

2018



DC's Dancing Stars Gala Coverage Report



FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

2018 DC'S Dancing Stars Gala hosts launch party

By Times Staff Sep 10 2018

This Friday, Sept.14, DC's Dancing Stars Gala will host a Launch Party to kick off its fifth annual charity fundraiser. Gala Co-Chairs Maria Coakley David and Jim David will host this Pre-Gala event at the Mosaic Ballroom in Fairfax. Dance enthusiasts and community leaders alike are invited to enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing, while mingling with contestants who will compete at the November 10th event for the coveted 2018 Mirror Ball Trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of their choice. Over the last four years, the gala has contributed over **\$1 million** to various charities.



Attendees will have the chance to meet, take photographs and videos with some of this year's line-up of Celebrity Dancers, Corporate Dancers, Emcees and Judges at the Launch Party including Monte Durham of Say Yes to The Dress: Atlanta who will judge contestants participating in the Celebrity Challenge including Elizabethany of HOT 99.5, George Nash of Associated Builders and Contractors, Darren Haynes of WUSA9, Candiance Dillard of The Real Housewives of Potomac, Dr. Alex Naini of Aesthetic Dental Spa, Erin Como of Fox 5 DC, Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University and Laura Evans Manatos of Laura Evans Media (formerly of Fox 5 News).

Contestants participating in the Corporate Challenge include Erika Glon of CACI, Allison Bentz Pai of Lockheed Martin, & Chris Farley of Pacers Running, to name a few. Will Thomas formerly of Fox 5 will be one of this year's Emcees and Chelsie Hightower of Dancing with the Stars will be one of the judges.

The 2018 DC's Dancing Stars Gala Launch Party will be hosted from 7-10pm on Friday, September 14, 2018, at Mosaic Ballroom, 8315 Lee Highway, Suit 210, Fairfax, 22031.

DC's Dancing Stars Gala will bring together members of the community to generate thousands of dollars to support local charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University, Jennifer Bush Lawson Foundation and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation on November 10th, 2018. Celebrities will compete at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner to be crowned the 2018 DC's Dancing Star Champion. Early Bird Tickets to catch the action are \$125 for General Admission and \$325 for VIP tickets, and Sponsorships range from \$500 up to \$50,000. Learn more at the Gala website: www.DCsDancingStarsGala.com



Elizabethany Joins "DC's Dancing Stars" and Needs Your Help!

As a former gymnast and coach, Elizabethany plans to bring some of those skills to the dance floor as part of "DC's Dancing Stars Gala"!

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, EB will dance her heart out with her partner at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner for a night of glitz, glamour and dancing!



This is the 5th annual Dancing Stars Gala in DC and benefits several outstanding local charities. Elizabethany is dancing to raise money for the Raymond A. Wood Foundation. The mission of RAWF is to provide quality of life support for childhood brain tumor survivors and their families. From the purchase of a lifesaving medical device to developing and producing tools to help daily management of care easier — the foundation aims to help survivors thrive creating connections to innovation and information that can improve life after survival.

Dancing with the Stars!

by Elaine Doody | on September 30th, 2018 |

Washington, DC's Dancing Stars Gala hosted a Launch Party to kick off its fifth annual charity fundraiser. Gala Co-Chairs Maria Coakley David and Jim David welcomed over 100 guests to the Red Carpet event at the Mosaic Ballroom in Fairfax, Virginia. Drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing were enjoyed by more than 100 people in attendance while mingling with contestants who will compete for the coveted 2018 DC's Dancing Star Gala Mirror Ball Trophy at the November 10th event with the chance to donate \$10,000 to the charity of their choice. Attendees also had a chance to meet, take photographs and videos with one of this year's Judges and host of Say Yes to The Dress: Atlanta, Monte Durham.



