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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLYBURN) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

This world was created by You, Almighty God. In You and through You,

humanity has been freed and brought to a liberty that is powerful enough to enable us to learn from mistakes and resolve with firm determination to live with compassion for others and bring greater and equal justice to all peoples.

Help this Nation live up to its calling in these historic times. May all those who are committed to love others and pursue justice, work together, without illusion or deceit, and build a world of true and lasting peace.

This we ask calling upon Your Holy Name, with lasting faith. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 1660. An act to amend the Toxic Substance Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thurs-

day, June 10, 2010, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore presided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the House, I consider it a high honor and a distinct personal privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming so many of our former Members and colleagues as may be present here for this occasion. We all pause to welcome them.

The Chair now calls on the Honorable John J. Rhodes, president of the association, to take the chair.

Mr. RHODES (presiding). It is my pleasure at this point in time to yield the floor to the vice president of the association and my great friend, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Hertel, for the purpose of making a presentation.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

It is always a distinct privilege to be back in this revered Chamber, and we appreciate the opportunity to present today the annual report of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

Our association's president, Jay Rhodes of Arizona, along with some of our colleagues, will report on the activities and projects of our organization. Before we get to this report, however, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to present our 2010 Distinguished Service Award to William H. Gray of the great State of Pennsylvania.

Bestowing our association's highest award on Bill Gray was an easy decision and one that was long overdue. The reward recognizes distinguished

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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service, and few Members have served their community and country with more distinction than Bill Gray did before, during and after his years here on Capitol Hill.

Majority Whip Gray embodies the spirit of our award, having spent his post-congressional career as an education leader, which he believes is his higher calling for our entire country. As president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, he worked to elevate historically black colleges, and believes they provide vital educational bridges that need continued support. We are thrilled to honor him today. Bill, please join me here at the dais.

You know, Bill first of all had to have the political hard sense and experience to become the whip to be elected by the caucus. And then once he was the whip, on a daily and weekly basis he had to lead us and be able to count those votes in such a political way. So it is not just education and public service, it is being one of the greatest politicians that we have had in the history of our House. On behalf of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to present our 2010 Distinguished Service Award to William H. Gray of Pennsylvania.

The plaque is inscribed as follows:

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress to Chairman William Herbert Gray, III, for his lifetime of exceptional public service. Both in and out of Congress, Minister Bill Gray has demonstrated his tremendous dedication to civil rights, fairness and equality. Representing the State of Pennsylvania with great distinction, he served as the first African-American majority whip and the first African-American chairman of the House Budget Committee. His leadership helped young Americans obtain the dream of a college education, his perseverance contributed to the fall of apartheid, and his humanity brought relief to the people of Haiti. Congressman Bill Gray is an inspiration to us all, and his former colleagues from both sides of the political aisle salute him today.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you to the president, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, to my former colleague from Michigan, to all of you who are here, those who I had the privilege of serving with, and those that I have known over the years through outstanding service since or before.

It is a real privilege and a pleasure to be here today and to receive this award because of the group that is making it, the former Members of Congress who gave service not only when they were elected officials, but continue to give service, inspiring fellow Americans to get involved in public service and understand that democracy must have participation by all of its citizens.

Sometimes the debate can get kind of tough. But one thing we all learned long ago, and that is that civility is

the cement that holds the bricks of democracy together. And so we must always keep in mind in our public service that although we disagree, we can never have the point that we reach in our society where we think of each other as evil because of our disagreements. We are all fellow Americans fighting for the best.

I want to recognize one of our former Members, because in a way our partnership symbolizes that civility, that working together, even though we probably in the 10 or 12 years that we spent together here in the House of Representatives, he and I never voted alike on anything, not even the approval of the Journal, I don't think. He was from Texas, from San Antonio, and a rock-ribbed conservative, and I was from Philadelphia, a rock-ribbed progressive, and today we are partners in a firm. And that is Tom Loeffler, who came to the House about the same time as I did, and yet today we are working together.

So I want to thank all of the members of the Former Members Association for this outstanding award. I enjoyed immensely my years on this floor and in this body serving with so many of you. I have enjoyed immensely my work in education. But above all, I have enjoyed my work of 45 years as a Baptist preacher.

Today I thank you for this award, and continue to say what my father said to me years ago. He said, "Service is the rent you pay in the house of democracy." Thank you, and let us continue to work together to pay good rent for the next generation and broaden the house of democracy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. RHODES. Congressman Gray, thank you very much for being with us today, and for all that you have done for this institution, and this country, and for our God. Thanks, Bill. I appreciate it.

I am going to yield the chair in a moment to the gentleman from Michigan to preside over the balance of the meeting. I want to take a special moment—actually, I am going to take several special moments, because the majority leader has entered the Chamber, and it's my hope that he will have some comments and remarks to make for us.

Mr. HOYER. Good morning and welcome back.

Many of you, of course, visit on a relatively regular basis. Others of you we don't get to see as often. I now have been here long enough to know almost all of you, and have served with almost all of you. And I am always pleased to join here to welcome you back to the House.

I have my own Connie Morella from Maryland and Bev Byron. You know the story about Bev Byron. We met in 1962. She was wondering who this skinny kid was who had written to her husband, "Dear President Byron." He was president of the Young Democrats of Maryland. And I signed it "Steny Hamilton Hoyer," and she has not let me forget the officiousness of that letter.

But I am so pleased to be with all of you. I have lamented on numerous occasions welcoming you here that when I first came here it was 1981, and clearly the partisanship was starting to elevate.

All of you know, because I have said on so many different occasions, what respect and deep, deep affection I have for Bob Michel. Respect in the sense that I thought he brought the best of what the American people want and represented to the House of Representatives. He brought a philosophical judgment as to what policies we ought to support, direction the country ought to go, but he also brought a deep conviction that what the American public expected of us was to work together, respect one another, and try to do the best that we could for the American people.

Unfortunately, as all of you have seen, we are a deeply polarized Congress. That does not mean that we don't sit down together and talk about issues from time to time. Leader BOEHNER has just walked in. He and I are working on a joint enterprise that we think may have some real positive effect. And hopefully, we can win the day on that issue. But for the most part, we are not working together as collegially as I think the American public would like us to do.

The problems that confront our country, as all of you know, are very, very substantial. We have an immediate crisis, the oil crisis, which has given to the American public a sense of almost helplessness that their government is not responding in a way that can stop this oil from leaking. Clearly, BP and the entire oil industry has extraordinary incentive to do that. They have been technically unable to do it. We are in deep water both figuratively and literally on this issue.

JOHN and I were on a television program on Sunday morning together on which we both agreed that, A, BP ought to be held responsible, and B, we need to do everything we possibly could to not only stop the oil, but to help those who have been hurt, which nobody can contemplate exactly how broad that will be.

The other issue that we are grappling with that I feel keenly about that has gotten cumulatively worse during the 30 years that I have been here, and that is the fiscal crisis that confronts our country. We are in deep debt. We are approaching or about at 90 percent of GDP in terms of our debt load. We are moving towards 100 percent. No country in the world can sustain that kind of debt load for very long and remain healthy, vibrant, and growing.

So we need your continued wisdom and counsel. Notwithstanding the fact you are not voting, you are all very, very influential people in this country and in your States and in your districts still. And your voice is needed, as we try to reach some bipartisan consensus on how to achieve a more positive fiscal picture confronting our country.

But notwithstanding those serious issues, as someone who just turned 71 yesterday, and I am sending the message to my constituents that I have no intention of retiring; I hope they have no intention of retiring me. I enjoy my service here. I continue. And I enjoyed serving with all of you on both sides of the aisle.

So on behalf of Speaker PELOSI, JOHN will speak for himself, obviously, but I know in a very bipartisan way we welcome all of you back here. We enjoy seeing you. We enjoy reminiscing about the good times, about the challenges, and about how we got things done, and how we might apply those lessons of the past to the solving of the problems that confront us today.

