

JOE leads an ambassadors' prayer breakfast fellowship at the Cedars, right nearby in northern Virginia. I have had the privilege to join him for those breakfasts on occasions. It is a time for ambassadors to get together from all over the world—different regions meeting at different times, sometimes many from many regions—to break bread, to talk about the Scriptures with some emphasis on policy but mostly about how God does minister to us, how forgiving He is, and how all of us are in need of reconciliation. And JOE PITTS is there leading that fellowship and has been doing it for decades.

JOE has been a leader in the fight against ongoing human rights abuses in Western Sahara and elsewhere. He is co-chair of the Lantos Human Rights Commission. And in Congress, of course, we know he has served in a number of key leadership positions, including his current position as chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, obviously working on so many important issues on diseases and disabilities. Top officials from the healthcare system present themselves before his committee for his review and oversight. He has been a problem-solver—he and his staff, working across the aisle to try to find solutions to these often vexing issues of health care.

On the greatest human rights issue of our time—protecting unborn babies and their mothers from the violence of abortion—JOE PITTS has not only saved countless precious lives and fostered reconciliation and hope for post-abortive women, but he has also been an extraordinary inspiration to all of us in Congress.

The way he comports himself. He never gets angry. He deals with the issue in a way that reaches out to people who may have a different view in the hopes that they will see the wisdom of protecting the innocent and most vulnerable.

JOE has been a leader on every pro-life congressional policy—bills, amendments, administrative actions—since he won his seat in Congress in 1996. We are grateful for his powerful voice and vote on ending the hideous method called partial birth abortion; enacting multiple annual abortion funding bans; proscribing sex selection abortion, which is the ultimate violation of women's rights to say: you are susceptible to killing because you happen to be female; protecting pain-capable unborn children as well as born-alive infants; and enforcing the conscience rights of pro-life Americans has been remarkable. His leadership has been remarkable.

Had the Senate adopted the House-passed Pitts-Stupak amendment, ObamaCare, with all of its egregious flaws, would have at least been abortion-free.

JOE PITTS has been the greatest friend and ally of persons with disabilities, including his robust defense of Terri Schiavo.

His service in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1973–1997, including

his chairmanship of the powerful Appropriations Committee, to which he was elected by his peers, was filled with accomplishments, including his bold leadership in enacting the Abortion Control Act.

Someday future generations will look back on America's culture of death and wonder how and why a seemingly enlightened society, so blessed with civil rights protections, wealth, educational opportunities, information, medical breakthroughs, a free press, and a strong and diverse faith community could have allowed 60 million unborn children to be killed by abortion.

When the day comes and legal protections for the weak and the most vulnerable are restored, I believe future generations of Americans will remember and celebrate the tenacious heroes, the human rights heroes of today, people like Henry Hyde, compassionate women like Mother Teresa, and JOE PITTS, who persevered, prayed, and worked tenaciously on behalf of the least of these.

St. Francis once famously said: Always preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words.

By his example, by his perpetual radiating of Christ—just look at his eyes; there is kindness and compassion and empathy in JOE PITTS' eyes—he has inspired all of us to strive to do His will on Earth, as it is in Heaven. And it is a distinct privilege and honor to be known as one of JOE PITTS' friends.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, JOE PITTS is a man whose faith and values, I believe, animate him to protect life in all its stages. Through his decades of service both in the military and public office—and as a dedicated husband and dad—Congressman JOE PITTS has nurtured, protected, and preserved the lives of others.

First, as a young married man and a public school teacher, he nurtured the intellectual life of his students.

Then, so that he could better support his wife and children, he signed up for Officer Training School.

As an Air Force Captain, he did three tours in Vietnam over a five and a half year period, completing 116 combat missions throughout that time, and earning an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters. Once again, JOE risked his own life to protect the lives of others.

After retiring from military service, JOE returned to teaching, and in 1972, he commenced his 24-year tenure as a PA State Representative, where he was known for being a key advocate of the 1990 Abortion Control Act.

In 1997, JOE became a member of Congress, and understanding that from the family springs new life, he was asked to chair the pro-family Values Action Team.

Throughout his service at the state and federal level, he has worked to improve the lives of others by exercising fiscal responsibility. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought to improve our military readiness, so that our service members can better protect American lives.

