

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Jane Margaret Johnston is small compared to the contributions and impact she had on the lives of so many. She was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY H. "TONY" GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS FAIRFAX COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Anthony H. "Tony" Griffin on the occasion of his retirement after a decorated career in public service, which culminated with his 12-year tenure as the County Executive in Fairfax County, Va., the largest local jurisdiction here in the National Capital Region.

Tony began his public service with the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as an officer during the Vietnam War. He brought the collaborative, can-do spirit from his military experience to local government, where he served in managerial positions with Arlington County and the City of Falls Church before joining Fairfax County in 1989. I had the great pleasure of working with Tony throughout my 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, particularly during my 5 years as Chairman.

His accomplishments are many, but let me cite just a few to convey the magnitude of the profound benefit he has brought to our community and our region. One of the earlier initiatives on which we worked closely was a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Thanks to Tony's support and the efforts of staff, we held a community summit and created a partnership consisting of the faith, non-profit, business and civic communities. The Board created a standalone position to coordinate prevention efforts and adopted a 10-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Today, Fairfax is one of the few jurisdictions in the nation that has seen its homeless population decline in the midst of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

Tony also has been instrumental in transforming our one-time bedroom community into the economic engine of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital Region. Fairfax is now home to more than 1 million people and nearly 600,000 jobs. Under Tony's leadership, Fairfax County was named the "best managed jurisdiction in America" by Governing Magazine, and the county has consistently retained its AAA bond rating. Throughout his tenure in Fairfax, Tony has steadily worked to advance the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which will finally link the Washington, DC, Metro system with the region's premier international gateway, Dulles International Airport. It is one of the largest public works projects in the nation, and Tony has collaborated with local, state and federal stakeholders to ensure its success. As an extension of that effort, Tony also oversaw the replanning of Tysons Corner, the region's premier retail and commercial center. After a multi-year, commu-

nity-centered effort, the County Board adopted a new vision plan that will transform the collection of disparate office parks into a walkable, transit-oriented, mixed-use community. That effort won national recognition from the American Planning Association.

Perhaps Tony's most lasting achievement will be his effort to establish a model of regional cooperation for emergency management. As Chair of the Chief Administrative Officers Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Tony coordinated local government decisions and responses to a myriad of incidents. His leadership was invaluable during the events of 9/11, in which his calm leadership helped assure the delivery of essential government services throughout that tragedy. Under his leadership, the CAO Committee established a new framework to foster better collaboration and cooperation among the 17 local governments, two states and the District of Columbia that comprise the National Capital Region. Those efforts proved particularly vital during the 2001 anthrax incidents, the 2002 regional sniper attacks, the 2009 presidential inauguration, and 2010's historic snowstorms.

Tony's leadership has been recognized nationally by his peers. The American Society of Public Administration honored him with its Stone Practitioner Award for his commitment to improve intergovernmental cooperation. He also was appointed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to the local, state, tribal and federal Preparedness Task Force, which is assessing the state of preparedness and recommending actions to build resiliency for communities across America.

Beyond those accomplishments, I want to recognize Tony's efforts to inspire the county's workforce and to recruit and train the next generation of public servants. During his tenure in Fairfax, he initiated partnerships with the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, the George Mason University Fellows Program, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Program of Excellence with George Washington University, and the Council's Project Manager Certification Program and Supervisory Development Training. So while we will surely miss having him here day-to-day in Fairfax County, his presence will continue to be felt here and in communities throughout our region and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tony Griffin's commitment to our community, the county workforce, our residents, and the mission of local government are unparalleled, and he leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. His career in public service, beginning with his service in the Marine Corps, is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. When I was Chairman of the County Board, I often used to joke with Tony at retirement announcements that we should not allow retirement for such talented and dedicated staff. I certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Tony, his wife and family the best of luck in his retirement, and I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in expressing our appreciation for his commitment and service to this community and our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. AND MRS. ARLIN HORTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arlin Horton and his wonderful wife Beka, who have selflessly served the Pensacola, Florida community for more than 60 years. Dr. Horton, the current President of Pensacola Christian College, and Mrs. Horton, who spearheaded and guided the Christian school's curriculum, are the co-founders of Pensacola Christian. The Northwest Florida community owes a great deal of gratitude to this dynamic duo for their leadership and vision.

Dr. and Mrs. Horton's lives have been dedicated to bestowing upon students a "truly Christian foundation, character training, and excellence in academics." Pensacola Christian provides a first-class education to all levels from elementary school through college. Pensacola Christian Academy has grown from 35 enrolled students to over 2,000 annually, and Pensacola Christian College has graduated over 16,600 students. Additionally, Pensacola Christian has mentored over 37,000 children through the Camp o' Pines and since 1953, has hosted educational clinics for over 93,000 Christian school principals and teachers.

While located in Pensacola, the institution's impact is felt by those all around the world today, through their textbooks and modern-day technology. Dr. and Mrs. Horton's textbooks A Beka Book, named to commemorate Beka for her role in creating the school's curriculum, will reach the hands of approximately 730,000 students just in this year alone. An additional 40,000 students will be reached through the virtual A Beka Academy, and today, 10,288 Christian schools and daycares and more than 105,000 homeschoolers study from the books published under the Pensacola Christian name.

Outside of academia, Pensacola Christian runs a radio and television network that helps bring others to God's glory. In 1971, WPCS Christian radio began, and in 1996, the name changed to Rejoice Broadcasting Network. The station includes 39 satellite stations and through the Internet their message reaches a worldwide audience. Likewise, their television program, Rejoice in the Lord, is shown on 11 stations and viewed across the nation and around the world.

Teaching the Christian way of life through love and faith in the Lord became its inspiration, and Dr. and Mrs. Horton brought this ministry to life. Through their selflessness and unwavering dedication, they built a strong foundation that has grown into a worldwide educational institution. Despite its vast success, Dr. and Mrs. Horton have always remained humble and attributed their successes to the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the life-long career of Pensacola's Arlin and Beka Horton. Their dedication to bettering the lives of others and bringing faith to the communities of Northwest Florida is commendable. Through their vision, a small school has been transformed into a beacon for Christian education. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing them all of the best in their retirement.