

All four of my grandparents, and my mother, were immigrants from Ireland.

They left behind everything they knew, in search of a better life for not just themselves, but for their future generations.

I doubt they ever pictured that someday their grandson would serve in the United States Congress, but I hope I have done them proud.

My dad was the oldest of seven, who first became a New York City cop, then went to college and law school on the GI bill.

My mom didn't go to college, but she worked as a legal secretary, raised four children, and gave us every opportunity she could.

My family instilled in me the values that I hold dear to this day—the importance of hard work, building strong communities, and ensuring opportunity for all.

They taught me to stand up for the little guy, to pursue fairness and justice, to use my power—and my size, and my voice—for good.

And I've tried to incorporate those lessons throughout my work.

My family also taught me the importance of service—of giving back. Of being part of something that's bigger than yourself.

That's what I've been thinking about as I say farewell to my time in Congress. Our time here isn't about any one of us—it's about what's best for the country.

I think sometimes we lose sight of that in the day-to-day—the legislative deadlines, the political positioning.

Our jobs here tend to be partisan—there's no escaping that.

But we can't—we shouldn't—let that blind us to what we're sent here to do.

Yes, I'll remember the day we passed the Affordable Care Act to bring health care to millions more Americans.

I'll remember marching for fair, humane immigration reform with LUIS GUTIÉRREZ. I'll remember “sitting in” for sensible gun violence prevention.

But I'll also always remember walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with JOHN LEWIS, and watching my 13-year-old son hug JOHN after the Chief of the Montgomery Police Department apologized for his treatment there so many years ago.

I'll remember welcoming Pope Francis, alongside NANCY PELOSI, John Boehner and the whole congressional leadership, many of whom I'm proud to call friends.

I'll remember fighting for sustainable peace in Ireland, for progress in Burma, for a stronger relationship with India all of which require cooperation on both sides of the aisle.

I'll remember returning to the Capitol after the September 11 attacks, after the worst day of my life when my cousin John was declared among the lost firefighters, and the way I was welcomed, and embraced, and loved by members of every political persuasion.

I think about those experiences when I'm wondering how we can get back to the days of working together, and seeing each other as people, not political opponents.

But I believe we can find our way again.

Because I do believe that government can do great things.

I believe that we can create good-paying jobs, and a vibrant and strong economy that works for all.

I believe that we can lead the world in innovation, and lead the world, period. But those aren't Republican or Democratic goals.

In my neighborhood, they're shared by the shopkeeper, the taxi driver, the firefighter. And here, they're shared by every one of us who walks into this chamber.

We all have our own backgrounds and our own family folklore, but we're united by our shared dreams for this country.

So I always believe in the best in this country, its people, and its public servants.

Part of what helps me to keep that optimism is the love and support I've always gotten from my family, many of whom are here today.

My mom, my brother and sisters, and their families.

My children, Cullen, Kenzie, and Liam.

And of course my wife Kasey, whose support has allowed me to participate in this great arena. It's been quite a ride.

And while I'm sad to be leaving, I follow that old Irish tradition of keeping your chin up, keep smiling.

I think you all know that I'm a little bit of a Bruce Springsteen fan. One of my favorite songs, Rosalita, has a line I can't help but think about: “Someday we'll look back on this and it will all seem funny.”

I will seem funny. But it will also seem meaningful, it will seem compelling, it will seem historic.

And it will always stand out to me as the greatest professional experience of my life.

So thank you to my constituents, my friends, my family, my staff, and all of you who made this such a great journey.

BUDGET PROCESS, FISCAL YEAR 2019

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of us to stay committed to reforming the Federal budget and appropriations process.

Here we are, operating under a continuing resolution and scrambling to adopt another, our third of fiscal year 2019 alone. Despite good work being done to fund 5 of the 12 annual appropriations bills, after 2½ months and two continuing resolutions, our work remains unfinished.

Mr. Speaker, the power of the purse is the most important constitutional responsibility granted to Congress, yet we have regularly and repeatedly ceded our duty to fulfill this essential role. It is unacceptable, and it is clear that the Federal budget and appropriations process is broken. The American people deserve better.

As you know, the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform laid the groundwork for bipartisan, bicameral reform this past year. Our proposal began taking steps in the right direction to improve the process. While our efforts were unsuccessful, where we stand today highlights just how desperately our work was needed. It, Mr. Speaker, is now more necessary than ever.

I will continue to champion budget process reform and the ideas put forth by the joint select committee next year. Today, I sent a Dear Colleague letter outlining our year of work, which I include in the RECORD.

I encourage all Members to review it and join me in this essential effort. We owe the American people this process. Let's fix this.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: In the Second Session of the 115th Congress, I was honored to Co-Chair the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform. As members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Article I entrusts in each of us the power of the purse. This is an awesome responsibility that I, and I know each of you, take very seriously. We owe it to the American people to have a process that works, and that was the goal of the Joint Select Committee—to produce recommendations to reform the federal budget and appropriations process.

As you know, our Joint Select Committee produced a bipartisan, bicameral consensus package of reforms in advance of our statutory deadline of November 30, 2018. During our markup, amendments were subjected to a supermajority threshold to ensure those that passed reflected a true consensus of the panel. Some amendments passed unanimously. During the final debate on the bill, many members indicated that they had no objection to the package's underlying reforms. However, the bill and report developed over many months of hard work failed to secure the necessary supermajority of votes to pass under our Joint Select Committee's rules.

