the President must now face a trial in the Senate, to be presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. That is what impeachment does. It moves it along.

And, by the way, there is no requirement that you assure anyone that you can get the votes necessary to impeach to bring an impeachment before the House. A privileged resolution to impeach does not necessitate your being able to prove before you present it that you are likely to prevail with it. That is not the case.

If you can think of it in terms of the real world, while this is real—we say that term loosely, I assure you. If you think in terms of the world beyond these walls where a person might be indicted, in this country, every day, people are indicted who are not convicted. So impeachment is not tantamount to conviction. Impeachment merely means that there is reason now for the Senate to proceed with this cause.

The Senate, upon taking up the cause, can find the President not guilty or guilty. If the President is found guilty, the President is removed from office. There is no other punishment. The President is removed from office.

After the President is removed from office, if the Justice Department or some other agency, some other arm of the government concludes that the President has committed a criminal offense, then a President would be prosecuted.

Now, there is some debate amongst some constitutional scholars as to whether or not a President can be prosecuted while the President still holds office. I think most of them would agree that it would happen after the President leaves office, but that is a debate that I don’t care to enter.

My point is the President would be removed from office. Now, that is important to consider because removal from office—punishment Criminal acts have punishment upon conviction. The President is not punished. The President is removed from office. That is not considered punishment. The President does not face punishment upon being convicted of impeachment. The President is removed from office.

Now, that, in and of itself, is not something that I believe we should take lightly. I think it is serious, but it is not so punishment.

For those of you who may just be joining us for this statement that I am making tonight, I have taken this position tonight in the well of the Congress of the United States of America for one reason: to make the point that a President need not be charged with a criminal offense to face impeachment in the Congress of the United States of America. The Constitution doesn’t require it. The Framers did not make that an issue when they impeached the first person, John Adams, and it is not an issue to the extent that most of the people who have been impeached have not been charged with a criminal offense—not, N-O-T, charged with a criminal offense.

I close with this. The Framers, very much concerned about a runaway President, runaway Presidency, very much concerned about the awesome amount of power that they were accorded one person; the power to be commander of all of the Armed Forces; the power to send persons into battle; the power to send people, literally, in harm’s way such that many might not return; the power to impeach, nearly with impunity—not with absolute impunity, but nearly with impunity. There are some opportunities for the President to provide a person not with impeachment, but with exoneration for a crime, and that President could be impeached for the way that exoneration took place, depending on the relationship that the person had with the President.

But the point is impeachment is there because it is an awesome power that we have given the President; and because we have given the President this awesome power, it is important that we have a check on the President that does not require the commission of a crime.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the generosity of this Special Order. I thank the leadership as much, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 870. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit; to the Committee on Ways and Means; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1028. An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 810. An act to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 26, 2017, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 3110. To amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to modify the term of the independent member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The proceedings held before the House convened for legislative business are as follows:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Martin Frost, vice president of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history, we thank You for this day when former Members return to Congress to continue in a less official manner their service to our Nation and to this noble institution.

May their presence here bring a moment of pause where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died since last year’s meeting, 33 in all. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to the House.

Finally, bless those here gathered that they might bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your Holy Name now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Martin Frost led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. FROST. The Chair now recognizes the president of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, the Honorable Cliff Stearns from Florida, to address the Members.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker and Father, thank you for those very welcome comments. I think all of us, when we come on the House floor, we feel keenly the fact of this beloved country and America in which we respect our positions as former Members of Congress.

Thank you, Martin. It is always a distinct privilege to be back in this revered Chamber and to see so many of my good friends and former colleagues here. On behalf of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, I appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this wonderful place and to present to the Congress...
Former Members of Congress' 47th annual report. I will be joined by some of our colleagues in reporting on the activities, finances, and projects of our organization since our last report a little over a year ago. But first I would like to ask the Clerk to roll the tape.

The Clerk called the roll and the following former Members answered "present":

Mr. Alexander of Arkansas
Mr. Baucus of Montana
Ms. Christensen of the Virgin Islands
Mr. Coyne of Pennsylvania
Mr. DioGuardi of New York
Mr. Edwards of Texas
Mr. Frost of Texas
Mr. Gerlach of Pennsylvania
Mr. Glickman of Kansas
Mr. Hertel of Michigan
Mr. Hochbrueckner of New York
Mr. Horsford of Nevada
Mr. Konnyn of California
Mr. Lancaster of North Carolina
Mr. Lungren of California
Mr. Maffei of New York
Ms. Morella of Maryland
Mr. Rahall of West Virginia
Mr. Roth of Wisconsin
Mr. Sarasin of Connecticut
Mr. Sarles of Texas
Mr. Skaggs of Colorado
Mr. Slattery of Kansas
Mr. Stearns of Florida
Mr. Tanner of Tennessee
Mr. Turner of Texas
Mr. Walsh of New York
Mr. Weller of Illinois
Ms. Zelliff of New Hampshire

Mr. FROST. The Chair announces that 29 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Frost, thank you very much, and I would also indicate the former members of the European Union are all accounted for and present here, and we welcome all of them here especially.

I want to thank all of you for joining us today. As I prepare for today's report, I want to give you a little quote from Aristotle that goes back 2,500 years. He was asked: What would be the best form of life one could live? He replied that: "The best form of life, the Eudaimonia outcome, given all that, would be the life of the good lawgiver."

He didn't mention the richest person, nor the most spiritual man, but the legislator. For all of us, service in this remarkable body was the pinnacle of our professional lives, and I am very proud that through the Former Members of Congress we can continue, in a very small measure, the public service for which your Association's president, I want to thank Mark for his invaluable leadership on this transitional, transformative undertaking, and I also want to thank my colleagues for being so engaged in this exciting progress.

I include the Former Members of Congress strategic plan for the record.

THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

(Cliff Stearns, President; Martin Frost, Vice President; Tim Petri, Secretary; Karen Thurman, Treasurer; Barbara Kennelly, Past President)

INTRODUCTION

We are engaged in a strategic planning process to deepen the impact and shape of the future of the US Association of Former Members of Congress—FMC. We continue to believe that the current political climate and dysfunction is preventing Congress from functioning at its highest possible level. This condition has compelled FMC, a Congressionally-chartered 501(c)(3) non-profit, to reevaluate its mission and opportunities that will deepen the positive contribution we are making toward a more civil
and productive political discourse in our nation.

