

been celebrated on this day, April 22, for the past 42 years. Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Americans have worked to make cleaner the air we breathe and the water we drink. Four decades later, I am proud to be working with like-minded colleagues in the Congress and the Administration to continue this honored tradition of environmental leadership.

Earth Day was first organized in 1970 by one of the greatest environmentalists in the history of the Congress, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Despite his tireless work to raise awareness of environmental conservation, for years the Congress and the administration consistently failed to enact his environmental legislation. Senator Nelson called upon student activists of the day who led a nationwide "teach-in." It is estimated that 20 million individuals participated, demonstrating to Congress the extent of the public's interest in, and concerns over threats to, the environment. The resulting change was dramatic and profound. With bipartisan support and majorities, Congress took the following actions: Created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1970); Passed the Clean Air Act (1970); Passed the Clean Water Act (1972); Passed the Endangered Species Act (1973).

Added to this impressive list of accomplishments are the actions taken by the Democratic-controlled 110th and 111th Congresses to preserve and protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the lands we inhabit, and the green spaces where we recreate. Let me briefly mention some of the highlights of this impressive record of environmental stewardship.

In the 110th Congress, the House passed, and I supported the following major legislative initiatives:

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which will increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards for the first time in more than 3 decades, to 35 miles per gallon in 2020, projected to save \$1,000 per vehicle each year. The act will also expand the use of American-grown biofuels and combat oil market manipulation.

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill, which made an historic commitment to American biofuels—which are keeping gas prices 15 percent lower than they otherwise would be due to fuel blending—and increased Commodity Futures Trading Commission oversight authority to detect and prevent manipulation of energy prices.

Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, which extended and expanded tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy and fuel from America's heartland, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. This legislation is critical to creating and preserving more than 500,000 good-paying clean energy American jobs in the wind and solar industries alone.

Green the Capitol—Under the leadership of newly-elected Speaker NANCY PELOSI in 2007, the House started this program to make its operations a model of sustainability. The House set aggressive targets, including reducing energy use by 50 percent over 10 years. Since the program's inception, the House has reduced its carbon footprint by 73 percent, it purchases wind energy to meet all electricity needs and burns only natural gas at the Capitol Power Plant, with total energy consump-

tion down by 23 percent and water consumption down 32 percent. The project has already saved taxpayers at least \$3.3 million a year.

In the 111th Congress, the House passed, and I supported, the following major bills:

American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, historic legislation that launches a new clean energy economy—to create 1.7 million American jobs (with the Recovery Act); helps reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil by 5 million barrels per day; keeps energy costs low for Americans; protects consumers from price increases with lower income families seeing no cost and with no increase to the deficit. The legislation requires a reduction in the carbon pollution causing climate change from major U.S. sources of 17 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which made historic investments of \$90 billion in tax cuts and investments in clean energy. These investments leveraged another \$100 billion in private investments in energy efficiency, renewable generation, research, and other areas and helped speed the transformation to a clean energy future. The included tax incentives spurred energy savings and created clean energy jobs, as will lead to breakthroughs in clean energy research. The Recovery Act also included incentives to produce new electric cars, develop advanced battery technology, and modernize the electricity grid to make it more efficient and reliable. It is estimated that this legislation created more than 2,700,000 jobs, nearly doubled renewable electricity over four years, and saved consumers up to \$98 a year in energy costs.

Today, it is no less urgent that we take great pains to keep environmental issues from receding into the background. Four out of five Americans live in areas hit by recent weather disasters, and emerging scientific data suggests that such disasters will continue occurring at higher and higher frequencies if we do not take steps to address our changing climate.

My home state of California has made great strides in developing a "green economy" and investing in renewable sources of energy. In 2011, California added more wind power than any other state. The state's wind industry now employs 4,000–5,000 people and is responsible for 3 percent of the California's electricity. Additionally, the solar energy industry in California alone is comprised of over 3,500 solar companies, which employ more than 25,000 people. These industries should be recognized for their contributions to job creation as well as their growing success in securing our energy independence.

Partisan politics threatens to turn back this progress, particularly through the recently proposed Republican budget plans. These plans protect billions of dollars in tax breaks for big oil companies while slashing investments in clean solar and wind energy. We cannot afford to lavish subsidies on oil companies earning record profits, furthering our dependence on increasingly expensive, dirty and dangerous fossil fuel sources.

