Association for sponsoring and hosting