Despite the unfortunate outcome of the Joint Select Committee's work, there is no refuting that the federal budget process is broken. It is vital that Congress continues these efforts to reform the budget and appropriations process this year, next year, and in the years beyond. I have assembled in this Budget Committee print all the relevant materials to this year's work. I urge all Members to review this information. In this Committee print, you will find:

The report of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform;

The Co-chair's mark, as amended, and voted on, by the Joint Select Committee;

The votes of the Joint Select Committee;

Hearing transcripts of the Joint Select Committee's five public hearings; Congressional Budget Office briefing materials prepared for the Joint Select Committee;

Congressional Research Service briefing materials prepared for the Joint Select Committee;

H.R. 7191—a bill introduced in the House by myself and Representative Yarmuth, a Joint Select Committee Member and Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee; and
The press release to accompany the introduction of H.R. 7191.

It is my sincere hope that this important work will continue in the 116th Congress on a bipartisan and bicameral basis. I believe Members of Congress, Executive Branch officials, outside budget experts and academics, as well as engaged citizens, will find this material useful for future reform efforts.

I would like to thank the Members of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, our hard-working staffs, particularly Dan Keniry, David Reich, and Mary Popadiuk, as well as the House Rules Committee staff, Bob Weinhagen and Tom Cassidy in the Office of Legislative Counsel, budget experts at the Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office—particularly Mark Hadley and Teri Gullo—and House Parliamentarian Tom Wickham and his office, for the year of dedication.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dan Keniry, Staff Director of the House Budget

Committee or Mary Popadiuk, General Counsel of the House Budget Committee.

STEVE WOMACK,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

IN MEMORY OF SERVICEMEMBERS WHO PERISHED DURING THE U.S. MARINE CORPS TRAINING EXERCISE ON DECEMBER 5, 2018

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today with my colleagues who have helped organize this, particularly my colleague Congressman RUTHERFORD, to pay tribute to the servicemembers who tragically perished on December 5 during a training exercise off the coast of Japan:

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Herrmann of New Bern, North Carolina;

Major James M. Brophy of Staatsburg, New York;

Captain Jahmar Resilard of Miramar, Florida, who was raised in my district and whose mother I have spoken with;

Staff Sergeant Maximo Flores of Surprise, Arizona;

Corporal Daniel Baker of Tremont, Illinois; and,

Corporal William Ross of Hendersonville, Tennessee.

These decorated marines served our Nation with distinction. Listing their achievements does little to pay adequate tribute to their bravery, courage, and dedication to our country.

On behalf of my colleagues, I express our heartfelt condolences to the families of these honorable servicemembers, their friends, and their colleagues in the United States Marine Corps. Our Nation grieves with you, and we pray that you find comfort during these extremely difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the House of Representatives observe a moment of silence in memory of these American heroes.

POWER OF THE PURSE

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the Founders entrusted the power of the purse to the Congress because it is the most effective and powerful check and balance in our Constitution. It is vitally important that this Congress work to pass these appropriations bills in their full detail. We cannot continue to operate under a continuing resolution, which just allows the executive branch to run unchecked.

These bills have been carefully negotiated. These bills allow the public to see how our hard-earned tax dollars are being spent. These bills enable the Congress to have some real authority over the executive branch.

In the 18 years it has been my privilege to represent the people of west

Houston, and to chair a subcommittee on appropriations, I was able to work together with my colleagues in putting together the largest hurricane recovery package in the history of the country, working together to make sure that our laws are enforced and that the Department of Justice is following the law, enforcing the law, and securing the border.

These things can be done through the power of the purse, through the responsibility we have as Members of Congress, as appropriators. It is essential we pass these appropriations bills and do so in a bipartisan way.

I have always worked closely with my colleagues throughout the State of Texas and throughout the country, regardless of party, because we are doing it for the good of the country. As Mr. CROWLEY said in his remarks and you can detect by the response in the House, we all work together arm-in-arm as patriots. Let's pass these appropriations bills in detail when we come back here in the next year when the CR runs out in February.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4174. An act to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2736) "An Act to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3178. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

HONORING PROFESSOR YUMIKO OGAWA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Jersey City University Professor Yumiko Ogawa.

Professor Ogawa is a registered play therapist. Along with current and former NJCU students, she is providing play therapy for immigrant children who are in the process of applying for asylum. Their play therapy program is currently being implemented at the Newark office of a nonprofit called Kids in Need of Defense.

Since 2014, the United States has welcomed more than 240,000 unaccom-

panied minors who are seeking protection. Many of them have suffered from violence and child abuse. Some of them are escaping persistent trauma, including human trafficking and gang violence.

Professor Ogawa's play therapy has already helped some of these children cope with their trauma. I am proud of Professor Ogawa's thoughtful leadership and the amazing research supported at New Jersey City University.

It only takes an idea to change the world. I am proud to represent NJCU in Congress, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful initiative.

□ 2015

FAREWELL TO WILSON TEAM FELLOWS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the dedicated staff work of Major Jonathan Grabill, who served as a military fellow, and Drew Nickels, who served as a foreign policy fellow, in the office of the Second District.

Major Grabill has had a distinguished career in the Army for more than 16 years. He provided key insight in developing the National Defense Authorization Act. He has been deployed to Germany, Iraq, and Kuwait. His background has been vital to reverse the decline of readiness in our military.

A leader on foreign policy issues, Mr. Nickels has worked tirelessly to develop legislation for the Foreign Affairs Committee. He previously served as intelligence briefer for two Secretaries of Energy. Before that, he was an intelligence analyst with the Foreign Nuclear Programs Division at DOE.

Mr. Speaker, their service will always be appreciated, with congratulations for being members of the Wilson team.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Diane Wells; her husband, Joey; and children Eli, Maya, and Emma.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR EVAN MACK

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an accomplished composer, educator, and music innovator from New York's capital region, Professor Evan Mack, recently named a Musical America 2018 Professional of the Year.

Professor Mack's first major opera premiered at New York's Baryshnikov