

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROMOTING ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to voice my support for the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act. This bipartisan bill makes important advancements in encouraging states to place children in permanent, caring homes. I am especially pleased that the bill extends the Family Connection grants that help link foster children with family members. Nearly 400,000 children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four (approximately 28 percent of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Research clearly shows that kinship foster care families are safer, more stable placements that are more likely to keep children connected with their siblings and communities than non-relative placements. Continuing these grants will advance the safety and well-being of children in care by connecting them with safe and caring relatives. I also strongly support the protections for youth from returning into care or losing assistance in the event that their legal guardian dies or is incapacitated. I actively worked to advance both of these provisions that encourage permanency and strengthen services to support children and families, and I am very happy they are included in this legislation.

In addition, I commend the bill and its authors for recognizing guardianship in addition to adoption as an important permanency option for children in care. Guardianship and kinship caregiving are very significant for Chicago, for Illinois, and for the African American community. My Congressional District has the highest percentage of children living with grandparent caregivers in the nation, followed closely by two other Congressional Districts in Illinois. Given the research showing that African American youth remain in care longer in part because of a hesitancy to choose adoption given the requirement to terminate parental rights, rewarding states for promoting permanency via guardianship is an important step forward to helping children in care find safe, permanent homes. Importantly, a study of the Illinois Subsidized Guardianship Demonstration Waiver demonstrated that the offer of subsidized guardianship increased overall rates of family permanency by six percentage points over and above the level of performance in a randomly-assigned control group that was limited to the option of adoption only. Incentivizing guardianship rather than incentivizing a particular path to permanency allows families to make the permanency choice that best fits the particular needs and circumstances of their family. It is my hope

that we can increase the symmetry between guardianship and adoption incentives as this bill advances.

This bill makes a number of other improvements to the law. It calculates permanency incentives based on improvements in the rate of adoptions rather than the number of adoptions, so that states that reduce their case-loads still can demonstrate their success in moving youth to permanent safe homes. The bill also focuses more resources on older youth, enhances reporting requirements related to the use of state dollars, and strengthens benefits and services by establishing a minimum for post-adoption services. In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that will help the 100,000 children in foster care find permanent homes.

RECOGNIZING 2013 FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENT KATHERINE HANLEY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, mentor, and predecessor, Ms. Katherine Hanley, the former Providence District representative and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, for being honored with the 2013 Founders Award from the Lorton Arts Foundation. Initiated in 2011, the Founders Award honors those who have made a significant impact on the Lorton Arts Foundation and the Workhouse Arts Center.

In 1910, the United States Government purchased 1,155 acres of rural property in southern Fairfax County for the yet to be built Lorton Correctional Facility. Over the next several years, the total acreage increased to more than 3,000 acres. This prison was originally a model of progressive incarceration; the Workhouse and Reformatory were designed to "rehabilitate and reform prisoners through fresh air, good food, and honest work," and programs integrated work, home, education, recreation, health, and religion. In pursuit of this mission to reform instead of purely punish, inmates raised beef and dairy cattle, hogs, poultry, vegetables, and fruit. Industry was a major activity, and the inmates made a variety of products and were trained to become electricians, mechanics, and plumbers. Initially, neither the Workhouse nor the Reformatory had walls, fences, cells, or locks.

In the 1920s and 1930s the original wooden structures were replaced by brick structures. Over the following decades, what had begun as a true reformatory had become an overcrowded, poorly managed facility. In 1995 more than 7,300 inmates were housed at the facility and the District of Columbia lacked the financial resources to continue its operation. The Federal Government assumed financial and administrative control of the prison, and in 1997 and 1998, legislation was passed to

close Lorton Prison. The last prisoners were transferred from the facility in 2001.

As Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Kate led the county's effort to acquire and transform the former prison site. In 2002, through a unique collaboration between the Federal Government, Fairfax County, and private organizations, 2,324 acres of the former prison site was sold to Fairfax County. The transfer took place under Kate's leadership, and she, along with Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, set in motion a comprehensive planning effort with the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens Task Force to create a new vision for the community. This multi-year exercise resulted in a rebirth for the former prison and surrounding community as South County became one of the fastest growing sections of the county with the construction of thousands of new homes, retail and commercial space, a golf course, and three new schools.

A critical component of the reinvention of the region was the establishment of the Workhouse Arts Center. Established in 2008 by the Lorton Arts Foundation, The Workhouse has become the region's most distinctive cultural arts center, housing artist studios, galleries, a youth arts center, a theatre, and the Metropolitan School of the Arts, all in buildings that once had housed inmates. The Workhouse supports more than 100 professional and emerging artists, providing them affordable studios and galleries in which to exhibit their work. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film, musical and dance performances. The Education Department offers more than 150 classes and workshops each quarter, in a broad spectrum of art disciplines. The Workhouse has also partnered with my office by creating a professional gallery exhibit of all artwork submitted as entries into the annual Congressional Arts Competition for the 11th District of Virginia.

The transformation of South County and the establishment of the Workhouse Arts Center would not have been possible without Kate's vision, persistence, creativity, and effectiveness. After serving as Chairman from 1995–2003, Kate accepted positions with the Commonwealth of Virginia, first on the Transportation Board and later as Secretary of the Commonwealth. I was honored to continue her work with the Workhouse Arts Center and the Lorton Arts Foundation when I succeeded her as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my friend Kate Hanley on receiving the 2013 Founders Award and in thanking her for her leadership and vision that led to the creation of the Lorton Arts Foundation and Workhouse Arts Center, which has become one of the great gems in the National Capital Region.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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.