So thank you all very, very much. Enjoy this day, and make sure that you come back on a regular basis to give us, as I said, not only advice and counsel, but perhaps even encouragement. Not everybody in America, as you have noticed, is giving us encouragement.

You know, the bad news for Democrats is that we are very low down in the polls. The good news for Democrats is Republicans are there with us. They don't like any of us. They don't think any of us have got it. So working together, perhaps we can reinstate their confidence and reinstate a positive, more confident America as we move forward, as you have done when you served America so well in this body. Thank you very much.

I now, if I might, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, I know he wants to recognize him, but I would be pleased to yield to my friend with whom I from time to time have the opportunity to work together, but always try to have a cordial and positive relationship with, the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. HOYER, my wife and I own a little piece of property in Calvert County which happens to be in a major part of your district, and one of the things that we constantly notice is between Prince Frederick and Solomon's Island, roughly every half mile there is a post office. Now, I know that you and everybody else thinks that earmarks are not good, but you are not going to be defeated as long as you keep building those post offices.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate your confidence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RHODES. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in my 20 years here that I have seen the Speaker lobbying from the podium.

Let me welcome all of my colleagues here to the Capitol today. There are a good number of you. I would hope that some of you would work to get more of your colleagues to come back for what really is a very special day, and we, on a bipartisan basis, really do welcome you and glad to see many of you. Some of you, this is the only day of the year I get to see; others I get to see a little more often, like these two over here.

To Bill Gray, congratulations. Bill Gray has spent a lifetime of service to his country, whether it was the years that he spent here, the years that he spent with a number of organizations where he has provided exemplary service, and I am very pleased that Bill is being honored today by all of you. He and I had a chance to serve together. I was a young pup, he was one of the senior leaders in the other party, but we still always had an opportunity to talk to one another.

As all of you know, we continue, as STENY said, to face big challenges, and what is really of interest to me and I'm sure to Steny is the political rebellion that is going on in America today. I have never seen anything like this. When you look at what is happening, we've got people who have been driven off the couch, off their easy chair, away from their TV, and into the streets protesting what their government is doing. The result of this, we will see what happens in November, but it really is—there's nothing short of a political rebellion going on in the country, something like I have never seen in my lifetime. It is creating more challenges for the Members that are here and clearly will create challenges for candidates on both sides of the aisle as we get into November.

Let me just once again say thank you for being here. Anytime that we can be of service to all of you, we would certainly like to do that.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

I wasn't aware that I was lobbying, but if that's the way you take it, then that's fine.

I am going to yield the chair to the gentleman from Michigan, but before I do, I want to pay special recognition to my Republican leader, Bob Michel, and to three individuals who were elected at the same time that I was in 1986: Jack Buechner, Ernie Konnyu and Connie Morella. I appreciate you being here.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I want to thank the majority leader who has always taken the time to participate with us and to welcome us here on the House floor but has always participated in our other activities, too, and encouraged us to continue in serving our country in the capacity of former Members. He reminds me of 30 years ago when he talked about Minority Leader Bob Michel, who we all looked to for advice, and those times of, as he said, really the beginning of increased partisanship.

But just as Majority Leader HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER were last year at our golf tournament for the wounded warriors playing golf and there were some press excerpts of them working together, the majority leader has always reached out to the other side because, while we have partisan differences, as I saw with him back 30 years ago with

our esteemed Speaker Tip O'Neill and our revered minority leader, Bob Michel, they were able to show us how you fight for what you believe in, you fight for your partisan position, you fight for your party position, but in the end, you're elected by the people to serve this country and to reach the best accommodation and policy in the interest of the United States for the future and the people of our country.

In that light, the president of our association, Jay Rhodes, has set up a bipartisan day tomorrow where we have former Speakers of the House, Foley and Hastert, and Dick Gephardt and others coming forward, a full day over at the National Archives to talk about the need for bipartisanship and what it has meant in the past. I know of Tip O'Neill's great respect for Bob Michel; I know of Tip O'Neill's great love for Jerry Ford, who was minority leader and then President of the United States; and there was never anybody who would give an inch on an issue that he believed in than Speaker O'Neill and neither was there from President Ford from my State of Michigan. And yet as partisan as they were in their leadership, there is no one in this country who doesn't know how their leadership really was embodied for the entire Nation and the people of this country, to serve them and to move things forward.

That's the example that we see, just as we saw yesterday Minority Leader BOEHNER coming out to our golf tournament again for the wounded warriors and showing his leadership again today by welcoming us with the majority leader and the comity that they have in working together on policy issues for our country.

Again, I am reminded of the foresight of our leader from Arizona, having this bipartisan day tomorrow, but not just a day. It's a yearlong program that he has established to talk about the need for bipartisanship and the examples of bipartisanship in our future.

So, today, I would like to ask President Jay Rhodes to step down here to the dais with me, and before you deliver our association's report to the Congress of what has been going on this last year under your leadership, I want to thank you for 2 years of outstanding leadership as president of this organization. Our membership and board of directors really appreciate all that you have done for the Former Member Association, and we really can't capture all the time that you've spent, all the hours, all the leadership, all of your iconic and ironic wit that you've demonstrated in this last year of leadership and also here on the House floor, but all the hard work you've done on our international issues, on our national issues, on the Congress to Campus program, Jay, and the way that you've taken time to listen to all the members of our association to implement their ideas and to involve all the different members of our association to move things forward.

So I would like you to come down here, Jay, because we have a special plaque for you.

Mr. RHODES. I don't think it's appropriate to leave the chair unattended.

Mr. HERTEL. Well, I will come up to you, then.

Let me read this, which is presented to the Honorable John J. Rhodes, III:

In recognition and appreciation of his strong leadership as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. His tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by his very grateful colleagues.

Washington, D.C., June 15, 2010.

Jay, we want to thank you for all that you've done in your continued service with us as a past president, how much we appreciate it. And we are anxious to hear your report of our organization.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Soon-to-be-President Hertel. I have really enjoyed the time that you and I have spent together, along with the members of the board and the executive committee. I look forward to continuing my relationship with the association, and I look forward to your presidency—which is not formal yet, so don't get too excited.

I now yield the chair to the Honorable Dennis Hertel.

Mr. HERTEL (presiding). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, MIKE PENCE, the Republican Conference Chair. Thank you for coming.

Mr. PENCE. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all.

Those of you that don't watch C-SPAN incessantly may not know I serve as the House Republican Conference Chairman now, and I am just honored to be here with our former leader, a man deeply admired, and to see so many familiar faces back on the floor, back in the people's House. To Congressman Rhodes, it is wonderful to see you. Congratulations on a great tenure in leadership.

Thank you all for being here. We just adjourned the House Republican Conference, and I think you will see former colleagues and current Members coming over to say hello. We just appreciate your continued leadership. I appreciated what JOHN BOEHNER said about your continued role in the leadership of this country. So many of you have gone on from Congress and played an even greater role in the life of this Nation in various industry and philanthropic ways, and I want to commend you for that.

But let me also say I want to commend Congressman Rhodes and our new president for the call for bipartisanship. In the 9 years that I have served on Capitol Hill, I remain convinced that we could learn an awful lot from those who have gone before on this floor in this current time. As we think about the extraordinary challenges facing this country at home and abroad, the hard choices that we are

going to have to be making that can only be made if we act as Americans first and not on a partisan basis, please know that we're going to continue to turn to the men and women who have served in this place before.

We will have a competitive election, I expect, this fall. The American people will decide what the composition of this place looks like. I want to tell you as I came onto the floor and I saw a lot more people on this side than on that side, it's kind of how it feels for us Republicans right now, but whatever the American people decide. I want to thank you for being here today. Thank you for your involvement in the former Members group; some men and women that I have had the privilege of serving with are here.

