

agenda. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject the President's request and to, instead, use our resources, including the National Guard, in an effort to strengthen our border security and deport those who have come here illegally.

United States immigration policies are some of the most generous in the world, but we simply cannot condone illegal immigration. To that end, I will continue to support by any means necessary, whether legislative or legal, to ensure our current laws are enforced and to prevent this President from unilaterally implementing policies that circumvent our rule of law.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an anniversary that has pained the Cypriot and Hellenic communities for 40 years.

On July 20, 1974, in a blatant violation of international law, Turkey violently invaded Cyprus and captured much of the northern part of the island. Since the invasion, Turkey has occupied nearly 40 percent of Cyprus. Settlers were sent to inhabit homes that were previously owned by Greek Cypriots, forcibly relocating 160,000 Greek Cypriots. Religious artifacts and cultural relics have been destroyed in the wake of the Turkish Army's invasion, and after 40 years of displacement, they are now lost to time. Hundreds of churches and monasteries have been shamefully desecrated, losing all sense of their historic and religious significance.

Despite this neglect, the Republic of Cyprus recognizes Turkish Cypriots as citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, and provides numerous benefits to them as they would any citizen. Turkish Cypriots are entitled to official passports, which allow them to enjoy the benefits of EU membership, including the freedom of movement within EU member countries. Turkish Cypriots are recipients of free medical care from public hospitals, and they are eligible for benefits from the Republic's Social Insurance Scheme.

These policies have resulted in Greek and Turkish Cypriots living among each other with little trouble. Indeed, there have been millions of crossings at the Green Line without incident. So why the Turkish troops? Why the continued occupation? Despite the increase in citizen-level cohesion, the "Cyprus problem" remains a diplomatic challenge at the highest levels of government.

Greek and Turkish Cypriots deserve an end to this senseless division. In February of this year, it looked like progress was being made for legitimate negotiations that would lead to a real solution based on the rule of law. There is potential for significant economic

value from the discovery of offshore gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean, which stand to benefit a unified Cyprus. By reaping these natural resources, Cyprus' allies—the United States, Greece, Israel, and many European countries—will also flourish.

In the face of the optimism for financial recovery and other incentives to unify, this year, Turkish Cypriot leaders have refused to implement even the simplest of confidence-building measures, which would be a sign of good faith and would foster an atmosphere of honest negotiation. The failure to enact the most basic, practical steps continues to impede a process for reunification that is long overdue. Words lose their meaning when inaction is all that follows.

Today, the United States stands in a unique role as a friend of both Cyprus and Turkey. As an honest broker to both sides, we can help them see that a unified future is far more promising than the present. The United States' relationship with all of its allies, Turkey included, must be based on shared values and mutual respect. At the core, the rule of law must be respected above all else. It is our duty to continually reinforce this message that 40 years of illegal occupation is 40 years too long.

It is time for Turkey to engage in sincere negotiations and in concrete confidence-building measures instead of going through the motions and creating more obstacles when tough decisions are on the table. Both sides know a solution will demand compromise and cooperation. The time to talk is nearing its end. The time to act is here. Cyprus has long been a strong and faithful ally of the United States, and we owe our support for both peace and the end of this illegal occupation.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 16, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 2014 at 9:51 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 517.  
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

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

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

There was no objection.

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

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Barbara Kennelly, vice president of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8:05 a.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Lord God of history, when former Members return to Congress, it offers an opportunity to reflect upon the great heritage of representative government that is America's historical legacy.

The record of Congress holds old and familiar stories, strong exhortations, repeated corrections, and consoling confirmations of hopes made real through difficult but persistent compromise in the forming of enduring programs and legislation.

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

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

Bless all former Members who have died, as we especially remember today Robert Roe of New Jersey, who passed only yesterday. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning.

And bless those here gathered, that they may bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Barbara Kennelly 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.

Ms. KENNELLY. We will be visited by some Members of Congress, and as they come in, I will recognize them.

Right now I recognize the chair, the Honorable Connie Morella.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Barbara. It is always a distinct privilege to be

back here in this revered Chamber and we appreciate so much the opportunity to present today the 44th annual report of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress. I will be joined by some of our colleagues in reporting on the activities and projects of our organization since our last report to Congress in May of last year. But first of all, I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll of the former Members of Congress, as follows:

Ms. Byron of Maryland  
Mr. Carnahan of Missouri  
Mr. Carr of Michigan  
Mr. Clement of Tennessee  
Mr. Costello of Illinois  
Mr. Coyne of Pennsylvania  
Mr. Delahunt of Massachusetts  
Mr. de Lugo of the Virgin Islands  
Mr. Frey of Florida  
Mr. Glickman of Kansas  
Mr. Hertel of Michigan  
Mr. Hughes of New Jersey  
Ms. Kennelly of Connecticut  
Mr. Kolbe of Arizona  
Mr. Konnyu of California  
Mr. Kramer of Colorado  
Mr. Lancaster of North Carolina  
Mr. LaRocco of Idaho  
Ms. Long of Louisiana  
Mr. Lungren of California  
Ms. Morella of Maryland  
Mr. Nelligan of Pennsylvania  
Mr. Sarasin of Connecticut  
Mr. Skaggs of Colorado  
Mr. Smith of Florida  
Mr. Stearns of Florida

Ms. KENNELLY. The Chair announces that 26 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

Ms. MORELLA. I want to thank you all for joining us today. Our association, as you know, was chartered by Congress, and one requirement of the charter is for us to report once a year to Congress about our activities.

Many of you have joined us for several years on this occasion, and there will be numerous programs and projects with which you now are quite familiar. This is a sign of our association's stability and purpose. We are extremely proud of our long history, of creating lasting and impactful programs that teach about Congress and representative government, and of our ability to take long-standing projects and expand them and improve them.

In addition, you will hear today about a number of new endeavors, ones that either were implemented during the last year or are now in the planning stages for implementation in the near future. We will report on our programming in just a minute.

Those of you who have been with us on previous occasions for this report know that we traditionally bestow on a former Member our association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. During this presentation in the House Chamber we traditionally have done that. For a number of reasons, we will have the ceremony later today

during a special luncheon, and I certainly hope that all of you in attendance here this morning can join us for the luncheon also.

Our 2014 distinguished service honoree is former Indiana Representative Lee Hamilton, who has been an inspiration and a mentor to so many of us. While the ceremony is not going to take place right now, I do want to read into the RECORD the inscription of the plaque that he will receive:

The 2014 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress to the Honorable Lee H. Hamilton.

Congressman Hamilton has devoted his professional life to public service and the advancement of our national prosperity and security. In serving for over 30 years as a Member of Congress representing the Ninth District of Indiana, cochairing numerous Presidential Commissions tasked with making our Nation more secure, directing the invaluable work of the Woodrow Wilson Center, and creating a Center on Congress at Indiana University to improve public understanding of Congress, Lee Hamilton has approached every test with the utmost integrity, insight, and good judgment. For half a century, Congressman Hamilton has served our Nation with honor by forging bipartisan solutions to our world's complicated problems. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle salute him as a distinguished and dedicated public servant.