Attendees included some of the 2018 Celebrity Dancers” Elizabethany of HOT 99.5, George Nash of Associated Builders and Contractors, Darren Haynes of WUSA9, Dr. Alex Naini of Aesthetic Dental Spa, Erin Como of Fox 5 DC and Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University. The Gala also introduced Corporate Challenge Participants Erika Glon, Allison Bentz Pai, Mordecai Scott, and Michelle Reilly. “Jim and I are super excited about the impressive list of celebrities and corporate representatives committed to Dance, Judge and Emcee for the 2018 DC's Dancing Stars Gala! Their generous spirit truly warms our hearts and helps continue to raise the profile and the impact of our Gala in the DC Area and beyond” – Maria Coakley David, CEO of C. J. Coakley Co., Inc. and Gala Founder and Chair.

The November 10th DC's Dancing Stars gala will bring together members of the community to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University, Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation. “I am very proud to have served as a DC's Dancing Stars Gala committee member since the beginning. Many lives have been changed as a result of this great fundraising event. I thoroughly enjoy working with this dedicated group of genuinely nice people who believe in the importance of giving back to the community. This was the best Launch Party yet and I encourage everyone to financially support this incredible event and make a difference in someone's life.” – Vincent Stovall, DC's Dancing Stars Gala Committee Member & Director of Student Engagement, Marymount University.



A total of 8 local celebrities will compete at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner to be crowned the 2018 DC's Dancing Star Champion. For Early Bird Tickets to catch the action click here.

DC's DANCING STARS LAUNCH PARTY

Friday, September 14th, 2018

Tonight, Gala co-chairs Maria Coakley David and Jim David, put together a great night of introduction to the Stars at the Mosaic Ballroom in Fairfax. Dance Enthusiasts, Community leaders and Local Celebrities attended this years DC's Dancing Stars Launch Party. An event in preparation for the 5th Annual DC's Dancing Stars Fundraising Gala in which Contestants will compete for the coveted 2018 Mirror Ball Trophy and 10,000 for the Charity of their choice! Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and an Open Bar of Beer, Wine , Socializing and a DJ for plenty of dancing! This event was not only a great time, but a great time with only one thing in mind...Helping someone else. So Incase you missed it, here are highlights of The DC's Dancing Stars Launch Party.





Sean Spicer reflects on time at White House in exclusive Good Day DC interview

WASHINGTON - Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer dished on his time working for the president in an exclusive interview with Good Day DC on Friday.

Representing the face of the Trump administration for 182 days, Spicer said dealing with the scrutiny that comes with the job title was hard to handle some days.

“It’s tough. There are days where it’s well deserved. You make a mistake and you have to own it and know that you screwed up,” he explained. “But there are days where it may not be well deserved and you see the comments on social media and it doesn’t get any easier, but you do grow a thick skin.”



Following his time at the White House, Spicer took time to reflect and wrote a book titled “The Briefing.”

“I realized if I ever wanted my story to be told the way that I thought, from my perspective, I had an obligation to do it,” Spicer said. “I felt that I was fairly candid in a lot of ways.”

Spicer has remained in the spotlight after leaving the administration and when asked if it was more nerve wrecking to discuss his own life or take the podium as press secretary, he said it was a no-brainer

“When you have to talk about yourself and your own views and beliefs, that’s one thing. But when you’re having to defend any principle or institution it’s a lot harder,” Spicer described. “You have a lot of competing interest and you have to make sure you’re balancing those at all times so it’s a lot more relaxing and a lot less intense when you’re doing it for yourself.”

Spicer will serve as a judge for DC’s Dancing Stars Gala on Nov. 10 and had encouraging words for FOX 5’s Erin Como who will be competing in the charity event. Before taking off from The Loft, Spicer also stepped in to help FOX 5’s Tucker Barnes with the weather.



WUSA9's Darren Haynes to perform at DC's Dancing Stars Gala



Maria Coakley-David, founder and co-chair of DC's Dancing Stars, talks about the upcoming fundraising gala at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner. WUSA9's Darren Haynes will be performing with partner Nancy Flores. Here's a sneak peek of their performance!

