was to keep people safe and bring people together. I see that as my job here in Congress. This is my 14th and last year. I am not running for re-election.

Some people in this body call themselves leaders. A title does not make you a leader. Mr. Speaker. It is the actions that make you a leader. I believe that true leaders lead from the heart. I believe that leaders have the heart of a servant. I believe that when I got elected to this office, my job was to serve the people of the Eighth District of Washington and to put their needs before my needs.

Mr. KELLY here and I are friends. He comes to work every day putting my needs before his. I do the same. We formed a friendship, a bond, and we want to be honest with each other. Honesty is okay. But honesty is a moment in time. We need integrity and consistent honesty.

Servanthood and integrity is what this country should be built upon, that is what I am calling for. I am not calling for each one of us to say, you are not welcome here anytime, anywhere. That is not leadership. That is division.

Leadership, heart of the servant, integrity. That creates a team that we all want to be a part of. That gives this country the opportunity to be the leader of the world. You can each do that across this country, Mr. Speaker—we can all do that—by being leaders in our community. Beginning in the White House. Beginning from that Oval Office, speak with civility. Beginning here in Congress, speak with civility. If you are a member of a State legislature, speak with civility. Serve with the heart of a servant.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple: respect and love your neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is a violation of the rules of the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2018 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 Association, 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 and 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, 17 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 U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Honorable Cliff Stearns of Florida, to address the Members.

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Father Conroy, for that wonderful blessed prayer.

It is a distinct pleasure to be here with you this morning, to be back in this revered Chamber and to see so many of my good friends and colleagues. So on behalf of the former Members of Congress, I appreciate the Speaker’s invitation to return to this wonderful place and to present to the Congress the Former Members of Congress’ 48th annual report.

I will be joined by some of my colleagues in reporting on FMC’s activities and vision for our future. I am also submitting for the Record a more detailed review of our activities for the year 2017.

I. LEADERSHIP

President—Cliff Stearns (R–FL)

Vice President—Martin Frost (D–TX)

Secretary—Timm Petri (R–WI)

Treasurer—Karen Thurman (D–FL)

Immediate Past President—Barbara Kennelly (D–CT)

II. BOARD MEMBERS

The Hon. Mary Bono (R–CA)

The Hon. Jack Buechner (D–MO)

The Hon. Ann Marie Buerkle (R–NY)

The Hon. Bob Carr (D–MI)

The Hon. Bob Clement (D–TN)

The Hon. Jim Courtier (R–NJ)

The Hon. Jim Coyne (R–PA)

The Hon. Byron Doughan (D–ND)

The Hon. Vic Fazio (D–CA)

The Hon. Mike Ferguson (R–NJ)

The Hon. Phil Gingrey (R–GA)

The Hon. Dan Glickman (D–KS)

The Hon. Bart Gordon (D–TN)

The Hon. Lee Hamilton (D–IN)

The Hon. Dennis Herrin (D–MI)

The Hon. Steven Horsford (D–NV)

The Hon. Jim Jones (D–OK)

The Hon. Jim Kolbe (R–AZ)

The Hon. Ken Kramer (R–CO)

The Hon. Martin Lancaster (D–NC)

The Hon. Larry LaRocco (D–ID)

The Hon. Dan Maffei (D–NY)

The Hon. Jim Matheson (D–UT)

The Hon. Matthew McHugh (D–NY)

The Hon. Jeff Miller (R–FL)

The Hon. Jim Moran (D–VA)

The Hon. Connie Morella (R–MD)

The Hon. Randy Neugebauer (R–TX)

The Hon. L. F. Payne (D–VA)

The Hon. Nick Rahall (D–WV)

The Hon. Ron Sarasin (R–CT)

The Hon. Dick Schulze (R–PA)

The Hon. David Skaggs (D–CO)

The Hon. Jim Dini (D–KS)

The Hon. Olympia Snowe (R–ME)

The Hon. Jim Walsh (R–NY)

The Hon. Ed Whitfield (R–KY)

The Hon. Albert Wynn (D–MD)

III. STAFF

Peter M. Weichlein—Chief Executive Officer

Sabine Schleidt—Chief Operating Officer

Sharon West Witt—Director of Community Outreach

Paul Kincaid—Director of Congressional Outreach

Patrick Egganhofer—Program Manager

Lorraine Harbison—Program Manager

Alexis Teral—Senior Program Officer

Dongwon Kim—Program Officer

Kathy Hunter—Development and Membership Officer

Alia Diamond—Communications Officer

Alexa Etheredge—Fellow

IV. PARTNERS

The Diplomatic Advisory Council (DAC) is an informal body of current Ambassadors posted in the nation’s capital and serves as a direct outreach to our strategic allies abroad. All of our programming benefits from the input, guidance, and participation we receive from the members of DAC.

DAC Members

H.E. Wolfgang Waldner, Ambassador of Austria

H.E. Elfin Suleymanov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan

H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium

H.E. Taimur Stoychayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria

H.E. Lars Gert Lose, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

H.E. Francisco Borja Cevallos, Ambassador of Ecuador

H.E. David O’Sullivan, European Union Ambassador

H.E. Kirsti Kauppi, Ambassador of Finland

H.E. Emily Haber, Ambassador Designate of the Federal Republic of Germany

H.E. Geir H. Haarde, Ambassador of Iceland

H.E. Navej Sarna, Ambassador of India

H.E. Budi Bowoleksono, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Shinbuske J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan

H.E. Cho Yoon-je, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Kurt Jaeger, Ambassador of Liechtenstein

The Hon. Dan Glickman (D–KS)

The Hon. Phil Gingrey (R–GA)

The Hon. Mike Ferguson (R–NJ)

The Hon. Vic Fazio (D–CA)

The Hon. Byron Doughan (D–ND)

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Bayer
Central Japan Railway Co.
CJ America
Daimler
Deutsche Telekom Inc.
DHL
Evonik Corporation
Fresenius Medical Care North America
Fresenius SE
Gale International
Hitachi, Ltd.
Hyundai Motor Company
Kokusai INTERNATIONAL Inc.
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JHIC)
KAJ America Inc.
KITA
Lockheed Martin
Lufthansa German Airlines
Marubeni
Michelin NA
Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc.
Mitsui & Co.
Miuroo Bank, Ltd.
Nissan North America
Nomura
Panasonic Corporation of North America
POSCO America
RatnerPrestia
Representative of German Industry and Trade
Samsung Electronics North America
Sojitz
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
United Parcel Service
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Sustaining Members
The Hon. Brian Baird (D-WA)
The Hon. Dan Benishek (R-MI)
The Hon. Rich Boucher (D-VA)
The Hon. Dave Camp (R-MI)
The Hon. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
The Hon. Charlie Dent (R-PA)
The Hon. Sam Farr (D-CA)
The Hon. Martin Frost (D-TX)
The Hon. Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
The Hon. Bart Gordon (D-TN)
The Hon. John Kline (R-MN)
The Hon. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
The Hon. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
The Hon. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
The Hon. Tim Murphy (R-PA)
The Hon. Jeff Miller (R-FL)
The Hon. Jim Moran (D-VA)
The Hon. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)
The Hon. Tim Petri (R-WI)
The Hon. Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Hon. John Tanner (D-TN)