I know that each of us here today honoring JOE feel that he has touched our lives, both as a colleague and as a friend. He has touched the lives of countless others through his service.

I wish him all the best in the years to come, and, after decades of serving the lives of others, that he enjoys time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

RETIRING MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening to talk about the remarkable records of five individuals who are retiring from the Congress. I have had the honor of chairing the California Democratic delegation for many years; and these five Members—Representative SAM FARR, Representative LOIS CAPPS, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ, Representative MIKE HONDA, and Representative Janice Hahn—are going home to California after serving distinguished careers here in the House.

THE HONORABLE SAM FARR

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I will start with my near neighbor, who has served since 1993. He came in in a special election, and that is Congressman SAM FARR. He has honorably represented the central coast of California for more than 40 years and here in Congress for the last 23.

SAM was born and raised in the Monterey County area. Before his service here in the House, he early on served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, and his wonderful fluent Spanish is a product of his Peace Corps service in Colombia. To this day, he has a special soft spot for that country.

As the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, he has championed safe and nutritious food for consumers, farmers, and producers. He has made sure that the need of getting fresh food into school lunches has never been far from our thoughts, and he has had remarkable success there, which has served the health of children across the country.

After serving in the Peace Corps, SAM represented his constituents on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for 6 years. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he continued to fight for environmental issues and for people who were disadvantaged. After that, he served in the California Legislature.

SAM founded the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus and authored the Oceans Act, which created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

He is the longest serving Democrat on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. And while he served on that subcommittee, he did something simply remarkable. We all know that

bases across the United States were closed under the BRAC system, and one of those bases was the Fort Ord military base. It is the biggest California base, and it left a hole in that county. What SAM did was, he worked with the local community to make sure that that base could be repurposed to good use, and he led the effort to make the Cal State University at Monterey a reality at Fort Ord.

SAM is a former chair of the congressional Democratic delegation and did such a great job when he chaired this group. He stands for peace, for diplomacy. SAM is always standing up for the little guy. And one of the things in addition to that is that he has been the photographer for House Democrats. Whenever we go anywhere, SAM is there with his camera, and we really don't know who is going to keep track of our activities when SAM retires.

We wish him well. We know he is going to have a great time in the serene beauty of the region where he grew up. He said: It is time to go home and be a grandpa. And we know that he is a wonderful grandpa.

THE HONORABLE LOIS CAPPIS

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, LOIS CAPPIS is also retiring. LOIS was sworn in on March 17, 1998. But I remember the day that her late husband, Walter Capps, passed away unexpectedly. She and Walter were on their way to the Capitol, and Walter passed away.

We had an unplanned Special Order here. We were all so shocked that that had happened. And LOIS was here with us. She later went on to run for the seat that her husband had represented really for a short time: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and parts of Ventura County. She has represented that area with tremendous distinction.

You know, she will be the first to tell you, she never expected to be a Member of Congress. She is a former nurse, a public health advocate. She was a school nurse and still talks about the work she did as a school nurse with children. And when she got elected to Congress, she was committed to improving schools, to quality health care, and a cleaner environment. She built a legacy of commonsense solutions that have helped make her district, her State, and our country cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable.

And here is something not everyone knows; but when they hear it, it makes so much sense. She has been voted the nicest Member of Congress over and over again, and so she is.

She serves on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and sits on the Health Subcommittee, the Energy and Power Subcommittee, as well as the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. She has focused on Medicare reform, the nursing shortage, mental health, the protection of our air and water. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

LOIS is someone who not only serves with distinction but who is a warm friend. We will miss her greatly next

Congress, but we know that she deserves the retirement that she has earned, and she will be going home to her beautiful district.

THE HONORABLE LORETTA SANCHEZ

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our colleague LORETTA SANCHEZ is a true trailblazer. Beginning with her election in 1996, where in then-Republican Orange County, she had an upset victory against former Representative Bob Dornan. She defeated Representative Dornan by less than 1,000 votes.

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When she got here, she immediately tried to do what she could for the defense of this Nation. She has served honorably as a senior member on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Homeland Security and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces. She is considered a leader on military and national security issues.

She is also the co-chair of the Congressional Women in the Military Caucus, where she advocated for female servicemembers to serve in combat roles, and she fought to end sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

She served on the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, where she made sure our Nation is prepared for anything, any missile or nuclear attack.