With the input of a bipartisan group of more than twenty former Members over the summer, as well as staff and “friends of FMC”, we convened meetings in the fall of 2016 and early January 2017 to create a mission and strategic themes for FMC that would serve our country well into the future. Since that time, we have assembled staff to build the comprehensive strategic plan we will deploy this year and beyond. Along the way, the results-to-date of our collective efforts:

MISSION STATEMENT

FMC is a bipartisan, nonprofit, voluntary alliance of former United States Senators and Representatives who are standing for America’s Constitutional system, which vests authority in the people through their elected representatives.

FMC: Seeking to strengthen the Congress in the conduct of its Constitutional responsibility through promoting a collaborative approach to policy making.

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THE 9 STRATEGIC THEMES DEVELOPED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR STAFF AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

1) Embrace the whole “Congressional Family”
2) Collaborative Partnerships
3) Community Outreach and Programming
4) Showcase Good Governance
5) Build our Brand
6) Elevate and Enhance Media Presence
7) Working Together for Congressional Success
8) Celebrate Bipartisanship
9) Build Bipartisan Relationships

THE 4 CORE STRATEGIES DEVELOPED BY STAFF TO TRANSLATE FMC’S MISSION INTO ACTION

1) Provide forums for dialogue that build and strengthen relationships in support of a healthy representative democracy.
2) Elevate and streamline our brand so that our accumulated wisdom and convening power are a reputable and unparalleled resource on the U.S. Congress.
3) Be a champion for public service that is based on respect and collaboration.
4) Develop FMC for maximum impact and efficiency.

CORE STRATEGY 1: PROVIDE FORUMS FOR DIALOGUE THAT BUILD AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF A HEALTHY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Purpose: Strength and expand existing programs that build across-the-aisle relationships for current Members of Congress, as well as Congressional staff; showcase good governance that is based upon bipartisanship and civility; reconnect constituents with their representative democracy by bringing Congress back to the community.

Specific Actions:
A. Programming. Redefine programming portfolio to fall into easily recognizable categories, for example group all exchange programs, group all Capitol Hill programs, group all non-DC programs rather than current list below.
1) Build partnerships with like-minded organizations that offer programs which align with FMC’s mission.
2) Identify strategic themes and streamline programming into consistent and recognizable groups and develop cohesive schedule of events.
3) Streamline staff responsibilities and portfolios to group programs in a more coherent way.
4) Expand Congress to Campus model to other constituencies by marketing events better, incorporating social media and modern technology such as an updated website, and using modern technology to keep constituents informed.
5) Make more concerted effort to have Statesmanship Awards Dinner celebrate true bipartisan relationships and build cohesive year-round programming around event theme.
6) Increase public service element of annual and regional meetings by incorporating FMC programming into FMC’s story to our own membership in a more compelling and cohesive way, which will also aid in recruiting FMCs to be more active.
7) Expand partnership and ability to keep constituents involved following a program by building a cohesive schedule of events so that participants from one event can continue their interaction with former Members via a follow up event, for example a Congress to Campus visit is followed up by a webinar.
8) Find ways to incorporate technology into every aspect of FMC events, from marketing to registration, from tweets during event to creating platforms for follow up.

B. Regional Outreach. Develop a comprehensive plan for regional outreach to reach new constituencies.
1) Increase outreach based on FMC’s themes, for example bipartisan or civics, and involve local media.
2) Incorporate as many FMC constituencies as possible into a regional program, for example by converting a Congress to Campus visit with a Congressional staff delegation, all involving local former Members.
3) Social Fabric: Broaden and enhance social activities to create relationships
   1) Identify and create new forums by building collaborations and partnerships.
   2) Enhance FMC presence by creating unique and inclusive events on Capitol Hill and at non-Congressional venues.
   3) Bring together the different members of the “Congressional Family”: former Members, current Members, Congressional staff, FMC partners, etc.

CORE STRATEGY 2: ELICIT AND STREAMLINE OUR BRAND SO THAT OUR ACCUMULATED WISDOM AND CONSENSUS RECOGNIZED AND VALUED AS A REPUTABLE AND UNPARALLELED RESOURCE ON THE U.S. CONGRESS

Purpose: Vastly expand our reach and our impact; be an active participant in the Congress and on behalf of the value of public service; unify our leadership, membership and staff behind FMC’s core message.

Specific Actions:
A. Brand Identity. Unify and elevate FMC brand and marketing materials, both internal and external.
1) Decide whether “FMC” accurately describes the work of FMC.
2) Create consistent, unified visual brand for all FMC artwork, logos, letterhead, etc.
3) Create unique message on behalf of Congress and on behalf of the value of public service; unify our leadership, membership and staff behind FMC’s core message.

B. Website. Have a more modern, dynamic and interactive site that better tells our story and is a more effective tool for staff.
1) Redesign current site.
2) Drive social media traffic to website and vice versa.
3) Make better use of partners and like-minded entities to build a more active presence on social media and advertise FMC capabilities and programming.
C. Media. Build relationships with the media.
1) When appropriate, invite media to FMC events.
2) Train and deploy FMC board and senior staff to be issue experts and a resource for national, regional, and local media, while also telling FMC’s compelling story.

CORE STRATEGY 3: BE A CHAMPION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE THAT IS BASED ON RESPECT AND COLLABORATION

Purpose: Celebrate bipartisanship that is the unifying driving force behind FMC’s success in providing opportunities for an expanded number of actively involved former Members, and create a pool of engaged Members in all regions of the country.

1) Focus on civic education to create a call-to-action that is regional and happens at the state level; raise Members’ engagement in FMC by giving them a real issue with real actionables that can be applied across the country.
2) Organize regional meetings to gather former Members who are no longer in DC, engage them in FMC as a community to educate them on FMC projects, issue call-to-action on civic education, and use these relationships to build a more actively involved membership in all regions of the country.
3) Give broader group of engaged stakeholders an opportunity to benefit the organization by expanding notion of “Congressional Family” to also include current Members, current senior staff, former senior staff, etc., via partnerships and collaborative efforts across the country.

B. Recruitment. Expand the number of former Members of Congress, both in the Washington, DC area and in all other parts of the country, who actively participate in the call-to-action through FMC programming and are willing to donate their time, expertise, leadership and funding to FMC.
1) Increase the degree of former Senator participation and active engagement.
2) Make recruitment a core element of all regional meetings, as well as the DC-based annual meeting, utilizing these gatherings to focus much more on FMC’s programming and the need for membership support.