Jan. 11—CSGG: Lunch discussion with Daimler leaders
Jan. 12—CSGG: Dinner with the Chairman and President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Jan. 19—Former Members speak with students at Osgood Center
Jan. 31—CSGG: Democratic Co-Chairs discussion: 115th Congress: Priorities for the Minority

February 2017
Feb. 6—CSGG: Ambassador Sasae welcomes the new Members of the 115th Congress
Feb. 6—CSGG: Bilateral Discussion for AmCham delegation
Feb. 16—Committee of 100 Panel: After the Pivot, What’s Next for U.S.-Asia Relations?
Feb. 16—CSGG: Member Study Tour to Tokyo and Nagoya
Feb. 22—24—Congress to Campus: Millersville University
Feb. 27—28—Congress to Campus: Middle Tennessee State University
Feb. 27—CSGG: Dinner hosted by the Ambassador of South Korea

March 2017
Mar. 5—7—Congress to Campus: United States Naval Academy
Mar. 5—11—Congress to Campus: United Kingdom
Mar. 8—Congress to Campus: Penn State University, Erie
Mar. 15—Former Members speak to the ADA National Civics and Law Academy students
Mar. 16—Congress to Campus: University of Maryland
Mar. 17—Former Members speak to students at the Washington Center
Mar. 17–23—CSGG: District Director Study Tour to Stuttgart, Germany
Mar. 21—Former Members speak with professors visiting from Japan
Mar. 27–29—Congress to Campus: Cum- bend University
Mar. 30—Former Members speak with Korean business leaders
Mar. 30—Congress to Campus Webinar
Apr. 20—Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner
April 2017
Apr. 2—4—Congress to Campus: St. Bonaventure University
Apr. 3—CSGG: Trade and Manufacturing in the Digital Age
Apr. 13—Regional Meeting in Chicago, IL
Apr. 24—CSGG: Tax and trade in the 115th Congress
Apr. 25—Former Members speak with Emerging Young leaders program fellows
Apr. 26—Former Members speak at UMD Civil Rights Symposium
May 2017
May 1—Former Members roundtable with Legacy International Fellows
May 2—CSGG: President Trump’s Trade Agenda discussion with AmCham
May 3—CSGG: Science and Technology conversation with Japanese Diet Members
May 8–12—CSGG: Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Berlin and Dusseldorf, Germany
May 16–19—District Director Study Tour to Houston, TX
May 16—Former Members meet with Bob Walker Fellows
May 23—CSGG: German Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Conversation
May 27–June 3—43rd Annual Congress-Bun- destag Seminar in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany
May 27–June 3—CSGG: Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan
June 2017
June 1—National Archives Panel: Congressional Reform
June 7—CSGG: Lufthansa chair and CEO Roundtable
June 9–11—CSGG: Retreat for Chief of Staffs of the new Members of the 114th and 115th Congress
June 25—Former Members speak to middle school students visiting Washington D.C.
July 2017
July 10—Former Members speak with middle school students visiting Washington D.C.
July 11—14—District Director Study Tour to Boston, MA
July 14—CSGG: Conversation with Budget Committee from Japanese Diet
July 14—FMC Regional Meeting in Boston, MA
July 17—The Members: FMC’s 10th Annual Congressional Charity Golf Tournament
July 17—Former Members speak with middle school students visiting Washington D.C.
July 18—ROK Roundtable: “Future of U.S.—Korea Relations”
July 19—Former Members discussion “The State of U.S. Politics” One Year into the Trump Administration

Congressional Charity Golf Tournament
Committee from Japanese Diet
Feb. 1—National Archives panel: Meet the Better Half; Congressional Families
Feb. 5—Farewell Reception for Japanese Ambassador
Feb. 6—Roundtable Discussion for the Congressional Study Group on Korea
Feb. 11–13—Congress to Campus Denison University
Feb. 11–13—Congress to Campus Millersville University
Feb. 13—Dinner with Retiring Members of Congress
Feb. 25–17—Congress to Campus: Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Feb. 26–28—Congress to Campus: Suffolk University
Feb. 27—Coffee with Senator Cardin
Feb. 27—Discussion: The rebalance of global energy after the Shale Revolution
March 2018
March 4–10—Congress to Campus UK
March 4–6—Congress to Campus Naval Academy
March 13—Former Members speaking to high school students visiting DC
March 13—Embassy Discussion: The American Korean Relationship in a Dynamic Security Environment
March 19–21—Congress to Campus visit to Ohio State University
March 21—Scholarship Awards Dinner
March 22—A conversation with former Members "Perspectives on US domestic politics, US-Korea Trade and Security
April 2018
April 2–4—Congress to Campus: Georgia College and State University
April 5—Breakfast discussion with Michelin North America
April 6–9—District Director Study Tour to Ireland/North Ireland
April 13–19, 2018—District Director Study Tour to Germany Leipzig and Dresden, Germany
April 15–17, 2018—FMC—Congress to Campus—Bonaventure University
April 17, 2018—CSGG: Breakfast with KITA chairman
April 22–24, 2018—Congress to Campus: Napa Valley Community College
April 24th—"The 18 Midterms: U.S. Politics in an Election Year"
April 24th 10:30–11:30—Congress to Campus High Schools
April 27th—Infrastructure in the 115th discussion
April 28–May 5, 2018—CSGG Member Study Tour
May 2018
May 3, 2018—Fms Roundtable with visiting Russian delegation
May 4, 2018: FMC—Legacy International Congressional Roundtable and tour
May 10, 2018, 6:30 PM—SAC: Reception “An Evening with Ambassador Jha”
May 15th 9:00–10:30AM—Meet with Bob Walker Fellow,
May 17th—CSGG BAC: Prospects for the Midterm Election
May 18th—Panel discussion: unseen benefits of Congressional Travel
May 20–21—District Director Symposium
May 22—Panel discussion: Leaving the Iran Deal: Implications for the World
May 23–C-100: Breakfast on Trade and Economic Relations
May 26–June 2, 2018—Annual Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Japan
June 2018
June 4—Dutch Senior Civil Service briefing with Former Members
June 7—District Director Fly-in (Republican)
June 8–10—CSGG Chief of Staff Retreat on Asia
June 11–12—FMC/CSGG—"Bringing Washington to New York" in cooperation with Mizuho
June 12, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor
June 13, 2018—FMCC-100: China Breakfast
June 14—Congressional Baseball Game
June 14, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Democrats
June 16–June 24, 2018—District Director Trip to Japan (with JUSFC) Tokyo, Sendai, and Fukushima, Japan
June 19, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor
June 20, 2018—NARA: Citizen Engagement in America’s History
June 21, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Republicans 8:00-9:15 am
June 25, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor
June 25–26, 2018—Annual Meeting and FMC Board Meeting
June 14, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Democrats
June 21, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Republicans
June 16–June 24, 2018—District Director Trip to Japan (with JUSFC)
June 25—CSGG: Post US-DPRK Summit: Lessons learned and next steps discussion with Dr. Victor D. Cha and Amb. Mark Lippert
June 26, 2018—FMC/Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor
Mr. FROST. Now, I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll and the following former Members answered "present":
Mr. Boustany of Louisiana
Mr. Buechner of Missouri
Mr. Carnahan of Missouri
Mr. Clement of Tennessee
Mr. Davis of Tennessee
Mr. Dioguardi of New York
Mr. Frost of Texas
Mr. Gingrey of Georgia
Mr. Hochbrueckner of New York
Ms. Kennedy of Connecticut
Mr. Konnyu of California
Mr. Kramer of Colorado
Mr. Moran of Wisconsin
Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania
Mr. Nethercutt of Washington
Mr. Neugebauer of Texas
Mr. Payne of Virginia
Mr. Rahall of West Virginia
Mr. Stearns of Florida
Mr. Walsh of New York
Mr. Weller of Illinois

