

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.

Beyond his duties as a civil servant, he has also given back to his community in countless ways, including managing the youth Munhall Baseball League, organizing summer athletic programs, working with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church groups, and teaching local government to youth groups and schools. He is also a member of a number of community service organizations, including Knights of Columbus No. 2201, the Catholic War Veterans Association, the Homestead Elks, and the Steel Valley Salvation Army Board of Directors.

For more than 50 years, Raymond Bodnar has demonstrated wholehearted dedication to public service and community involvement, and I think that we can all learn something from his example. I wish to congratulate the mayor on his retirement and commend him for his lifetime of devotion to the Munhall community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on October 31, 2017 as my flight to Washington D.C. was delayed and prevented me from being on the House floor in time.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 591.

RECOGNIZING THE 26TH ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 26th Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. These awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of Reston. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community and tonight's event proves that Reston is one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia! That is due in no small part to the actions of those honored here this evening and I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. I also wish to thank Kerrie Wilson of Cornerstones and Mark Ingrao of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts on behalf of others and in making our community one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2017 Best of Reston Awards:

Corporate/Business Leader:
Odin, Feldman and Pittleman, PC
Small Business Leader:
CST Group
Volunteerism Through Nonprofit Service:
Women Giving Back
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Community Leader:
Bill Keefe
Gillian and Vincent Sesko
Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award:
Herb Williams-Bafoe
Robert E. Simon Community Service Award:
Vicky Wingert

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2017 Best of Reston honorees for their tremendous contributions. I thank Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for continuing this wonderful tradition, and I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for lending their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE BARANCZYK

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 Drake Women's Basketball Coach Jennie Baranczyk on being awarded the 2017 Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award.

The Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award is annually presented to Drake University faculty or staff members who have "demonstrated personal commitment to volunteerism and community service." Jennie just completed her fifth season at the helm of the women's basketball team for the Drake Bulldogs, where not only she, but a number of her players, has won numerous awards and recognitions. Off the court, she leads her team in giving back to the community, reaching their annual 1,000 hour goal of community service for four straight years. Organizations throughout the Des Moines area, and the people they serve, have benefited from the team's generous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Jennie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennie for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

HONORING CAPTAIN SKIP BLANCETT, USN (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Skip Blancett, USN, Retired of Salado, Texas. With a career spanning over two decades, CAPT Blancett is a true patriot, a faith-filled citizen, and unquestionably a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CAPT Blancett joined the Navy at age 29 and was stationed in Guam, where he helped fulfill the spiritual needs of others. CAPT Blancett went on to serve his country in eight other stations around the world, with duties ranging from Public Affairs Officer, to teaching a course in the Naval War College, to furthering the spiritual state of his fellow sailors through various tactics with the Chaplain Corps.

CAPT Blancett's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his community. Upon retirement, the call to serve continued to burn inside. CAPT Blancett has gracefully served as Mayor of Salado since 2014 where he has been a champion of the Village's growing economy and its hard-working citizens. He is beloved by the Village of Salado for his leadership, commitment to faith, and passion for his community.

CAPT Blancett serves the people of Salado with the same dedication, honor, and humility with which he served his country. He is an exemplary man who shows the utmost commitment to his family, community, and above all, his faith. May we all follow the example of great men such as CAPT Blancett, and live a life of hard work, loyalty and service to others.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHERIF SADKI AS THE 2017 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Cherif Sadki, principal of Gar-Field Senior High School, as the 2017 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia.

Each year, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, which is the seventh largest school administrators' organization in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, selects a principal to represent the state as the nominee for the National Principal of the Year Program.

As the 2017 nominee, Dr. Sadki is commended for his "creativity and imagination in bringing about positive change, improving the educational program and student achievement; ensuring a school climate that reflects high staff and student morale; and for involving the community in the life of the school."

At the helm of Gar-Field Senior High School for the past five years, Dr. Sadki has implemented countless policy changes and program adjustments to address the needs of the increasingly diverse student population. Of the roughly 2,500 students enrolled in Gar-Field Senior High School last year, approximately half spoke a language other than English at home. One to never shy away from a challenge, Dr. Sadki rolled up his sleeves, transformed the teaching model, and embedded English instruction into the core curriculum to meet the needs of the diverse student body.

For his foresight, engagement of the community, and commitment to ensuring that all students receive a world-class education, it is my honor to include in the Record, Dr. Cherif Sadki.

Dr. Sadki is the standard-bearer at the regional and national level for educating English learners. He attributes much of his success in