Another thing that I know so well about LORETTA is how much she cares about human rights, and specifically her advocacy for human rights in Vietnam. She and I have co-chaired the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam. She has gone to Vietnam, and she is a reliable, vocal, smart, and dedicated advocate for human rights, for religious freedom and labor rights for people in Vietnam.

Obviously a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, she served in the past as co-chair of the Immigration Task Force. She is a spectacular person. I will miss her a great deal, and I am thinking about who do I go to on the committee to talk about the nerdy but important things like the National Ignition Facility and big science projects that are also part of the armed services. She has served her country so well.

THE HONORABLE MIKE HONDA

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, MIKE HONDA will also be going home. I have had the honor of knowing MIKE HONDA for many decades. As a matter of fact, I think I first met MIKE when he was serving on the planning commission of the city of San Jose, appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta, who later became a Member of Congress. He was later elected to the San Jose Unified School Board, and then to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. In fact, MIKE and I served together on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Many of us know his history. During World War II, MIKE HONDA and his family spent 3 years imprisoned in an in-

ternment camp for Japanese Americans. That experience, I think, was the beginning of the fuel for his zeal in his fight for civil rights, for public service, and against discrimination. We will miss him because, although we have a very distinguished member in DORIS MATSUI, who was actually born in an internment camp, I believe that MIKE HONDA is the last of our Members who actually was old enough to remember being in that internment camp.

We have discussions in our country today about locking up people based on their ethnicity or their religious beliefs. It is important that people like MIKE HONDA can stand up and say America made a mistake. America apologized for that mistake. Let's never make that mistake again.

MIKE serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and is serving now as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. In that position, he played a key role with me and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO in helping to locate the Patent Office in San Jose and to make sure that the Department of Justice has the resources to address the backlog in rape kits. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

He is chair emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the founding chair of the Congressional Caucus to End Bullying, the vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. In fact, he spent many years fighting anti-Muslim bigotry and discrimination against the LGBT community.

THE HONORABLE JANICE HAHN

Ms. LOFGREN. Finally, I want to mention our friend Janice Hahn, who took office just, I think, this week as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Janice was elected to Congress in 2011 and immediately made strong contributions to her district in a short time. But the story of Janice doesn't begin with her election to Congress. It begins long before that.

Her father, Supervisor Kenny Hahn, served longer as a member of the board of supervisors than anyone in the history of the United States; and Janice tells stories of growing up with her father and understanding that public service means getting down and actually talking with your constituents, providing direct services to them. He had a tremendous influence on her, and she served on the Los Angeles City Council before she ran for Congress successfully.

Here, Janice served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she did important things like helping to pass the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act to increase investments in port and freight network infrastructure. As

a result of her efforts, the harbor maintenance trust fund provided over \$1 billion in resources to operate more efficiently and remain globally competitive.

The Port of Long Beach, which she represented in Congress and now as a Los Angeles County supervisor, moves more than \$180 billion of goods each year and is the second busiest seaport in the United States. She has always made sure that that port got the resources necessary to be efficient not only for the need for business in her district, but recognizing that the goods that come through that port help support the economy across the United States.

She served also on the Committee on Small Business, where she worked to improve access to loans for small businesses to improve job creation. She co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Ports Opportunity, Renewal, Trade, and Security Caucus, the PORTS Caucus, and she also served with JIM COSTA and me on the California High-Speed Rail Caucus, where she championed the California high-speed rail project, which will improve transportation in California and reduce traffic congestion and airport wait times.

Janice Hahn is someone who really cared about her district in Congress, but her district in Congress is tiny compared to the district she represents on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We know that she will do a terrific job there.

Many also know her as someone who was very involved in the prayer breakfast movement here in Congress. She made many friends across the aisle as she did that, and we will miss her.

We know that we will see all of these fine individuals when we go home, as we do every week to California. Now before calling on my colleague Mr. FARR, I would also like to note that the timing of this was a little bit different than we had expected, and a lot of Members have statements.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield to SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is probably the last time I rise on this floor to speak after 23 years of serving here. It may take me a little more than 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. That is all right.

Mr. FARR. My daughter is on the way with my grandkids, who are trying to watch this. Maybe we can delay it a little more than that.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Ms. LOFGREN for her leadership in the California delegation. She is the head of

the Democratic side of the aisle in our caucus from California, the largest caucus just the Democrats alone. I would just like to point out what the politics of the West has done since I first got elected in 1975.