Washington, DC, July 16, 2014.

Maybe we should just give him a round of applause, and again, join us later for the luncheon honoring him.

Now back to our report.

Ms. KENNELLY. Madam President? Excuse me, our leader is here.

Ms. PELOSI. Good morning, everyone.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you for joining us, Leader PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Hi, Connie. We see each other so often. We really do. Say hi to Tony.

Good morning, everyone. My pleasure to welcome you once again to the Capitol, to take the occasion to thank you all very much for your service to our country, for the contributions that you have made over time. Many of you, as I look around this room, served at a time when it was a little more collegial atmosphere here. We hope to return to that.

But so much of the work that we do is built on foundations that you all have laid. And we thank you for that. Your legacy will live into the future. I saw in the paper this morning that our former Chairman Roe passed away. The paper called him "Mr. Jobs," and I thought, what a wonderful title. Wouldn't we all like to be having that as what people remember us by? But that's what our thrust is going to be.

I just might add, Madam Chair and Madam President, that this morning on the steps of the Capitol Members will be going out there to talk about jobs, about how to keep America number one. And all that we have in there is stuff that we worked for in a bipartisan way, which is to recognize the productivity of the American worker,

the most productive in the world, so to recognize that and have policies that help people, as STENY would say, make it in America. That is A, American-made.

Build the infrastructure of our country and build small businesses. It is about building. It is about recognizing that that entrepreneurship and that innovation to keep America number one begins in the classroom.

So our investments in education, especially making higher education affordable, is a critical part of our agenda and recognizing also that education begins at the earliest time. That is the childhood education.

But what I am excited about is to say the central core of what we are about is, when women succeed, America succeeds. That is the title of our economic agenda for families and the middle class. But it is not just a title; it is a statement of fact. When women succeed, America succeeds. The best thing we can do to grow our economy is to unleash the power of women, increase the involvement of women, and that is with fair pay, with paid sick leave, with, again, getting back to the affordable child care, children learning, parents earning.

So we are very excited about helping that in the debate and the coming elections—that it is not just about who wins, it is about how the debate centers on family, American workers, our productivity, their productivity, our economic success to keep America number one—anything that we all haven't worked together on in the past.

So it's wonderful to see all of you. Congratulations.

Did I hear Lee Hamilton was getting the award? How lovely. Congratulations to him and you, he bringing luster to your award, you bringing honor to him.

But again, on behalf of all of our Members, I extend the warmest of welcomes back to you, and in friendship and in love of our great country. So good morning, good luck in your conversations and your deliberations. I look forward to seeing you in the Halls of Congress as you do your work here on this visit. It is always a very special treat to see. I am looking at each and every one of you and having very happy memories about it all.

And thank you, Madam Chair, for your leadership; Connie, for yours. Thank you all very much.

Ms. KENNELLY. Thank you, Madam Leader.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Leader PELOSI, for your inspiring words, for coming here to greet us, your former colleagues, and for explaining the initiative on jobs and elevating women.

Leader PELOSI, I hope you noticed that this will be my last time as president of the association. But you know, I am succeeded by another woman.

Ms. PELOSI. All right.

Ms. MORELLA. So you see, we are moving ahead. This association is progressive.

So now back to our report. Our association is bipartisan. 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 are proud to have been chartered by Congress. We are also proud to receive no funding from Congress. Well, I don't know. But nevertheless, we receive no funding from Congress, which gives us the independence. All our activities, which we are about to describe, are financed via membership dues, program-specific grants and sponsors, or via our fundraising dinner. Our finances are sound, our projects are fully funded, and our most recent audit by an outside accountant confirmed that we are running our association in a fiscally sound, responsible, and transparent manner.

It has been 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. We are expanding others. And we again sent dozens of bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to teach about public service and representative democracy at universities and high schools, both in the United States and abroad.

When this organization was created over 40 years ago, the former Members who founded our association envisioned this organization to take the lead in teaching about Congress and encouraging public service. They were hoping that former Members could inspire the next generation of America's leaders. Over the years, we have created a number of programs, most importantly the Congress to Campus program, to do just that.

We continue to work with our great partner, the Stennis Center for Public Service. We thank them for their invaluable assistance in administering the Congress to Campus program.

It is now my pleasure to yield to a former president of our association, Larry LaRocco of Idaho, who, along with Jack Buechner of Missouri, co-chairs this great program.

Larry.

Mr. LAROCCO. Thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to report on this outstanding program. As most of you know, the Congress to Campus program is FMC's flagship domestic program, and the one that can engage former Members from all over the country.

Congress to Campus sends former Members in bipartisan teams to colleges, universities, and high schools across the country and around the world to educate the next generation of

leaders about the value of public service. The former Members volunteering their time communicate with the students and faculty about their personal experiences and knowledge about Congress. During each visit, our bipartisan teams lead classes, meet one-on-one with students and faculty, speak to campus media, participate in campus and community forums, and interact 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 2½ days, hundreds of students from all areas of academic studies are exposed to the former Members' message of public service and civility.

For the 2013–2014 academic year, the association visited over 20 college campuses, including visits to the United States Naval Academy, Louisiana State University, Millersville University Miami of Ohio, New York University, and University of Hawaii. More than 30 former Members participated during the calendar year and academic year, and I want to thank all of you who donated your time—pro bono—to this vital program.

I also want to encourage our newest former Members and those who have not yet had the opportunity to go on a visit to consider doing so, and to encourage a friend from across the aisle to join you. It is an excellent opportunity to continue your public service after Congress. You can also make a pledge to connect with a host school, for example, your alma mater, a college in your old district, or a university your children or grandchild attends. Our staff will then follow up with you to make the arrangements. Sharon Witiw runs the program and has all of the information you need.

We are also thrilled to have continued our excellent partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to Brother Rogers, the associate director of the Stennis Center, for his fine work. Our staffs work very closely together to make the program such a success.

The Congress to Campus program's international outreach sends delegations to other countries. This past year we again sent two delegations to the UK for 1 week to meet with several universities and hundreds of British students studying foreign policy and the United States.

And just a heads-up to my colleagues: former Member participation in these overseas trips is based on how actively you participate in the domestic visits. The visiting former Members become quasi-ambassadors on behalf of the United States and really get to engage with these foreign students.

This year we piloted a new concept within the Congress to Campus program. Our pair of former Members was joined by two former German Bundes-

tag Members, who were also from opposing parties, for a weeklong Congress to Campus visit to seven different college campuses. While continuing to promote the role of public service, the former legislators also spoke of the strong bilateral and multilateral relationship between the United States and Germany, and Europe. The program was well received, and we hope to replicate the program and possibly expand it to include other international former legislators.

This fall, because of a grant award we received from iCohere, we will be trying a new concept and will be hosting a virtual Congress to Campus seminar program. This seminar will take place over 3 days and will reach hundreds of community college students throughout the country. In two of the three sessions, the former Members will focus on a substantive topic, and the third session will incorporate those topics with the upcoming midterm elections and the impact of the results.