Mr. FROST. The Chair announces that 21 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.
Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to all of you for joining us this wonderful morning.

As I prepared for today’s report, it has brought back many happy memories, as I am sure it does for you, too. I served in Congress 24 years.

One image I keep honing in on is the image you currently have as you are listening. May I quote by Daniel Webster inscribed directly behind the Speaker’s chair: ‘‘Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its greatest interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.’’

For all of us, service in this remarkable building was the pinnacle of our
professional lives, and I know that for each and every one of us, there is a memory of something "worthy to be remembered." Whether it was a groundbreaking piece of legislation or simply a constituent and how we changed their life by helping them, by serving the community, we have the opportunity to serve our country and its citizens.

I am very proud that, through the former Members of Congress, we can continue, in a small but yet larger measure, making a public service that brought us to Congress in the first place. It is, therefore, a great honor in my capacity as president to report on the former Members of Congress' activities for 2017 and 2018.

We are a very small group of non-profits that have a congressional charter, and as such, we are required to report to Congress every year on our past activities. I will give a broad review of our past work and will submit for the Record a work hand-written report.

Our association was founded in 1970 and chartered by Congress 13 years later, in 1983. We are completely bipartisan and see our mission as informing about Congress and bridging the political divide. That work has translated into programs that bring former Members together with student audiences across this country, focussing on civics and public service. We also further our mission by creating programs and study missions involving current Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis.

This work over the years has been extended to now also include congressional staff, both from the D.C. offices as well as the district directors across the Nation. We are successful because Republicans and Democrats, whether former Members or current Members, come together in a bipartisan way with a willingness to work together for the common good.

We are proud to have been chartered by Congress, and we are equally proud that absolutely no taxpayer dollar is earmarked or expended to make our programs possible. Everything FMC does is financed through grants and sponsorship, our membership dues, and, of course, our annual fundraising gala, the Statesmanship Awards Dinner.

Our colleague Martin Frost, sitting behind me in the Speaker's chair, led our fundraising efforts for the last 4-year period at the Mellon Auditorium, and I am extremely pleased to report that, thanks to Martin's leadership and the incredible efforts of a great many former Members, we had our most successful fundraising dinner by far last March. We surpassed our previous year's record by $200,000.

So, thank you, Martin, for being the captain of our fundraising effort.

My colleagues, thanks to his success as well as our 4-year fundraising efforts, our report to Congress and the FMC membership that our finances are very sound, our projects are fully funded, and our most recent annual audit by our outside accountant confirmed we are running FMC in a fiscally sound, responsible, and transparent manner.

And let me stress again that no taxpayer dollars are earmarked for our work, and everything that we do is self-funded.

Let me stress, also, that none of our programs involve any kind of honorarium or fee paid to former Members for their participation. We are successful because former Representatives and Senators come together, across party lines, for the good of our organization, and they do so in a pro bono basis. They believe in our mission, and they continue to have the public servant's heart.

Former Members of Congress, in 2017, donated to FMC over 7,000 hours of energy, wisdom, mentoring, and expertise without receiving any compensation for it. Their only remuneration is the knowledge that they are giving back, that being in Congress was a unique privilege, and that it comes with the mandate to encourage and empower the next generation.

So on behalf of FMC, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have contributed their time and expertise to make FMC such a great success. Thank you very much.

We are extremely proud of our nearly 50-year history creating lasting and impactful programs that teach about Congress and representative government at home and abroad.

Let me now give you a brief overview of 2017 and also a vision of 2018 and beyond.

In 2017 and 2018, FMC staff has conceived, organized, advertised, and implemented an astonishing 85 events to move our mission forward. These ranged from meeting with middle school students right here in the House Chamber to talk to them about the role of Members of Congress, to week-long study missions where current Member delegations, split evenly between the parties, traveled to countries including Germany, Japan, and Korea, to study issues on trade and security.

Our programming has included hundreds of current Members, former Members, senior congressional staff, and district directors. They work with us because they know we are completely bipartisan, non-partisan, provide non-partisan advocacy, and we seek to tell the positive story of our extraordinary representative democracy. Allow me to share with you some highlights of our work.

You will hear more details about our congressional study groups in a second, but for 2017, we are proudest of the creation of our newest study group: the Congressional Study Group on Korea. It shows how timely and right-from-the-headlines our work is.

The Korea program was conceived in 2017 and supported by a number of Capitol Hill events to gauge its relevancy. Then, in February of this year, we felt the time was right to officially launch this newest study group. We have already sent to Korea a codel under the study group's umbrella.

The Korea program now joins our other longstanding international study groups: the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Japan, and the Congressional Study Group on Europe.

