

HONORING THE WORK OF NANCY  
MERCER AND JILL EGLE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle, co-executive directors of The Arc of Northern Virginia, for their tremendous work on behalf of the disabled in our community.

As my colleagues know, The Arc is a leading advocacy and service organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serving more than 7,000 families in Northern Virginia alone. I am sad to share that after 5 years of collaboration, Nancy and Jill have decided to move on, but they have left The Arc stronger than ever.

Under Nancy and Jill's leadership, the local Arc staff, volunteers and community partners have been successful in promoting and protecting the rights of people of all abilities to live comfortably in the community. One of The Arc's primary missions is to provide full inclusion for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals in all aspects of the community.

Through their combined efforts, The Arc has been expanded its advocacy efforts to become one of the strongest grassroots organizations in the Commonwealth. They spearheaded the formation of the Virginia Ability Alliance, creating a more unified voice for people with disabilities. Thanks to the compelling public awareness campaign, "A Life Like Yours . . . Take a Walk in Our Shoes," Nancy and Jill helped hammer home the message that community support is essential for The Arc to succeed. With the resulting increase in community and financial support, The Arc has been able to help more people with disabilities live comfortably within our community.

Their voice also is being heard by state and national policy makers. The Arc of Northern Virginia helped lead a statewide campaign to eradicate use of the degrading "R" word in Virginia's State Code. They worked with community partners to launch a successful Get Out the Vote campaign that buoyed the participation rate of disabled voters in the 2008 Presidential election, and they recently have used their influence in the international arena to educate representatives from Russia, China, and Korea on the necessity of improving the rights of the disabled globally.

It has been my pleasure to work with both Nancy and Jill, and I have a personal relationship with each of them. As Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, I always looked forward to Jill's expert testimony. She successfully raised the level of public discourse on the struggles of the developmentally disabled in Northern Virginia. Nancy's desire to better the lives of those affected by intellectual disability also has been inspiring. She will continue her mission this August as the President and CEO of the PHILLIPS program, an organization dedicated to furthering the lives of the developmentally disabled throughout the National Capital Region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable work of Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and wishing them continued success

in their future pursuits. While their presence will be missed at The Arc, we are glad to know their influence will continue to be felt in our community.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE STEWART  
POHLMAN, FOUNDER OF INTER-  
FAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2011*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished tenure of a constituent in my district, Ms. Suzanne Stewart Pohlman, on the occasion of her retirement as the founder and executive director of Interfaith Community Services located in Escondido, California.

As the creator, Ms. Pohlman has transformed Interfaith Community Services from a small food pantry into North San Diego County's most comprehensive social service agency and a nationally recognized model organization. Assisting over 35,000 individuals last year alone, Interfaith Services has been dedicated to serving and empowering the low-income, homeless, and underserved in North San Diego County for nearly 30 years.

Ms. Pohlman has established unique collaborations between faith centers, businesses, government and other not-for-profits to successfully achieve Interfaith's mission of providing resources to help persons in need attain self-sufficiency. Additionally, she has pioneered many housing programs, creating emergency, transitional, permanent supportive and permanent affordable housing stock for the North County community. Under Ms. Pohlman's innovative management, Interfaith's programs have received multiple awards and now serves as a not-for-profit incubator to help emerging organizations develop the capacity to grow and succeed.

Time and again, Ms. Pohlman has demonstrated her passion for helping people realize their own potential. I commend Ms. Pohlman for her commitment to educating the community on ways—big and small—that we all can work to make a difference. Her hard work and dedication is seen through the lives she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Pohlman's nearly three decades of service and leadership to the San Diego community as she retires as the Executive Director of Interfaith Community Services.

A TRIBUTE TO ORLA O'HANRAHAN  
ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2011*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland, Orla O'Hanrahan, for her outstanding service here in Washington, DC.

Building on her years of experience in the Irish Foreign Service, Orla has brought to her

position here tremendous skill, knowledge, diplomacy and enthusiasm.

Her past accomplishments include serving as a popular Consul General in Boston and Joint Director General of the International Fund for Ireland. She held the position of Press Officer for the Irish Embassy in Paris, and also was stationed in London during a time of great conflict and violence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Having visited Northern Ireland myself during that period, and as a member of the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, I appreciate the important role that diplomats like Orla played during that difficult time which culminated in the successful Good Friday Accord.