To watch the full video, click the link below:

<https://www.wusa9.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-washington/wusa9s-darren-haynes-to-perform-at-dcs-dancing-stars-gala/65-8303488>



Internationally-Acclaimed Tenor Anthony Kearns To Perform At The 2018 DC's Dancing Stars Gala

by BWW News Desk Nov. 5, 2018

World-renowned tenor Anthony Kearns of the double-platinum, PBS super-group, The Irish Tenors, will make a celebrity appearance and sing select songs at the DC's Dancing Stars Gala on November 10, 2018, it was officially announced.

This is the first-time Anthony Kearns, one of the world's finest tenors, will perform at the annual DC's Dancing Stars Gala -- an exciting fundraising extravaganza that mirrors the glitz and glamour of the hit ABC TV show, Dancing with the Stars. The Gala showcases local celebrities competing for the mirror ball trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of the winner choice.

"We're pleased to have the sensational Anthony Kearns perform at this year's Gala. His incredible talent will add another layer of elegance to our wonderful line-up of judges, dancers, and special guests," said Maria Coakley David, the Gala's Co- founder and Co-Chair. The annual event has made gifts to area charities totaling over one million dollars in just four years.

Mr. Kearns said he is looking forward to being a part of the 5th DC's Dancing Stars Gala. "I'm excited to lend my voice to this beautiful evening of ballroom dancing, which will benefit so many worthy causes," said Kearns, who will be in the Washington, D.C. area for Veterans Day celebrations.

Kearns frequently lends his voice to charitable causes benefiting brain trauma victims, autism awareness, and U.S. military veterans and their families. One of the sponsors of D.C.'s Dancing Stars Gala is the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, an organization dedicated to serving wounded veterans from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, based in Leesburg, Va.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the DC's Dancing Stars Gala. This event raises the awareness of many important local charities that benefit our community and it does so in an extraordinarily social and exciting manner," said David Walker, the CEO of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.



Josh Norman talks dancing and raising money for charity

Redskins CB Josh Norman gives Darren Haynes dancing tips, and tells him why it's important to raise money for charity.

Washington Redskins cornerback Josh Norman is a man of many talents. Not only is he one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL but he can also dance! Norman was one of the celebrities to compete on season 26 of the American television show Dancing with the Stars. Despite finishing as a runner-up behind figure skater Adam Rippon, Norman was able to raise money to give back to his community. Starz24, a foundation created by Josh Norman, provides academic enrichment to children through community events and youth programs.



WUSA9 Sports Anchor Darren M. Haynes will compete in Washington D.C.'s version of the dance competition. Darren's raising money to support the PenFed Foundation, a nonprofit that provides service members and veterans with the skills and resources they need to build a strong financial future. Norman stopped by Darren's practice to give him pointers on how to dance why it's important to raise money for charity. There's still to support Darren in DC's Dancing Stars Gala. The event is Saturday, Nov. 10.

To watch the full video, click the link below:

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/sports/nfl/redskins/josh-norman-talks-dancing-and-raising-money-for-charity/65-612840355>

DC's DANCING STARS GALA PREVIEW PARTY

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, DC's Dancing Stars Gala will host its fifth annual charity fundraiser at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner. DC's Dancing Stars Gala is an exciting fundraising extravaganza that mirrors the glitz and glamour of the hit ABC TV show, Dancing with the Stars. The Gala showcases local celebrities & corporate leaders competing for the mirror ball trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of the winner choice. DC's Dancing Stars Gala will bring together members of the community to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University, Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation on November 10th, 2018. Over the last four years, the gala has contributed over ONE MILLION DOLLARS to its amazing charities. Below are some of the dancers who gave us a sneak peak of what we will see at the Gala, at the Preview Party on Friday, November 2 at Mosaic Ballroom in Fairfax.



2018 DC'S Dancing Stars Gala hosts launch party

By Times Staff Nov 16, 2018

On Nov. 10, the fifth annual DC's Dancing Stars Gala netted more than \$250,000 for local charities, bringing the event's 5-year total to \$1.3 million. The event was hosted by co-founders and co-chairs Maria Coakley David and Jim David at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner and featured seven local Celebrities, four Corporate Challenge Dancers and one Alumni Dancer who have spent the past several months training for Saturday night's performance. The winner of the Mirror Ball Trophy and \$10,000 for her charity was Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University who raised more than \$55,000 in cash and sponsorships. Her \$10,000 winnings will go to the new Majella Berg Internship fund to help Marymount students who take on valuable unpaid Internships.



