

Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks' Sports Alliance

PRESS RELEASE – January 27, 2009

Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks Cultural Activities “MARPSA GoodSports” Award Recipients Announced

ELLCOTT CITY, MD – The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks Cultural Activities has announced the two city residents to represent the local sports at the annual “Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance GoodSport Awards Ceremony” on Monday, February 2 at the Maryland State House in Annapolis. The event includes a reception co-hosted by the Alliance and Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Michael Busch followed by recognition of all recipients at the evenings General Assembly session.

The MARPSA GoodSports Award program provides an opportunity for member agencies to recognize both young athletes and coaches who have modeled GoodSports behaviors in local athletics.

Soraya Diggins plays in the 12 & under girl’s basketball division in the Alexandria Department of Recreation Department’s winter basketball league. She lead her team to perfect record of 10 – 0 and a league championship during the 2007 – 2008 season. Soraya may be the smallest player on the court, but that never stops her from playing hard every second of the game. She is a hard worker, shows great sportsmanship and is a great teammate. She is in the 5th grade at Maury Elementary school. She also is a cheerleader for the Charles Houston Recreation Center and each year places in the Annual City-wide Hershey Track and Field Meet.

Robert Richardson has been a youth sports coach in the City of Alexandria for over 30 years in basketball, baseball and football. He is a model coach for the GoodSports Awards supporting game officials, administrators and teaching the importance of teamwork including the involvement of all players in the game planning regardless of skill level. Coach Robertson is a positive role model for all the athletes he has coached during games and practices.

“We are proud of Soraya and Robert and all of the GoodSport athletes they are representing. The City of Alexandria prides itself on positive sports behavior exhibited on and off the field every day by our players, coaches and spectators,” said Youth Sports Supervisor, Mac Slover. “Robert’s positive attitude makes him a role model who has shown other coaches that true winners compete with dignity and know how to have fun and behave appropriately whether the end result is a victory or a defeat.”

- more -

City of Alexandria

City of Annapolis

Anne Arundel County

Baltimore County

City of Baltimore

City of Bowie

City of Manassas

Carroll County

Frederick County

City of Gaithersburg

Harford County

Howard County

Kent County

Maryland – DC
Amateur Softball
Association

MNCPPC – Prince
Georges County

Montgomery County

MRPA

Ocean City

Queen Anne’s County

City of Rockville

St. Mary’s County

Softball Umpires of
Maryland

USSSA

Wicomico County

Worcester County

Page 2

Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks Cultural Activities
“MARPSA GoodSports” Award Recipients Announced
(continued)

“Robert is a wonderful coach who leads by example and contributes beyond the coaching lines helping with equipment management issues and other non-coach responsibilities to assist the Youth Sports Program.”

Mr. Slover said, “We’re excited about the opportunity the MARPSA GoodSport Awards program gives us to encourage the positives of sports participation. All of us in the Recreation and Park industry need to step up the effort to encourage children to play sports and games and this concept goes a long way to help assure a quality sport experience in our communities.”

The Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks’ Sports Alliance is a consortium of Recreation and Parks Departments, organizations representing sports officials, and sport governing bodies in the region. Each member organization designates one player and one coach to represent their community as a model of GoodSports.

The mission of the Alliance is to develop and communicate a consistent message that organizations and their players, coaches and spectators will be held accountable to a code of conduct that promotes GoodSports and keeps recreational competitive and non-competitive sporting activities in proper perspective.

The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 170 of the Lowe House Office Building. There is free parking after 6:00 PM in the garage at the corner of Calvert & St. Johns Streets.

###