I arrived here, and there were an even number of Democrats and Republicans representing California. Today there are 39 Democrats, and that is because the State has really shifted in their registration and voting. So the California Democratic delegation, it is interesting that ZOE is the chair of because it is the most diverse delegation in Congress: majority women, the highest delegation of Hispanics, of women, of Asians, and I would like to say with, MIKE HONDA and Mr. GARAMENDI and myself, the largest delegation of returned Peace Corps volunteers. It has been quite a change in the 23 years that I have been in Congress.

I first arrived in 1993. I was the last guy in the door here because Leon Panetta, my predecessor, had been elected in the 1992 election, sworn in to the Congress that January; and then when President Clinton was sworn in for his first term, he turned around and appointed Leon Panetta to be head of the Office of Management and Budget. Leon resigns on that day, notifies Governor Wilson, who declares a special election.

Interesting enough, in the special elections in California, it is an open election, so the highest vote getter from each party at the time would be in the runoff, and 27 people filed. I was in the state assembly. They said: You file and you will clear the field.

No, it didn't happen at all. It was quite a primary, and it ended up with a June election; and on June 15, I think I was sworn here, right in this very spot, to the United States Congress.

What was interesting is I was the 435th Member of Congress, the last person, and today I think my seniority ranks me around 50, from 51 to 55. So it takes 23 years to move from the bottom slot all the way up to the top 50 or so slots in this House. It has been a very interesting experience.

This truly is—and I have seen it through all the years—a representational democracy. There are all kinds of people in Congress with all kinds of issues: personal issues, family issues, financial issues. It really is representational of the society we live in. One thing in common is that they all want to serve the public; they want to serve this country.

That service, particularly in this House, because we are representatives, we serve districts. Madam Chair was a former county supervisor, as I was, and I like jokingly saying that, frankly, because we all serve districts, we are like 435 county supervisors back here. We are more concerned about our district than the whole country.

That is a strength for the constituents of the district, to be able to have direct access to their elected Members of Congress. It is probably a drawback

when you are trying to draw the whole country into a common purpose. It is very difficult to get at least 218 people to agree, and that is the challenge here.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Agriculture Committee, the Defense Committee, the Resources Committee, and, in the last 20 or so years, on the Appropriations Committee. It has been a wonderful experience because you are able to really get involved in the Appropriations Committee with all the details of running government.

I am ranking member, the chief Democrat on the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and our budget for that committee is about the same as the entire budget for the State of California. That is an agency which was created by Abraham Lincoln. It was created to essentially deal with the home ec of westward expansion.

So all of the rural development, the rural poverty programs, are in the Department of Agriculture. Plus you have ag attaches in every Embassy in the United States, in the world. You have the commodities futures exchange. You have Wall Street. You have everything in that committee and it is really interesting, and the biggest feeding program through food stamps, the WIC program, Food for Peace, and so on.

I have been able to do a lot in changing policies so that we got fresh fruits and vegetables, and trying to get them in every school lunch program in the United States. That is good for California agriculture, and it is, more importantly, good for the kids of this Nation.

I have had the privilege of being, I think, the only one in this House to create a national park during my service. The Pinnacles National Park was the 59th national park created in the history of this country.

We have done a big expansion of ocean protection with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We have created a visitors center for that sanctuary. We have created, for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a center in Santa Cruz.

We have created a brand-new university out of the largest base closure that ever happened in the history of the United States, with the closure of Fort Ord. Cal State Monterey Bay is really up and coming, about 7,000 students, a great university, really reaching out to the underserved populations of California.

I have been able to raise the pay for Federal workers in my district, what they call the locality pay.

I have been able to, I think, save the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute from being closed or reorganized, realigned to other States. The list goes on and on.

I think what I am most proud of is the fact that I have had such incredible staff. I would just like to take a moment to tell you about Rochelle

Dornatt, my chief of staff, who has been with me for 23 years; Debbie Merrill; Troy Phillips; Tom Tucker; Sam Chiron; Dushani De Silva; Zoe Gentes, who is a Sea Grant fellow in my office; Rosie Julin; and Ana Sorrentino, who is my foreign service staffer.

