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 INTERFAITH 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. Polhman'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. Polhman has demonstrated her passion for helping people realize their own potential. I commend Ms. Polhman 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 contaminators 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