TRIBUTE TO GORDON AND JILL MARTENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gordon and Jill Martens of Van Meter, Iowa and to commend them on the momentous occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Martens have been proud to call Dallas County home for their entire lives. Gordon and Jill both attended Van Meter High School and began dating after graduation. On October 26th, 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Martens exchanged vows at Booneville United Methodist in Booneville, Iowa and began their lives together.

Together, Gordon, a veteran of the Iowa Air National Guard, and Jill, a Registered Nurse, raised two children, Daniel and Valerie, who have given them five grandchildren. They now reside in Van Meter after building a home in 2007 on the farm where Gordon was raised.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Martens' lifelong commitments to each other, their family, and their state truly embody the values Iowans are renowned for and it is a great honor to represent them in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating this wonderful couple on their 50th year of life together and I wish them many more years of happiness in the future.

RECOGNIZING JAMES M. ''JIM'' SCOTT ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Rep. JIM MORAN, to recognize and commend James M. ''Jim'' Scott on the occasion of his retirement after a distinguished career in public service to the residents of Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church. For more than 40 years, Jim has been a passionate advocate for our community on issues such as education, affordable housing, technology, health care, and transportation. He spent 14 years representing the Providence District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and then 22 years representing the 53rd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Jim's true public service began in a local classroom, when he was a teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools. He taught at Edison High School among others before leaving the schools to take the lead on Fairfax County's anti-poverty efforts. In 1971, he was elected to the Board of Supervisors representing the Providence District, which encompassed the central part of the county. During his 14-year tenure on the Board, Jim played a central role in drafting the county's Human Rights Ordinance and launching the School Aged Child Care Program, which continues to provide safe, fun, and educational before- and after-school activities for local elementary school children.

During his tenure as Providence Supervisor, Jim took an active role in regional organizations, serving as chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, member of the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission (now known as the Northern Virginia Regional Commission), member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) Board of Directors, chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Water Resources Planning Board, and president of the Virginia Association of Counties.

He also served on the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which in 1985 recognized Jim with the Elizabeth and David Scull Award, the highest honor for regional service in the National Capital Region. Fairfax County also recognized Jim by creating the James M. Scott Community Spirit Award, which is presented annually as part of Celebrate Fairfax, the summertime fair he helped champion. Jim left the County Board in 1986 to become the director of community affairs for Inova Health System, the region's largest health care provider.

Throughout his career, Jim has served as an invaluable mentor and partner to a number of community leaders, including his successor in the Providence District, Katherine K. ''Kate'' Hanley, who was later elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors. I too was proud to follow in Jim and Kate's footsteps in Providence District when I first joined the Board in 1994 and then during my tenure as Chairman.

In 1992, Jim was elected to represent the 53rd District, which includes Merrifield and the City of Falls Church, in the Virginia House of Delegates. He won that first race by a single vote, earning him the moniker ''Landslide Jim.'' He stayed true to his local government roots in the General Assembly, introducing legislation allowing cities and counties to implement affordable dwelling unit ordinances to increase the availability of low-cost and workforce housing.

During my tenure in Fairfax, Jim worked closely with us to advance the county's Affordable Housing Initiative and the 10-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Working with the faith, nonprofit, and business communities, we have created a safety net to provide wrap around support services and move people off the streets into stable housing. Thanks to those ongoing efforts, Fairfax was one of the few metropolitan localities to see a decline in its homeless population during the Great Recession. In recognition of his tireless work in this field, Jim was named the Virginia Housing Coalition's Public Official of the Year in 1992, and he was inducted into the AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone) Hall of Fame last year.

In addition to those accomplishments, Jim worked closely with the local Northern Virginia business community. He introduced the legislation that created the office of Secretary of Technology in the Commonwealth of Virginia. More recently, he worked with me, Rep. MORAN, and our colleague, Rep. FRANK WOLF, on both federal and state legislation to facilitate the increased use of telework. Our bill, the Telework Enhancement Act, was signed into law in 2010 and federal agencies continue to expand their use of telework and mobile work strategies.

In announcing his intention earlier this year to retire, Jim cited the passage of the bipartisan transportation funding bill by the General Assembly. The long-sought infusion of new funding for the regional and state transportation network is something Jim and his colleagues have been working on for the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Scott's commitment to our community will be sorely missed and he leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. On a personal note, he has been not only a mentor but also a wonderful friend, and I have admired his graciousness and his knack for avoiding the spotlight to focus on getting things done. His career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. On behalf of myself and Rep. MORAN, we wish Jim, his wife, Nancy, and their family the best of luck in this well-deserved 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 HUMBOLDT COUNTY FARM BUREAU ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL YEAR

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Humboldt County Farm Bureau on the occasion of their centennial year.

One hundred years ago, in July of 1913, the Humboldt County Farm Bureau was established as a center for local farmers and ranchers to exchange information and industry practices. The oldest Farm Bureau in the State of California and the second oldest in the nation, it is a membership-based, grass-roots organization dedicated to promoting and preserving agriculture in Humboldt County.

The establishment of the Humboldt County Farm Bureau provided the opportunity to host a Farm Advisor from the University of California, a position that changed many of the agricultural practices and provided scientific research to improve production in the county. With the development of the UC Extension Office also came the 4–H Program, and in both cases Humboldt's were the first in California.

The Farm Bureau is Humboldt County's single largest general agricultural organization representing and supporting all aspects of agriculture from dairy to timber, cattle, produce, oysters, wineries, and the floral industry. A non-profit organization working towards positive solutions to the problems faced by farming and rural communities, it collaborates with other local, county, and state agriculture organizations to promote and protect family farms and develop better methods and practices in farming and management.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Humboldt County Farm Bureau on their centennial anniversary and ask my colleagues and the North Coast community to join me in wishing them all the best for another 100 years.