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On my district staff, Alec Arago, Carina Chavez, Nancy DeSerpa, Bertha Munoz, Kristen Petersen, and Alicia Castro. Kristen Petersen just got elected to the Capitola City Council.

All of these people are moving on as I leave tomorrow, and I am very excited that they were part of my life.

Just in closing, I would like to say that my daughter, Jessica, is here in the cloakroom, I hope, and she has with her my grandson, Zachary, and my granddaughter, Ella. I am so pleased that they could be here and share this moment with me.

Congress is a great experience. It is the check and balance. It is the initiator of new ideas. It is the people's House. And I just hope that as Member's face this next uncertainty of a new administration—there is always uncertainty, and probably more so now with the controversial election we had in this country, but I really hope that this House will rise to the occasion to not let the people down. We fight for all kinds of wonderful reasons. This House, the people's House, has really got to protect the people.

So I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time for me to make a few comments. I am sure that I will have a lot more that I would love to say, but I include in the RECORD a list that I have here of over 20 years of getting results for the 20th Congressional District.

OVER 20 YEARS OF GETTING RESULTS. . . .

Helping change things for the better while in Congress doesn't just mean passing bills, though Sam Farr did a lot of that. It means looking for every opportunity—to form partnerships, to push for White House involvement, to secure earmarks, and even on occasion, to block others from interfering in the district's welfare.

Sam Farr did all this while in Congress and will continue to do so until the day he leaves. There is never a time when Sam Farr is not working for the best interests of the community. He leaves an indelible mark on the district that will have long-term, wide-ranging impact now and far into the future.

Item	Approximate Date
Authorized federal organic standards legislation/law ..	2002
Got WH to include Salinas in its Violence Prevention strategy (to fight gangs) ..	2010–present.
Helped legislate the RCI program, which has rebuilt military housing at Fort Ord (now the Ord Military Community) ..	2001–ongoing.
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Trail ..	2001–present.
Obtained approval of VA cemetery at Fort Ord ..	1993–2014
NMFS lab in Santa Cruz ..	1996–2002
Provided approximately \$65 million, total, to underwrite the new CSUMB ..	1994–1999
Oceans 21/National Ocean Policy ..	2000/2014
Helped negotiate, then got \$\$ for Salinas Valley Water Reclamation project and the Castroville Water Intrusion project ..	1994–95
Opened up DU to civilian students on a selected, space-available basis ..	1994
Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus ..	1997–present.
White House Oceans Conference ..	1998
Prevented closure of local Social Security office ..	1999