But I also want to challenge you, the extraordinary and intractable problems—rising deficits and debts, a difficult economy—we need to turn to the wisdom of the men and women who have been here before. We need to turn to you to facilitate an environment of good will where we can solve these problems for this and future generations of Americans, and I know that we will. When I see where we have come from, the part of this national life that you've been a part of, I know that we will meet these challenges and make this the next great American century.

Thank you all for your involvement. God bless you all. It's an honor to speak to you this morning.

Mr. HERTEL. Thank you very much for taking the time. We appreciate the gentleman from Indiana for coming today.

I was reminded of—well, two things. I see Mike Barnes here joining the two gentlewomen from Maryland; I wish every State had the same representation as Maryland does here at our meeting today. But I am reminded to tell about the victory of the Democrats yesterday at the golf tournament for the wounded warriors. I think it's the second year in a row that Democrats have been successful. Marty Russo reminded me of that today.

And now, I will call on our president, the gentleman from Arizona, for his annual report on the association's work under his leadership.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the Democrats enjoyed their victory yesterday, and I trust that that will be just about the end of it.

We are very constrained in terms of the time that we have available to us; we have to vacate the floor by 11 o'clock.

There are three of our association members who have reports to deliver about some of the activities of the association over the course of the past year.

I would first like to recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. McHugh, distinguished former president of the association and a tremendous asset to the association, for his report on the Congress to Campus program.

Mr. McHUGH. Thank you very much, Jay. It's a great privilege, as always, to report again on this outstanding program.

As you have indicated in the past, this Congress to Campus program has been administered by our association now for 3 years in cooperation with the Stennis Center. During that time, the program has experienced marked growth and has expanded to include a number of community colleges as well as traditional universities.

As most of you know, this is the association's flagship program. It sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities, and high schools across the country to educate the next generation of leaders on the importance of civic engagement. The participating students benefit from the interaction with our association members, whose knowledge and experience clearly are a unique resource. Our members at the same time benefit through their continued involvement in public service and the ability to engage young people on issues of real importance to them.

During each visit, our bipartisan team conducts classes, meets individually with students and faculty, speaks to campus media, participates in both campus and community forums, and meets with local citizens. The program has made both domestic and international visits this academic year, including two separate visits to campuses in the United Kingdom. During the 2009–2010 academic year, the program has made a total of 22 campus visits. More than 35 former Members participated, and I want to thank all of you who took the time from your busy schedules to do so. I also want to encourage those who have not yet had the opportunity to seriously consider doing so. It's a great way to continue our public service after Congress.

I also want to thank the faculty, staff members and students who worked so diligently on each of these visits. Without the hard work of these folks, these visits would not have been possible at all.

We have continued our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we owe a special debt of gratitude, I think, to Tracy Fine of our staff and to Brother Rogers of the Stennis Center for their fine work throughout the year. Our staffs work very closely together to make the program such a success and we also appreciate the continuing financial support from the Stennis Center. We look forward to our continuing association in the years ahead.

In addition to the expansion of the program to community colleges, and with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program has also commenced a concerted effort in partnership with the University of Central Florida and the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government to reach out to high school students

through a series of webcasts. These programs focus on specific topics related to Congress and the legislative process and are designed as a tool for teachers to showcase these topics and encourage involvement in government. During the fall and the spring, the program was piloted to high schools in Florida and around the country. The broadcasts were taped and streamed live with an in-studio audience of high school students in Washington as part of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

We have also continued our working relationship with the People to People Ambassador Program that brings young people to our Nation's capital for a week of events centered on the concepts of character and leadership. This year, the association sent former Members to 30 different speaking engagements in this area and reached hundreds of students through these appearances. These students are younger than those who participate in Congress to Campus activities, but they have already demonstrated a commitment to the ideals that Congress to Campus seeks to promote. The association's involvement in this program allows our members living in the Washington area to speak to these younger students on the importance of public service and to answer their many questions about our country and its government. A number of our members continue to work full-time, and the People to People engagements allow them to continue their public service in this way. The events are typically held in the early morning at suburban locations. Again, I want to thank my colleagues, especially Orval Hansen, Jack Buechner and Martin Frost, who have participated in this program regularly over the past year.

Finally, Jay, I want to say again how grateful we are to those who have made the Congress to Campus program such a great success, and I strongly encourage all of my friends and colleagues to participate in this program either by making a visit to a school or by recommending a school to host the program. As you know, a democracy can prosper only if its citizens are both informed and engaged. As former legislators, we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to encourage such involvement. This program gives us the chance to do so, particularly with our young people.

Again, many thanks to you for your leadership. My congratulations to our friend and colleague, Bill Gray, on this award, and it is great to see all of you back again.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Matt. Your continued association and your continued leadership in this organization is unparalleled, and we appreciate it extremely much.

Speaking of unparalleled service, I would like to recognize a former Member, the former president of the association, the Honorable Lou Frey from Florida. I am not going to ask you to make a speech because that would take up the rest of the time.

Lou and I, a month or so ago, were privileged to go to China together, and we had a very, very fascinating trip. He has written eloquently in his Lou Frey reports about that trip, and I hope that you will have an opportunity to review those reports because he has encapsulated, basically, what we did and what we saw.

I would now like to recognize my friend from Maryland, Connie Morella, who will discuss the activities of our various study groups.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for your exemplary service as president.

Congratulations also to Bill Gray, a great statesman of the year. It is nice to see Bob Michel in this great reunion. I'm Connie Morella and I approved this message.

My message is to give you a little synopsis of the Congressional Study Groups for which the former Members are so noted. The association is pleased to oversee and to administer the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, which create invaluable opportunities for current Members of Congress to engage with their counterparts in the legislative branches of those countries.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is the association's flagship international program, and it is the largest, most active parliamentary exchange program involving the U.S. Congress and the legislature of another country. Since its inception, which was almost 30 years ago, the study group has offered lawmakers a unique forum to discuss potential avenues of cooperation on issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to NATO's role in Afghanistan. A group of current Members of Congress chair the study group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN of Missouri serves as the chairman, and Congressman PHIL GINGREY of Georgia serves as the vice chairman. In the Senate, Senators EVAN BAYH (D-IN) and JEFF SESSIONS (R-AL) serve as co-chairs.

The study group on Germany's programming consists of three pillars: the Distinguished Visitors Program, which offers monthly roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress, featuring visiting dignitaries from Germany; annual seminars, which meet in Germany and in the United States on a rotating basis; and a senior congressional staff study tour to Germany. Recent Capitol Hill discussion partners include the German Federal Minister of Economy and Technology, the Minister-President of Hessen, and the Minister-President of Lower Saxony.

The highlight of each programming year is the annual Congress-Bundestag seminar, which brings together Members of the U.S. Congress with their counterparts in the German Bundestag for in-depth discussions about issues that affect the transatlantic relationship. In addition to current and former

lawmakers from the United States and Germany, representatives from the State Department, the German Foreign Ministry and the business and academic community also participate. Discussion topics are dictated by current events and issues influencing U.S.-German relations. The 27th Annual Congress-Bundestag took place the second week of May in Washington, DC and St. Louis, Missouri. Seminar sessions examined prospects for peace in the Middle East, mutual national security risks, as well as outlook on the 2010 mid term elections. The 2010 Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany took place at the end of March, bringing 10 House chiefs of staff to Berlin and Cologne.

Since its inception, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has received generous grants from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The association would like to thank the German Marshall Fund's president, Craig Kennedy, for his support and trust in the study group.

Additional funding to assist with administrative expenses is received from a group of organizations that make up the study group's Business Advisory Council. This council is chaired by former Member of Congress Tom Coleman of Missouri, who served as the chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany in the House in 1989. Current Business Advisory Council Members are Airbus, Allianz, BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Eli Lilly, Fresenius, Inc., Lufthansa, RGIT, and Volkswagen.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey, the second study group, was established in 2005, and it quickly has become a major focus for the Former Members Association, obviously. The study group offers lawmakers a unique educational forum to examine issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to cooperation in the Middle East peace process.

