

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX WATER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairfax Water on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. There are few human needs more precious and more critical than access to fresh and safe drinking water. Indeed, we have seen what can happen when those needs are neglected, as the tragedy in Flint, Michigan reminds us. Prior to the creation of the Fairfax County Water Authority (now known as Fairfax Water), water was supplied to Fairfax County through many small, mostly private water systems, and a limited number of public systems. There was no standardization between systems and each system maintained its own rate schedule and level of service. In order to improve service reliability, establish equitable rates, and provide effective fire protection throughout Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors created Fairfax Water in September 1957 for the purpose of "acquiring, constructing, operating and maintaining an integrated water system for supplying and distributing water."

The acquisition of water systems began in 1959 with the purchase of the Annandale Water Company. Over the next eight years, Fairfax Water acquired an additional 17 systems and began to build a comprehensive water-supply system. By the end of 1967, Fairfax Water had 832 miles of mains, 3,354 fire hydrants, and 54,000 metered accounts serving more than 425,000 people. By 1982, that number had grown to more than 1,800 miles of mains, more than 10,300 fire hydrants and nearly 126,000 metered accounts serving more than 650,000 people. By 1994, it would reach more than 2,700 miles of water mains, more than 17,300 fire hydrants and more than 197,300 meters.

Those numbers show a county undergoing tremendous growth in both population and urbanization. The challenges associated with that are numerous and the temptation of providing service while overlooking the quality of that service is real. However, Fairfax Water has never allowed itself to fall into that trap. Instead, it has approached every new challenge with its mission in mind: providing safe, clean drinking water to Fairfax County residents and ensuring that the County's water supply is maintained. There have certainly been no shortage of challenges—from supply issues stemming from the use of a single source (the Occoquan River) to natural disasters to the threat of terrorism, Fairfax Water has risen to meet those challenges. Its work stands as testament to the strength and character of the ethos of public service in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phillip Allin, Charles Murray, the members of the Board of Directors and the entire staff of Fairfax Water. I thank them for their service to our community and for maintaining the proud legacy of this organization while adapting it to meet the challenges of the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 591 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2521—the South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017, I am not recorded because I was home in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TRIBUTE TO CAPITAL CHIROPRACTIC AND REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center of Des Moines, Iowa for being named one of the 2016 Businesses of the Year at the Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony earlier this year.

The Business of the Year award celebrates a local business that is dedicated to serving their community. Since Dr. Chris LoRang launched Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center in 2013, it has won numerous awards for the service they provide in family and sports medicine to people of all ages. The clinic encourages employees to be active in the community, and you can find them involved in organizations around the area, including neighborhood associations, school foundations, chamber of commerce council's and chiropractic societies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent local businesses like Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding recognition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKTON LIBRARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Oakton Library on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This project represents the fulfillment of a promise I made to this community more than a decade ago, during my time as both Providence District Supervisor and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Working with engaged citizens, we identified a need for new meeting space as well as a new library in the Oakton community. But we didn't stop there. We rolled up our sleeves and went to work. We worked with developers to secure the necessary land, with my col-

leagues on the Board to secure and pass the necessary bond referendums and with the community to raise awareness and support for this necessary addition. These efforts bore fruit and in 2007 we celebrated the dedication of the new Oakton Library. Ten years later, the library stands as a pillar of the Oakton community and I am confident that it will continue to serve that role for many more decades to come.

I wish to give special recognition to the members of the Friends of Oakton Library, who worked with myself and others side by side on every step of this project. Together, we guided what was once just a concept into a brick-and-mortar reality.

We are incredibly fortunate in Fairfax County to have such dedicated citizens, who go out of their way for the betterment of the lives of others. I have often said that local government is where the rubber meets the road. The level of accountability is absolute. You either solved the problem or you didn't . . . and everyone knows where you live and has your phone number! My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I accomplished a lot together during my time in Fairfax County government, but the completion of the Oakton Library remains one of my proudest moments in local government. A testament to what can happen when like-minded individuals are willing to back up their words and desires with concrete, often unglamorous actions. The Oakton community and indeed all of Fairfax County is better off today because people were willing to put in the work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Friends of Oakton Library and the entire Oakton community on this important anniversary. I commend them for their contributions to Fairfax County and wish them great success in all their future endeavors. I am confident that we will be observing many more anniversaries of this library still to come.

RETIREMENT OF MAYOR RAYMOND BODNAR

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable public servant from my district, Mayor Raymond G. Bodnar of Munhall, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after 53 years of service to his community.

Mr. Bodnar has been the Mayor of Munhall Borough for the last 30 years, but his service to his nation and community began long before that. As a young man, he served in the Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged in 1955. In addition to working for 40 years for the U.S. Steel Corporation, he served eight years as auditor of Munhall and another fifteen as a member and then President of the Munhall Borough Council. In 1987, he was elected mayor, a position which he has honorably filled for the last three decades, and in which he has worked tirelessly to improve the Munhall community.

During his career, Mayor Bodnar has supported and secured funding for such important projects as developing the Munhall waterfront, revitalizing the town's Main Street, modernizing the police department, and introducing public safety and crime prevention programs.