We also continue our relationship with the People to People programs, an organization that provides hands-on learning opportunities for elementary school, middle school, and high school students visiting Washington, D.C. On each visit, former Members meet and speak with students about the importance of public service, their personal experiences in Congress, and the value of character and leadership.

In the spring of 2014, two speaking engagements were held in "Congressional Panel" format. The events take place on Capitol Hill, and not only feature a former Member speaker, but also several Hill staffers and interns. This gives students the opportunity to learn what it is really like to work in the U.S. Congress.

People to People visits are oftentimes in the middle of the business day, and we are grateful to those former Members who take time out of their schedules to connect with students touring our Nation's Capital. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank former Member Matt McHugh, who has retired as cochair of the Congress to Campus program this year. Matt, who held that position for over 7 years and was also the association's president, provided thoughtful and considerable leadership to this program. His insight and guidance to the staff can be directly associated with the success of the program. I want to say again how grateful I am personally and on behalf of all of our membership for his dedication and support of our principal and longest-standing program. I have big shoes to step into by replacing Matt as the cochair of the Congress to Campus program, but I know that, along with Jack, I will continue Matt's good work and hope to help the program grow.

We are grateful to Matt, Jack, and all former Members who have participated over the years to help make the Congress to Campus program such a

success in its 37 years. I 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. It is easy. My alma mater, the University of Portland, has had a program. My other alma mater, Boston University, is hosting a program this year. So all you have got to do is pick up the phone and contact them. It will work, believe me.

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 opportunity to do so, particularly with our young people.

Thank you.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Larry. As a matter of fact, we have the same alma mater, Boston University. We are doing a Congress to Campus program very soon. We appreciate the great work that you and Jack do on behalf of this very important undertaking.

And let me associate myself with your remarks about Matt McHugh. He has been an invaluable and a much-appreciated leader of this organization, whether during his time as president or, more recently, as cochair of this program. Matt, this entire organization thanks you for your sage counsel and outstanding governance for so many years. Let's hear it for Matt.

As you may recall from our last report to Congress, the association has put some energy and focus into the question of bipartisanship and civility in our political dialogue. We are furthering this important work via the Common Ground Project. The purpose of the Common Ground Project is to involve citizens in a dialogue about the issues of the day, have a vigorous debate that is both partisan and productive, and benefit from the experience of respecting a differing point of view. Some of our existing undertakings already fit in very nicely with this objective, for example, the Congress to Campus program that we just had Larry LaRocco report on.

And to give you more background about the Common Ground Project, I invite my colleague from Tennessee, former Member Bob Clement, to share a report.

Bob.

We interrupt this about-to-be report for the Chair.

Ms. KENNELLY. And we are really very honored to be able to welcome the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. BOEHNER.

Mr. BOEHNER. Good morning.

Good morning, and let me just say welcome back to all of you. It has been a long year since you were here last, but over the course of the year I think you all know we lost former Speaker Tom Foley. We lost our good friend Bill Young. And over the course of the last 6 months or so we have had a number of retirements, from HENRY WAXMAN

and GEORGE MILLER, to DAVE CAMP and DOC HASTINGS, BUCK MCKEON, and my good friend TOM LATHAM.

And so the institution, the institution is actually doing pretty well. I know from the outside people don't quite see that, but I think a lot of you know I am committed to an open process on the floor, amendments from both sides of the aisle. We have had a much more open process, and I think the result of that is we are beginning to see more bipartisan legislation.

Last week we came to an agreement with the House and the Senate in a bipartisan, bicameral way on a job training and retraining bill to consolidate programs and make it easier for people to get the kind of training they need for the jobs that are out there today.

And then when it comes to the appropriations process, we have been trying to restart this process over the last 3 or 4 years. Today on the floor I think we have got our seventh appropriations bill of the year. Of course, you know, our challenge is always across the Capitol, because they have done exactly none, no appropriation bills. But I do think it is important for us to get this appropriation process up and running in the way it should. It hasn't happened for the last 6 or 7 years, and I think we here in the Congress lose our ability to really direct spending as a result of that.

But by and large, I feel pretty good about where we are. You know, it is an election year, so you all have a pretty good idea of what that means in terms of what happens around here. My big job is making sure we avoid all the potholes between now and election day, and there are some out there.

But anyway, my job this morning is to just say hi to all of you, and welcome you back, and hope that you all have a nice visit here in your old home, the U.S. House.

Thanks.

Ms. KENNELLY. Thank you, Speaker BOEHNER.

The program will continue.

Mr. CLEMENT. Well, thank you, Connie.

My report is about the Common Ground Project. One of the many joys of being active with this wonderful association is that it brings together Republicans and Democrats for our many programs, such as during our annual meeting and charitable golf tournament and for panel discussions, as well as other presentations. Everything we do is bipartisan. Our board is divided evenly between Republicans and Democrats, and our leadership rotates between the parties.

As we all know, currently, our Congress—and indeed our country—is going through a period of great polarization and partisanship. While we certainly don't leave our political beliefs at the door when participating in association activities, we pride ourselves in creating an environment where an across-the-aisle dialogue not only is possible, but also the norm. We have

institutionalized this approach in a program that we call the Common Ground Project.

The purpose of Common Ground is to create venues and events where our bipartisan approach can involve the public in a dialogue on the issues of the day. Our long-standing programs, most importantly the Congress to Campus program, already fit neatly into the vision of the Common Ground Project. Other undertakings were created specifically by us to further this project.

For example, we are extremely proud of our partnership with the National Archives, which has brought dozens of former Members from both sides of the aisle together with the public for panel discussions and a productive, as well as a respectful, political dialogue.

Our most recent panels include a look at the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and their impact 50 years after passage. Another discussion focused on women in politics and political leadership, which included Leader PELOSI. Even though she is not a former Member, we let her participate.

Just last month, we brought together former Members John Tanner, Chris Shays, and Speaker Denny Hastert, with Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward and former Clinton press secretary Mike McCurry for a conversation about the role Congress plays in our foreign policy and international crises.

We also try to involve current Members in our Common Ground Project. One thing you will hear quite often from former Members is that we were able to spend more time with our colleagues from either side of the aisle and had more of an opportunity to get to know each other on a personal basis. For a number of reasons, current Members no longer have that time and the luxury of building personal relationships. It is awfully hard to negotiate with someone and to trust someone when you don't have a foundation that is rooted in knowing one another.

One small way of bringing current Members together was accomplished again in partnership with the National Archives. We invited freshman Members from both parties to bring their families to the National Archives for an open house around Christmastime. While the Members and their spouses had a chance to view some of the documents and treasures at the Archives, their kids were able to explore the great learning center the Archives created for research and treasure hunting. The Members then learned from Archives staff about congressional papers and the responsibility Members have making their personal papers part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There are quite a number of other activities that contribute to our Common Ground Project, and the list is too long to include. I know and you know that a lot of us attack the issues rather than our fellow colleagues, whether they be Democrat or Republican. We knew how to compromise. We knew

how to work together to get things done, and I think the time has come when we need to identify all the problems associated with this Congress, how we can help them, how we can support them, and how we can show them where we have gotten off track.

