

community events and organizes seminars at schools. She works closely with area abuse shelters whether she is on or off duty. During the holidays she arranges for truckloads of toys, supplies, and gift cards to be donated and transported to children's shelters throughout the county.

Private First Class Omecihuatl Mann serves in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office's Records/Transportation Section. She also devotes hundreds of hours to the Fairfax County Public Library system as a weekly library volunteer and board member of the Friends of the Library. She has collected and distributed more than 10,000 books in the past four years. Beneficiaries include the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and NOVACO, which provides transitional housing and services for mothers and children, who have fled situations of domestic abuse.

Private First Class James L. Thur is assigned to the Fairfax County Police Department's West Springfield District Station. Besides his own patrol officer responsibilities, he ensures his coworkers are well equipped and able to complete their duties. PFC Thur will drop what he is doing to assist with any cruiser issue, ranging from a burned out light bulb to a dropped transmission. In his spare time, he serves as a volunteer fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking each of the brave men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. They are part of The Bravest and The Finest who collectively ensure that Fairfax County remains one of the nation's safest communities in which to live, work, and raise a family. Moreover, the volunteer service exhibited by these honorees is one of the hallmarks of what has made Fairfax the thriving community it is today, and because of their efforts, that tradition will carry on for future generations.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN DAY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Matthew's Lutheran Day School of Prince William County, Virginia, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, and to recognize the school for its continued dedication to the education of our youngest citizens.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Day School was established after Senior Pastor David Bohannon went door-to-door in 1971 to gauge the interest of the surrounding community for early childhood education opportunities. The day school, open to any member of the surrounding community, began in 1973 with 88 children. Now there are 250 students enrolled at St. Matthew's. The school has served several thousand children from Prince William County since 1973. St. Matthew's students graduate well-prepared for elementary, secondary, and post secondary education.

I commend the administration at St. Matthew's for using a comprehensive curriculum that focuses not only on academic learning but also on imaginative play and hands-on learning. Activities at the Day School include group

time, circle time, center time, snack time, play-ground time, and story time. These activities encourage a positive and interactive learning environment for the three- to five-year-olds served by the St. Matthew's Lutheran Day School.

St. Matthew's began its 40th anniversary celebration entitled "Early Years Are Learning Years," in April with an Open House, during which the school displayed student artwork. The school will continue to celebrate through the end of the year by hosting literacy concerts throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Matthew's Lutheran Day School for serving families and children in our community for 40 years. I extend my personal appreciation to the staff of the Day School for their commitment to empowering our children by providing access to a high quality early childhood education.

CONGRATULATING BOLD CITY CHAPTER OF LINKS INCORPORATED'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bold City Chapter of Links Incorporated's 20 years of service to the Jacksonville community.

As the representative of Florida's 5th Congressional District, I have followed this chapter's community service efforts for many years and am most impressed with their commitment to the City.

On behalf of my Congressional office and my constituents of Florida's 5th congressional district, I thank the Bold City Chapter of Links for all they do to make Jacksonville a better place. Indeed, our city is extremely fortunate for the service and leadership the Bold City Chapter provided through the chapter's programs over the past 20 years.

This chapter is a symbol of hope to numerous citizens that have been served through the chapter's many accomplishments, most recently the Links Leadership Academy. I am certain that this Academy will serve to develop our next generation of leaders, the future leaders of our City.

COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF SOUTH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TO RECOGNIZE PRINCIPAL MARSHA MANNING FOR BEING NAMED THE 2013 NANCY F. SPRAGUE OUTSTANDING FIRST-YEAR PRINCIPAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the newest Fairfax County public middle school, South County Middle School in Lorton, Virginia, and to congratulate Principal Marsha Manning on being

named the 2013 Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Responsible for the education of more than 180,000 students, the Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS) is the largest public school system in Commonwealth of Virginia and the 11th largest school system in the nation. With a budget that exceeds \$2.4 billion, the school system offers a full range of educational opportunities to each of the students who attend one of its 196 schools. Nearly 75% of local high school graduates go on to some form of post-secondary education, and in 2012, Newsweek magazine designated all eligible FCPS high schools as the most challenging public schools in the nation. In 2012, the average SAT score in Fairfax County was 1654; 140 points higher than the Virginia average and nearly 200 points higher than the national average.

These extraordinary accomplishments at the high school level would not be possible without an exceptional middle school system that thoroughly educates and prepares students in grades 7-8 for the challenges of high school. It is my honor to recognize our newest middle school, South County Middle School in Lorton, Virginia.

Following the transfer of the former Lorton prison property to Fairfax County in 2002, the explosive growth in the southern end of Fairfax County continued to accelerate. In 2005, the doors to a new secondary school opened to accommodate children in grades 7 through 12. The new school, South County Secondary School, had a maximum student capacity of 2,500 and immediately exceeded capacity, requiring a number of temporary trailer classrooms to be installed on site.

In 2008, as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was honored to work with the community and my fellow Supervisors to set aside \$10 million from the county budget expressly for the purpose of constructing a new middle school that was desperately needed to alleviate overcrowding and provide an environment conducive to education and our children's well being. South County Middle School opened its doors in September 2012, and on June 5, 2013, we celebrate the formal dedication of this institution.

Principal Marsha Manning has led the school during this inaugural year with professionalism, dedication, and devotion to the children in her charge. Ms. Manning, a 23-year veteran of FCPS, began her career in 1990 teaching English at Washington Irving Middle School. She then went on to serve as an assistant principal at Mark Twain Middle School, and in 2005, helped to open South County Secondary School where she served as a subschool principal. It was a natural fit for her to take the reins as principal of the new South County Middle School, where she, the school, and the students have thrived. She has been described by her colleagues as a person who displays "hard work, integrity, and exceptional passion" and is credited with instilling pride and a sense of identity to the school and students—a task that usually takes years. I congratulate Principal Manning on being named the 2013 Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal, a recognition very well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the faculty, staff, administration, parents, and entire South County