Taking the successful and long-running Congressional Study Group on Germany as a model, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey has grown into a highly relevant and productive program for American and Turkish legislators. The study group is currently active in the House of Representatives, and is co-chaired by Congressman STEVE COHEN of Tennessee and Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina. Congressman ED WHITFIELD of Kentucky remains active in the study group as immediate past chair.

Similar to the study group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey hosts roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Turkey and U.S. administration officials as part of its distinguished visitors program. The study group has recently hosted the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, among others.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-Turkey seminar, which brings together American and Turkish lawmakers to discuss current issues pertinent to the bilateral relationship. The fifth annual U.S.-Turkey seminar took place at the end of August 2009 in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, and the 2010 annual U.S.-Turkey seminar is slated to take place this summer in Washington and in Chicago. Discussion topics will examine current issues in Turkish-American relations, such as the Strategic Cooperation Framework on Trade, the Middle East peace process, and energy security. The study group will also take this opportunity to inform the visiting parliamentarians about the 2010 mid term elections in the United States via meetings with journalists, think-tank representatives, and policymakers.

In the past, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey continued to receive a generous funding boost from the German Marshall Fund of the United States and a group of corporate sponsors making up its Business Advisory Council. The Study Group's current Business Advisory Council members include Eli Lilly and the Turkish-American Business Council.

The Association also organizes and administers the Congressional Study Group on Japan. Founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii, the Congressional Study Group on Japan brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and members of the Japanese Diet for a series of discussions covering issues of mutual concern. A group of current Members of Congress chair the study group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT of Washington and Congresswoman SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO of West Virginia serve as co-chairs. In the Senate, Senators JIM WEBB of Virginia and LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska take an active role in study group programming. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Finally, last year the association launched a new program called the Trilateral Renewable Energy Roundtable for legislators from Germany, India and the United States. Together with the Alliance for U.S. India Business, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation and TERI North America, we brought together German, Indian and American lawmakers in Washington, DC, for a series of discussions on renewable energy solutions and ways of cooperation in a trilateral framework. We aim to replicate this successful dialogue in the near future, possibly involving Japanese lawmakers in the project.

The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey, and Japan, as well as the Trilateral Roundtable, demonstrate the significant role that the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress plays in assisting current

Members in maintaining a strong dialogue and personal relationships with their counterparts around the globe. We are very proud of the work that is done by the association to keep these study groups as vital programs in the association, and I hope that all of you will look forward to further participation in them.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Connie.

The Study Groups are very important and they are very enjoyable. Congress to Campus is a very viable program and I hope more of you will take advantage of it. The gentleman from Kansas and I are living proof that a bipartisan approach to Congress to Campus can be survived.

Mr. Slattery is going to deliver a report on our election monitoring expedition to Iraq. Mr. Slattery is within 2 weeks of losing his exalted position as the immediate past president of this association, but I hope that that does not mean you're going to diminish your activities.

Mr. SLATTERY. Thank you, President Rhodes, for the opportunity to report on the International Election Monitors Institute and its March mission to Iraq. I also want to thank you, Jay, for your dedicated service as president of this association. You have done a terrific job and we all appreciate it. We know the time commitment that you have made to making this association more vital and more actively involved in all the projects we're involved in.

I also want to congratulate my chairman, Bill Gray. It was always an honor and a pleasure to serve with you on the Budget Committee. As I look back on those days, I can't help but recall with some fondness our intense debates around deficits at that time that we were trying to get under \$200 billion. Chairman Gray, you did a great job and it was an honor to serve with you.

I want to also join those who have already previously recognized our friend, former Leader Bob Michel, who is really one of the true patriots to have served in this body. What an honor to have known and worked with you during those years and to continue our friendship. Bob Michel, terrific. It's great to see you here today.

It was an honor to travel to Iraq and participate in this project. As you have mentioned, Jay, the International Election Monitors Institute was created in 2005, under the leadership of our good friend, Jack Buechner, when he was president of the association. It is a joint project of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament, and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. In addition to conducting annual workshops for former legislators to train them for election monitoring missions, the International Election Monitors Institute has sent delegations to places like Morocco and Ukraine. Our most recent mission was our most ambitious. We sent six former legisla-

tors to observe the March parliamentary elections in Iraq.

Our team was invited to monitor this election by the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq. Six former legislators from the United States, Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, including former Congressman Scott Klug and myself, traveled to Iraq to witness these elections.

On March 7, 2010, the brave people of Iraq gave the world another inspirational example of their commitment to freedom and democracy. This was a pivotal election, with more than 300 accredited political entities, more than 80 having candidates competing in the election. There were 6,292 candidates competing for 325 seats. Nearly 300,000 poll workers staffed 52,000 polling stations in 8,600 polling centers. In addition, there were 314 out-of-country voting precincts located in 16 countries.

To get an overall idea of what was happening during the elections, we met with people from all sides of the political spectrum. We spoke to people from several election-oriented NGOs, members of the international community, the Iraqi High Election Commission staff, political parties, and people at special needs polling stations.

With the world's attention on Iraq for these elections, many Iraqi people were ready, inspired, and really excited to go to the polls. To me and our team's amazement, Iraqi citizens made it to the polls even with the explosion of nearly 50 bombs in Baghdad by noon on election day. I have monitored elections in other troubled countries, including the Nicaraguan election in 1990 and the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004, but I have never seen security at the level it was in Iraq. My two-person team was accompanied by a group of 16 armed guards in five armored vehicles provided by the U.S. Government.

On election day, we visited 25 polling stations. We were welcomed by each person we met. They were obviously happy to see neutral officials monitoring their election. The Iraqis working the polls were passionate about the election. The staffers were well trained in voting policies as well as the fact that an adequate amount of supplies were provided for each voter at the polling stations. There was also a sense of pride and camaraderie among the Iraqis who voted that day. We were happy to see that there was no discrimination based on age, ethnicity, religion, or political parties at the polling stations we visited. In addition, both the Shia and Sunni sects were encouraged to vote by their leaders, rather than boycott the election as they had been instructed to do in previous elections.

Let there be no mistake. Iraq has a long way to go in developing a western style democracy where the threat of death is not associated with active political participation. And while there was no conclusive outcome on election day with no one party winning more

than 40 percent of the vote, we believe that this election was a giant step forward. Nearly 60 percent of registered voters voted in a free, democratic election, in spite of the violence. There were, of course, some problems with this election, just like there are issues with every election. But in the final analysis, all of us who observed this election were confident that it mechanically went off as good as could be expected. We are confident that it was a great improvement over the last election, and we are confident that it's a giant step toward that day when America's incredible military personnel can withdraw from this troubled land, which likes to think of itself as the "cradle of civilization," and leave the people of Iraq in the hands of a stable democracy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve on this mission and to report on its outcome today.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Jim. I appreciate that very, very much. The interesting thing to me about giving people the vote is that they hunger for it, and they are willing to take all kinds of risks to exercise it. My first experience with something like that was in 1970 in Vietnam. Like Jim, I saw what happened in Nicaragua, I saw what happened in Ukraine, I saw what happened in Afghanistan, and when people are given the opportunity to express themselves, they jump at it, and they are excited about it.

I would like to include my formal remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point. I want just simply to put in a pitch for our bipartisan programs of tomorrow. I'm not sure I know what bipartisanship is, but I do know what civility is. And I do know that when we were first elected and when Mr. Mitchell was the leader and Mr. O'Neill was the Speaker, civility was the rule. I would hope that we can return to the days when the Members of this body are civil to each other, even if they do not agree. And so if bipartisanship is not a definable term, I know that we know what civility is.