This is something Common Ground can do because the fact is that Common Ground is an opportunity for us to solve a lot of problems that have not been solved, and it is time for us and for this Congress and future Congresses to start solving problems, and there is nothing wrong with the word "compromise."

I know my Aunt Anna Belle Clement O'Brien was in the State senate, and she used the expression—and you all sent me to the U.K. recently, and they don't call it political science. They call it politics. They don't call it political science. When you ask a student what they major in, they say: Oh, I major in politics.

Well, I picked up on that because my Aunt Anna Belle in Tennessee would always end her speeches:

Politics builds roads. Politics builds schools. Politics builds mental hospitals. Politics is compromise.

Maybe we can all work together on Common Ground Project and make it happen again because this is too great of a country for us to be wandering.

Thank you.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you very much, Bob.

I am glad you listened to your aunt. We appreciate also the work you have done on this very important project and also the fact that you are on our board of directors, and that is very helpful.

A great example of how productive and powerful bipartisan can be is our annual congressional golf tournament. It is chaired by our immediate past president, Dennis Hertel of Michigan, and fellow board member, Ken Kramer of Colorado. I would now yield the floor to Ken Kramer to give us a brief report about the charitable golf tournament.

Ken.

Mr. KRAMER. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I note the adjective "brief," and I will try to comply.

Seven years ago, we took a 35-year tradition, our annual golf tournament which pits Republicans against Democrats, and we gave it a new and bigger mission. We converted it into a charitable golf tournament to aid severely wounded vets that are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Our beneficiaries are Warfighter Sports, which is a program of Disabled Sports USA, and Tee it up for the Troops, which use golf and other sports to help our wounded veterans readjust to life after sustaining very severe injuries. They involve the entire family in the sport. They provide equipment. They provide training.

Our seventh charitable event will be held in 2 weeks, July 28th, at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington. All together, these tournaments are closing in on raising almost a half a mil-

lion dollars for these outstanding programs, and I might add that, since this statement was written, recent receipts would indicate that we have now hit that half million dollar mark.

During each of our past tournaments, we have had several dozen current and former Members from both sides of our aisle come together to support these troops, and they have met in the process with dozens of these warriors, many of whom play with us in our foursomes, and I might add some of our double amputees are much better than our Members. It is an incredibly humbling, rewarding—and I mean humbling—rewarding and memorable experience to spend the day in the presence of these outstanding men and women.

I want to thank everyone at the association, particularly Sharon Witiw, as well as Dennis Hertel, our tournament's cochair, for all that they have done to make our tournament such a success, and equally important, I am happy to report that we again have secured the leadership of our two outstanding current cochairs from last year, Congressman MIKE MCINTYRE of North Carolina and Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN of Tennessee.

Their leadership has really energized our event and contributed big time to its success. I also want to thank our many sponsors for their generous contributions, and many of these sponsors have come back year after year to support this worthy cause.

It is an honor to help such an incredibly deserving group, and again, our tournament is on July 28th. For those of you who have not signed up, we hope that you will do so.

We now call this tournament The Members, by the way, but unlike The Masters, you don't need to play at that pro level to have an enjoyable day. All you have to do is show up and help raise some much-needed funds, and you don't have to worry about your skill set to be able to participate. It is 100 percent about helping these warriors. Your handicap is not really that important. Your individual score is not kept. We play a scramble format, and this event can only be successful if you out there will give it your time and attention.

If you only golf once a year, this is the day to do it. Please let us know if you can either help or you know any people that we can recruit as sponsors, and thank you for your time and attention, and I hope I met the instruction of brief.

Ms. MORELLA. Congratulations to you, Ken, on the success of the program. It is patriotic, it is humanitarian, it is very moving. We are very honored that the association can play a small role in the rehabilitation of these amazing young men and women.

In addition to the domestic programs that we have described so far, our association also has a very active and far-reaching international focus. We conduct programs focused on Europe and Asia. We bring current Members of

Congress together with their peers in legislatures that are overseas. We work with our Department of State to talk about representative democracy with audiences overseas, and we partner with former parliamentarians from other countries for democracy-strengthening missions.

Some of these programs involve former Members as active participants. Others focus on current Members who benefit from the input and contributions of former Members in Congress' international outreach.

I want to yield right now the floor to a former president of our association, Dennis Hertel of Michigan, to report on these international projects that are predominantly former Member driven.

Dennis.

Mr. HERTEL. Well, thank you, Madam President.

I like the sound of that. Maybe we will see that soon in our future for our country.

You know, we have this great privilege of being able to come on the House floor and to bring groups on the House floor, and one of the first things that I tell the students that I am able to take here is what a great—one of the greatest changes I have seen take place in the last 30 years is the number of women in Congress and in the House and the Senate. It is just amazing.

My wife says we still have a long way to go because women are 51 percent of the population, but we have made tremendous strides, and it was a great honor to have former Speaker PELOSI here this morning, the first woman Speaker, and have her talk about women in the economy and what they are proposing, the changes that we are making.

In our association, you know, recently, we lost Lindy Boggs, who was our first woman president, and she was just such a wonderful mentor and example for all of us, and now, we have been privileged to have President Connie Morella of our association, who has achieved so much and expanded our reach in so many areas—in all areas, really, internationally with more contacts and more visits by our former Members, more exchanges, and more education because of that.

As far as being able to strengthen our association as far as raising funds, nobody has made the strides that Connie Morella has made for us, especially by bringing in the international community because of her experience as an Ambassador, and I have always said, as I saw it here in the legislature and then in Congress with my experience, women were able to accomplish more.

They have this network, but more than a network, they have this attitude of let's get it done, and I think they have been bipartisan leaders in the Congress, in the House, and in the Senate, and are an example for our entire Nation.

So it is my great privilege to thank, on behalf of the association, Connie Morella for all she has done.



Connie, would you please come up here for a minute?

We have a plaque, which can never capture all that she has done, but from the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, it says:

To the Honorable Connie Morella, in recognition and appreciation of her strong leadership as president of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress. Her tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by her grateful colleagues.

Washington, D.C., July 16, 2014.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you very much. Thank you, Dennis. This is a great surprise. It reminds me of something that Will Shakespeare—and I think really it was his wife who wrote it—who said:

For these great blessings heaped upon me, I can nothing render but allegiant thanks.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HERTEL. I echo what Connie said about continuing now with a woman vice president becoming our president today, Barbara Kennelly.

Let me talk about the international programs briefly. I am going to try to move through it because I know the Members have heard this information before. I already got rid of two pages here.

They are more or less divided into two types of projects. One is composed of international projects that include former Members in democracy-strengthening missions, such as election monitoring. The other is composed of international projects, where our association serves as a bridge between current Members and their peers in legislative branches overseas.

During my time as president, I always felt it was this international work that really gave our association an opportunity to make a very important contribution that was unique. Because our Members, unlike the dropping in for a meeting today and going to another country, as current Members have to do, and getting back here for session—which is the biggest difference between our Congress and the other Parliaments, since our Congress has more power, the power of the budget, the power of the purse under the Constitution, and it is not from the top down.