Item	Approximate Date
Transfer of EDD-owned building via DOL to city of Salinas for child care center ..	1999
Creation of the center for stabilization and reconstruction studies; also a permanent office within the State Department ..	2000
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Coastal National Monument ..	2000
House Oceans Caucus ..	2000–present.
Marine Protected Area center in Santa Cruz ..	2000
Plan Colombia (revising aid for local capacity growth) ..	2000
Annual Citizenship ceremonies ..	2001(?)–present.
Cleaned up FUDS at Monterey Airport ..	2001
Got Fair Trade Sustainable Coffee mandated for House restaurant facilities ..	2001
Wilderness bill (Ventana, Silver Peak) ..	2001
Prevented the Navy from expanding bombing runs at Fort Hunter Liggett ..	2002
Provided the funds (via earmark) for a new Olympic-sized public pool in Salinas ..	2002
Created the U.S. Travel & Tourism Board ..	2003
Legislated FHL lands into permanent status as a national forest under the direction of the Forest Service if FHL is ever supplanted by the military ..	2004
Moved FORA policy from 0% affordable housing to a minimum of 20% ..	2004
Passed a law making California Missions eligible for federal restoration/rehabilitation grants ..	2004
Won locality pay for federal workers in Monterey County ..	2004
Environmental Services Contract Agreement—Fort Ord (clean up complete) ..	2006–2014
Golf carts for the disabled at military golf courses ..	2006
Transferred Pt. Pinos Lighthouse to City of Pacific Grove ..	2006
Established the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at NPS ..	2007
Organized Team Monterey—all DOD entities in Monterey County ..	2007
A Salad Bar in Every School ..	2008
Launched the Civilian Response Corps ..	2008
Negotiated the swap of lands at Fort Ord ("Stillwell Kidney") to allow the expansion of military housing and a new "gateway" for the City of Seaside ..	2008
Saved post office in Aromas from closure ..	2008
Finalized new VA/DOD health clinic (now under construction) ..	2012
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Fort Ord National Monument ..	2012
Legislated elevation of Pinnacles National Monument to full National Park status ..	2012
Marine debris bill (became law) ..	2012
Saved DLI, NPS from BRAC ..	1995, 2005
Legislated the Economic Development Conveyance for BRAC properties ..	1993, 2009
"Monterey Model" for contracting municipal services at military bases ..	2000, 2012
Secured increased per diems for government rates in the district ..	2003, 2012
Proud to be An American Act (became law) ..	1996, 2006, 2008
Santa Cruz Visitors Center ..	2012
Helped break the logjam on H-2A visas for local growers during the government shutdown, ensuring a sufficient workforce for the holiday growing & harvest season ..	2013
Overcame the government shutdown that had closed off parking for the annual Jade Festival in Big Sur ..	2013
Passed a bill in the House (and sent it to the Senate) to name the new VA-DOD health clinic after Gen. Bill Gourley ..	2013 and 2014
Approximate total dollars brought in to the district in 22 years (appropriations only, not formula money) ..	\$1,016,000,000+
Approximate number of constituent letters answered in 22 years ..	511,000
Pajaro River flood prevention ..	Multi-year.
Provided nearly \$7 million to Salinas/Monterey County to fight gangs ..	Various.
San Clemente Dam—working toward removal ..	Multi-year.
Secured waivers for Salinas and Hollister so they can get Rural Development money ..	Various, on-going.
Authored legislation on medical marijuana that became law ..	2014, 2015
Forced FAA to review the SAFR flight plan over Santa Cruz (on-going) ..	2015
Secured the funds to renovate the "Low Water Bridge" at Fort Hunter Liggett ..	2015
Locked in \$56.3 million from previous appropriations for a new barracks at DLI ..	2015
Saved PEPPRA funds for Monterey-Salinas Transit ..	2015
Guaranteed a new ARS station would be built in Salinas by USDA ..	2015
Reinstated \$7.2 million in funding for NOAA's B-WET program ..	2015
Engineered the highest appropriations level for the Peace Corps in its history (410 million) ..	2015
Got the House to pass H.R. 1838 to allow the recreational use of BLM land at Clear Creek as a public recreation area ..	2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think the comments the gentleman has made show what a difference a Member of Congress can make in the lives of his or her constituents.

One of the things I will say as SAM leaves is that we have joint swearing-in

sessions around the Fourth of July. SAM was born on the Fourth of July. Some of the most memorable moments I have are in Gilroy, with hundreds of people wanting to become American citizens. The remarkable thing about our country is that we have 200 people walk in from 150 countries, and they walk out the citizens of just one country.

SAM has been a leader in immigration, the environment, and so many things, and we honor him and respect him for his service to our country.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I passed legislation called Proud to be an American Day. I was hoping that we could do that on the morning of the Fourth of July, but, because it is a Federal holiday, the Federal immigration people don't work that day. So we have been scheduling this around the Fourth of July and days before.

It has been a huge turnout. It is the largest turnout for press because there are so many interesting people to interview. I really appreciate the gentlewoman coming as an immigrant family and talking about her family background. It has been a highlight to see the smiles and enthusiasm of a day when we are really proud to be Americans.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a distinguished Member of the Armed Services Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the only member from the 53rd District, the only district that is 53rd in the country—the highest number district ever—and I am so aware of the size and scope of California and its congressional delegation.

We have such a wide range of talents and perspectives and contributions that California Members bring to this body. As we see the 114th Congress now come to a close, we have more departing Members than many delegations have in the first place. So I am here to talk about some of them.

We are losing leaders, we are losing friends and mentors, Members whom we have looked to and served beside. We are losing Members who have been so influential as they have shared to make their passion to make lives better, each in their own way. As we bid them farewell, I want to take this moment to pay tribute to five members that I am going to dearly miss.

The first one is LOIS CAPPS. LOIS has really been an example and a role model for how to be the quintessential Congresswoman. She is generous, classy, hardworking, collaborative, and never afraid to stand up for people who are in need. One of the things about LOIS that we all know is she has a lock on the Nicest Member of Congress award, and that is for a really good reason.