Specific Actions:
A. Short-term resources. Refine our notion of where we spend our time and money in the short-term.
1) Develop a strategy specific to Congress to Campus visits that envisions an increased number of visits, a Steering Committee composed of FMC board members, and additional funding via a corporate or foundation sponsor.
2) Decline participating in projects by outside organizations if project does not meet the following test: Does the project further FMC’s mission? If no, decline. If yes, will we be compensated for FMC staff time and any other expenses?
3) If yes, proceed only if staff time is available.
b. If no, is the project’s purpose or potential for future FMC impact worth expending our own resources? If no, decline.

3) Communicate to outside groups that there is already a savvy for short notice and ad hoc programming (it will emerge clearly after a 12 to 18-month calendar of events is created which time windows lend themselves to additional programming, and which do not).

4) Streamline program implementation procedures and create templates to eliminate redundancies across the organization.

A. With current staffing and budget levels, we can:
1) Develop an across-the-organization unified visual brand to incorporate logo/look/marketing materials.
2) Via SKDKnickerbocker contract:
   a) Develop consistent branding message.
   b) Train board members and staff to communicate consistent message and deploy trained representatives to interact with local and national media outlets.
3) Develop social media strategy.
4) Develop program creation and implementation instead of contractual.
5) Serve partners by offering FMC as a resource.
6) Train staff and board to communicate cohesive message.
7) Via SKDKnickerbocker contract:
   a) Serve partners by offering FMC as a resource.
   b) Train board members and staff to communicate consistent message and deploy trained representatives to interact with local and national media outlets.
3) Develop social media strategy.
4) Develop program creation and implementation instead of contractual.
5) Serve partners by offering FMC as a resource.
6) Train staff and board to communicate cohesive message.
8) Make use of the SKDKnickerbocker opportunity.
9) Elevate FMC from a DC organization to a national organization.
10) Expand internal definition of “Congressional Family” and FMC stakeholders.
11) Develop FMC footprint that goes beyond DC.
12) Serve partners by offering FMC as a resource, and take advantage of projects to utilize their projects to further FMC’s mission.

Mr. STEARNS. Already, this work has had a tremendously positive impact on us. I am extremely pleased to announce that, since our last meeting, thanks to expanding on existing grants and winning new foundation support, we have conducted a number of district director specific staff delegation trips and now have brought together, under one umbrella, a lineup of district directors from all parts of the country and, of course, on both sides of the political aisle. District director study tours provide an exciting opportunity to build our national partnerships, share best practices, and, with the international travel, build transatlantic relationships.

In March, a bipartisan group of 10 district directors from around the country traveled to Stuttgart, Germany, to study security issues, dual vocational education and apprenticeships, trade, and foreign investments.

In April, a bipartisan group of six district directors traveled to Houston to learn about the energy industry and workforce development.

In June, a bipartisan group of six district directors went to Boston and focused on the tech industry and education.

This October, another bipartisan group of six district directors will be going to Iceland to focus on alternative energy, the environment, and natural resources.

After all these trips, we can confirm that district directors greatly appreciated and found immense value in the opportunity to not only learn about the organized topic but share the experience with other district directors, particularly from the other side of the aisle.

One statement heard again and again, “I have that same issue, what did you do about it?” These district directors through FMC have a chance to reach out to the leadership of what party, where in the country they are from or what the demographics of their constituency is.

For 2018, we already have confirmed another district director trip to Germany and to Japan. We also plan for other activities to engage district directors, including possibly two more domestic trips and invitations to all Former Members of Congress regional meetings.

Regional meetings are another outgrowth of our strategic plan. One clear refrain of the strategic planning sessions that we had that resonated loud
and clear was that we need to get outside of Washington more. If we are going to be supportive of Congress, we need to make sure we are not a voice just heard in D.C.

Former Members live outside of Washington. My name, Cliff, and I have spent much more time in their districts. It is, therefore, critical that we participate more outside of D.C. and with the congressional staff that is outside.

Since our last report to Congress, we already have hosted three regional meetings, with a fourth one planned for later this year. These meetings are a day long and not only provide an opportunity for former Members to come together, but we also provide them an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with the younger generation by building into our program outreach to a college campus, or a high school, for example.

We were in Los Angeles late last year and included meeting with UCLA students. In April, we went to Chicago, where a group of former Members held a panel for Northwestern students. In July, we visited Boston, where a group of former Members and a visiting delegation of district directors met with interns in the Massachusetts State House.

We have a regional meeting in Orlando on the schedule for November 7th and have arranged for a mini Congress to Campus visit to the University of Central Florida. In addition to bringing together former Members from the region, we extend invitations to State Representatives, district directors, local academics, and others in the congressional family.

We plan to crisscross the country with regional meetings so that we can both engage our membership and meet their needs, as well as expand our mission to deepen the understanding of our democratic process and to engage the citizenry through civic education about our elected officials and public service.

Our last new development should be highlighted: we are issuing to our Members a call to action on the crucially important aspect of civic education. We have formed a partnership with the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida. As you are surely aware, civic education has been one of the most important issues our dear friend Lou Frey has worked on since leaving Congress, and his institute has become a leading voice on this topic.

Our vision is to bring together, under our umbrella, the bipartisan congressional; former Republicans and Democrats; former Members and our current Members; chiefs of staff currently working on the Hill and some who left the Hill and are now in communities all over the country; and our newest constituency, district directors for current Members, working together under the umbrella of the Congressional Study Group on Civics to promote civic education and make a better understanding of our representative democracy and a much greater knowledge base when it comes to Congress and the work of Members of Congress. This new undertaking is in the very beginning stages, and I look forward to reporting to you next year on our progress.

One of the goals of this civic outreach is to remove the stigma that now is attached to the word "politician." John Buchanan had a quote. He was an English scholar; he wrote 42 books; he had numerous publications; he was elected to Parliament in England at the beginning of the 20th century; and he was appointed Governor General of the Assembly in Canada by the King.

"This is what he said: "Public life is regarded as the crown of a career, and to young men and women, it is the worthiest of ambitions. Politics is still the greatest and most honorable adventure."

If our civic education outreach can reintroduce this appreciation of public service in this next generation, then we will have succeeded.

Civic education and this commitment to reaching out to students across the country are just two of the reasons we will honor our colleague Cliff this week. I hope you all will join us during our luncheon in David's honor as we recognize his exemplary service to this country with our 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

As many of you know, David was an officer in the Marine Corps in Vietnam before seeking public office. He served in the Colorado State Legislature and, of course, here in the House of Representatives for six terms. He now serves with Martin Frost and Vin Weber on the board of the National Endowment for Democracy. He and his lovely wife, Laura, will be with us during lunch today.

Before I yield to David to report on our Congress to Campus and Civics projects, I hope all of us will join me in a round of applause for our 2017 Distinguished Service honoree, David Skaggs.

