

November 2014



U.S. Representative James Moran (D) Virginia's 8th Congressional District

The **Honorable James Patrick "Jim" Moran, Jr.**, was presented with COFFE's Champion of Public Service award, which he well deserved. He was recognized for his outstanding support of federal employees, both civil and military during his twelve terms as a member of the US House of Representatives, representing the Eighth District of Virginia which includes Arlington County and parts of Fairfax County, and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church.

Mr. Moran has been a leader in the House of Representatives, including Chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on the Interior and Environment, a member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and a member of the Defense and Military Construction Sub-Committee.

He has gained recognition for his work on gun violence, human and animal rights, and environmental protection. He has worked tirelessly to protect and improve the pay, benefits and working conditions of federal employees.

Subject Area/Topic: How will Congress change in 2015?

Highlights: In a very frank, Democratically oriented, free-form lecture and Q&A session, November luncheon speaker, retiring Congressman Jim Moran, presented his views on recent political happenings and the prospects for progress in the next Congress. His assessment was bleak but he believes that demographic forces are such that there is nowhere to go but up.

Following a 35-year career as a Federal civil servant, local politician, and 12-term Congressman, Moran stated, "...there hasn't been a day when I haven't been proud of being in the public service." However, he noted that this is not the prevailing view in Congress with Federal workers bearing the brunt of cost-cutting as politicians "...seek personal gain by trashing public servants."

Speaking with an unapologetic Democratic bias, the Congressman said that "...it will never get worse...the last election had the greatest proportion of older white voters." However, he noted that trends are going against that group.

The Congressman, who has spent many years as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, noted that "since we eliminated earmarks, we have not had a regular passage of appropriations bills. Citing the movie, *Lincoln*, he said that even the Emancipation Proclamation required horse-trading for passage. Most members of Congress are secure in their positions. "If you have a gerrymandered seat, you don't have to worry about anything but a more extreme challenge from the right or the left. For the first time, the most conservative Democrat is more liberal than the most liberal Republican." In such a situation, "...you have to be able to trade things" to get legislation passed.