In addition to numerous Capitol Hill events, over the past 12 months, we have sent seven congressional delegations overseas, some for current Members, others for chiefs of staff, and a number for just the district directors—and, of course, all bipartisan.

The purpose of these trips is to educate our participants on specific issues affecting U.S. international relations, mostly trade and security questions. An important side effect is the possibility of building across-the-aisle relationships that transcend party labels and partisanism. All of these trips, of course, go through the rigorous process of the ethics review, and we ensure 100 percent compliance with all regulations governing travel by former Members of Congress.

These international projects are just one component of our work to create bipartisan relationships and to strengthen our representative democracy. Domestically, the main focus of our work is connecting citizens with their government, highlighting the responsibilities of citizenship, and dispelling many of the myths that are out there when it comes to the United States Congress.

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud of our Congress-to-Campus Program. Now, for over 30 years, we have sent a bipartisan team of former Members to meet with university students across the country. These are not simple meet-and-greet events where the Members drop in for a quick speech with some questions and answers. Instead, these visits are a 3-day commitment by our former Members team so the university can make the best possible use of FMC as a resource. We now average about 30 visits during the academic year, which is incredible, given that as recently as 15 years ago, we averaged only one.

As I have said during previous meetings, the Congress-to-Campus Program was near extinct until our colleague David Skaggs gave it some much-needed leadership.

We work hand in hand with each university so that each visit is tailored specifically to the school's needs and curriculum. Our colleagues walk into different classroom settings throughout the day, sometimes engaging in discussion about foreign policy, at other times focusing on questions such as money in politics.

The outcome of each Congress to Campus visit is twofold: one, to showcase a partisan, yet respectful debate on Congress and our institutions, and two, to encourage the next generation a respect for public service that may translate into future work on Capitol Hill.
We have reached thousands upon thousands of students through our own polling, and our own polling can demonstrate that we are making a positive difference when it comes to attitudes about Congress and our elected officials. We will hear more about how we and our other civic education activities and initiatives when I yield to our colleague George Nethercutt in just a short while.

Our work to reconnect citizens with their government takes many different forms. For example, we have our longstanding partnership with the National Archives, bringing former Members of Congress and other issue experts together with the public for a conversation about issues that affect all of us.

For example, just last week, we hosted a conversation about citizen engagement, where a panel included Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON speaking about her engagement in the civil rights movement, as well as Sarah Lerner, a teacher at yelling: Malcolm X, and current Superintendent of Parkland, Florida. Former Members Jane Harman and Tim Petri were joined by Congressmen Ted Deutch to give their insights how grassroots movements operate.

What I have described so far is just a small part of the work we have done on our membership’s behalf. And while programs such as Congress to Campus or the bipartisan Study Group on Germany are longstanding undertakings that we have offered to the public for decades, they, along with our other existing projects, all were infused with a new energy, a new vision and enthusiasm, thanks to the extensive strategic planning process I briefed you on last year.

Let me thank Mark Sobol, a highly respected expert in the field of strategic planning and organization management whom we were lucky enough to have here for a short while.

This initiative will serve as the umbrella under which existing programs, all were infused with a new energy, a new vision and enthusiasm, thanks to the extensive strategic planning process I briefed you on last year.

As I mentioned earlier, over 7,000 hours of combined former Members’ time do-
vant is you, my fellow Members, Members of Congress, former Members, who do-
ad to us your time, your expertise, your wisdom, and your leadership, and as I mentioned earlier, over 7,000 hours of combined former Members’ time do-
ned pro bono by our membership. I thank all of you for that.

I have to warn you, our demand on your time and good will is only in-
creasing. As we address the many challenges our Nation faces, and FMC can play a pivotal role in bringing folks together for these challenges. This Nation’s strength has always been found in its ability to unite and move the country forward for the greater good.

But legislative success is not just about building bridges between those being represented and those doing the representing, and build bridges between one generation of public servants and the next. To do so will require more and more of your commitment to our work, and I am sure

FMC, like no other organization, can build a bridge between Democrats and Republicans, build bridges between those being represented and those doing the representing, and build bridges between one generation of public servants and the next. To do so will require more and more of your commitment to our work, and I am sure
former Members of Congress will rise to the challenge.

In addition, in anticipation of your support, I thank you from the bottom of my heart as I pass the mantle to our new president, Martin Frost.

Before going to the business of electing our new officers and board Members, I do want to recognize two of my colleagues to give you just a little bit more detail about our domestic and international programs.

I first invite my colleague Nethercutt of Washington to focus on FMC’s civic education work. He will be followed by Charles Boustany of Louisiana to speak about our international programs.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, former colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you, Cliff, for the opportunity to make some remarks on a topic that is incredibly important and is near and dear to my heart: our Nation’s woeful attitude toward civic education.

FMC, its board, and its staff are as concerned as I am when it comes to the civic knowledge—or, more specifically, the lack of civic knowledge—that is exhibited by many of our fellow citizens, particularly young people. We as an organization have made restoring civic education one of the cornerstones of our mission and strategic plan. I am, therefore, honored to be back in this Chamber representing FMC in describing our new initiative to restore and renew the essential civic mission of our Nation’s schools.

Civic education, simply defined, is the act of providing the essential civic knowledge of how our system of government operates at all levels and the critical role all citizens play in our representative democracy.

Civic education provides our youth with the civic skills they need to effectively engage in civic affairs and civic education to help youth develop a disposition to participate in the civic life of our communities, their State, and our Nation. This is the historic civic mission of our Nation’s schools, a mission nearly as old as our Republic.

How well are we as a nation meeting this critical mission? By any objective measure, not well. If I were to grade us as a nation in meeting this important task, I would have to give us a C-minus or a D.

One of the only reliable national measures of student attainment of civic knowledge, the National Assessments of Educational Progress in civics, NAEP, scores have been flat for 20 years, with barely a quarter of students able to show a proficient knowledge of our civic experience to learn about Congress and its role vis-à-vis the judiciary and the executive branches. And most importantly, we are actively recruiting former Members of Congress to take a leadership role in their communities and States, to work with local NGOs that need their help, and to be a resource to State legislatures as they seek to strengthen their civic education requirements. It is incredibly important. That is why we had the National Governors Association here yesterday to talk about this effort.

Former Members of Congress can play a significant role in renewing the essential civic mission of our schools. Former Congressman Lou Frey and former Senator Bob Graham teamed up in 2010 to pass legislation in Florida that is revolutionizing middle school civics classes as a model for States thanks to Doug Dobson. These are strong campaigns for more and better civics in a number of States. Former Members can and are engaging in these efforts, lending their expertise, contacts that they have, and time.

