Senate

STATEMENT OF SENATOR TIM KAINE
RECOGNIZING Osher Lifelong Learning Institute At George Mason University On Its 30th Anniversary And On Its Continuing Success In Offering Educational Programming For Older Americans In Northern Virginia

I rise today to congratulate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) on its 30th anniversary, and on its continuing success in offering educational programming for older Americans in Northern Virginia. Programs like OLLI Mason provide lifelong learning opportunities for seniors interested in maintaining an active intellectual life.

The Learning in Retirement Institute was founded in 1991 to establish educational and social opportunities for a growing base of seniors in Northern Virginia. The Institute soon became affiliated with George Mason University as part of Mason’s vision to extend its learning mission into the community. The Institute was generously endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation, a non-profit that is dedicated to enhancing quality of life in the United States through education and the arts.

What started two decades ago as a member-run Learning in Retirement Center with 100 members operating and teaching out of one room in Mason’s Commerce II Building, has burgeoned today into a robust, first-rate educational and social Institute with 1,100 members.

OLLI Mason’s mission is “to offer its members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can share their talents, experiences and skills, explore new interests, discover and develop latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and socialize with others of similar interests.” OLLI Mason has fulfilled this mission by offering retirees in Northern Virginia over 600 courses from arts to zoology, religion to science as well as excursions and special events.

As the over 50 population across the Commonwealth continues to live longer and healthier lives, I am pleased to recognize OLLI, George Mason University, and the County of Fairfax for their initiative in foreseeing decades ago the critical need to offer programs that meet the needs, expand opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for older Americans across Northern Virginia. I look forward to many more years of their programming success.