THE U.S. ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, 2010 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS, JUNE 15, 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress for the period June 2009 through June 2010. Pursuant to the Association's Congressional charter requirement, the Association's President, former Member of Congress John J. Rhodes, III, delivered this report to the Congress on June 15, 2010. The report was preceded by the presentation of the Association's 2010 Distinguished Service Award to former Member of Congress William H. Gray. The inscription read:

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress to Chairman William Herbert Gray, III for his lifetime of exceptional public service. Both in and out of Congress, Minister Bill Gray has demonstrated his tremendous dedication to civil rights, fairness and equality. Representing the State of Pennsylvania with great distinction, he served as the first African-American

Majority Whip and the first African-American Chairman of the House Budget Committee. His leadership helped young Americans obtain the dream of a college education, his perseverance contributed to the fall of Apartheid, and his humanity brought relief to the people of Haiti. Congressman Bill Gray is an inspiration to us all and his former colleagues from both sides of the political aisle salute him.—WASHINGTON, DC June 15, 2010.

The Association also presented to its outgoing President the following plaque in appreciation for his 2 years of service: Presented to The Honorable John J. Rhodes, III in recognition and appreciation of his strong leadership as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. His tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by his grateful colleagues.—Washington DC, June 15, 2010.

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW ABOUT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Rhodes: Let me take this opportunity to also congratulate Bill Gray on this well-deserved honor. You are an inspiration to us all and we thank you for your many years of distinguished public service.

As President of this organization, it is now my duty to report to the Congress about the activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress since our last annual meeting in June of 2009.

Our Association is nonpartisan. It was chartered by Congress in 1983. The purpose of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is to promote public service and strengthen democracy, abroad and in the United States. About 600 former Senators and Representatives belong to the Association. Republicans, Democrats and Independents are united in this organization in their desire to teach about Congress and the importance of representative democracy. We receive no funding from the Congress. All the activities which we are about to describe are financed either via membership dues, program-specific grants and sponsors, or via our fundraising dinner. Our finances are sound, our projects fully funded, and our 2009 audit by an outside accountant came back with a clean bill of financial health.

We again have had a very successful, active, and rewarding year. We have continued our work serving as a liaison between the current Congress and legislatures overseas; we have created partnerships with highly respected institutions in the area of democracy building and election monitoring; we have developed new projects, which we are in the process of expanding, including our webcasting civics education program, and we again sent dozens of bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to university campuses here in the United States and abroad as part of our Congress to Campus Program.

III. ASSOCIATION DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

a. Conference on Bipartisanship

We were incorporated on June 18th, 1970, almost 40 years ago to the day. Let me quote from our original by-laws as they describe the purpose for which the Association was created: purposes include the promotion of the cause of good government at the national and international level by strengthening and improving representative government, by teaching about our system of government, and by sending delegations to help countries as they develop democratic systems of government.

You will find that all the programs we have initiated meet one or more of the goals outlined in our bylaws. For example, tomorrow we will host a one-day conference focused on the issue of bipartisanship. The conference is a joint project with the Na-

tional Archives and the Bipartisan Policy Center. Three different panels will examine our current political discourse, how bipartisanship—or the lack thereof—has influenced our political decision making, the way our media influences this nation's political climate, and what concrete steps we might be able to take to foster a more civil relationship across the aisle. Panelists and speakers include current Members such as Senator Ron Wyden, and former Members such as Speaker Tom Foley. The media is represented, for example by Judy Woodruff and Jackie Calmes. This will be an outstanding conference and it is a good example of the type of contribution former Members can make to the issues that affect us all.

Our founders 40 years ago envisioned former Members teaching about Congress and encouraging public service. They were hoping that former Members could inspire the next generation of America's leaders. No program of ours does a better job implementing that vision than the Congress to Campus Program. Established many years ago as a way to reach college students, it has since grown to also bring former Members into the high school civic education classroom as well as connecting with students as young as middle school age.

We continue to work with the Stennis Center for Public Service, but all administration of this great program is now done in-house by Association staff. I will now yield to a former President of our Association, Matt McHugh of New York, who co-chairs the Congress to Campus Program.

b. Congress to Campus Program

Mr. McHugh: Thank you, Jay, for the opportunity to report on this outstanding program. As you indicated, the Congress to Campus Program has been administered entirely by the Association in cooperation with the Stennis Center for three years now. During that time, the program has experienced marked growth and has expanded to include community colleges. As most of you know, this is the Association's flagship program for its members. It sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities and high schools across the country to educate the next generation of leaders on the importance of civic engagement. The participating students benefit from the interaction with our Association members, whose knowledge and experience are a unique resource. Our members also benefit through their continued involvement in public service, and the ability to engage young people on issues that are important to them.

During each visit, our bipartisan team conducts classes, meets individually with students and faculty, speaks to campus media, participates in both campus and community forums, and meets with local citizens. Institutions are encouraged to market the visit to the entire campus community, not just to those students majoring in political science, history or government. Over the course of two and a half days, hundreds of students are exposed to the former Members' message regarding the significance of public service.

The program has made both domestic and international visits this academic year, including two separate visits to campuses in the United Kingdom. During the 2009-2010 academic year, the program has made 22 campus visits, including visits to the United States Naval Academy, Boise State University in Idaho, Waubesa Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois, Cabrini College in Radnor, Pennsylvania, and Miami University Hamilton in Ohio.

More than 35 former Members participated, and I want to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to do so. I also want to encourage those who have not yet

had the opportunity to seriously consider doing so. It is truly a great way to continue your public service after Congress.

I would also like to extend our thanks to the faculty, staff members and students who worked so diligently on each visit. Without their hard work, these visits would not have been possible. We rely heavily on the universities to take the lead in coordinating logistics related to each visit, and appreciate the time they devote to ensuring that their students receive the full benefit of the program.

We have continued our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to Tracy Fine of our staff and to Brother Rogers of the Stennis Center for their fine work. Our staffs work very closely together to make the program such a success and we also appreciate the continuing financial support we receive from the Stennis Center. We look forward to our continuing association in the years ahead.

In addition to the expansion of the program to community colleges, and with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program has also commenced a concerted effort in partnership with the University of Central Florida and the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government, to reach out to high school students via a series of webcasts. These programs focus on specific topics related to Congress and the legislative process, and are designed as a tool for teachers to showcase these topics and encourage involvement in government. During the fall and spring, the program was piloted to high schools in Florida and around the country. The broadcasts were taped and streamed live with an in-studio audience of high schools students in Washington as part of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. We want to thank the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Central Florida, the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government, George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, and the Congressional Youth Leadership Council for their support of this great program. In the 2010-2011 academic year, the project will continue to reach out to high school students. While these "virtual" visits cannot replace the person-to-person experience of a traditional Congress to Campus visit, they can play an important supplemental role in teaching about representative democracy at the high school level.

We have also continued our working relationship with the People to People Ambassador Program that brings young people to our nation's capital for a week of events centered on the concepts of character and leadership. This year the Association sent Former Members to 30 different speaking engagements in this area and reached hundreds of students via these appearances. These students are younger than those who participate in Congress to Campus activities, but they have already demonstrated a commitment to the ideals that Congress to Campus seeks to promote. The Association's involvement in this program allows our members living in the Washington area to speak to these younger students on the importance of public service and to answer their many questions about our country and its government. A number of our members continue to work full time, and the People to People engagements allow them to continue their public service in this way. The events are typically held in the early morning at suburban locations, and I want to thank my colleagues, especially Orval Hansen, Jack Buechner, and Martin Frost who have participated in this program regularly over the past year.