Since Senator Nelson sparked a widespread interest in our environment four decades ago, environmental legislation has enjoyed support from both sides of the aisle. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and the Obama Administration to continue the bipartisan tradition of environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day this year, let it serve as a timely reminder of the immense opportunities the planet holds, both in terms of current economic growth and future prosperity. It is my hope that we may recapture the energy and enthusiasm behind Senator Nelson's original celebration in order to restore environmental stewardship as a core American value.

IN MEMORY OF JANE MARGARET
JOHNSTON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Jane Johnston who passed away unexpectedly on April 13, 2012.

Jane and her identical twin sister, Jean, were born on September 2, 1951 to parents Dennis and Maryellen Tally. The "Tally twins" along with their brothers Larry and Chris, were raised in Tracy, California.

Jane and her husband Tom grew up on the same street together in Tracy. They were married on September 10, 1972. Together for nearly 40 years, they raised two daughters, Jill and Laurie. Jane enjoyed being a stay-at-home mother when her daughters were young, and it was during this time that she finished her college education. Jane earned a degree in Communications from California State University, Stanislaus.

The biggest joy in Jane's life was her family, and she loved spending time with her husband, children and four grandchildren. She adored her young grandchildren—all born in the past three years—and eagerly shared pictures and stories about them with her many friends. She loved family traditions, and always made holidays special for her family. Jane loved being busy, and in addition to spending time with her family and working, she enjoyed golfing at Spring Creek Country Club, traveling, reading and writing.

For nearly 20 years, Jane worked at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. Jane was an astute judge of character and was quick to recognize potential in others. She was a member of the Association of California School Administrators, the Modesto Rotary, the California and National School Public Relations Organizations, served on the Moccasin Supervisory Committee and co-chaired the Stanislaus Teacher of the Year Program.

Jane was an active member at Modesto Covenant Church in Modesto. She reached out to help homeless families through programs including Family Promise and the Salvation Army. Jane was a mentor to many colleagues and young children, who she enjoyed tutoring through the Stanislaus Mentoring Program. She was also instrumental in promoting and implementing the Stanislaus County "Choose Civility" initiative.

Jane is survived by her husband Tom; children Jill and her husband Peter Krimmel and Laurie and her husband Jonathan Hansen; grandchildren Cole Krimmel, Logan Hansen, Stella Jane Krimmel and Lucas Hansen; sister Jean Benner; brothers Larry Tally and Chris Tally; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Jane Margaret Johnston is small compared to the contributions and impact she had on the lives of so many. She was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY H. "TONY" GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS FAIRFAX COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Anthony H. "Tony" Griffin on the occasion of his retirement after a decorated career in public service, which culminated with his 12-year tenure as the County Executive in Fairfax County, Va., the largest local jurisdiction here in the National Capital Region.

Tony began his public service with the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as an officer during the Vietnam War. He brought the collaborative, can-do spirit from his military experience to local government, where he served in managerial positions with Arlington County and the City of Falls Church before joining Fairfax County in 1989. I had the great pleasure of working with Tony throughout my 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, particularly during my 5 years as Chairman.

His accomplishments are many, but let me cite just a few to convey the magnitude of the profound benefit he has brought to our community and our region. One of the earlier initiatives on which we worked closely was a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Thanks to Tony's support and the efforts of staff, we held a community summit and created a partnership consisting of the faith, non-profit, business and civic communities. The Board created a standalone position to coordinate prevention efforts and adopted a 10-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Today, Fairfax is one of the few jurisdictions in the nation that has seen its homeless population decline in the midst of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

Tony also has been instrumental in transforming our one-time bedroom community into the economic engine of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital Region. Fairfax is now home to more than 1 million people and nearly 600,000 jobs. Under Tony's leadership, Fairfax County was named the "best managed jurisdiction in America" by Governing Magazine, and the county has consistently retained its AAA bond rating. Throughout his tenure in Fairfax, Tony has steadily worked to advance the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which will finally link the Washington, DC, Metro system with the region's premier international gateway, Dulles International Airport. It is one of the largest public works projects in the nation, and Tony has collaborated with local, state and federal stakeholders to ensure its success. As an extension of that effort, Tony also oversaw the replanning of Tysons Corner, the region's premier retail and commercial center. After a multi-year, commu-

nity-centered effort, the County Board adopted a new vision plan that will transform the collection of disparate office parks into a walkable, transit-oriented, mixed-use community. That effort won national recognition from the American Planning Association.

