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RECOGNIZING CURRENT AND FORMER PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE ASSISTED AND SUPPORTED THE LOSS TEAM

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OF VIRGINIA

MR. CONNOLLY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Prince William County Police Department for its invaluable participation in the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (or LOSS) team. On January 27, 2012, Action in Community Through Service (or ACTS) of Prince William, Inc. signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Prince William County Police Department to collaborate on the creation of a LOSS team.

The team is comprised of trained volunteers and staff who are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the ACTS Helpline. Since entering into the formal agreement with ACTS, members of the Prince William County Police Department have diligently supported this program by immediately contacting the LOSS team upon notification of deaths by suicide to the Criminal Investigations Division-Violent Crimes Bureau. The LOSS team then disseminates information about available community resources and provides ongoing support to people grieving the loss of a friend or loved one to suicide.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States for all ages; homicide ranks 17th. For every suicide, at least, six other lives are impacted. By ensuring survivors receive the

support that is desperately needed, the LOSS team in partnership with the Prince William County Police Department helps individuals weather their grief and take steps to rebuilding their lives. Just knowing that they are not alone helps give the surviving families the strength to go on. Without the dedication and leadership of the Prince William County Police Department, the LOSS team would not be able to sustain its successful first response program that continues to positively impact the lives of Prince William County residents each day.

It is my honor to enter the following names of current and former Prince William County Police Officers who have assisted and supported the LOSS program into the Congressional Record: Dan Carton, Brian Cavanaugh, Brian Coady, Darien Cupka, Dan Downey, Mike Fernald, Ben Grantham, Ray Hyatt, Rob Kasper, Joe Medawar, Juan Pena (deceased), Gina Pinedo, Astrid Robinson, Cailen Smith, Mike Sullivan, and Gary Van Dyke.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these Prince William County police officers for their tireless commitment to our community, the newly bereaved, ACTS, and the Prince William LOSS team.