Finally, I want to say again how grateful we are to all of those who have made the

Congress to Campus Program such a success and to strongly encourage all of my friends and colleagues to participate in the program, either by making a visit to a school, or by recommending a school to host the program. As you know, a democracy can prosper only if its citizens are both informed and engaged, and as former legislators we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to encourage such involvement. This program gives us the chance to do so, particularly with our young people. Thank you.

c. Political Rules of the Road

Mr. Rhodes: One of the lessons we have learned from interacting with America's college students, is that there is a void of real-life experience and advice when it comes to civic education textbooks. To fill that void former Member of Congress Lou Frey of Florida collected the words of wisdom our membership had to offer and edited two books we have since published. The first, *Inside the House—Former Members reveal how Congress really works*—was published several years ago and is being used by political science professors across the country. This past summer, we published a follow-up volume entitled *Political Rules of the Road*. This book focuses on some of the rules of the road we all have learned during our political lives, and I thank the many former Members who took the time and submitted contributions for this terrific collection. We have over 500 rules by almost 200 former and current Members as well as several U.S. Presidents! The book has received quite some attention; as a matter of fact Lou Frey did a call-in show on C-Span late last year. Please visit our website at www.usafmc.org for more information about ordering either one of these publications.

d. Statesmanship Award Dinner

None of these projects would be possible without funding. We do not receive a single taxpayer dollar from the Congress for our organization. All programs are self-financed via membership dues, grants, contributions and our annual fundraising dinner. We have taken the occasion of the fundraiser to recognize former or current Members of Congress who have inspired others through their leadership or statesmanship. Our 2010 Statesmanship Award Honoree was Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Early on we decided to dedicate our 40th anniversary year to the theme of bipartisanship. It was therefore a very easy decision to recognize Secretary LaHood for his many years in the Congress and in the current administration as a public servant who strives to reach across the aisle, create dialogue, and work with others regardless of their political persuasion. The dinner was a rousing success and we are so pleased that we had a chance to recognize Secretary LaHood for the good work he did in the Congress and the good work he is doing as Secretary of Transportation.

e. Charitable Golf Tournament

Two years ago we took a 35-year-old tradition—our annual golf tournament which pits Republicans against Democrats—and gave it a new and much bigger mission: we converted it into a charitable golf tournament to aid severely wounded vets returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Our beneficiary, the Wounded Warrior Project of Disabled Sports USA, is as impressive and remarkable an organization as you are likely to find anywhere in this country. They use sports to help our wounded veterans readjust to life after a severe injury, they involve the entire family in the sport, and they take care of all the equipment and training. We held the third golf tournament yesterday and between the three tournaments we have raised

almost \$200,000 for this outstanding organization. We are very proud of this new focus for our organization and hope to be able to support our wounded heroes for many years to come.

IV. ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

a. China Delegation

According to our bylaws and articles of incorporation, we are tasked with promoting representative democracy at home and abroad. We therefore have created a number of programs with an international outreach.

For example, earlier this year I was privileged to lead a delegation of former Members of Congress to China. Our bipartisan group had a number of meetings in Beijing as well as in Shanghai. The purpose of the trip was to learn about China firsthand, engage Chinese officials in a frank dialogue, shed some light on current U.S. politics and foreign policy, and gain knowledge about U.S.-Chinese trade relations from U.S. corporate representatives in Asia. To conduct this mission we partnered with the China Association For International Friendly Contact and the China U.S. Exchange Foundation. Our discussion partners included the Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, the Assistant Minister of Commerce, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition, we met with a number of Chinese university students, Chinese cultural representatives, and the Deputy Governor of China's central bank. Our talks were frank and productive, we learned an awful lot and were able to dispel some myths. Most importantly, we established an avenue for an exchange of views and ideas. This was a very successful trip and we are planning a followup in the fall.

Another example of our international outreach is the work we do via the International Election Monitors Institute. Created in 2005 under the leadership of our then-President Jack Buechner, the IEMI is a collaborative effort administered in conjunction with our Canadian and European Union sister organizations. IEMI takes former legislators from the United States, Canada and Europe and trains them in proper election monitoring techniques and a code of conduct. To this end we have been able to put together a two-day training course which we've now administered numerous times in Ottawa. The course, as well as a host of other achievements for the Institute, was made possible via a three-year grant from the Canadian International Development Agency. Dozens of U.S., Canadian, and European former legislators have gone through the training and are now well versed in the actual set of responsibilities and challenges that come with election observation. Our most recent mission was also our most ambitious undertaking: we were one of only two organizations with U.S. election monitors in Iraq for that country's March parliamentary elections. Former Member of Congress Jim Slatery was in Baghdad as an IEMI election observer and will report on this project.

b. IEMI Iraq Election Monitoring Mission

Mr. Slatery: Thank you, Jay, for the opportunity to report on the International Election Monitors Institute and its March mission to Iraq. It was an honor to be able to travel to Iraq and participate in this endeavor and to be part of such an important moment for democracies around the world.

As you mentioned, the IEMI was created in 2005 under the leadership of our good friend Jack Buechner, when he was President of our Association. It is a joint project of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament, and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. In addition to conducting multiple annual workshops for former legislators to train them for

election monitoring missions, IEMI has sent delegations to places such as Morocco and Ukraine. Our most recent mission was arguable our most ambitious, when we sent six former legislators to observe the March parliamentary elections in Iraq.

A team from the IEMI was invited to visit Iraq and monitor the 2010 elections by the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq. Six former legislators from the United States, Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, including myself, traveled to Iraq to witness the elections.

On March 7, 2010, I had the opportunity to observe the elections in Iraq and see how the brave people of that country gave the world another inspirational example of their commitment to democracy. This year was a pivotal election year with over 300 accredited political entities, more than 80 having candidates competing in this election. There were 6,292 candidates competing for 325 seats. Nearly 300,000 poll workers staffed 52,000 polling stations in 8,600 polling centers. In addition, there were 314 out-of-country voting precincts located in 16 countries.

In order to get an overall idea of what exactly was happening during the elections, we met with people from all sides of the spectrum. We spoke to people from several election-oriented NGOs, members of the international community, IHEC staff, political parties, and people at special needs polling stations.

With the world's attention on Iraq for these elections, many Iraqi people were ready, inspired and excited to go to the polls. To me and my team's amazement, Iraqi citizens still made it to the polls even with the explosion of nearly 50 bombs in Baghdad by noon on Election Day. I have monitored elections in other troubled countries, including the Nicaraguan election in 1990 and the Ukrainian election in 2004, but I have never seen security at the level it was in Iraq. My two-person team was accompanied by a group of 16 armed guards in 5 armored vehicles, provided by the U.S. Government.

On Election Day, we visited 25 polling stations. We were welcomed by each person we met. They were happy to know that there were neutral officials coming to monitor the elections. The Iraqis working the polls were passionate about these elections. All of the staffers were well trained in voting policies and procedures. Instructions on the voting process as well as an adequate amount of supplies were provided for each voter at the polling stations. There was also a sense of pride and camaraderie amongst the Iraqis who voted that day. People sat in voting centers sharing food and drink, celebrating this noteworthy day. We were happy to see that there was no discrimination between age, ethnicity, religion, or political parties at the polling stations we visited. In addition, both the Shia and Sunni sects were encouraged to vote by their leaders, rather than boycott the election as they had been instructed to do in previous elections.

Let there be no mistake. Iraq has a long way to go in developing a Western style democracy where the threat of death is not associated with active political participation. And while there was no conclusive outcome on Election Day with no one party winning more than 40 percent of the vote, we believe that this election was a big step forward. Nearly 60 percent of registered voters voted in a legitimate, democratic election. There were, of course, some problems with this election—just like there are issues with every other election that takes place in any country on this planet. For example, we found that there is a need for a definite voter list. The lack thereof continues to adversely affect citizens' attitudes toward democracy and their belief in the legitimacy of the

process. Another issue was that the Council of Representatives did not complete the revisions to the electoral law until December 6, 2009, barely three months before election day. However, domestic monitoring organizations and nearly all Iraqi officials with whom we met believed the March election was a major improvement on the 2005 election.