Perhaps Tony's most lasting achievement will be his effort to establish a model of regional cooperation for emergency management. As Chair of the Chief Administrative Officers Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Tony coordinated local government decisions and responses to a myriad of incidents. His leadership was invaluable during the events of 9/11, in which his calm leadership helped assure the delivery of essential government services throughout that tragedy. Under his leadership, the CAO Committee established a new framework to foster better collaboration and cooperation among the 17 local governments, two states and the District of Columbia that comprise the National Capital Region. Those efforts proved particularly vital during the 2001 anthrax incidents, the 2002 regional sniper attacks, the 2009 presidential inauguration, and 2010's historic snowstorms.

Tony's leadership has been recognized nationally by his peers. The American Society of Public Administration honored him with its Stone Practitioner Award for his commitment to improve intergovernmental cooperation. He also was appointed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to the local, state, tribal and federal Preparedness Task Force, which is assessing the state of preparedness and recommending actions to build resiliency for communities across America.

Beyond those accomplishments, I want to recognize Tony's efforts to inspire the county's workforce and to recruit and train the next generation of public servants. During his tenure in Fairfax, he initiated partnerships with the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, the George Mason University Fellows Program, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Program of Excellence with George Washington University, and the Council's Project Manager Certification Program and Supervisory Development Training. So while we will surely miss having him here day-to-day in Fairfax County, his presence will continue to be felt here and in communities throughout our region and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tony Griffin's commitment to our community, the county workforce, our residents, and the mission of local government are unparalleled, and he leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. His career in public service, beginning with his service in the Marine Corps, is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. When I was Chairman of the County Board, I often used to joke with Tony at retirement announcements that we should not allow retirement for such talented and dedicated staff. I certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Tony, his wife and family the best of luck in his 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 RETIREMENT OF DR. AND MRS. ARLIN HORTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arlin Horton and his wonderful wife Beka, who have selflessly served the Pensacola, Florida community for more than 60 years. Dr. Horton, the current President of Pensacola Christian College, and Mrs. Horton, who spearheaded and guided the Christian school's curriculum, are the co-founders of Pensacola Christian. The Northwest Florida community owes a great deal of gratitude to this dynamic duo for their leadership and vision.

Dr. and Mrs. Horton's lives have been dedicated to bestowing upon students a "truly Christian foundation, character training, and excellence in academics." Pensacola Christian provides a first-class education to all levels from elementary school through college. Pensacola Christian Academy has grown from 35 enrolled students to over 2,000 annually, and Pensacola Christian College has graduated over 16,600 students. Additionally, Pensacola Christian has mentored over 37,000 children through the Camp o' Pines and since 1953, has hosted educational clinics for over 93,000 Christian school principals and teachers.

While located in Pensacola, the institution's impact is felt by those all around the world today, through their textbooks and modern-day technology. Dr. and Mrs. Horton's textbooks A Beka Book, named to commemorate Beka for her role in creating the school's curriculum, will reach the hands of approximately 730,000 students just in this year alone. An additional 40,000 students will be reached through the virtual A Beka Academy, and today, 10,288 Christian schools and daycares and more than 105,000 homeschoolers study from the books published under the Pensacola Christian name.

Outside of academia, Pensacola Christian runs a radio and television network that helps bring others to God's glory. In 1971, WPCS Christian radio began, and in 1996, the name changed to Rejoice Broadcasting Network. The station includes 39 satellite stations and through the Internet their message reaches a worldwide audience. Likewise, their television program, Rejoice in the Lord, is shown on 11 stations and viewed across the nation and around the world.

Teaching the Christian way of life through love and faith in the Lord became its inspiration, and Dr. and Mrs. Horton brought this ministry to life. Through their selflessness and unwavering dedication, they built a strong foundation that has grown into a worldwide educational institution. Despite its vast success, Dr. and Mrs. Horton have always remained humble and attributed their successes to the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the life-long career of Pensacola's Arlin and Beka Horton. Their dedication to bettering the lives of others and bringing faith to the communities of Northwest Florida is commendable. Through their vision, a small school has been transformed into a beacon for Christian education. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing them all of the best in their retirement.