In States where there is currently no active effort to improve civic education, former Members can start one—

that students take a civics course to graduate from high school.

In the elementary grades, instruction in the entirety of the social studies has been reduced to a paltry 18 minutes, a week on average. That is not enough. The time for civics in almost every school. Where most States used to require two to three distinct civics courses, today, most only mandate one, and nine States don’t have any requirements
that is up to you all—working with civic education and civic engagement organizations. Former Members can and should visit schools to offer real-life civics lessons to students. These students rely on former Members. They have a great reputation, and the former Members can provide assistance to these students.

Former Members can help teachers better understand the legislative process, too, so they can teach about the legislative branch with more confidence. Former Members can even hold “bully pulpit” to issue public calls for more and better civic learning through op-eds and interviews. I have done it. It is easy to do. Papers will accept your submissions.

Following this presentation, we will be having a reception where leaders from the Lou Frey Institute and the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, Doug Dobson and Ted McConnell, will be on hand to provide more information on how former Members can get engaged in their States.

I hope that all of you will join us for this reception, learn more about the productive role that former Members can play, and sign up for the cause.

We created Benjamin Franklin’s charge to each generation at the close of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He said to a woman who asked him: Mr. Franklin, what have you created?

He said: A democracy, Madam, if you can keep it.

And it is up to all of us to keep this Republic. Providing effective civic education to each generation is an essential part of keeping Dr. Franklin’s charge. We have to provide that. And so it is up to each of us to keep and renew and pass along this greatest experience in self-governance in the history of mankind. Please join us within this crusade.

Cliff asked me to yield some of my time to Charles Boustany from Louisiana to share with the membership an update on our international work, which I will gladly do.

I thank you very much for your time and your attention, and I now yield the floor to Charles Boustany.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Ladies and gentlemen, more than 40 years ago, our colleagues, led by Lee Hamilton, realized that our organization offered a very unique resource to those who still serve our country in this Capitol, on this floor, and in the United States Senate. We could bring the institutional memory and the understanding of a Member of Congress regarding this country’s foreign policy decisions that would not be limited or beholden to the idea of focussing on the next election. That is the focus of our congressional study groups.

Many of us have often heard the expression, and I think it is attributed to Arthur Schlesinger, that “politics stops at the water’s edge.” Unfortunately, for too many who serve in Congress, interest and curiosity about our national policies and priorities also ends as the waters lap our shores.

We have long felt protected by the oceans that define our hemisphere. For some Members, that has created the luxury of a focus solely on domestic policies, information, real information, for our neighbors, our allies, and the billions who live outside our Nation comes from gut instinct or old beliefs.

FMC decided, those many decades ago now, that this is not acceptable. We created the Congressional Study Group on Germany, which was followed by a group focused on Japan, then one on Europe, and finally, this past year, the Congressional Study Group on Korea, which was received with great fanfare.

We sought to leverage the experience and networks created by former Members to provide a nonpartisan, non-advocacy resource for active Members and staff in Congress. Small, informal programs on Capitol Hill and travel opportunities had a unifying force of these three countries, and our relationships with them as Americans, into relief. We also introduce Members and staff to their peers overseas.

FMC understands that, more than anything, meeting face-to-face with our partners overseas to face global problems and having a person-to-person, legislator-to-legislator discussion can result in a solution to more of the challenges we face than any other factor. The bottom line is it always comes down to personal relationships.

I would like to share a little bit about what each of our congressional study groups have done this year and what we will do in coming months both to advance this mutual understanding and to advance the strategic goals of FMC.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is, of course, our oldest study group. This year, elections were held in Germany. As even the boldest and more critical to a rapidly changing Europe, and we heard a little bit about this yesterday.

It was into this dynamic atmosphere that FMC sent several delegations in the past year. This year, travel focussed on much of the northern and eastern portions of Germany. In October of 2017, bipartisan chiefs of staff from offices of the House traveled to Berlin and Frankfurt. Meeting with government officials, scientists, and students, they learned about the challenges facing modern Germany and the mutual challenges faced by the United States and Germany.

In April of this year, the Congressional Study Group on Germany continued outreach to a previously under-utilized part of the congressional family: district directors. A bipartisan group of district directors traveled with FMC to Berlin and Leipzig, learning about lessons about workforce development, the revolution sweeping through Germany that could have immediate impacts here in the United States.

The past year, of course, was full of turmoil in the Pacific as well, resulting in substantial Capitol Hill programming conducted by the Congressional Study Group on Japan. As concerned about China and the future of American trade in the region continued to direct American foreign policy and to drive the bilateral discussions on the TPP-11, tariffs, and other potential trade issues affecting the region.

Ambassadors from both Canada and Mexico spoke at a dinner for Members of Congress about trade and the importance of multilateral trade agreements. It was the first time that those two leaders had appeared together, speaking to Members, at a single event.

Within the last month, more than a dozen chiefs of staff, district directors, and State directors from the House and Senate, on a bipartisan basis, traveled to Japan to meet with government officials, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s personal speechwriter, a unique opportunity to visit the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, learning more about the cleanup that is occurring, and the gratitude felt by the Japanese in the region toward America’s response to this disaster.

FMC continued the cornerstone foreign travel program of the Study Group on Japan, sending our two co-chairs, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE and Congressman BILLY LONG, to Japan with a bipartisan delegation that met with Prime Minister Abe during the Korean Summer Olympics. Members discussed the Korean Peninsula and the continued focus on trans-Pacific trade before visiting American servicemen and -women at the Yokosuka Naval Base.

Our engagement with Europe during that study group has also focused on some of the tremendous changes occurring on the continent and in the United Kingdom. Brexit is closed in reality and the swing toward rightwing politics continues its spread throughout both Eastern and Western Europe, the Study Group on Europe focused on ensuring the congressional family has a full understanding of the challenges facing our allies, Russia, and all the countries in the region.

Six Members of Congress visited Switzerland toward the end of last year, meeting with the President of the Swiss Confederation and with several Embassies and Embassies, including Nestle, whose work with apprenticeships has become one of the gold standards in the industry.

Our outreach to Europe has also continued through the study groups’ Diplomatic Advisory Council, a group of more than three dozen Embassies and Ambassadors who have agreed to serve as a sounding board for FMC events, attend programming, and to open their doors to our group about trade and the congressional family. That council has been expanded in the past year, and we will continue to work to make certain we
June 26, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H5663

are engaging with as many nations as possible.

