

# Mayor-elect Levar Stoney named RTD Person of the Year

By BRANDON SHULLEETA Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2016 1:19 pm

Richmond Mayor-elect Levar M. Stoney was named the RTD Person of the Year on Thursday.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch program, which is in its second year, recognizes notable individuals who have impacted the Richmond region.

Stoney and 20 others were recognized as Person of the Year honorees for achievements in the community in 2016 or recent years. They and five Hall of Fame inductees, who were recognized for lifetime contributions to Richmond, will be featured in the December issue of the RTD's Discover Richmond magazine.

In accepting the honor, Stoney, who received a standing ovation, said he was humbled and grateful to have been elected mayor and blessed to have the opportunity to lead a city that he believes is on the rise.

Stoney, 35, who has never previously held an elected office, said he'll set out to unite the city and build "one Richmond."

"And I ask that you join me," Stoney said.

During a luncheon Thursday at the John Marshall Ballrooms in downtown Richmond, RTD President and Publisher Tom Silvestri said of Stoney: "He knows that poverty, public schools and basic services are challenges but also opportunities."

Silvestri added that Stoney has been "entrusted with the people's hope, both in the city and the entire region that surrounds it. He says that the commitment and resolve he showed in his campaign won't waver."

As Stoney told the RTD, referring to his campaign effort: "All I can promise is to come to work with that same energy, that same optimism, and to pour everything I have into the job."

At Thursday's event, five Richmonders were cited for lifetime achievements in the region and were inducted into the program's Hall of Fame. They are:

Retired Virginia Commonwealth University administrator Grace E. Harris;

Philanthropist Neilson J. "Neil" November;

BB&T Scott & Stringfellow Chairman Sidney Buford Scott;



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Mayor-elect Levar Stoney holds a plaque honoring him as the RTD Person of the Year at the John Marshall Ballrooms on Thursday.

Retired Chesterfield County administrator James J. L. "Jay" Stegmaier; and  
Richmond Ballet artistic director Stoner Winslett.

In addition to Stoney, the 2016 RTD Person of the Year honorees are:

Tim Kaine, vice presidential candidate

Sally K. Graham, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Jon C. Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial

Carol D. Adams, Richmond Police Department

Bill Harrison, Diversity Richmond

Aline Reitzer, Richmond Restaurant Week

Gary Glover, Puritan Cleaners

Roger L. Gregory, 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Erin Thomas-Foley, SPARC Live Art

John F. "Jack" Berry Jr., Richmond Region Tourism

Lucy Dacus, singer-songwriter

Neil Amin, Shamin Hotels

Robin Robertson Starr, Richmond SPCA

John M. Shinholser, McShin Foundation

Fatima M. Smith, VCU

Glenwood W. Burley, police memorial activist

Beth Weisbrod, Virginia Capital Trail Foundation

Reginald E. Gordon, Richmond Office of Community Wealth Building

Nancy C. Thomas, Retail Merchants Association

Townley Haas, Olympic gold medalist