
COURTNEY PHILLIPS CROWNED MISS VIRGINIA FOR AMERICA 2020

Mental health advocate, who uses personal experiences to help normalize mental illness and pageants to share messages of hope and healing, has been selected as new state titleholder.

ARLINGTON, Va. – July 13, 2020 – The Miss Virginia for America organization crowned a new titleholder to represent the Commonwealth in South Hill, Virginia, this weekend. Courtney Phillips, of Arlington, represented the entire Northern Virginia area on Friday night and was selected by a panel of judges in the categories of Interview, Swimsuit and Evening Gown.

Special guest Miss for America Kassie Perkins, the national titleholder, crowned Phillips on stage alongside the reigning [Mrs. Virginia](#) Lisa Stover. Phillips will go on to compete for the coveted Miss for America title in Las Vegas later this year.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth and this extraordinary organization,” says Phillips. “I’m looking forward to the year ahead and making Virginia proud. We have a lot of work to do in the community due to the ongoing mental health crisis, and I’m ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I hope to bring increased awareness for mental health and addiction prevention through my platform, *Hope for Invisible Wounds*.”

Her platform of mental health awareness can make a large impact on the people of Virginia as more than 19% of adults reported having a mental illness last year. Phillips considers herself a mental health warrior. After the loss of her parents and years of childhood abuse, she spent decades working to overcome PTSD and severe anxiety disorder. Now, she finds healing by sharing her story with others through her outreach initiative [Hope for Invisible Wounds](#), which reaches over 6000 people daily. She’s partnered with global organizations to further her message worldwide, been featured in a documentary, become a comic book hero and advocated at the United Nations General Assembly.

Her win this week will help amplify her efforts this year, which will focus on empowering people to find new ways to thrive during these difficult times and continue to address the stigma around mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. This includes focusing on those high-risk populations most heavily affected by the current climate – i.e. youth, essential workers, the elderly and minorities. As well as those dealing with mental health impacts in unhealthy ways by turning to substance abuse in times.

“We are so excited to have Courtney as our new titleholder,” says Darla Cline, Miss Virginia for America Director. “I have no doubt she is going to make a huge impact on our communities across Virginia and am looking forward to working with her over the next year.”

Phillips won an amazing prize package from small business sponsorships across the state to help prepare her for her year ahead as well as a trip to compete against 51 other women in Las Vegas later this year for the title of Miss for America 2021.

To follow her year, please visit the official Miss Virginia for America social media pages on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Miss Virginia for America

Miss Virginia for America is a part of the [Miss for America](#) organization and a division of [Mrs. America](#), Inc. It features the most accomplished single women of America ranging in ages from 18 years and older, widowed, divorced or never married. Miss Virginia for America goes on to compete for the coveted title of Miss for America. Miss for America’s mission is to empower women to advocate for causes they are passionate about, to be brave in the face of adversity, and feel empowered while empowering each other.

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Editor’s Note:

- Interview and photo opportunities available.
- High-resolution headshots available.