Finally, the Congressional Study Group on Korea was launched this year, beginning with a very large reception on Capitol Hill attended by more than 150 Members of Congress. That rollout was followed by the recruitment of more than two dozen Members of Congress and seven new members of the Business Advisory Council, whose members are anxious to support programming focused on the Korean Peninsula and its role in Asia.

Earlier this year, a five-member team traveled to meet President Moon and to tour Korea production facilities. The members were the first American Government officials to travel to the region following the historic summit at Panmunjom between the leaders of North Korea and South Korea.

In the coming weeks and months, we will focus on creating programming that targets not only the “news of the day” but on creating an understanding of longer term issues that define the relationship between the United States and our foreign allies.

Mr. FROST. I would ask that the gentleman suspend for just a moment. I know he is near the end of his report. We have been joined by the Speaker of the House, Mr. RYAN. I don’t want to cut him off.

Mr. FROST. He will come back.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I don’t want to cut him off.

Mr. FROST. He will come back.

We have been joined by the Speaker of the House, Mr. RYAN. I don’t know how busy your schedule is, Mr. Speaker. I know you have a lot of demands on your time.

I will let Charles finish, and then we will call you up.

Charles, go ahead.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, welcome. Great to see you.

As we work to highlight and emphasize the FMC brand, a far-reaching effort that will better utilize the relationships we have developed on Capitol Hill, at Embassies, in the business communities, and in foreign nations alongside the efforts of our former Members.

As with the rest of FMC, the future of the congressional study groups are strong and vibrant. I look forward to watching the incredible programming and travel opportunities that they provide to continue the goal set by our Members, such as Lee Hamilton back in 1970, to truly create an effective, bipartisan avenue for impactful legislative and knowledge exchange between the congressional family and our friends and allies abroad.

I appreciate the opportunity to make these remarks. It is my understanding that we have some membership business to accomplish, and, therefore, I will yield back to our president, Mr. Stearns from Florida.

And again, Mr. Speaker, a real pleasure to see you again.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Charles.

It is my privilege, at this point, to recognize the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), who will be joining the ranks of the former Members at the end of this year.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why do you think I am smiling? I just wanted to come and say I am really excited about joining your freshman class next year with SAM JOHNSON, TOM ROONEY, JEB HENSLING, LILLIAN ROS-LEHTINEN. There is a number of us who will be joining the freshman class.

This is my 20th year serving here. I have learned, 20 years with three teenagers at home, sometimes you have just got to make the right decision for the right reasons, and I am very comfortable with the decision I have made because I did it for the right reasons. And so I look forward to that next chapter. I look forward to reaching out to some of you, people I have known a long time, about how that next chapter looks.

I just want to say one thing. You don’t take Bears fans; right? Because I don’t want to join any Chicago Bears fans in this thing.

I see Jerry Weller over there. So we have got some pretty big rivalries that we have had throughout the years.

You turn on the TV and you think it is nothing but a snake pit and it is nothing but just vitriol. We just passed about 70 opioid bills that we bundled together. WRRDA, massive bipartisan vote; FAA, massive bipartisan vote. So about 80 percent of what we do through here, we are running, on average, about 350 votes for. So, believe it or not, there is a lot that is getting done.

We have passed about 800 bills, this session, of the House. It is a pretty big pace. That place over there has got about 550 of those bills stacked on top of them. Two hundred bills have received around 400 votes in the House. So we are pleased that they are staying in August to kind of work on this list, but there are a great deal of things that we have been able to get out here on big issues, whether it is defense, national security, veterans, basic health research, opioid epidemics, that really are bipartisan.

And then we do have the partisan issues, whether it is tax policy or welfare reform on the farm bill. Those things are, more or less, partisan, but the place is working.

That is the point I want to leave you with. The place is working, does work, and this new social media, cable TV ratings chase age we are in, it is a different system. We are going to have to figure out how to navigate this system.

We are going to have to figure out how to make sure the body politic in our Republic and our sense of civility still lasts and persists in this system. We are in this strange, unchartered territory right now. So I look forward, frankly, to thinking about those issues and how to overcome those when I have a little time to think when I am out of here.

But the one thing I do think former Members could be really helpful in is trying to figure out how do we still keep that sense of unity and civility with big differences of philosophical and ideological opinions while moving the country forward. That is something I am going to have to think about in this new sort of digital 21st century age we find ourselves in. That is one thing I actually look forward to thinking about when I am done with this.

So I just wanted to come and say when you ask me if I am happy to answer a few questions, I have got to open Conference at 9, so I have got a few minutes.

Mr. FROST. Does anyone have any questions for the Speaker?

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I just commend you for this. What you are indicating is this place is working, and I think the problem is out there in America, at least through mainstream media.

That does appear to be working, and I think it is because of your leadership. And so we welcome you as a former Member, eventually, to be part of our process, which our mission is to create civility and, at the same time, to show how important it is that Congress work together.

So we thank you very much for all you have done, and we look forward to working with you when you leave Congress.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why do you think I am smiling? I just offered, a great Democrat Hubert Humphrey said a long time ago that he who throws mud loses ground, and if we could somehow get Members of Congress to think about that in relation to this institution, I don’t know how you do it.

Maybe it is something you think about when you have more time. But instead of sitting here fighting against the institution, which drags everybody down, including the country, build it up, focus on the positive things, as you have, but don’t tear the institution down, because we are all less for it.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Yes. I have thought about this a bit. I think results will ultimately matter, not the acrimony in between, but actually achieving results.

And I think the kind of anxiety we have in the country, which is exploited by both fringes from both sides, can be reduced a bit if we have reduced economic anxiety in the country. We are beginning to reduce economic anxiety in the country. Getting the military rebuilt and veterans fixed will help us reduce national security anxiety.

But reducing anxiety means we sort of take away the oxygen that gives a lot of breathing room and life to preying on that anxiety, and it happens on all sides this day.