Mr. SKAGGS. Cliff, thank you very much for your very kind words. I am honored to receive this award. It is especially important because it comes from my peers, and I am humbled, given that prior recipients of this award included such giants as Amon Houghton and Lee Hamilton. My great thanks to you, the Executive Committee, and the board of directors.

I am here to talk a little bit about the Congress to Campus program that Cliff has already alluded to. It is our most impactful and important domestic initiative, and I want to spend a lot of time on it and also to add some thoughts about the state of civic education across America.

What a year Congress to Campus has had during 2016 and 2017. Under this program, bipartisan pairs of former Members visit college campuses for several days to speak to students from all disciplines in a variety of settings, large and small.

We have three goals: to promote public service in the next generation of Americans, to teach about Congress and the work of a Member of Congress in ways that political science doesn't often capture, and to engage students in a discussion about the issues of the day.

The format demonstrates that a Republican and a Democrat can have different points of view and opinions but still have a respectful debate looking for common ground and a path forward. During the election season, the Former Members of Congress sent teams to 16 campuses. We had an additional 14 visits during the spring term. It was the busiest academic year in the 35-year history of the program.

Former Members visited all over the U.S., from the University of Maine to Alcorn State in Mississippi and from the Naval Academy to Arizona State. There were also four international Congress to Campus visits.

Students come away with a better understanding of how Congress works and what the life of a Member of Congress is like. Sixty percent of the students report that their opinion of Congress improves after hearing from a bipartisan pair of former Members.

After hearing from such a visit, one student observed that Republicans and Democrats aren't completely at odds and that they can work together. That is certainly very different than the way the media portrays things. Another student came away with a sense of how important it was to be involved in public service.

In 2016, over 50 Members gave their time to speak to almost 7,000 students, not just at colleges in Congress to Campus program, but also students in high school and middle school. I want to thank my colleagues on behalf of the Association for their participation in these many visits.

Special thanks to the Former Members of Congress staff, particularly Sharon Witiw, who is here in the Chamber, for nurturing this important program, for getting on us to participate and expanding it in partnership with our friends at the Stennis Center. We have come a long way since the years when a busy Congress to Campus year consisted of two or three visits per semester.
For these college audiences, we don’t talk about how a bill becomes law but, rather, examine issues deeply and look into the politics of today’s Congress. The program is civic education in practice.

I also need to report that more and more, during these visits, we encounter a lack of civic literacy, a lack of basic understanding of our Constitution and the structure and practice of American representative democracy. It seems to be getting more pronounced every year.

Our Association shares with many others across the country a growing concern about the current state of civic knowledge and skill. Just last week, the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania found in its survey that only a quarter of Americans can name all three branches of government and more than a third can’t name any of the rights protected by the First Amendment.

Lack of this sort of basic civic knowledge and skills probably has a relationship to the current level of distrust in government and officeholders. This has led the Association to look for possible solutions.

Building on the civic ed admission of our Congress to Campus program, the Association now intends to play a larger role in addressing civic illiteracy by reaching younger audiences in middle and secondary schools.

A bipartisan group of our Association came together for strategic planning around this mission. Working with the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida, the campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, and Tufts University and facilitated by Pete Welchlin’s wife—is she here today, Pete? No. Okay.—we developed a plan for how former Members could be more actively involved.

This work has generated some excitement. Cliff has already shared the idea of a Congressional Study Group on Civics, which we intend to have bring together current Members, district directors, and chiefs of staff, bring them into our under-taking to advance civic learning and practice.

Last week, the Association partici-pated in a groundbreaking national symposium on civics organized by our two partners, the campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and the Lou Frey Institute, where funders and many civic organizations exchanged ideas and renewed their commitments to improving our common efforts to educate for democracy.

Pete and I were there and had the privilege on behalf of our Association, to commit us to making civic edu-cation the centerpiece of the Former Members of Congress’ domestic programs, and Pete will be on each and all of us to make good on that promise.

We have a steering committee of former Members committed to the ef-fort. My friends and colleagues, George Nethercutt, Jim Gerlach, Bill Sarpalitis, Tom Coleman, Karen Thur-man, Steve Horsford, and Mickey Edwards join me on that committee. We will convene soon to discuss what former and current Members can do together to make a difference and to issue a call to arms to our membership.

Consider the following. I am looking at you, Dan Glickman. By exemplifying bipartisanship and taking advantage of the networks we still have, former Members can make a tremendous contribution to addressing the dire need of American democracy: preparing our young people for active citizenship. I look forward to reporting to you again next year on our progress.

More importantly, we need to engage all of you in this effort. Our people’s lack of understanding of our own system of government has become pervasive, and it threatens the Republic. It explains much of what ails us politically.

Cliff, thank you very much for your leadership of the Association and for the opportunity to give this report.

Mr. FROST. Cliff, if we could suspend.

The Chair recognizes the distin-guished Speaker of the House, the gen-tleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I have never spoken on this mike before, so I am going to give it a try. This is literally the first time I have spoken from this one.

Hey, Donna, how are you doing? Good to see you guys.

Greetings. Good to have you. Not much happening around here, pretty easy going, you know, slow moving, nothing controversial whatsoever. It is an interesting time, I can tell you that, one of these deals.

I came here in 1998 with many of you. I see so many familiar faces.

Good to see you, Dan.

And I would say what has changed this plan that we’ve had here is the internet. The internet has changed society. It has also changed the way Congress works—some good, some bad, and some in between. You are basically out there seeing that.

All I would ask you to do is, in your walks of life, in your spheres of influence, just help explain to the country how this place really, actually works. Because you hear sort of the cartoon version of it when you turn on TV. It is actually a place where people care, where people work hard, where people think, where people study, where people interact, and where they get along more often than not and we actually get things done.

At a time where faith in civil society and in our government is not very high, we could use a few more ambas-sadors helping express to the country that the foundation here is solid, it is strong, it is enduring, and it is going to persevere.

When these microphones are turned off or when the TV’s are turned off, we actually get along pretty well. About 80 percent of the things that we pass here, just like when you were here, are bipartisan. Now, clearly, we are going to have partisanship; clearly, we are going to have different viewpoints and passion. But at the end of the day, the system is strong; the system is going to work; the institutions still have, their answers is as valid and as potent as it ever was before.

I would just say: Welcome. It is great to see all these familiar faces. You look a whole lot happier than you prob-ably did when you were here last year and I see Members of Congress after they have left, they look like they have de-aged like 5 or 10 years, and I think that goes for a lot of you.

