

Henry “Hank” Harold Adams, who passed away on October 6, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

Mr. Adams was a Tennessee native, who moved to my home county, Lake County, to run appliance stores in Gary and Hammond. Although not born one, Hank was someone we were proud to claim as a Hoosier. His first foray into politics started because of a strip mall that was approved in his town in 1991.

Mr. Adams served as the St. John Township Assessor for 16 years where he fought for fairness in the property tax assessments across Lake County. In 2010, he did what many thought was impossible—he became the first Republican in several decades to be elected to a countywide position. As Lake County Assessor, Hank worked tirelessly to ensure property tax assessments were fair, accurate, and completed on time. Hank served in this capacity until last week, when he resigned while battling cancer.

As an elected official, Mr. Adams was well known for being a tough but fair man. For nearly two decades it was through this tough demeanor that he delivered essential leadership for Lake County. But, those of us who had the privilege of knowing him as a man, not merely as a politician, saw much more.

Hank was a kind and caring man who gave his best effort every day to his family, friends and to Lake County. He was someone who would do whatever he could to help a friend, or stranger, in need. Hank was a mentor of mine, a coach of sorts when I ran for Indiana Secretary of State in 2001. His advice was invaluable in my early years, and something I still do my best to adhere to even today. He was instrumental in my efforts to improve election security with Indiana’s photo ID law.

Mr. Adams left his loving wife, Jean, and his extended Lake County Republican family. His legacy is one that will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved him. His electoral victories prove that most in Lake County, Republican and Democrat, shared my belief in Hank Adams, the man and leader. Rest in peace my friend, and thank you for your leadership.

COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL
DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has had no stronger supporter than the United States Congress and today I rise in commemoration of the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China on October 10, 2013.

The United States and Taiwan share many basic principles such as democracy, human rights and trade. In particular, Taiwan is very important to the U.S. economy. In 2012, Taiwan was the 11th largest trading partner with the U.S. Additionally, Taiwan was the 7th largest destination for U.S. agricultural exports. Furthermore, bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan is over \$63 billion annually.

For Taiwan to remain competitive, it is important that they are able to participate in the

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This 12-nation trade agreement is currently being discussed among Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, and Singapore. The TPP is open to all APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] economies, of which Taiwan is a member, and therefore would be incomplete without Taiwan’s inclusion.

As the Administration follows through on its Rebalancing of Asia policy, Taiwan will play an integral role. Since Taiwan is one of our strongest allies in Asia, we need to continue to support their inclusion in the TPP; otherwise they will fail to remain competitive, which may result in a decrease of purchases for American products. This in turn, could negatively impact American farmers and manufacturers that count on Taiwan to buy their products.

Once again, I congratulate Taiwan on the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China, and look forward to continuing our working partnership.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE HUMAN SER-
VICES COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX
COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Human Services Council of Fairfax County and to thank the many citizens who have spent countless hours ensuring that the county meets the needs of its citizens.

In response to the challenges brought about by the dramatic growth of Fairfax County in the 1970s and 80s, the Board of Supervisors recognized the need to assess the county’s ability to meet the diverse needs of its citizens. In June 1988, The Board chartered the Human Services Council to develop a comprehensive human services plan to establish and coordinate service needs, resource requirements, funding allocations, and priorities across all human service agencies.

The Council is comprised of twenty citizens who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It is charged with analyzing the needs and effectiveness of the human services system; advising the system on annual and strategic goals, objectives, and priorities; enhancing the coordination of services among human service providers both public and private; overseeing key aspects of change in the system; and serving as a liaison to governing and advisory boards of existing human services organizations as well as to the community.

In 1989, the Human Services Council’s first report, *Toward a Long-Range Plan for Human Services in Fairfax County*, provided a comprehensive review of human services programs in the county and set the foundation for improvements in needs assessment and service delivery that continue to this day. The Council’s contributions proved invaluable in 1992 when due to a severe recession, devastating reductions for human services were proposed. The Council worked with other stakeholders to examine the impact of the cuts, prioritize services and analyze service delivery systems, thereby providing informa-

tion that resulted in the preservation of funding vital to the well-being of vulnerable residents. In 1996, the Council adopted three primary objectives that have provided a clear focus for the human services system in Fairfax County: ensure the protection of children and other vulnerable members of the community; maximize prevention opportunities in order to strengthen the well-being and stability of families and communities; and promote self-sufficiency and help families achieve maximum independence from long-term public supports.

Over the past 25 years, the Council has not only worked within the county government, it has partnered with community-based organizations, schools, nonprofit organizations, and state and local government agencies to develop a regional human services safety net that promotes independence, ensures the availability of safe affordable housing, supports families and individuals in crisis, prevents abuse and neglect, responds to threats to public health, responds to crime in the community, addresses alcohol, drug, physical health, and mental health issues, prevents social isolation, and prevents neighborhood deterioration.

As Providence District Supervisor and later as Chairman of the Board, I had the great honor of working with the Human Services Council in many areas of critical need in the County, most notably on creation of the stand-alone Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and the Penny for Affordable Housing initiative. I personally extend by deepest appreciation to Kevin Bell and the other members of the Council for their untiring efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the crucial role the Human Services Council members have played over the last 25 years in making sure all of Fairfax County’s residents have the safeguards and support they need to live up to their fullest potential.

RECOGNIZING MARIA GOMEZ

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Maria Gomez, president and CEO of Mary’s Center, for her outstanding contributions to health care, education and other social services in the District of Columbia and for being awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal.

