

years. One area of concern particularly in which she has been involved is the restoration of the rule of law in interrogations and detention practices in violation of human rights and the U.S. Constitution. She has participated in one of the leading coalitions against torture and indefinite detention, as a researcher, writer, and source of wise counsel for her colleagues.

Further, her work has been an integral part of the ACLU's efforts to protect our democracy from Constitutional amendments that would diminish the basic rights afforded to all Americans. Her research and advice were important to helping prevent an array of constitutional amendments, including the flag desecration amendment, the school prayer amendment, the federal marriage amendment, and the so-named victims' rights amendment. Without the work of Sharon and her coalition partners, the Bill of Rights would have been riddled with exceptions.

No matter what the issue, Sharon always approaches research with a joy and a curiosity that is contagious, which is part of the reason she is beloved by her current and former colleagues. Sharon is also described by her colleagues as a "genius" for her ability to find arcane tidbits of legislative history. Her daily in-depth review of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other legislative research provides incredibly timely information. By feeding her colleagues these buried nuggets of information, Sharon helps the rest of the legislative staff shine as advocates for their issues. Sharon is the ACLU's secret weapon—pouring over 800-page bills and the barrage of amendments attached to omnibus bills. Her keen attention to Congress and broader public policy debates has enabled the ACLU to address many potential challenges to civil liberties, even before they reach the House or Senate floor. Moreover, Sharon has ushered the entire ACLU team's legal research capacity into the 21st century. She works continually to maximize resources and expand access to online research tools for her colleagues nationally. Throughout her career, Sharon's colleagues have also celebrated and admired her perennial role as a patient teacher and a devoted mentor to many who have worked with her over the years.

In addition to her invaluable work at the ACLU, Sharon's impressive career as a librarian spans over 40 years, and includes her work at the White House, the World Bank, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and Shea & Gardner. Sharon also organized and managed the information resource center for President Bill Clinton's transition team after his election in 1992. Furthermore, Sharon's accomplishments in the field of library science extend to her professional affiliations—she has previously served as the President of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, and as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Equal Justice Institute Library. Sharon has also worked as a faculty member for the American Association of Law Libraries Summer Institute.

Sharon came of age during the civil rights movement, and her passion for civil rights and social justice extends to her personal life. She has been actively engaged in DC politics for decades and is the go-to resource on local

civic and political issues, with a particular interest in safety and zoning issues. Many in the office, who have been working in national politics for decades, go to Sharon for information on local DC matters. Sharon's strong personal belief in the Bill of Rights and her devotion to her local community occasionally have sparked her to take action, such as the time she organized a demonstration of roughly 30 librarians in front of Kramer books when it appeared that the bookstore was going to comply with Kenneth Starr's subpoena of private book purchases in 1998. The owner of the store ultimately decided to challenge the subpoena on constitutional grounds.

Sharon and her beloved husband of over 40 years, Peter, also are active alumni of their alma mater, Syracuse University, and they established an endowed fund at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs to support activities that contribute to public understanding of civil rights and liberties. Sharon actually decided to pursue a career in librarianship after a work-study job in the Maxwell School Library, and Sharon and Peter have long maintained close ties to the school. She also received an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland, where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society.

Beyond her many professional accomplishments and contributions, Sharon is a dear friend to many at the ACLU. She has a generous and compassionate spirit. Sharon is always willing to share her deep love of Ireland and Irish politics, which has been a shared passion of her and her husband throughout their lives, and she will often bring back food or treats from her trips to Ireland with Peter to share with her colleagues. She is devoted to her family and enjoys her dogs, traveling, gardening, art, and music—especially Irish music! The personal and professional lives of her ACLU colleagues are richer because of Sharon's contributions, and we honor her 15 years of service to the ACLU and hope for many more.

WILLIAM F. EZZELL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. (Bill) Ezzell, one of America's leading Certified Public Accountants on his retirement from Deloitte, LLP.

As a member and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Bill has been an industry leader and pace setter for the accounting profession. His numerous accomplishments include the establishment of a major project within the AICPA foundation to increase the number of PhDs teaching auditing and tax in university accounting programs. He also played an integral role in the implementation of key legislation including Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as well as the associated regulations.

Bill has been a frequent speaker and panelist at corporate governance forums and accounting conferences and has an expertise in emerging issues of interest to audit committees, corporate management, and auditors.

Bill graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a B.S. degree in Business Administration and Accounting and had been with Deloitte 38 years. He has been a Commissioner on the Pathways Commission on the Future of Accounting Education, a recipient of the AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service, and is a former Chairman of the AICPA Legislative Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, the Accounting Profession will miss Bill Ezzell's leadership and the Congress will miss the expertise he has provided through the years. I know my colleagues join me in thanking my good friend Bill for his years of service to the accounting profession and the guidance he has given us over the years. We wish him well on a well-earned retirement and hope he will be successful in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHERYL E. THOMPSON  
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cheryl E. Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from Mantua Elementary School on June 30, 2012. She began in the Fairfax County Public School System in 1973 as a Physical Education teacher and she became the Lead Physical Education teacher at Mantua 21 years ago. After serving in that capacity for 11 years, Ms. Thompson was promoted to Assistant Principal, a role which she embraced for the last decade.

Ms. Thompson has served the children of Fairfax County for the past four decades, spending the last 21 years at Mantua, where she personified the concept of community-building. She was the voice of the Mantua Elementary Intramural Basketball Finals; she organized and served as the DJ for the yearly Ice Cream Social, Sixth Grade End-of-Year Party, Spirit Parade, and the Mantua Citizens Association Pool Party. Ms. Thompson coached girls' basketball at Woodson High School, my daughter's alma mater, for 14 years, winning a number of division titles and the Virginia State Title in 1982. She earned Woodson Coach of the Year honors three times. The athletic instruction and support that Ms. Thompson gave to her students was exemplary; however, her dedication to her students' education is even more admirable. She earned Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year honors with Mantua Elementary as well.

While Ms. Thompson's absence will be felt throughout the Fairfax County Public School System, and especially at Mantua Elementary School, her dedication to her community will continue to resonate. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement and recognizing her many accomplishments.