Orla is a wonderful public servant and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her continued success and happiness as she returns to Ireland with her family.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the FY 2012 Interior Appropriations. At a time when Congress should be preventing a default crisis and working on job creation, the Majority has chosen to endanger our environment and public health by threatening the air we breathe, the water we drink, the national parks we play in, the wildlife we treasure, and the museums we explore. We cannot ignore the jobs that would be lost as a result of the cuts to the agencies this bill funds.

This bill would overturn 40 years of bipartisan environmental and public health protections. Gutting rules and regulations such as those in the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act would harm our Nation's health just as cities and towns across the country are struck by a record breaking heat wave. Instead of trying to reduce emissions and improve air quality, the House Majority wants to give a carve out to some of the biggest contaminants contributing to global warming.

It is shocking that in the aftermath of several disastrous oil spills, instead of fully funding oversight and enforcement for oil and gas extraction, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have reduced that funding while increasing the budget for the oil and gas extraction programs that benefit big oil. Instead of punishing the flagrant polluters, the Majority chooses to reward them. In addition to reducing oversight capabilities, this legislation cuts important programs that promote clean and efficient energy solutions that would help America reduce its dependence on foreign oil.

If enacted, this bill would result in very steep cuts to programs that are important to keeping New York happy and healthy. These include

across the board cuts to programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to combat invasive species and the Long Island Sound Restoration. The bill includes a provision on ballast water rules that is a direct attack on New York's strong rules to protect state waters from aquatic invasive species. Our guidelines are more stringent than federal and some international guidelines, which under this bill would actually prevent New York from receiving any related EPA funds.

Every state in the union depends on the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to help manage wastewater and protect our drinking water. This bill drastically cuts funding to these programs by 55 percent and 14 percent as compared to last year. The Land and Water Conservation Fund that helps states and communities preserve public parks is cut by 78 percent. With more than three dozen anti-environment policy riders attached to the bill including those to remove the Endangered Species Act protections and to prohibit EPA cross-state air pollution standards, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are using this Appropriations bill to push their own agenda and ideology at the expense of our health and that of our land, water and wildlife. This bill hurts those most vulnerable to contaminants such as our children suffering from asthma, and removes important protections for all creatures great and small.

I urge a "no" vote on this dangerous bill that jeopardizes the health of our country and our future.

HONORING FLORIDA CHIEF  
JUSTICE, LEANDER J. SHAW, JR.

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Florida Chief Justice, Leander J. Shaw Jr. Shaw was born in Salem, Virginia, on September 6, 1930. His parents were Leander J. Shaw, retired Dean of the Florida A&M University Graduate School in Tallahassee, and Margaret Shaw, a retired teacher. He attended public schools in Virginia and received his bachelor's degree in 1952 from West Virginia State College. After serving in the Korean conflict as an artillery officer, he entered law school and earned his juris doctorate degree in 1957 from Howard University.

Shaw came to Tallahassee in 1957 and followed in the footsteps of his father as an assistant professor of law at Florida A&M University. In 1960 he was admitted to the Florida Bar and went into private practice in Jacksonville, where he also served as assistant public defender. Shaw's hiring marked the beginning of an era that revamped the Florida judicial system. Prior to his hiring no African Americans were working for Duval County. Shaw later joined the State Attorney's staff in 1969, where he served as head of the Capital Crimes Division.

In 1974 Governor Reubin Askew appointed him to the Florida Industrial Relations Commission, where he served until Governor Bob Graham appointed him to the First District Court of Appeals. He served there until January 1983 when Governor Graham appointed

him to the Supreme Court. Justice Shaw served as Chief Justice from 1990 to 1992. Following a prestigious career serving the public of Florida, Shaw returned to private practice.

Shaw serves on a number of advisory boards and is a member of various professional and community associations, including the American Bar Association, the National Center for State Courts, and Florida's Human Relations Council and Police Advisory Committee. He has been granted honorary degrees from West Virginia State, Florida International University, Nova University, Washington and Lee University and has been the recipient of such prestigious awards as the Florida Humanist of the Year and the Ben Franklin Award.

Justice Shaw is the father of five children and lives on Lake Iamonia in Leon County.

I submit an article by Tom Cornelison, entitled "Profiles in Courage."

[From Jacksonville Magazine, Nov. 2007]

#### PROFILES IN COURAGE

(By Tom Cornelison)

Historians debate the merits of his presidency and it is certain his private life did not live up to his public image, but there is little argument that John F. Kennedy was an inspirational leader. When his life was cut short by an assassin in Dallas on November 22, 1963, Kennedy left behind the memories of history that he made and a slender volume of history that he wrote.