Mr. MURPHY. Paul. I thank the House and your leadership for moving so many bills dealing with the opioid
have got a tough job, but I did want to
see you.
I didn't recognize you at first. Good to
member you, Bob. You got new glasses.
cause the Speaker has to go.
Tennessee has a brief comment, be-
I appreciate that. Thank you.
agree with that. We applaud you for
that.
I think it is, 48 bills. I am going off the
top of my head.
Because of the way the Senate works,
we realized we are just going to have to
package all of this stuff, put it in one
big bill, H.R. 6, send it over there so they
can just take it in a slug, because there
is no way they could process all that
testimony. So it was a really big
effort, and I believe they are going to
get that through.
I think they will get through a cou-
ple of our infrastructure bills.
What is really interesting—and I am
off going your topic—is this appro-
ations process is broken. Some of you
are former appropriators. I don’t think
there will ever be a day where the Sen-
ate can process 12 appropriation bills. I
just don’t think they will never do it.
So we had the Joint Select Com-
mittee redesign the budget process. It
is bicameral and bipartisan. I am very
hopeful that they can produce a new
process. I think biennial is probably a
pretty smart way to go, maybe split the
appropriations in half, six this year,
six the next year, due in 2 years,
something like that, because we are just
doing CRs and omnis, and that is not
good.
But this year, I think we might get
three to six appropriation bills in law
before the fiscal year, knock on wood.
So we haven’t done that since we have
been in the majority. We passed, like,
two 3 years ago.
Yea, Phil.
Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, PAUL, I
would just like to say that I think a great
part of the legacy of your Speak-
ership has been showing civility and
character, and I truly mean that. I
think everybody in this Chamber would
agree with that. We applaud you for
that.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you.
I appreciate that. Thank you.
Mr. FROST. The gentleman from
Tennessee has a brief comment, be-
cause the Speaker has to go.
Mr. CLEMENT. I am Bob Clement.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Oh, yes, I
remember you, Bob. You got new glasses.
I didn’t recognize you at first. Good to
see you.
Mr. CLEMENT. I think you have
done a great job, too, and I know you
have got a tough job, but I did want to
ask you about the committee process.
Are we, more and more, going around
the committee process to make deci-
sions?
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Not really.
The authorizing committee process
works pretty well. We do suspensions
fairly often. The minority gets one, we
get two, you know, out of the deal, and
those are only signed off by commit-
tees of jurisdiction. It is the authoriza-
tion committee’s work that has basi-
cally been circumvented because we have
omnibus bills.
The authorizing committees do work.
The Energy and Commerce Committee,
they are the ones in charge, with Ways
and Means, of all these opioid bills.
Ways and Means did with it. It is a
big bill, FAA, WRRDA, Transportation
marked it up, brought it to the floor.
So that committee process is working.
The authorizing committee process to-
tally, absolutely, fundamentally does
work.
Appropriations is broken, and it is
not because of the Appropriations Com-
mittee. It is, honestly, when it takes 60
votes to do anything over there, you
don’t do anything.
Last year, we passed all 12 bills be-
fore the fiscal year, but they just piled
up, and I just don’t think we are ever
going to do 12 bills, 12 conference re-
ports, all of that done before the fiscal
year. In this day and age, we spend all
our time doing that and then do it all
over again next year.
So I think we need a new appro-
priating system, and that is, hopefully,
what this committee we created in the
appropriations system, and that is, hopefully,
over again next year.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Keep me on
your time.
Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, thank you
for your time and for your service. We
need to let you get on to your meeting
of your Conference. Thank you very
much for being with us.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Do you have
an idea on the time?
Mr. Stearns.
Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, thank you
for your time and for your service. We
need to let you get on to your meeting
of your Conference. Thank you very
much for being with us.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Do you have
an idea on the time?
Mr. Stearns.
Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, thank you
for your time and for your service. We
need to let you get on to your meeting
of your Conference. Thank you very
much for being with us.
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Do you have
an idea on the time?
Mary Bono of California
Charles Boustany of Louisiana
Tom Davis of Virginia
Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania
Vic Fazio of California
Martin Frost of Texas
Bart Gordon of Tennessee
David Skaggs of Colorado
Cliff Stearns of Florida
and Albert Wynn of Maryland.

All in favor of electing these 10 former Members to our board of directors, please say “aye.”

Any opposed?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Mr. STEARNS. Next, we will elect our Executive Committee. I automatically join the Executive Committee in my capacity as past president. The secretary and treasurer are each elected as a 1-year term, with eligibility for another 1-year term.

The candidates for our executive committee are:

- Ann Marie Buerkle of New York for treasurer.
- L. L. Payne of Virginia for secretary.
- All in favor of electing two former Members to FMC’s Executive Committee, please say “aye.”

Any opposed?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Mr. STEARNS. The president and vice president each serve a 2-year term and are term-limited to a single term. The candidates are:

- For vice president, Charles Boustany of Louisiana.
- For president, Martin Frost of Texas.

All in favor of electing these two former Members to our Executive Committee and vice president, please say “aye.”

Any opposed?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate is elected.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Frost and Mr. Boustany have been elected president and vice president of FMC.

Congratulations to you both.

Martin, at the risk of having the Speaker’s chair be vacant for a minute, I would like for you to join us here at the rostrum to make some brief comments.

Mr. FROST. I don’t know how many of you know the amount of time that Cliff has devoted to this organization. It is very, very impressive. He has a full-time job and has been an excellent president, has attended many, many of our functions, has taken great interest in everything we do, and from time to time makes comments and suggestions to Pete about how we can do even better, and his comments are always on point and usually followed.

So I would like to, at this time, Cliff, present this little token of our appreciation. Hopefully, it will find a place on your desk in your office. Thank you for all your work for us.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you.

Mr. FROST. Now, those of you who know me know that I don’t give long speeches. I do recall when Newt Gingrich became Speaker and he was asked to give his acceptance speech, he spoke for an hour. That was very unusual. Most new Speakers just say: “Thank you, and I look forward to working with you.”

You know, there is a time and a place for everything, and in my case, things have all come together, I believe, at the right time for me personally and for this organization. I retired from my law firm about 1½ years ago. While I will have some volunteer activities, I intend to devote a great deal of my personal time to this organization.

I particularly enjoy working with the staff. And Cliff has already recognized Pete and Sabine who just do an extraordinary job. Also, many of the other members of the staff are here today. We have a cross section of younger people and more mature people who are working with us, and I could not be happier than the staff that I will have the opportunity to lead in the next 2 years.

I want to thank you for entrusting this job to me. You will be seeing me around, and I will play the same role that Cliff did. I will be making suggestions to Pete and to the staff from time to time. I think they will listen carefully, and I expect that they will follow my suggestions from time to time.

Thank you very much for the honor you have given me.

Mr. STEARNS. Martin, I thank you, and congratulations again. I look forward very much to working with you and have great respect for you.

It is now my duty to inform the Congress of those former and current Members who have passed away since our last report. As you know, FMC has commenced a beautiful new tradition, which is to recognize, via a separate memorial service in Statuary Hall, all those of our colleagues who have passed away in the previous 12 months. It is a very beautiful and fitting tribute, and I hope you will join all of us on September 5 as we do it again this year.

