

Transcript Strong Men Strong Women 2026

On behalf of Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia, we welcome you to the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History celebration.

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Can we have a round of applause for Dominion Energy and the Virginia Library of Virginia? It's truly a privilege to be able to recognize some of the great men and women of

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African descent who have broken barriers and opened minds and changed the arc of history and set an example for

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young people to follow. I'm sorry I couldn't be there with you in person tonight, but I didn't want to miss

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the opportunity to congratulate this year's winners of the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History Awards, as well as the winners of our student

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contest for their creative projects about past nominees. I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Governor Spanberger and thank her for

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attending. This is the 36th year since we started these awards, and the 14th year of our partnership with the Library of

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Virginia. It is a joy to be here with you tonight to celebrate Strong Men and Women in Virginia History.

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And before I begin, I want to take another moment to recognize the incredible work of these four students. The world you are inheriting is not without its problems and challenges,

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um, but it's the students like you all who I know will take the reins when we pass them to you and will do right.

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And, and as we mark Black History Month, I'm honored to join everyone here tonight to honor the legacy and the extraordinary contributions of tonight's

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awardees, and the contributions of every Black leader who has helped write Virginia's story. Dominion, thank you. Thank you for this event.

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Thank you for identifying people whose stories need to be lifted up so that we can see those examples and be inspired by them.

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And thank you all for taking time and being here to celebrate that with all of us tonight. Our honorees are here today because it was not easy for them,

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and that's their truth. And they're here because they, and others like them that are not heralded, are here because they fought for rights that should have been

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theirs from the start. They broke down walls so others could walk through doors that were once closed. They made a way where there was no way.

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And that's why this celebration matters. That's why we're proud to partner with Dominion Energy on Strong Men and Women of

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Virginia for the now the 14th year, because these honorees didn't just dream big, they acted big.