It was called Profiles in Courage, a collection of stories about political rather than physical courage in which public officials risked their careers by bucking popular opinion. Just such an episode quietly took place in Jacksonville the week before Kennedy died.

In those days of strict racial segregation throughout the South, Duval County Solicitor Edward M. Booth Sr. and Public Defender T. Edward Austin—a future Jacksonville mayor—each appointed an African-American to their staff. On November 15, 1963, Booth announced the hiring of Alfred R. Taylor while Austin did the same for Leander J. Shaw, who would later serve as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The state's court system was revamped in 1967, but in 1963 the county solicitor functioned as a prosecuting district attorney for non-capital cases. The public defender's office was newly created and supplied legal representation for indigent defendants who could not afford attorneys.

On the second floor of the Duval County Courthouse, near Courtroom No. 8, two men's rooms stand side-by-side. What looks like poor planning today also gives silent testimony to the era in which Taylor and Shaw were appointed. In 1963, one of the men's rooms was labeled "white," the other "colored." Taylor and Shaw could only use the latter because that was the way things were. If they couldn't go in the same men's room as the vilest of white defendants, well, those defendants couldn't use theirs either. It all seemed normal.

"Separate but equal" seems comical when applied to bathrooms and water fountains, but it was grimly serious for society, where services and opportunities were clearly unequal. No black people had served in public or appointive office in Duval County since the enforced integration of the post-Civil War Reconstruction era almost a century before.

"Until Nat Glover was elected sheriff in 1995, we didn't even have a black elected to countywide office after Reconstruction," says Edward Booth Jr., a Jacksonville law-

yer and historian who is the son of the 1963 county solicitor. "And the appointments by my father and Mr. Austin took place 32 years before. They were in an era of separate conditions, but it was really an era of separate exclusions."

"The thing is, they didn't have to do it. It was just the right thing to do."

Few controversial decisions are implemented with an in-your-face contempt for the conventional. This was not a movie with inspirational background music. Booth Sr. and Austin presented sound, practical arguments for their action. These centered on the landmark 1963 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Gideon vs. Wainwright case. Prior to this ruling, accused Florida lawbreakers in non-capital cases were not entitled to an attorney if they could not afford one. Clarence Earl Gideon, a convicted burglar from Panama City, argued this violated his Constitutional rights and won his case with the help of attorney Abe Fortas, later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. The story was later dramatized in Gideon's Trumpet, a made-for-TV movie starring Henry Fonda and José Ferrer.

"It was an exciting time in the legal profession. Tremendous changes were taking place," recalls Austin, who is 81 and served as Jacksonville's mayor from 1991-95. "It was also a very busy time. The Gideon decision made a public defender's office necessary because it immediately threw 580 convicted inmates from Jacksonville back into the court system to be retried. He had been sending people without lawyers to prison regularly for years. Very many of these were minorities. It was obvious minorities should be involved in the process. It was just true. There was a great mistrust of the legal system in the black community and we earned that mistrust because the system abused them for decades."

In making his 1963 announcement—timed on a Friday, perhaps to give any resulting anger a weekend to simmer down—Booth Sr. also cited the number of cases involving racial minorities as a reason for the appointment, saying Taylor's experience as a lawyer and, earlier, as a school principal, would be "of immeasurable value . . . in dealing with young Negro defendants."

The term "Negro" was not considered a slur at the time. The Florida Times-Union and Jacksonville Journal both used it in headlines about the appointments. So did the Florida Star, an African-American newspaper that heralded the event as a "Florida breakthrough" and added "Duval County set a statewide precedent."

The Times-Union reported that "Booth said the services of a qualified Negro attorney would greatly assist in the prosecution of cases involving Negro defendants, who represent the majority of persons coming before the court." Booth also favorably cited "work done by Negro assistants employed by" the Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Court.

Besides the logic of black lawyers dealing with black criminal cases, the joint announcement meant Booth and Austin had each side covered—prosecution and defense. Austin insists this was a coincidence.

"Eddie and I were friendly but I don't remember that we ever discussed it at all," Austin says. "Of course, you're talking about a half-century ago, but I don't think we ever talked. I'm just real glad he did it. Spread some of the risk around."

That risk turned out to be non-existent.

At Taylor's funeral in June 1988, Booth said the only criticism he received was from an angry woman who called him at home the next day. He said she called him back an hour later and apologized.

Austin said his only opposition came before his decision to hire the young lawyer.

"A group of 20 or 25 public officials met with me who really didn't want me to make