Our Members are so independent. They are so busy on their schedules and never able to attend the international conferences as much as the former Members are, who are also able to hang around the country and do some actual democracy building and not just drop in on election day for monitoring, so that is what I have been most proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and I think that there is a much wider area for us to go in.

I know, Pete, I haven't been anyplace in the last 4 years, and I think a lot of Members here haven't, and we are looking forward to more opportunities for our Former Members Association because of that difference that we can make in so many ways.

We have internationalized the outreach of the Global Democracy Initiative and have worked in a wonderful partnership with our Canadian and European colleagues on that to strengthen democracy abroad. This has always been some of the most rewarding work that we have done as an association, and I think we can do more.

Frankly, we have had a problem of funding. The Canadians were able to get us some international funding to keep us going from their government, but we have to reach out to do more monitoring in foreign nations, and we have to convince international and national charities and foundations that we are the ones that can do it better than others.

When we put you guys on the ground, you will know the first day what the politics of the situation is. Other people, you know, can't be trained to have those kinds of instincts and knowledge that you have, so, you know, I know that our people can make a greater difference if we can have more opportunities.

We also have numerous groups of legislators from emerging democracies come to Washington for a better understanding of our representative government and our form of democracy. These conversations and meetings are always two-way streets.

I learn so much more, and I have to sometimes explain the elections of Ohio and Florida to our international visitors and contacts because all the questions aren't just in foreign countries.

Our voting percent in this country is only 50 percent, and 100 years ago, that percentage was 85 percent. If we look at our primary elections, which we just saw in Virginia as a prime example, we are seeing less than 20 percent of the people vote. When you divide that into two political parties, it is less than 12 percent of the people are electing a candidate in the way the gerrymandered districts are. That is only of registered voters. If you talk about the total population, we are down to about maybe 8 percent of the population of those districts electing people to Congress.

So we have a lot of reform to do in our country, and I think we can be the leaders in that, also in showing not only what we can do internationally, but nationally.

Our most recent group from the Middle East and North Africa was composed of young professionals from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and included young men and women working in the private sector or in their governments and coming to Washington for a monthlong fellowship that we facilitate with offices on Capitol Hill.

Larry LaRocco has been a great leader in this, and these are young people, for the most part, that can learn from our experience and programs. We promote a positive relationship between the United States and north Africa, which in light of the Arab Spring and

all the crises we see today—and tragedies—is more vital than ever.

Our association connects the fellows with former Members, who they meet with several times over the course of their stay. The former Members act as a kind of mentor to these young men and women through one-on-one meetings, roundtable discussions, and by attending program discussions and events.

I have been very impressed at how much time our former Members spend and how much personally they are able to make connections with these people, and these ongoing relationships that can last for years, and many of these people will be in areas of leadership in the future in their country.

The goal of this program is to seek a better understanding between cultures and establish an avenue of dialogue between nations. It is a unique opportunity to create a constructive political and cultural discourse between the United States and north Africa, and we are very proud of what the association has accomplished.

In addition to hosting visiting delegations, our association organizes former Member delegations to travel overseas, and we are hoping to increase that and engage overseas audiences—students, government officials, NGOs, and corporate representatives—in a dialogue about the many challenges that are global in nature and require across-border communications.

You already heard that our Congress to Campus program has a very active international component and that we've brought the program to numerous universities and countries, such as Turkey, the U.K., and Germany. Other overseas delegations—we call them ExDELS—have traveled to countries where dialogue is often difficult—we have to get a better term than ExDELS—but it is also an incredibly important one.

Of the major ones that we have been able to start a few years ago is with China, and we are privileged to have Mark Gold with us here on the House floor here today, who really set up this program for our association.

It has been one of the most extensive that we have because we have a group of former House Members go, but also an additional group of former Senators go, and again, it is always bipartisan. Lou Frey has been one of the leaders in this and was on our first trip.

Since our inaugural delegation, we have sent six additional delegations to China over the past three years. Just last month, five former Members—Jim Slattery, Tim Roemer, Steve Bartlett, Jon Christensen, and Don Bonker—made up our seventh China delegation.

This bipartisan delegation traveled to Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai. They met with an incredible array of people, including Chinese scholars, the American Chamber of Commerce, China's Foreign Ministry, students at Beijing University, the National People's Congress, and, of course, the U.S. Embassy.

The delegation arrived in China the day after our government announced pursuing an indictment against the Chinese military for hacking our computers, so you can imagine what the main topic of conversation was. For a while, it looked like the Chinese were going to cancel all our meetings, but thankfully, cooler heads prevailed, and the delegates had a very open and very productive exchange with the Chinese on a number of important topics, including energy policy, the South China Sea, North Korea, and trade relations.

In my mind, there is no better and no more powerful exchange than one that is face to face and builds a network of contacts. I think the China project is an excellent example of the great contribution our association can make.

We have now sent seven ExDELs to China over the past three years. We serve as an American voice overseas while in China, and we debrief both Congress and the State Department upon our return.

I should make sure to thank your partners for this project, who have worked with us to make all seven ExDELs possible. We really appreciate the great partnership we have with the China-United States Exchange Foundation and the China Association for International Friendly Contact.

It pains me when I see current Members of Congress get beaten up in the press for traveling overseas. There really is not a single issue that does not have global implications or could not benefit from the point of view of someone who has dealt with the same issue in their country.

One of the great liberating aspects of being a former Member is that we can travel and explore and have discussions without having to worry how the press may misconstrue our journeys in some cynical way, and in addition, I greatly enjoyed getting to know my fellow travelers from both sides of the aisle, so there is some real bipartisan camaraderie that comes from having this common experience.

I am very glad that our association can support Congress' international outreach in such a meaningful, productive, and bipartisan way.

Thank you.

Thank you, Connie. While I appreciate very much the opportunity to report on our international programs, I would first like to invite Connie Morella back to the dais please, and I'd also like to have Barbara Kennelly come down to the dais for a second. I think we're ok without a Presiding Officer for a quick moment. Connie Morella has done a tremendous job as our Association's President, and Barbara has been an excellent Vice President. Let's please give the two of them a round of applause. Thank you! Connie is now moving into the Immediate Past President position on our executive committee and Barbara will take over as President. I just wanted to take a moment to thank Connie for her tremendous leadership, which has elevated our organization to new heights and we have taken yet another leap forward thanks to Connie's energy and commitment. On behalf of our member-

ship, board of directors, and our staff, I would like to present to Connie this plaque as a small token of our appreciation. It reads:

"To the Honorable Connie Morella in recognition and appreciation of her strong leadership as President of the US Association of Former Members of Congress. Her tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by her grateful colleagues. Washington, DC July 16, 2014."

I'd like everyone to please join me in a well-deserved round of applause for Connie Morella.

Thank you! And now let me continue our report by telling you about our many international programs, which are more or less divided into two types of projects: one is composed of international projects that include former Members in democracy strengthening missions such as election monitoring; and the other is composed of international projects where our Association serves as a bridge between current Members and their peers in legislative branches overseas. During my time as President of this Association, I always felt that it was this international work that really gave our Association an opportunity to make an impactful and important contribution. As a matter of fact, we institutionalized this outreach in what is now the Global Democracy Initiative, and have worked in wonderful partnership with our Canadian and European colleagues to strengthen democracy abroad. This has always been some of the most rewarding work I've done with our Association, and I am thrilled that we continue to put so much effort into this aspect of our programming.