We hope this election is another giant step toward that day when America's incredible military personnel can withdraw from this troubled land, which likes to think of itself as the "Cradle of Civilization", and leave the people of Iraq in the hands of a stable democracy. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on this mission and to report on its outcome today.

c. House Democracy Partnership project

Mr. Rhodes: For the past year, we have been working in conjunction with current Members on democracy building and legislative strengthening projects abroad. Specifically, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress has had the privilege to support the important work of the House Democracy Partnership.

HDP is an undertaking by the House of Representatives to strengthen democratic institutions by assisting parliaments in emerging democracies. One of the objectives of HDP is to provide expert advice to members and staff of the parliaments of partner countries. HDP is chaired by David Price of North Carolina and David Dreier of California. It is an extension of the great work begun by Martin Frost and Gerry Solomon as part of the Frost-Solomon Task Force. We are very pleased to be able to play an important role in this outstanding project.

Via a grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development, bipartisan teams of former Members have travelled to Kenya, Georgia, and Poland. In addition, we have assisted with the work of a team of former Congressional Staff in Haiti. The missions are issue-specific, have an intense and active program, and give former Members the opportunity to share some of their experiences with current legislators in parliaments overseas. The Georgia mission, for example, had the very specific focus of talking about effective civilian control of the military and an appropriate role for Parliament in the setting, funding and oversight of defense policy. This mission was led by former Member Martin Lancaster and included former Members Heather Wilson, Joel Hefley and Pete Geren. The Kenya mission was led by former Member Martin Frost and included former Members Barbara Kennelly, Connie Morella and Phil English. The delegation had meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Agriculture, and Water; the Speaker of Parliament; the Parliamentary Reform Caucus; Former Members of Parliament; and leaders of the major political parties. They discussed challenges and coalition building with Civil Society leaders, including Transparency International, the Law Society of Kenya, SUNY, and Youth movement organizations. The mission to Poland included former Member Martin Frost and coincided with the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Frost-Solomon Task Force working with the Polish legislature. During this mission, the delegation focused on organizing a training program for legislative staff. Clearly former Members can play an important and productive role in this type of legislative strengthening project. We thank David Price and David Dreier for including us in their work and we hope that we will be allowed to contribute further in the future.

In addition to the international work which I just highlighted, our Association also focuses on creating a dialogue involving

current Members of Congress and their colleagues in legislatures abroad. Mainly we achieve this objective via several Congressional Study Groups involving Germany, Turkey, and Japan. We have arranged over 500 special events at the U.S. Capitol for international delegations from over 80 countries and the European Parliament, hosted meetings for individual legislators and for parliamentary staff, and organized over 50 foreign policy seminars in about a dozen countries involving more than 1,500 former and current legislators. Former Member of Congress Connie Morella will report on the activities of our Congressional Study Groups.

d. Congressional Study Groups

Ms. Morella: Thank you, Jay. The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is pleased to oversee and administer the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, which create invaluable opportunities for current Members of Congress to engage with their counterparts in the legislative branches of those countries.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is the Association's flagship international program, and is the largest and most active parliamentary exchange program involving the U.S. Congress and the legislature of another country. Since its inception almost 30 years ago, the Study Group has offered lawmakers a unique forum to discuss potential avenues of cooperation on issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to NATO's role in Afghanistan. A group of current Members of Congress chair the Study Group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Russ Carnahan of Missouri serves as the Chairman and Congressman Phil Gingrey of Georgia serves as the Vice Chairman. In the Senate, Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL) serve as Co-Chairs.

The Study Group on Germany's programming consists of three pillars: the Distinguished Visitors Program, which offers monthly roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Germany; Annual Seminars which meet in Germany and the United States on a rotating basis; and a senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany. Recent Capitol Hill discussion partners include: the German Federal Minister of Economy and Technology, Rainer Brüderle; Minister-President of Hessen, Roland Koch; and Minister-President of Lower Saxony, Christian Wulff.

The highlight of each programming year is the Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar, which brings together Members of the U.S. Congress with their counterparts in the German Bundestag for in-depth discussions about issues that affect the transatlantic relationship. In addition to current and former lawmakers from the United States and Germany, representatives from the U.S. State Department, the German Foreign Ministry, and the business and academic community also participate. Discussion topics are dictated by current events and issues influencing U.S.-German relations. The 27th Annual Congress-Bundestag took place the second week of May in Washington, DC and St. Louis, MO. Seminar sessions examined prospects for peace in the Middle East, mutual national security risks as well as outlook on the 2010 Mid-term elections. The 2010 Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany took place at the end of March bringing ten House Chiefs of Staff to Berlin and Cologne.

Since its creation, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has received generous grants from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The Association would

like to thank GMF's President, Craig Kennedy, for his support and trust in the Study Group. Additional funding to assist with administrative expenses is received from a group of organizations that make up the Study Group's Business Advisory Council. This council is chaired by former Member of Congress Tom Coleman of Missouri, who served as the Chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany in the House in 1989. Current Business Advisory Council Members are: Airbus, Allianz, BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Inc., Lufthansa, RGIT and Volkswagen.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey was established in 2005, and it has quickly become a major focus for the Former Members Association. The Study Group offers lawmakers a unique educational forum to examine issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to cooperation in the Middle East peace process. Taking the successful and long-running Congressional Study Group on Germany as a model, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey has grown into a highly relevant and productive program for American and Turkish legislators. The Study Group is currently active in the House of Representatives, and is co-chaired by Congressman Steve Cohen of Tennessee and Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. Congressman Ed Whitfield of Kentucky remains active in the Study Group as Immediate Past Chair.

Similar to the Study Group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey hosts roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Turkey and U.S. Administration officials as part of its Distinguished Visitors Program. The Study Group has recently hosted: the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ahmet Davutoglu; and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, MP Murat Mercan.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar, which brings together American and Turkish lawmakers to discuss current issues pertinent to the bilateral relationship. The 5th Annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar took place at the end of August 2009 in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, and the 2010 Annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar is slated to take place this summer in Washington, DC and Chicago, IL. Discussion topics will examine current issues in Turkish-American relations, such as the Strategic Cooperation Framework on Trade, the Middle East peace process and energy security. The Study Group will also take this opportunity to inform the visiting parliamentarians about the 2010 mid-term elections in the United States via meetings with journalists, think-tank representatives and policy makers. In the past year, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey continued to receive a generous funding from the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and a group of corporate sponsors making up its Business Advisory Council. The Study Group's current Business Advisory Council members include Eli Lilly and the Turkish-American Business Council.

The Association also organizes and administers the Congressional Study Group on Japan. Founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii, the Congressional Study Group on Japan brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and Members of the Japanese Diet for a series of discussions covering issues of mutual concern. A group of current Members of Congress chair the Study Group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Jim McDermott of Washington and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito of West

Virginia serve as co-Chairs. In the Senate, Senators Jim Webb of Virginia and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska take an active role in Study Group programming. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Last year, the Association launched a new program called the Trilateral Renewable Energy Roundtable for legislators from Germany, India and the United States. Together with the Alliance for U.S. India Business, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation and TERI North America, we brought together German, Indian and American lawmakers in Washington, DC for a series of discussions on renewable energy solutions and ways of cooperation in a trilateral framework. We aim to replicate this highly successful dialogue in the near future, possibly involving Japanese lawmakers in the project.

The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, as well as the Trilateral Roundtable demonstrate the significant role that the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress plays in assisting current Members in maintaining a strong dialogue and personal relationships with their counterparts around the globe. We are very proud of the work we do to keep these Study Groups as vital programs in the Association, and I look forward to being an active participant in Study Group activities for many more years to come. Thank you.

e. Middle East Fellows Program

Mr. Rhodes: The Study Groups do important work and are another example of how former Members can assist current Members in their international outreach.