Director of Preconstruction Services at Branch & Associates and Chair of Associated Builders and Contractors, George Nash was the runner-up winning \$5,000 for his charity, Youth for Tomorrow. Chris Farley, Owner of Pacers Running, was the winner of the Corporate Challenge, winning \$10,000 for the Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation.

"It was our 5th spectacular night of exciting dance performances by another wonderful group of generous leaders in our community. We all have so much fun watching these dancers battle it out with stunning costumes and routines that included, props, lifts, splits and spins. It's great to hear the crowd react with emotion to the Judges scores and comments" said Maria Coakley David, CEO of C.J. Coakley Co., Inc. and co-founder of DCs Dancing Stars Gala. "I'm so proud of our sponsors, our committee, and our more than 60 dancers these last 5 years, who have helped us make gifts to more than 23 local charities of over \$1,300,000. My husband Jim and I are so pleased to share our love of dancing with others as we change lives one dance step at a time."

Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer returned to the judges table for a second year and was joined by Monte Durham of Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta and returning for a fourth year, Chelsie Hightower from ABC's hit show Dancing with the Stars. Emceeding the event were NBC Sports reporter Julie Donaldson and Emmy-award winning veteran news anchor, Will Thomas. Will and Julie kicked off the evening with a beautiful song and dance performance of their own! Another special treat for guests this year were performances by world renowned Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns which included the National Anthem. 2018 beneficiaries of the event included: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University Majella Berg Internship Fund, Jennifer Bush Lawson Foundation and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation



MARYMOUNT
UNIVERSITY

DC's Dancing Stars Gala

DC's Dancing Stars Gala Competition and Fundraiser

President Becerra competed in the DC's Dancing Stars 2018 Gala on Saturday, November 10. Dancers and local celebrities teamed up to vie for the grand prize of \$10,000 to donate to a charity of their choice. President Becerra was dancing to kick start the Sester Majella Berg Internship Fund. President Becerra has spearheaded the creation of this fund which will provide stipends for Marymount students who take on unpaid internships.



President Becerra wins!

Click on the link below to see a short clip of the inspired, lively Cha-cha that won her the DC's Dancing Stars competition. That performance, plus having raised over \$50,000 from the Marymount community in support for this event won the dancing competition and allowed President Becerra bring home an extra \$10,000 prize. In total, this event helped raise over \$60,000 for the Marymount University Internship Fund honoring Sister Majella Berg, who was president of the university for 33 years.

Dr. Becerra would like to thank everyone who contributed to her campaign and helped her win these resources for Marymount students. Also, she would like to share her sincere appreciation to Professor Barry Erdeljon and our students for their hard work in creating her promotional video.

WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Get out your dancing shoes

DC's Dancing Stars Gala raised more than \$250,000 during its 5th annual, star-studded event. The November 10th performance was hosted at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner and featured seven local celebrities, four corporate challenge dancers and one alumni dancer. Marymount University President Irma Becerra raised more than \$55,000 in cash and sponsorships.



WASHINGTON

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POP

PARTIES, PARTIES, PARTIES

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT....



Laura Evans Manatos and Don Beedie



Jim David and Maria Coakley David



Sean Spicer, Chelsie Hightower
and Monte Durham

DC'S DANCING STARS GALA [RITZ-CARLTON, TYSONS CORNER]

PHOTOS BY VITHAYA PHONGSAVAN

The Star studded event brought in over \$250,000 for local charities. The evening of dancing featured seven local celebrities, four corporate challenge dancers and one alumni dancer. All were judged by a panel of familiar faces including former White House press Secretary Sean Spicer and Monte Durham of "Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta."



Chris Smith
and Erin Como