Via the former Members Association, I have met with numerous groups of legislators from emerging democracies who have come to Washington for a better understanding of our representative government and our form of democracy. These conversations and meetings are always two-way streets, and I learn as much—if not more—from our visitors as they do from me. In addition to elected officials, our Association has had an active project—in partnership with a great NGO called Legacy International—bringing young professionals from the Middle East and North Africa to the United States. Our most recent group was composed of young professionals from Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, and included young men and women working in the private sector or in their governments and coming to Washington for a month-long fellowship that we facilitate with offices on Capitol Hill.

Our program promotes a positive relationship between the United States and North Africa, which, in light of the Arab Spring is now more vital than ever. Our Association connects the Fellows with former Members, whom they meet with several times over the course of their stay. The former Members act as a kind of mentor to these young men and women through one-on-one meetings, roundtable discussions, and by attending program discussions and events.

The goal of this program is to seek a better understanding between cultures and establish an avenue of dialogue between nations. It is a unique opportunity to create a constructive political and cultural discourse between the United States and North Africa, and I am very proud that our Association can be a part in such a vital dialogue.

I had the opportunity to meet wonderful young women and men through this project.

They are inspirational and impressive, and I benefited greatly by having spent some time with them.

In addition to hosting visiting delegations, our Association organizes former Member delegations to travel overseas and engage overseas audiences—students, government officials, NGOs and corporate representatives—in a dialogue about the many challenges that are global in nature and require across-border communication. You already heard that our Congress to Campus Program has a very active international component, and that we've brought the program to numerous universities in countries such as Turkey and the UK. Other overseas delegations, we call them ExDELs, have travelled to countries where a dialogue is often difficult but nonetheless incredibly important.

I had the privilege to participate in our very first ExDEL to China a number of years ago. Some of my travel companies, for example Lou Frey, are here today, and they can attest to what an educational and impactful experience that China ExDEL was. Since our inaugural delegation, we have sent six additional delegations to China over the past three years. Just last month, five former Members—Jim Slattery, Tim Roemer, Steve Bartlett, Jon Christensen, and Don Bonker, made up our seventh China delegation. This bipartisan delegation traveled to Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai. They met with an incredible array of people, including Chinese scholars, the American Chamber of Commerce, China's Foreign Ministry, students at Beijing University, the National People's Congress, and, of course, the U.S. Embassy. The delegation arrived in China the day after our government announced pursuing an indictment against the Chinese military for hacking our computers, so you can imagine what the main topic of conversation was! For a while it looked like the Chinese were going to cancel all our meetings, but thankfully cooler heads prevailed and the delegates had a very open and very productive exchange with the Chinese on a number of important topics, including energy policy, the South China Sea, North Korea, and trade relations.

In my mind there is no better and no more powerful exchange than one that is face-to-face and builds a network of contacts. I think the China project is an excellent example of the great contribution our Association can make. We have now sent seven ExDELs to China over the past three years. We serve as an American voice overseas while in China, and we debrief both Congress and the State Department upon our return. And I should make sure to thank your partners for this project, who have worked with us to make all seven ExDELs possible. We really appreciate the great partnership we have with the China U.S. Exchange Foundation and the China Association for International Friendly Contact.

It pains me when I see current Members of Congress get beaten up in the press for traveling overseas. There really is not a single issue that does not have global implications or could not benefit from the point of view of someone who has dealt with the same issue in their country. One of the great liberating aspects of being a former Member is that we can travel and explore and have discussions without having to worry how the press may misconstrue our journeys in some cynical way. And in addition, I greatly enjoyed getting to

know my fellow travelers from both sides of the aisle, so there is some real bipartisan camaraderie that comes from having this common experience. I am very glad that our Association can support Congress' international outreach in such a meaningful, productive and bipartisan way. Thank you.

Ms. MORELLA. Thanks, Dennis.

I particularly liked the tribute you gave me. Thank you very much. Thanks for your leadership and your active involvement in the international programs. I am very acutely aware of the power of personal interaction and people making an effort to bridge the cultural divide. The examples that you mentioned, the China ExDEls and the north African Legislative Fellows Program, certainly are important contributions we can make.

Actually, not all of our programs focus exclusively on former Members. As was mentioned earlier, we have a number of projects that benefit from former Member leadership that involve primarily current Members and their peers overseas. We call these programs Congressional Study Groups. Our focus is on Germany, Turkey, Japan, Europe as a whole.

To give you more background about the Congressional Study Groups, which are working so satisfactorily, I want to invite former Member Russ Carnahan of Missouri to the dais.

Russ.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Thank you, Connie, and thank you for your leadership of the association. I also want to thank the staff of the Former Members that really back up and make these programs work for all those who participate.

Just on a personal note, I want to recognize and acknowledge the passing of our friend and former Member, Ike Skelton of Missouri this past year.

It is really a great pleasure to work on, to report on the four Congressional Study Groups for Germany, Japan, Turkey, and Europe, the flagship international programs for the Former Members of Congress over three decades.

The Study Groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges for current Members and their senior staff and serve as educational forums and invaluable tools for international dialogue with the goal of creating better understanding.

We have great leadership from both Houses that are bipartisan. The Study Group model focuses on high-level dialogue on pressing issues surrounding security, energy, trade issues that affect our key bilateral and multilateral relationships with our partners abroad.

Highlights from the past year include our inaugural Member delegation to Japan in February, and also here in Washington hosting the Study Groups. They welcomed several groups of legislators and executive branch members throughout the year from Germany, Japan, Turkey, and the EU Parliament.

Looking ahead to the fall, we want to continue our longstanding Congress-

Bundestag Seminar by welcoming a group of Bundestag members to Washington and Pennsylvania in September.

The work of the Congressional Study Groups is complemented by our Diplomatic Advisory Council. Initially focused on European nations, the Diplomatic Advisory Council is now comprised of three dozen ambassadors from six continents who advise and participate in our programming.

Finally, I would like to thank the institutions and foundations and companies which support our mission. We would like to give particular thanks to Admiral Dennis Blair and Ms. Junko Chano of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Mr. Friedrich Merz and Ms. Eveline Metzen of Atlantik-Brücke, Ms. Karen Donfried and Ms. Maia Comeau of the German Marshall Fund, and Ms. Paige Cottingham-Streater and Ms. Margaret Mihori of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission for their support as our Study Group Institutional Funders.

And finally, a shout-out to the international business community here in Washington, and the list of those supporters is much too long to mention here in my formal remarks. Those will be submitted for the RECORD here today, but it is because of their financial support, our activities not only helped to build vital bilateral relationships between legislators, but also bipartisan relationships with our own Congress.

This mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are critical to solving pressing problems both here and abroad. As former Members, we are proud to bring the important services provided by the Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues still in office and are proud to play an active role in their continued international outreach.

Thank you.