I wish to highlight one more international project which we initiated this year and hope to replicate in the future. Just last month our Association hosted six Legislative Fellows from the Middle East here in DC. In partnership with an organization called Legacy International, we implemented a small grant from the U.S. Department of State. Via this program we brought a group of young professionals from the Middle East to Washington for one month. The group came from Kuwait and Oman and included lawyers, journalists and government employees. Each fellow—and I should highlight that there were two female fellows—was paired up with a former Member of Congress to serve as a mentor. I thank our six colleagues who went above and beyond in terms of taking their visitor under their wings. In addition to the time spent with the former Members, each fellow spent three weeks on Capitol Hill as a visiting fellow in Congressional offices. Let me also thank the six current Members of Congress who participated in this project. We are hoping to bring a second and larger group of Middle East Fellows to DC in the fall, and then possibly send a former Members delegation to the Middle East as a follow up visit. This program clearly falls within our goal of strengthening ties via people-to-people interaction and dialogue.

V. CONCLUSION

a. In Memoriam

It is now my sad duty to inform the House of those former and current Members who passed away since our last report. We honored them via a memorial breakfast for which Speaker Pelosi joined us earlier today. It was a fitting commemoration of the service these Members gave to our country. They are:

Ike Andrews of North Carolina
William Avery of Kansas
Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma
James Bromwell of Iowa
Frank Coffin of Maine
Bob Davis of Michigan

Paul Fino of New York
Robert Franks of New Jersey
Thomas Gill of Hawaii
Clifford Hansen of Wyoming
Cecil Heftel of Hawaii
Bill Hefner of North Carolina
Jay Johnson of Wisconsin
Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts
Don Lukens of Ohio
Charles "Mac" Mathias of Maryland
John Murtha of Pennsylvania
Stanford Parris of Virginia
John Rarick of Louisiana
David Treen of Louisiana
Stewart Udall of Arizona
Charlie Wilson of Texas

I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to rise for a moment of silence as we pay our respects to their memory.

Before we conclude, let me welcome to Washington several former Members of the Canadian Parliament who have joined us as our guests. Leo Duguay is my counterpart in the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and is leading a delegation of his colleagues as part of our continued excellent relations with our neighbors from the north. Also with us are four former Members of the Ontario legislature, led by Steven Gilchrist. To you also a warm welcome and our thanks for joining us again this year. Last, but certainly not least, we are so pleased that an old friend of this Association has again made the long trip from the UK to join us. Richard Balfe serves in the Executive of the European Union Former Members Association and it is always wonderful to see you! We are honored that you have joined us for our annual meeting.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the other members of our Association's Executive Committee: our Vice President, Dennis Hertel; our Treasurer, Connie Morella; our Secretary, Barbara Kennelly, and our Immediate Past President, Jim Slattery. You all have made this Association a stronger and better organization than it has ever been and I thank you for all your time and energy. Your counsel was invaluable to me during these two years as President.

Former Member Dennis Hertel will succeed me as President starting July 1st. He will have a great group of former Members to work with on the Executive Committee level and we are pleased to announce that former Member of Congress Jim Kolbe will become a new officer with the Former Members Association. In addition, I wish to thank our Board of Directors and our counselors for their commitment to our Association. Your service is valued and appreciated! As of July 1st our newest board member will be former Member of Congress Scott Klug.

To administer all these programs takes a staff of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals. We have five full-time employees and we appreciate their hard work. They are:

Esra Alemdar, Program Officer
Bryan Corder, Member Services Manager
Tracy Fine, Democracy Officer
Sudha David-Wilp, International Programs Director

Pete Weichlein, Executive Director

Closing Remarks. That concludes the 40th Report to Congress by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. We thank the Congress, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Minority Leader Boehner for giving us the opportunity to report again this year on the activities of our organization and we look forward to another active and productive year. Thank you.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona and the president of our association for all his service. I think it could be summarized best by Speaker PELOSI, coming this morning to our

memorial service for those Members who have died in this last year in talking about Jay Rhodes and how much she respected him and how she hopes he will continue in service of this organization and in service of our country. Those were the remarks of Speaker PELOSI this morning.

I want to thank Lorraine Miller, the Clerk of the House, for being with us again and for hosting us and for spending all this time with us. We are honored to have you here. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. I want to thank all of the guests of our whip and Budget chairman, Bill Gray, who received our Distinguished Service Award. We are very honored that you all took the time to come. You are just as proud of him as we are. You know how much time it took from his community but especially his family.

I want to recognize his wife, Andrea; their three sons, Bill, Justin and Andrew, up in the gallery; their daughter-in-law, Jennifer; and two grandchildren, Sabrina and Aidan, here today. Thank you very much for coming. We are so proud of him and for all the time he gave on behalf of us taken from you.

Finally, I want to thank Richard Balfe from the European Union Association of Former Members; Steven Gilchrist who is leading a delegation of the Ontario legislature; and lastly Leo Duguay, my counterpart and the president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, and Don Boudria and Francis LeBlanc for taking the time to join with us. All of the public service that all of you are accomplishing for us on the international level, we very much appreciate; and I want to thank all of our Members here for all their service.

We are adjourned.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

JOBS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of putting Americans back to work. You know, we cannot overturn and change 8 years of Republican rule with simply a snap of a finger. However, the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country's economic well-being.

The House passed the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act. The legislation will create 160,000 jobs and extends successful Build America Bonds for schools, roads and bridges. We also passed the Summer Jobs Act which creates 300,000 summer job opportunities for our youth. We have seen an increase in GDP, and we've seen an increase in manufacturing, and we've seen a significant increase in economic indicators. As President Obama said, this is the Nation where anyone with a good idea and the will to work hard can succeed. Dallas, my hometown, is no stranger to good ideas, hard work, or small businesses.

I commend Dallas' small businesses which have created hundreds of jobs, provide valuable goods and services, and help drive our local economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to work together to enact policies that creates and saves jobs.

House Democrats are committed to create good American jobs, build a strong foundation for the economy, and work to turn around our Nation's economy.

RECOGNIZING COLLIERVILLE AND HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOLS FROM SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise two outstanding high schools in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. Collierville High and Houston High Schools, both in Shelby County, Tennessee, have been named by Newsweek magazine among America's top high schools. Only 6 percent of America's high schools make this list. This is an important accomplishment that comes because of hard and diligent work not just from students but faculty, staff, principals, from parents and from lots of participation from the community.

I congratulate Principals Leisa Justus of Houston and Tim Setterlund of Collierville, along with the faculty and most importantly the students of both schools for all the hard work that has led them to this important achievement.

FLAG BURNING

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, yesterday folks across Amer-

ica gathered together to celebrate our national flag. For 233 years now, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the globe, the representation of all we are and all that we stand for. Millions of young men and women fought and died for their country under that flag, and every day our servicemembers risk their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or desecrate it is an insult to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe and to those who helped build our great Nation. It should be illegal, and this Congress should make it illegal by finally passing a constitutional amendment to ban the burning of a U.S. flag. Every day this House begins its work by pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. We need to live up to that pledge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. ARMY

(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, yesterday the United States Army celebrated its 235th birthday. Since the Continental Congress first created the Continental Army to protect and secure our new Nation, men and women have continued to make the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and independence. For three centuries, from the Revolutionary War to D-day and the current global war on terrorism and every day in between, America's soldiers have performed bravely. The American military has achieved the largest number of countries living today in freedom and democracy in the history of the world.

I appreciate firsthand the Army as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and Army Guard myself. Also, my father served in the Army Air Corps as a Flying Tiger in China and India. But more meaningful to me is that I have three sons today serving in the Army National Guard, with my oldest son an Iraq veteran of the field artillery. On this 235th birthday, I extend my appreciation to those who have served or are currently serving and especially to those family and friends of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of liberty.

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

INTRODUCING THE TEEN PARENTS GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ACT

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. The author Robin Cook wrote that "education is more than a luxury. It is a responsibility that society owes to itself." Our country far too