I would say this: Help us be ambas-sadors for this institution, for this branch of government, to revive sort of civil respect for what we do here.

I think we could all use a little bit of that, and it is just really nice to see you.

God bless you.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, thank you for taking time out of your busy sched-u-ule. I know that you do have a few things to look after these days, and thank you for being here and recog-nizing the significance of this organiza-tion.

Mr. Stearns.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and we are just delighted that you took the time to come speak with us.

David, thank you very much for that excellent report. I very much look for-ward to your remarks during lunch today.

My colleagues, as all of you know, our most active programming involves current Members of Congress from both parties and from both Chambers and, of course, our Congressional Study Groups. We conduct programs focusing on Europe and Asia. We bring current Members of Congress together with their peers and legislatures over-seas, and we work with our Department of State to talk about representative democracy with audiences overseas, also.

Via the Former Members Association, I have met with numerous groups of legislators from other democracies who come to Washington for a better understanding of our representative government, our form of democracy, and our political system. We bring them into our conversations on Europe and Asia. We bring them into our discussions on politics in the United States and on Capitol Hill.

These conversations and meetings are always a two-way street, and I learn as much, if not more, from our visitors as they do from me. Our Asso-ciation has a longstanding partnership with a great NGO called Legacy Inter-national, bringing young professionals from the Middle East and North Africa to the United States.

Our most recent group completed their 6-week D.C. stay here. We had it for the year and was composed of young profes-sionals from Tunisia and Morocco. Most of these visitors worked in the NGO sector in their countries, and they
came to the United States to learn about the interaction between government and the nongovernmental sector. It is truly a very enriching cross-cultural dialogue, and I am very pleased that FMC offers this opportunity to our Members and to the visitors of Capitol Hill.

As I stated earlier, the main international activity of our Association is housed with the Congressional Study Groups on Japan, Germany, and Europe. These are our programs that involve current Members of Congress as well as current senior congressional staff.

I now invite my good friend and predecessor, Connie Morella of Maryland, to report on this aspect of our international work.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Cliff, for the introduction and all of your comments, and particularly for your leadership of Former Members of Congress during this year. You have done a superb job.

Well, as you know, Former Members of Congress works with all Members of the congressional family. Our network also includes Members of Congress and their senior staff to promote a collaborative, bipartisan, and effective approach to policymaking both at home and abroad.

Our flagship programs for our colleagues who are still in office are the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, and Europe. The Congressional Study Groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges that strive to create better understanding and cooperation between the United States and our most important strategic and economic partners abroad.

Each study group has a membership roster of between 75 and 125 Members of Congress, and it is led by a bipartisan, bicameral pair of co-chairs who are currently in Congress. Our model celebrates active discussions among all participants, avoiding lengthy speeches or formalities, in order to create an atmosphere that promotes personal connections. We believe that the network of peers created via our programs has acted to renew and expand areas of mutual cooperation, especially in times of transition.

The Congressional Study Groups are not the only programs dedicated to this mission, but they are unique in their year-round outreach to Capitol Hill. Unlike other formats, we provide an ongoing staff support and maintain a well-respected reputation as independent and non-advocacy. As a result, our network attracts a large, diverse group of legislators and policymakers who are committed to international dialogue. What is most important for us is that we have outstanding programs.

A few highlights from the 114th Congress:

- We hosted 62 roundtables in Washington, D.C., which are the foundation of our program. Maintaining a year-round outreach ensures that we are developing meaningful relationships instead of having occasional encounters.
- 108 Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and 204 senior congressional staff participated in at least one of those roundtables; most participated in multiple programs.
- We also organized 12 study tours abroad for Members of Congress and senior congressional staff because we know that immersive travel experiences have immense value.
- Each trip is an opportunity for mutual learning and sharing, as well as forming bonds, with meeting partners and within the bipartisan delegation itself, and we know that is important.
- Already, our programming calendar in the 115th Congress has been busy. In the first 6 months of 2017, we have organized three study tours for Members of Congress and three study tours for senior congressional staff.
- Our roundtables on Capitol Hill also recently welcomed several senior officials, including the German Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy, the chairman and CEO of Lufthansa, and a high-level delegation from the Japanese Diet.
- I would like to acknowledge the service of all of our co-chairs for their hard work and dedication to these critical programs. Our co-chairs are true leaders, who not only serve in their role as official Study Group leaders, but are also called upon to represent the study group and outside organizations to speak on panels, attend roundtables, and meet with countries who have visiting delegations.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is led by Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, Representative CHARLIE DENT, and Representative TED DEUTCH. We thank the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, for his service as a Senate co-chair until February 2017.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is led by Senator MAZIE K. HIRO, Senator LISA MURkowski, Representative DIANA DEGETTE, and Representative BILLY LONG.

The Congressional Study Group on Europe is led by Senator JOHN BOOZMAN, Senator CHRIS MURPHY, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, and Representative PETER WELCH. We very much appreciate all their efforts in leadership.

I also want to mention that our work is not limited to the three main Study Groups on Germany, Japan, and Europe. For example, over the past 6 months, we have put a lot of energy into bringing Korea-focused programming to Capitol Hill. I don’t have to tell you how important our relationship with South Korea is, and the many security and trade issues that shape this part of the world.

We, therefore, in addition to our ongoing focus on China, have commenced programming on Korea. We are very fortunate to have former Member Jay Kim chair this effort in Korea itself, and his leadership already has resulted in a number of incredibly informative Capitol Hill programs involving former and current Members.

The work of the Congressional Study Groups is complemented by our Diplomatic Advisory Council. Initially focused on European nations, the Diplomatic Advisory Council is now comprised of approximately 30 ambassadors from four continents who advise and participate in our programming. Their interest and commitment to multilateral dialogues is a very valuable addition to the Congressional Study Groups and provides a valuable outreach beyond our three Study Groups.

At the beginning of the 114th Congress, we also formed the Congressional Staff Advisory Council. As former Members of Congress, we know the value of good staff. I always say my rock and my staff, they support me. The Staff Advisory Council formally recognizes the mutually beneficial relationships we have in offices across Capitol Hill. We are as grateful for the staff who participate in and support our group programming as we are for the Members of Congress.

Finally, I would like to add a thanks to those individuals, organizations, and corporations whose patronage makes our work possible. In particular, I would like to recognize Ambassador Jim Zumwalt and Ms. Junko Chano of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Dr. Karen Donfried and Reta Jo Lewis of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and Ms. Paige Cottingham-Streeter of the Japanese-U.S. Friendship Committee for their tremendous support as institutional funders of the Congressional Study Groups in 2017.