It gives me great pleasure to report on the work of The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Turkey and Europe, the flagship international programs of FMC for over three decades. The Study Groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges for current Members of Congress and their senior staff and serve as educational forums and invaluable tools for international dialogue with the goal of creating better understanding and cooperation between the United States and its most important strategic and economic partners.

Each Study Group is led by a bipartisan, bicameral pair of Members of Congress. I would like to acknowledge the service of all of our co-chairs for their hard work and dedication to these critical programs. The Congressional Study Group on Germany, celebrating its 31st anniversary of bringing Members of the U.S. Congress together with their counterparts in the German Bundestag, has been led over the past year by Senator JEFF SESSIONS, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, Representative CHARLIE DENT, and Representative TIM RYAN. Our Japan Study Group celebrates its 21st anniversary this year led by Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Representative SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, Representative

DIANA DEGETTE, Representative BILLY LONG, and Representative JIM MCDERMOTT.

Representative GERRY CONNOLLY and Representative ED WHITFIELD continue to lead The Study Group on Turkey. And Senator CHRIS MURPHY, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, and Representative PETER WELCH chair our Study Group on Europe, our newest and fastest growing Study Group. Finally, The Study Groups would also like to extend special acknowledgement to its Honorary Co-Chairs, former Speaker Dennis Hastert and Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, who remain active in our programming.

The Study Group model focuses on high-level dialogue on pressing issues surrounding security, energy, and trade issues that affect our key bilateral and multilateral relationships with our partners abroad. Instead of lengthy speeches, an informal atmosphere has proved to better promote relationship building and understanding among international legislators. Over the past year, topics of conversation have included TTIP and TPP trade negotiations, natural gas exports, and security concerns in the East China Sea and Eastern Europe among others. The cornerstone of our programming is periodic roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress and visiting foreign and U.S. officials and dignitaries. In addition, The Congressional Study Groups on Germany and Japan offer travel opportunities for Members of Congress in the form of Annual Seminars both at home and abroad, and all four Study Groups conduct bipartisan study tours abroad for senior congressional staff.

Highlights from the past year included our inaugural Member delegation to Japan in February, which included in-depth meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, and the Ministers of Agriculture, Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Economy, Trade, and Industry. Here in Washington, The Study Groups welcomed several groups of legislators and executive branch members throughout the year from Germany, Japan, Turkey, and the EU Parliament. Looking ahead to the fall, we look forward to continuing our longstanding Congress-Bundestag Seminar by welcoming a group of Bundestag Members to Washington and Pennsylvania in September.

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

Finally, I would like to thank the institutions, foundations, and companies which support our mission. We would like to give particular thanks to Admiral Dennis Blair and Ms. Junko Chano of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Mr. Friedrich Merz and Ms. Eveline Metzen of Atlantik-Brücke, Ms. Karen Donfried and Ms. Maia Comeau of the German Marshall Fund, and Ms. Paige Cottingham-Streater and Ms. Margaret Mihori of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission for their support as our Study Group Institutional Funders.

The Congressional Study Groups are also grateful for the support of the international



business community here in Washington, D.C., represented by each Study Group's Business Advisory Council. Companies of the 2014 Council include Allianz; Airbus Americas; Honda; B. Braun Medical; Central Japan Railway Company; Cheniere Energy; Daimler; Deutsche Telekom; DHL Deutsche Post; Eli Lilly and Company; Fresenius; Hitachi; Lufthansa German Airlines; Marubeni America Corporation; Mitsubishi International Corporation; Mitsui; Representative of German Industry and Trade; Sojitz; Toyota Motor North America; United Parcel Service; and Volkswagen of America.

Because of your financial support, our activities not only help to build vital bilateral relationships between legislatures, but also build bipartisan relationships within our own Congress. Mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are crucial to solving pressing problems, whether at home or abroad. As former Members of Congress, we are proud to bring the important services provided by The Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues still in office and are proud to play an active role in our continued international outreach. Thank you.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Russ. And I know you abbreviated some of your comments, which will be in the RECORD. Our Association certainly has a very active and impressive international portfolio, and we appreciate your leadership in these endeavors.

And while our focus is on international relations, let me welcome our special guests from other former legislators associations.

We have a wonderful and very productive partnership with our Canadian colleagues, and we are thrilled to welcome from Ottawa former parliamentarians Andy Mitchell and Gerry Weiner. And for having traveled the furthest goes to former parliamentarian Hamish Hancock, who represents the New Zealand Association.

Gentlemen, thank you for joining us today. We are honored by your presence.

In addition to the programs that you have heard about so far, we are also tasked with highlighting the achievements of former Members and providing former Members with opportunities to stay connected with their former colleagues after leaving Capitol Hill. One of our premier events which achieves both these goals is our Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner.

In April of this year, we hosted our 17th dinner, and like the preceding 16, it was chaired by our good friend Lou Frey of Florida. Imagine 17 dinners he has chaired. Lou was supported by a number of cochairmen, including me, former Members, Dennis Hertel, Martin Frost, and our Association's CEO, Pete Weichlein.

I would now like to invite Lou Frey to report on the highly successful 17th Statesmanship Awards Dinner.

Lou.

Mr. FREY. Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you very much.

I don't know who got this idea and where those 17 years go, but I guess we

are going right ahead with the 18th. The dinner is our biggest fundraising event, and it reaches out to a whole number of people at all different levels, and it also shows what can be done when you can work together and work and achieve a goal.

We have brought, I think, with the dinner, focus on what this group is. There is frankly more intelligence in this group than anywhere you want to put it together. It is an incredible bunch of people that we have here who have given back to this country and continue to give back. And as I look around and see the different friends who worked on it and made a difference, all I can say is thank you. It was never a one-person deal. It was always a deal, a partnership deal.

The partnership has grown a lot bigger for us, and this dinner itself is becoming not easier, it is just bigger. As a matter of fact, Madam President, this was the most productive dinner that we have had. I think we raised, Pete, over—what?—\$500,000, give or take a penny here and there, but never lost its focus.

In a great country, we have a problem because nobody knows what we have. We have a country where everybody knows basketball terms and so forth and that and knows how to play the game, but we have a question of people understanding. For instance, in my home State of Florida, your home State of Florida, we know that 40 percent of the people can't name the three branches of government and 42 percent can't explain separation of powers, and 73 percent of our fourth graders—our fourth graders—can't pick the Constitution out as our leading legal document.

This dinner and the people that work on this dinner have a desire to make a change, and we can make a change. We are making a change. We are making a big change. It is sort of fun to be along for the ride, for watching what has happened in that. Look where we were; turn the clock back. It was a total different deal.

It was a social organization when it started. It wasn't going anywhere, bouncing along; and thanks to the leadership we have had presently and in the past, it is a different organization. It is one that I am certainly proud of, and it is nice to look out here and know there are going to be a lot of cochairmen. When I call on the phone and say: Hey, Larry, you know, here we go. There is a dinner on March 25, put that on your calendar, because you are going to get a call. You are going to get a call from me and from the other people, and, Madam President to be, I am sure that you will be right there continuing to help us with what we are doing.

So thanks for everything you have done. Five hundred tickets sold, more than the 16 preceding dinners, tremendous honorees that we have had.