We also want to pay tribute to those Members by making sure their names are read here in the House Chamber and they are included in today’s CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I, therefore, will now read their names and ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery if there are any, to rise as I read their names. At the end of the list, we will pay our respects to their memory with a moment of silence.

Please stand.

We honor these Members for their service to our country. They are:

- John Anderson of Illinois
- John Hall Buchanan, Jr., of Tennessee
- Jim Bunning of Kentucky
- Pete Domenici of New Mexico
- Jon D. Fox of Pennsylvania
- William F. Goodling of Pennsylvania
- Orval H. Hansen of Idaho
- Maurice Hinchey of New York
- Marjorie Holt of Maryland
- William H. Hudnut III of Indiana
- Joe Knollenberg of Michigan
- Tom Luken of Ohio
- Marc L. Marks of Pennsylvania
- Joseph M. McDade of Pennsylvania
- Louise Slaughter of New York
- Al Swift of Washington
- John V. Tunney of California
- Larry Winn of Kansas

We will now have a moment of silence.

Thank you, all of you. That concludes the 48th Report to Congress by the Former Members of Congress. On behalf of FMC, I wish to thank the Speaker and minority leader for giving us, simply, this opportunity to return to this very special place and report on FMC’s activities.

I also wish to share with you how incredibly honored I have been to serve as president of this outstanding organization. I hope I was able to repay the faith of our membership. I hope I was able to follow in the footsteps of all who have gone before me. Thank you enough for having given me this great opportunity. I look forward to staying actively involved, and I wish our new president and our new executive committee the best of luck moving forward.

Mr. STEARNS. Cliff, may I recognize two members of the Albanian Parliament.

Mr. STEARNS. Please.

Mr. DroGUARDL. What we do not only in the Congress, but as former Members, because Albania is still an emerging democracy, I would like to recognize Monika Kryemadhi, who is the chairwoman of the party, Movement for Social Integration, that made the difference so that Albania can function there, as a coalition government there, and she is with us today. I would just—and her other colleagues who are able to join us, Mr. Petrit Vasili, chairman of the parliamentary group, and Mr. Eriol Bramillari, head of foreign relations.

And I would like to, before we conclude, recognize that they are looking to America to make Albania stronger.

These were two countries that were created by the United States. Woodrow Wilson recognized Albania in 1919. It almost didn’t exist as a country and was about to be put into Yugoslavia. And 10 years ago, George W. Bush recognized her also, and this is the 10th anniversary.

Thank you very much.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you very much. They will now be part of the RECORD.

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 when the roll was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

The meeting stands adjourned.
AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dan Spexarth, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Wichita, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, we ask You to abundantly bless these dedicated public servants and assist them in their tireless work on behalf of all Americans.

Give them clear minds to know Your will and understanding hearts, like King Solomon, to govern this vast people.

Fill them with courage and resolve and deep humility. Help them to listen attentively to one another and to work diligently with one another to find solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation. So many have worked so hard for so long. Let them not be dismayed or disheartened.

May the Prince of Peace protect the brave men and women of our military, deployed throughout the world. Please watch over these families here at home.

We give You praise, O Lord, and we give You thanks for our many blessings, especially our most precious gifts of life and liberty. We pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LaMalfa. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LaMalfa. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 3, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Walden) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Walden 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DAN SPEXARTH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Estes) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. Estes of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege to introduce the House to our guest chaplain, Father Dan Spexarth, of Wichita, Kansas.

As an ordained minister for more than 30 years, Father Spexarth has served six parishes in our community, including St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Wichita since 2008.

Father Spexarth was born and raised on a wheat farm near Colwich, Kansas. And after graduating from the seminary, we are fortunate Father Spexarth returned to our community.

Father Spexarth has been a tireless servant of God, leading an active parish committed to serving those in need in our community and throughout the world. As Congress addresses many complex issues facing our Nation, I am humbled by the opportunity to host Father Spexarth and thankful that we can join together in prayer for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Father Dan Spexarth, and thank him for offering today's opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Nolte). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PARDON STEVEN AND DWIGHT HAMMOND

(Mr. Walden asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Walden. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to raise an issue that would "shock the conscience." Those are not my words. Those are the words of a distinguished Federal judge when he refused to sentence two ranchers in my district to 5 years in prison. Judge Hogan looked at the case and he said: That is not right. It would "shock the conscience."

This Friday, the younger of those two ranchers will mark his fourth year in prison for starting a fire—by the way, fire on the range, high desert, is a management tool. They were using it for that purpose. They were tried. They were convicted. They never should have been sentenced to this.

The Obama administration came back and resentenced them to 5 years for 338 acres. We burn hundreds of thousands of acres every year. The government starts fires that burn onto private land. Nothing seems to happen.

It is time for the President to review this situation and to grant a pardon to Steven and Dwight Hammond, pull them back together with their families. They have served long enough. This is an issue that shocks the conscience. It is time for real justice, and President Trump can administer that.

AMERICA IS MEASURED BY GOODNESS AND PASSION

(Mr. Higgins of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Higgins of New York. Mr. Speaker, the communities I represent in Buffalo and western New York have a long, proud tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees from all over the world. We are a city of good neighbors in a Nation of immigrants.

The Trump administration's imposition of a Muslim travel ban, proposals to build a wall, and egregious policy to terrorize kids and tear families apart appeals to the tribal instincts of the weak and the paranoid among us.

Americans respect the rule of law, hard work, and hard truth. We are measured as a Nation by power and strength, certainly, but equally by goodness and compassion.

These are the values that made America great again, again, and again.

CONGRATULATING MIKE EARL SMITH FOR WINNING THE TRIPLE CROWN

(Mr. Pearce asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Pearce. Mr. Speaker, the Triple Crown is one of the most significant achievements in all of sports, but especially in the sport of horse racing.

In fact, it is such a rare achievement that only 13 times since 1875 has it been accomplished. This year, Mike Earl Smith, also known as "Big Money Mike," jockeyed his thoroughbred horse, Justify, to achieve the Triple Crown.

Now, the Triple Crown, in order to win it, you must win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes all in the same racing season. And Mike did just that. It was only the second time in the last 40 years that it has occurred.

Mike is the oldest jockey to ever win the Triple Crown. He was born in Roswell, New Mexico, and raised on a farm outside of Dexter, New Mexico. He has been racing since age 11. He won his first professional race in 1982 at the Downs at Santa Fe.

At one point, he broke his back and returned from that. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame; in 2013, into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame. Winner of nearly 5,900 races, these three this year set Mike into the history books.

Congratulations, Mike.