Companies that belong to the 2017 Business Advisory Councils are: Allianz, All Nippon Airways Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, BASF, B. Braun Medical, Central Japan Railway Company, Chemiete Energy, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Evonik Corporation, Fresenius Medical Care North America, Fresenius SE, Hitachi, Honda, Lockheed Martin, Lufthansa German Airlines, Marubeni America Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Mitsu, Nissan, Panasonic, RatnerPrestia, the Representative of German Industry and Trade, Sojitz, Toyota Motor North America, UPS, and Volkswagen of America.

Because of their financial support, our activities not only help to build vital bilateral relationships between legislatures, but also build bipartisan relationships within our own Congress. Mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are crucial, as you know, to solving pressing problems, whether at home or abroad.

As former Members of Congress, we are proud to bring the important services provided by the Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues who are still in office, and are proud to play an active role in our continued international outreach.

So I want to thank you, Cliff. I want to thank all of the Members who are here. Continuing these very important programs is important, and we thank you for that.

Mr. PROST. Thank you, Connie, very much for that report, and thank
you also for the continued leadership that you have provided for the former Members of Congress. Your counsel is always appreciated and is invaluable.

I now will lead to another former president of our Association, Dennis Hertel of Michigan. Dennis, along with former Member Ken Kramer, has been the driving force behind a program that is incredibly near and dear to our hearts: our efforts to help severely wounded veterans returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

We also this year via our annual charity golf tournament called The Members—to avoid any confusion with The Masters—and we really have had a tremendous impact. Dennis.

Mr. HERTEL. Thank you, Cliff. Let me associate myself with Connie Morella’s remarks. Your leadership of FMC has been exemplary, and your report today is a tribute to our great energy and commitment. On behalf of our Association, thank you very much, Connie.

I want to thank Speaker Ryan for what he said today about coming to visit us, but also talking about our being ambassadors to the Nation. I think we are, not only the Nation, but worldwide, about the Congress and how proud we are of the Congress and the democracy that we have here, and even with our great differences in today’s world, how we carry on and represent the people and commend the Congress for doing so.

I am tremendously pleased to share with our colleagues an update on our charitable golf tournament. As Cliff mentioned, I, along with Ken Kramer, co-chair the event, which is now in its 11th year.

Back in 2006, we had low attendance. It was just a competitive match that we had between Republicans and Democrats at Andrews Air Force Base and very private. We were dwindling in our attendance, and we thought maybe we could change this and make it into something effective for the community.

We were able to transform it into something that was fun but also, more importantly, inspirational, where the focus was not just on your golfing ability. I am the example. I am not a golfer. I have co-chaired this for 10 years with Ken now, but I am the worst duffer you ever saw there, yet the Democrats still won even with me on their team this year.

It has become successful. As of today, the tournament has raised almost $1.3 million to help veterans and their families deal with injuries sustained during the Afghanisthan and Iraq wars. The two beneficiaries of the money raised, Warfighters Sports, a division of Disabled Sports USA who helps with 120 different sports for their members across the Nation who have been injured in defending our country, and Tee It Up for the Troops, are two outstanding organizations that use adaptive sports as a way for severely wound-
ed veterans to reengage with their families and communities and get a bit of their prewar activity back into their lives. These guys go skiing, they go mountain climbing, horseback riding. You name it, they do it. We are so proud of the men and women and what they have accomplished.

We are proud that for the last 3 years, we have shared this honor of co-chairing the tournament with Congresswoman Jimmy Duncan of Tennessee, who I am sorry to see is retiring now. He has been just a great chairman and a great friend to all of us all these years—and Congresswoman Gene Green of Texas, who has just been an outstanding leader and is going to continue with us, I hope. He is just so enthusiastic in getting Members out there.

They are the ones who recruit the current Members of Congress, and they bug them and hassle them every week to get them out to our tournament. We have had more people, more Members at our tournament than other golf tournaments. There are so many different tournaments here in Washington that have Members play, but we have had the greatest turnout over the years.

It is unlike any other golf tournament. There is still a little friendly competition. As I said, the Democrats won this year. I can’t say that enough, because we lost for the past 7 years. And you know, Republicans belong to more country clubs than Democrats, anyway. I think they have more experience.

More importantly, we have had over 30 wounded veterans play this last year, and every year in our tournament, so many wounded veterans, and it is just inspirational.

I played with a veteran from Michigan, a young man who had been in Afghanistan 2 weeks on the Army police force there, and lost his leg in a bomb explosion. And he was out there playing golf. Just an outstanding golfer, outstanding American, and to share that day with him has just been an honor for all of us.

So we are already working now on the tournament for next year. It will be April of next year. We hope we get more former Members out. As I have said, we have done really well with current Members of Congress, but what we need is all our Members out. It doesn’t matter our age or our ability. Even if you can just come out for the day and spend it with the veterans, you know, watching the match and having lunch and dinner and breakfast with the Members and, more importantly, the veterans that is really worthwhile. If you bring your family out there too for a while, that is fine too. It is always at the Army and Navy Club, so it is convenient.

We finish early. We start early. We start and we finish about 4 in the afternoon, so we leave before the rush hour traffic so the Members can get back here for a vote. So we would love to have you come out even for a few hours if you have the time.

Ken Kramer, Pete Weichlein and I back in 2006 wondered whether we could change our existing tournament to something more meaningful, and decided to transform the golf event into a highly competitive tournament to a fun and inspirational fundraiser, where the focus was not on your golfing ability, but rather on coming together, on a bipartisan basis, former and current Members alike, for a great cause. I think I can speak for Ken and Pete when I say that we have succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. As of today the tournament has raised almost $1.3 million to help veterans and their families deal with injuries sustained during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The two beneficiaries of the money raised, Warfighters Sports, a division of Disabled Sports USA, and Tee It Up for the Troops are two outstanding organizations that use adaptive sports as a way for severely wounded warriors to reengage with their families and communities and get a bit of their prewar activity back into their lives.

Both Ken Kramer and I have had the honor to be co-chair of this tournament for the past 10 years, and we are proud that the last three years we have shared this honor with Congresswoman Jimmy Duncan of Tennessee and Congresswoman Gene Green of Texas. Jimmy and Gene are just inspirational in getting current Members to the tournament. This tournament is unlike any other golf tournament. Although there still is a little friendly competition with the Speakers Cup, which the Democrats won this year after several years of losing to the Republicans.