A nurse by training, Maria Gomez holds a nursing degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Public Health degree from the University California at Berkley. Mary’s Center’s services often are comprehensive, but Maria Gomez has never strayed far from health care. Maria Gomez founded Mary’s Center in 1988, initially to provide bilingual prenatal and maternity care to vulnerable immigrant women in the District of Columbia. The small, basement-level facility, which served 200 women yearly in 1988, quickly expanded and today there are six locations in the District of Columbia and Maryland, and two mobile units, which serve over 50,000

men, women, and children of every background yearly. Maria Gomez molded the mission of Mary's Center into a model wrap-around non-profit to improve the futures of our Hispanic residents through the delivery of health care, education and social services.

Maria Gomez's has received numerous awards for work at Mary's Center. Among her awards are recognition in Washingtonian Magazine as one of the 45 individuals who shaped Washington, D.C. between 1965 and 2010, a Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management, and a Champions of Choice Award from Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington. She also has been singled out by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration for her excellent leadership in providing access to care for Latino women and children.

Mr. Speaker, in this first month of the D.C. Health Benefit Exchange, it is appropriate to note that Mary's Center is a neighborhood Health Exchange Assister, a natural role for a leadership organization and for a leader whose career exemplifies offering health care to D.C. residents. I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Maria Gomez for her work in health care and her excellence in providing other services to the people of the District of Columbia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 527 and "nay" on rollcall vote 528, final passage of H.J. Res. 77, the Food and Drug Safety Act.

The Republican piecemeal bills to fund only select governmental entities leave the American public without the critical services in food safety, public health, and consumer protections. This bill fails to fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission, which work alongside the Food and Drug Administration to ensure food safety and public health. However, I stand ready to vote for a clean continuing resolution to end the Republican Shutdown and fund the entire federal government.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PRS, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate PRS, Inc. on its 50th anniversary and to recognize PRS for assisting thousands of individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, mild intellectual disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders achieve personal wellness and play productive roles in the community.

PRS provides critical services to people living with severe mental illnesses such as

schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, major depression, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, or pervasive developmental disorders. Through innovative service delivery and programs, PRS can quickly assess the needs of an individual and implement services such as counseling, interpersonal skills training, vocational assistance, substance abuse services, and community housing. Thanks to the support offered by PRS, clients can and do increase their independence and self-sufficiency, allowing them to take critical steps toward leading strong and fulfilling lives.

Originally known as The Social Center, this institution began in 1963 in the basement of a church as a social program to assist recently discharged patients from Western State Hospital in Staunton, VA. Formally incorporated in 1970, by 1974 the Social Center had grown to serve more than 300 individuals at three locations with a staff of 18. By 1989, the agency was providing a range of rehabilitative skill training and support services including vocational, educational, case management, recreational and other services. In 1992, PRS opened the Reston-Faraday Clubhouse and between 1994 and 2002, opened five residential facilities for clients who need full-time, intensive support.

PRS Community Support Services helps people develop skills necessary to remain in their homes and out of the psychiatric hospital. In FY2013, 100% of the clients in that program maintained their homes and avoided eviction. The PRS Recovery Academy provides a curriculum-based day program that helps clients in the early stages of recovery master the essential skills of daily living and begin working toward their recovery and community integration goals. Over the years, PRS Employment Services has grown from serving just over 200 clients in 2000 to 502 in 2013, 89% of whom retained employment for 12 months or longer.

In 2011, PRS expanded the populations served to include persons with emotional and/or behavioral disorders irrespective of a diagnosis of mental illness. Thus, PRS began providing services to individuals with mild intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders and pervasive developmental disorders, including autism. All told, PRS served 920 individuals in FY2013 and 98% of them stayed out of the hospital.

PRS reached some other very significant milestones in 2013 by earning an Honorable Mention in the 2013 Washington Post Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management, by being named one of the 50 Best Nonprofits to Work For in the United States by The Non-Profit Times for a third year in a row, and by opening its doors for the first time in the District of Columbia with the DC Recovery Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing PRS for 50 years of service and for its commitment to ensuring that every person has the right to live in dignity.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,747,429,285,635.12. We've added \$6,120,552,236,722.04 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 528, Making continuing appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

The mission of the Fairfax County Planning Commission is to advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to the orderly growth and development of Fairfax County. This includes stewarding of the comprehensive plan for the physical development of the County, amending zoning and subdivision ordinances, and reviewing specific project proposals. The Planning Commission also provides citizens with an opportunity to provide input and contribute to matters involving development in and around their communities.

When the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to establish a Planning Commission in July 1938, the County had a population of about 40,000 people. The original five members were appointed based on the land-use interest they would represent, such as farmers, townspeople, commercial, and industrial interests. Commissioners met in closed sessions and did not record minutes until 1941. Today, Fairfax County has a population of approximately 1.1 million and the Planning Commission consists of twelve volunteer members—one for each of the nine supervisory districts and three who serve the County at large. They meet weekly in public sessions that can be viewed online anywhere in the world. Additionally, commissioners form subcommittees as needed to focus on specific topics such as parks, transportation, housing, and the environment.

For much of its first 75 years, the Planning Commission shepherded the County's transformation from a predominantly rural area to one dominated by sprawling suburbs and job centers. The transportation patterns were indicative of this; people travelled into Washington, D.C., for their jobs and back home to Fairfax County. This landscape began changing as more and more corporations, especially technology companies, relocated their corporate headquarters or opened large offices in