Gentleman, former—well, a Member of Congress, but also the Corporate

Statesmanship Award of former Secretary Gutierrez. And we also have, who came up the hard way literally, in terms of what he was doing as a kid, became our third honoree with Operation Homefront, represented by the CEO, Jim Knotts.

And we had a return this year by Gary Sinise, who came back. He had been given the honor. He came back and spent an hour working with the former Members. You know, you give people an hour, they don't come back ever in this thing, but he came back and did it and that.

So we are really proud of what we have of the dinner. We are proud of all the help that went into it. We look forward to a more successful dinner this time and with the people here who will all get involved in it. Thanks so much. It was a privilege to be involved with you all. I appreciate it.

Ms. MORELLA. Keep it going, Lou. You are doing a great job.

You know, all of the programs that we have described of course require both leadership and staff to implement. Our association is blessed to have top people in both categories.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our board of directors—these are 30 former Members divided equally between parties—thank them for their advice and counsel. It is really appreciated.

I also want to thank the many partners and supporters we have that have made our programs possible. We are truly lucky to have assembled a group of corporations and foundations that believe in our work and make our success possible, and we very much value their partnership.

I would also be remiss if I didn't thank the other members of our association's executive committee: our vice president, Barbara Kennelly; our treasurer, Jim Walsh; secretary, Bill Delahunt; our past president, Dennis Hertel. They have all made this association a stronger and better organization than it had ever been before, and we want to thank them for their time and their energy. Let's hear it for all of them.

And to administer these programs takes a staff of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals. Actually, I used to say to my staff: My rod and my staff, they comfort me and prepare the papers for me in the presence of my constituents. And so again, our staff has done the same for us.

Sean Pavlik is our newest staff member. He joined us as a legislative fellow focused on our Japan program, and he has done such a terrific job. We had to hire him full-time. He even speaks Japanese.

Rachel Haas joined our association as office manager a little over a year ago, and she has by now become indispensable for a great number of reasons. Many of you met her this morning. We need to think of a better job title for her because the current one does not describe at all the many different levels that she contributes.

Andrew Shoenig, who is our international programs manager. He makes all the international programs that you have heard about possible. He truly does. He started as an intern and has now been with us full-time for over 2 years. We are really very fortunate to have him.

Sharon Witiw, she is our member services manager. You probably have gotten emails from her. She takes exceptionally good care of our 600 association members and all their various requests, needs, and inquiries. Also, without her, our most important domestic program, the Congress to Campus Program, would not be in as good a shape as it is.

Sabine Schleidt is our international programs director and oversees all the current Member programs which are so impressive and important. In the 3 years that she has been with us, she has transformed all the Study Groups into substantive and incredibly productive exchanges that now involve more current Members than ever, including a Diplomatic Advisory Council, which now has about 30 ambassadors from the region that belong.

Pete Weichlein, he is our CEO, and he has been with the organization for 15 years. Pete, I call him the renaissance man because he does so many things and does them all so well: managing, extending our services to other programs, finding synergy in places we never even thought existed. He is there every step of the way, and we very much value his leadership.

And so I would like to have you give a round of applause. It is amazing, so few people can do so much. You heard about the programs, just think, these are the people who help it happen.

In addition to our wonderful staff, we benefit greatly from volunteers who lend their talents and their expertise pro bono. None deserve more appreciation than Dava Guerin. She has taken on the role of our communications director. She tells our story and connects us with the media.

Thank you, Dava. We really appreciate all that you do also. And I hope you are watching this program, although we will see the minutes.

Every year at our annual meeting, we ask the membership to elect new officers and board members. I therefore now will read to you the names of the candidates for board members and officers. They are all running unopposed. I have never run in an election unopposed. They are all running unopposed, and I therefore ask for a simple "yea" or "nay" as I present to you the list of candidates as a slate.

For the association's board of directors the candidates are:

Mary Bono of California  
Vic Fazio of California  
Martin Frost of Texas  
Bart Gordon of Tennessee  
Jim Kolbe of Arizona  
Steve LaTourette of Ohio  
David Scaggs of Colorado  
Cliff Stearns of Florida

Jim Walsh of New York  
Albert Wynn of Maryland.

All in favor of electing these ten former Members to our board of directors, please say, "yea." I hear it unanimously. All opposed? Hearing no objection, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Next, we will elect our executive committee. The candidates for our executive committee are: Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut for president, Jim Walsh of New York for vice president, Martin Frost of Texas for treasurer, Mary Bono of California for secretary.

All in favor of electing these four former Members to our Executive Committee, please say, "yea." I hear it. All opposed? Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership. I shall join the executive board in my capacity as immediate past president. And let's have a round of applause for all those newly elected members of our board and our officers.

Well, now it is my sad duty to inform the Congress of those former and current Members who have passed away since our last report. I ask all of you, including any visitors, to rise as I read the names, and at the end of the list we will pay our respects to their memory with a moment of silence.

We honor these men and women for their service to our country, and they are:

Howard Baker, Jr. of Tennessee  
Ben Garrido Blaz of Guam  
Lindy Boggs of Louisiana  
Harry F. Byrd, Jr. of Virginia  
Howard Callaway of Georgia  
William Coyne of Pennsylvania  
Butler Carson Derrick, Jr. of South Carolina  
Alan Dixon of Illinois  
Thomas Foley of Washington  
John Gilligan of Ohio  
Rod Grams of Minnesota  
Kenneth James Gray of Illinois  
William Gray of Pennsylvania  
William Hathaway of Maine  
Jack Hightower of Texas  
Donald Irwin of Connecticut  
Andy Jacobs, Jr. of Indiana  
Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey  
John McCollister of Nebraska  
Jim Oberstar of Minnesota  
Major Owens of New York  
Otis Pike of New York  
Robert Roe of New Jersey  
William Roy of Kansas  
William Scranton of Pennsylvania  
E. Clay Shaw of Florida  
Ike Skelton of Missouri  
David Michael Staton of West Virginia

Michael L. Strang of Colorado  
Arlan Strangeland of Minnesota  
Barbara Vucanovich of Nevada  
George C. Wortley of New York  
Charles Young of Florida.  
Thank you.

That concludes the 44th report to Congress by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

We thank the Congress, the Speaker, and the minority leader for giving us the opportunity to return to this re-

vered Chamber and to report on our association's activities. We thank them also personally for their comments to us and encouragement. We look forward to another active and productive year.

Thank you.

Ms. KENNELLY. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Lord God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

For all of us, some days are better than others, some tasks more difficult than others, but You have shown grace and favor to our country since its inception. Please guide our Nation's leaders to make wise decisions in the best interests of citizens everywhere.

For those who feel called by You to serve, let them say, "Here I am. Send me." Grant all of the Members of this House integrity of action so that they act not for their own honor and glory but, rather, for the welfare of all of their constituents.

Lord, we also pray for all former Members of Congress, many of whom are gathered here at the Capitol today. Continue to guide them along their way, revealing to them the truth and bringing them to the fullness of life. May their examples of heroic statesmanship be an inspiration to all.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.