Over 30 wounded veterans played in the tournament. It is quite amazing to see a wounded warrior, for example, someone who has lost a leg, drive the ball like a pro, out-shooting everyone in the foursome, or be inspired with stories of the courage you hear while playing a round of golf with a warrior suffering from traumatic brain injury. The tournament we hosted earlier this year was our most successful yet, with the greatest number of players and the largest dollar amount raised, and we are already working on the next tournament in April 2018.

Before I yield the floor back to Cliff, let me thank him and Martin Frost for their incredible leadership on our annual gala event, the Statesmanship Awards Dinner. Cliff is FMC’s president and Martin is the event’s chairman. They work tirelessly on making the dinner a signature event here in D.C., and, more importantly, a huge successful evening for all of us.

As Cliff said, we do not receive any funding from Congress, as Cliff pointed out again this morning. Not a single taxpayer dollar is earmarked for any of our programs, which, in my opinion, is exactly the way it should be. We are independent, we raise our own money, and our former Members donate their time pro bono for all the different programs that we have. As Cliff went over, we had former Members donate to us an astounding 6,500 hours of pro bono public service, even without the need of a dedicated budget. Running all of our outstanding programs does cost a lot of money and staff time. Therefore, in addition to
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foundation grants, the Statesmanship Awards Dinner is an incredibly important piece of FMC's budgetary puzzle.

Over the years, I have heard so many of our former Members talk about how much they appreciate our staff and how the staff is dedicated to what they accomplish that would take tenfold another staff to do. We think it is the best staff in Washington. That is saying a lot, considering all the other competitive nonprofits that are successful here in Washington.

So the way that we can show our appreciation for the staff and what they have accomplished and what they are doing for us and what they are doing for our country is this dinner. That is the one thing that we can all demonstrate our support at, because it pays their salaries. So if you appreciate what they do and you think they deserve a bonus, the best way to help them and to improve our Association is to help us sell tickets for this dinner.

Unfortunately our last year's chair, Martin Frost, has left us. So Martin and Cliff have already put this dinner together. Last year, we did a dinner that was very successful here in Washington. It was getting to be kind of the same old thing, and Pete Weichlein, our executive director who spearheaded this effort, brought that up, let's move it to the Mellon Auditorium, which has been a tremendous, majestic setting, and let's have some outside awardees that we honor too. Let's not just have a boring program where we have people get up and receive an award and give a thank-you speech and then take pictures. Let's have a panel discussion instead so we can involve the audience and take some questions and we all stay awake and people don't sneak out early, because it is interesting to hear that panel discussion.

That is what Pete Weichlein has created now, and I think it is those two decisions that we now have the signature event here in Washington. We have a dinner that we are proud of where we see more and more people come, more and more active Members come, people from the administration, past Members come. The Speaker has been supportive, the majority leader, minority leaders have been supportive in so many ways. I just think it is a way that we get to talk about what we do to a broader audience, and for them actually to say thank you to us by doing to a broader audience, and for them actually to say thank you to us by doing.

We are recognizing via this dinner the tremendous power of bipartisanship, something that Speaker Ryan talked about that is so important to all of us, and it is really exemplified in that dinner every year by the awards that we give by the program that we have, and by the people that attend.

So this year we are going to be honoring as honorees Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray, along with House Members Diana DeGette and, my good friend, Fred Upton from Michigan. I would like to take this opportunity of our honorees on stage again so that those in attendance can hear about their success reaching across the political aisle and working together for the good of the country. They are able to tell stories about exactly how they accomplish things and what they did and the kind of personal relationships that they have and why that makes a difference, the kind of thing that we know about, that we want to reach the larger audience. I understand that things are done by individuals working together, and not by speeches and by fundraising alone, but by Members of Congress being effective and caring about moving the ball forward.

The former Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, told us this year that Statesmanship Awards Dinner is one of the most impressive in town. You will not regret becoming involved. You will see more of your former colleagues from both the House and the Senate, as well as ambassadors. Connie Mccullin has brought more ambassadors to that dinner and more administrative officials and formal officials than ever before.

I am thinking of Speaker Ryan. A lot of us served with his former boss, Jack Kemp. Jack Kemp was in the Reagan administration and was such a leader. It just flows down from people who have served before carrying that torch forward, and I think Speaker Ryan is a great example of that. So the dinner exemplifies that, and it has become an increasingly all-encompassing event, showcasing our Association.

I hope all of you will join Martin and all the hard work he is doing. He will push us. He is really good at pushing us. He did that when he did it for the Democrats. He is a fundraiser. Now he does it, very importantly, for our Association. We would like that muscle to be used in a bipartisan way now.

Cliff's leadership is outstanding across the board and tireless. So thank you very much. We are looking forward to a great dinner in 2018.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Dennis.

We are now going to recognize Cliff again. As part of this meeting, we have to conduct some formal business, which is to reconstitute our board, to continue our officers. Cliff has some remarks about staff also, but this is the actual business part of the meeting that we are required to conduct.

Mr. STEARNS. Martin, thank you for that overview.

And, Dennis, thank you very much for that very impressive report. We appreciate your leadership. You and Ken have given so much over the years for this golf tournament. I can only echo your remarks about the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, which will be held next year on March 21.

As I mentioned earlier, we have added four new staff members, and I hope that throughout the day you will have an opportunity to meet them. They are: Alia Diamond, who is working on our communications; Kathy Hunter, helping us with development; Patrick Egenhofer, focused on the Congressional Study Group on Germany and some of our domestic programs; and Paul Kincaid, who is our brand-new director of Congressional Outreach, and his first day is today. We welcome all of you.

The rest of our team that you have had a chance to work with over the years are, and let me simply mention their names.

Alex Terai, who is part of our international team and runs our Congressional Study Group on Japan. She is fluent in Japanese, was educated in the United States and abroad, and has been...
the key component to making our Study Group on Japan the largest and most active international exchange we offer to current Members of Congress.

Lorraine Harbison is our International Programs Manager with main focus on our Study Program. In addition, she makes the Diplomatic Advisory Council such a great success and has grown it just a handful of embassies to now over four dozen actively participating Ambassadors.

She is in charge of community outreach and oversees the smooth separation of projects such as the Congress to Campus program. She is also in charge of creating the vision we have for our Congressional Study Group on Civics, and you will be hearing from her as programming for their projects commences next year.

Sabine Schleidt is our managing director who spends most of her time on the current Member international programs, but also a lot of hours on implementing civic vision and fundraising goals of our Association. With our new hire of Paul Kincaid as director of congressional outreach, Sabine’s role will be much more focused on development, strategy, and engaging our members. She led our organization over 6 years ago, and, thanks to her creativity and her simply can-do attitude, we have grown tremendously under her leadership.

And lastly, Pete Weichlein is our chief executive officer, who has been with the Association for over 18 years, first as a program director, then as international program director, and, since 2003, as our CEO. When you think about that, when he became the CEO, the former Members of Congress was in a dire financial situation, and, over the years, he has taken this organization with his leadership to new heights, and I think all of us really appreciate his efforts.

So all of you, if you would, please give an outstanding group of professionals a big round of applause.

Mr. HOYER. Thirty-eight. So I have run one more time at least. Right, Nick?

But in any event, I like to be with each of you every year that you come back here. As I say, I see some of you. And the Historical Society obviously does a wonderful job. I think that when I see you and we say hello to one another, it is in a different context in which we meet as people who have participated in a very important and historic way, have worked together, have respected the institution, have respected the process of the institution, and have differed, obviously, but, nevertheless, were able to come to a place where we agreed to disagree and to at least act on that on which we could agree.

I think that was very important for our country. As I have said before, and I continue to be concerned about what we project to the country. The Congress now has single-digit approval. They don’t believe the board of directors of the United States of America is working, and I think that is of great concern to all of us as citizens, as Americans that we can’t be successful as a nation if we have so little respect from the people who we represent, or confidence that we are doing the work that they want done.

I try to convey to them, and I want to tell you, as you know, the majority leader, Kevin McCarthy of California, and I get along well. We don’t always agree, obviously. ROY BLUNT, who is one of my best friends, as I think some of you know, is now a Senator from Missouri but was the minority whip, and was the acting minority leader and minority whip for a period of time. He likes to say, “Connie, Steny and I always agree when there are at least 420 other people voting the same way,” which is to say unanimous consent essentially we agree.

ROY and I didn’t agree, but when we agreed, we made some of the most bipartisan. KEVIN McCArTHY and I do the same—not as often because we are more polarized than when most of you served in this Congress. When you served in this Congress, you remember, there were real confrontations. Some of us served in the 1980s and 1990s, and they were pretty tough years, but even in those times when you served, there was an ability. I think, to work more closely together than now exists.

John Boehner is not in the Congress because he wanted to work together, and we did on some very significant things. And John finally said: Look, if I can’t get 218 on my side, I am not sure I want to be Speaker. He wasn’t pushed out. People who say John Boeh- ner was pushed out are wrong. John Boehner decided to leave. He wasn’t pushed out. He would have had the majority of support on his side of the aisle all the time. There was no doubt about that.

Mr. RAHALL. Thirty-eight. So I have to run one more time at least. Right, Nick?
Mr. HOYER, the Democratic whip, for serving, I know that when you were looking at so many of you with whom we won't succeed as a country. I know you about Republicans and Democrats, we won't succeed as a country. Forget promise. Democracy is about working with the other side you do not believe that if you make an agreement with the other side you have sold out. I don't care which side you are on. Democracy is about compromise. Democracy is about working together. Democracy is about the creation of consensus. If we can't do that, we won't succeed as a country. Forget about Republicans and Democrats, we won't succeed as a country. I know you continue to do that, and, very frankly, looking at so many of you with whom I have had the honor and pleasure of serving, I know that when you were here, you worked at doing that. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Frost.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Stearns.

Mr. STEARNS. I just want to thank Mr. Hoyser, the Democratic whip, for his kindness in coming by to give his remarks, and we appreciate his leadership and serving.

My colleagues, it is now my sad duty to inform the Congress of those former Members and current Members who have passed away since our last report. As all of you know, at the conclusion of our annual meeting later today, we will hold a memorial service in Statutory Hall, where we will be joined by many of the families, as well as current Members of Congress, to pay tribute to the public servants we have lost.

In addition, it is altogether proper to recognize those Representatives and Senators this morning here in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to now rise as I read the names. At the end of the list, we will pay our respects to their memory with a moment of silence. We honor these men and women for their service to our country. There are 32 names. They are:

William Armstrong of Colorado
Bill Barrett of Nebraska
Anthony Beilenson of California
Helen Bentley of Maryland
John Brademas of Indiana
William Carney of New York
Eliogio "Kika" de la Garza of Texas
Pete Domenici of New Mexico
Jay Dickey of Arkansas
Vernon J. Ehlers of Michigan
Emi F.H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa
Robert Garcia of New York
Benjamin A. Gilman of New York
John Glenn of Ohio
Ken Hechler of West Virginia
Lawrence J. Hogan, Sr., of Maryland
Clyde Holloway of Louisiana
Bill Hudnut of Indiana
Raymond P. Kogovsek of Colorado
Melvin Laird of Wisconsin
Steven LaTourette of Ohio
Mike Lowry of Washington
Dawson Mathis of Georgia
Robert Miklos
Abner Mikva of Illinois
Robert Morgan of North Carolina
Ralph Regula of Ohio
Clint Roberts of South Dakota
Mark Takai of Hawaii
Burt Talcott of California
Ray Thornton of Arkansas
George Voinovich of Ohio

We will now have a moment of silence. Thank you.

My colleagues, this concludes the 47th Report to Congress by the Association of Former Members of Congress. Let me leave you with one final thought as we exit this historic Chamber. David Hume, as you know, was a great political philosopher, and this is what he said: "Of all men that distinguish themselves by memorable achievements, the first place of honor seems due to legislators and founders of states who transmit a system of laws and institutions to secure the peace, happiness, and liberty of future generations."

We thank the Congress, the Speaker, and the minority leader for giving us the opportunity to return to this revered and beloved Chamber and to report on our Association's activities. We look forward to another active and productive year, and I want to thank all of you for your attendance. Please join us for coffee and danishes in Room H–122 as we leave the Capitol.

God bless America.

Mr. FROST. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House and Senate for their presence here today.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond to the roll when it was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

I have noticed some of your presence and have handed a revised list to the Reading Clerk, but I may have missed a few of you. So, if you did not answer the roll, please stop by before you leave.

Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordance: at 9 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m., under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2666. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0503; Product Identifier 2017-NM-02A-AD; Amendment 25-19009; AD 2017-17-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2667. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adding the Polar Ship Certificate to the List of SOLAS Certificates and Certificates Issued by Recognized Classification Societies (Docket No.: USCG-2016-0880) (RIN: 1625-AC55) received September 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2668. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0672; Product Identifier 2016-NM-148-AD; Amendment 25-19002; AD 2017-17-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2669. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0672; Product Identifier 2016-NM-148-AD; Amendment 25-19002; AD 2017-17-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.