She has been very helpful to me, and my staff, from the minute I came to Congress. I came a few years after she

did. Since then, they have been helpful whenever we needed them. I certainly will miss her leadership, her perspective as a nurse and a healthcare advocate, and our region's voice on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

She has always looked out for and delivered for women, kids, consumers, and anyone who has had problems with healthcare coverage. On that committee, she really has been a leader on the environment and a leader in promoting clean energy and green technology.

Everybody knows LOIS here on the floor. We all just look for her assurance and her smile all the time.

SAM FARR just spoke a few minutes ago. He really is a Member that you look to for results.

I learned about SAM when I was a member of the California legislature. One year, when the California members came to visit our Members of Congress, Sam was there to greet us. I remember having discussions with him. I think we were both chairing Consumer Affairs at one time in the State legislature and so we became kind of fast friends.

SAM was also one of my walking buddies. There were a few years there where we walked often in the morning, meeting about six o'clock. We had a gang of us who went down to the park. We were there always talking and having a good time and really sharing our experience here.

One thing we all know about SAM is that he was a legendary photo taker. I can assure you, whenever you see SAM wandering down here on the floor, he was often bringing pictures of people from one event or another that he had taken. They were great mementos. I know that we all treasured them dearly.

SAM is known from Monterrey, which he represents, to Colombia. Everywhere he goes, he speaks to people. Often, if you travel with SAM, you know how hard it is to get him moving because he really wants to stop and talk to everybody along the way.

SAM was really shaped by his service in the Peace Corps and dedicated himself to giving back and looking at tough issues from a global perspective. He has been an earmark and appropriations leader. His staff made him a book of accomplishments, and it was so thick. There were so many things that they had to share about SAM and what he has accomplished.

Just like my colleague had said, he really stands for how we can work hard and we can get things done, especially when we know how to work with people. And SAM knows how to do that. That is why he has such a great, thick binder and lots of wonderful pictures.

SAM has been a leader in the fight against offshore drilling and a smart thinker when it comes to BRAC solutions.

I also want to talk about LORETTA SANCHEZ. As my Armed Services colleague, my housemate, and Longworth

neighbor, LORETTA is someone I really got to see a lot of.

In this kind of funny button-down town we have, LORETTA is really a breath of fresh air. We know she is never afraid to be herself, and she is not like anyone else who has ever served.

She surprised people when she came to Congress after a very long-shot campaign that really wasn't decided for months after she came here. Of course, she has never been afraid to take on a tough-odds fight. She was one of the first younger women before we had a lot of women coming here to Congress—women who had young children—who were really in their earlier years. A lot of us waited until we were later in our careers, but not LORETTA. She came when she was really a young woman.

LORETTA is famous, of course, for her holiday cards and a lot of things that I just can't repeat right now, and for being one of the smartest, thoughtful, and funniest Members that we have here in Congress.

I know that when San Diego groups come to town and want an interesting speaker, I always recommend LORETTA. I never know what she is going to say, but that is why people listen.

She is someone I will dearly miss, but at least she is leaving her little sister here with us in leadership, no less. We are glad to have LINDA in that position.

I want to talk about my friend, MIKE HONDA. MIKE and I have been on the same path. We served in the legislature together, we campaigned in the year of George W., and we came to Congress in the same small Democratic class in 2000. Our staffs have worked very closely together, and he has ruled the seventh floor of Longworth from the same office that he has held the whole time he has been here in Congress.

Like SAM FARR, MIKE was shaped by his service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. He has been a warrior for justice, whether it is educational justice or civil rights, and he has taken API issues to a new level and really made people aware of the struggles of Asian Americans from internment camps to POW issues to sex trafficking.

MIKE is something of a bridge as well between the generations. He has represented Silicon Valley with pride and been an advocate and example of new technology. His office always crushes all of us in the Golden Mouse Web site competition, and I think he was the first Member to drive a Prius. He still has that same green Prius with a stuffed animal we see parked all over campus.

More than anything, we miss stories of MIKE's famous karaoke nights. I hear nobody does Sinatra better.

Janice Hahn. Janice actually turned out to be one of my newer colleagues from nearby LA, and I certainly hate to see her leave, but she will be a huge asset as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. She joins a

former colleague here and a former colleague of mine of the State legislature. Go girl.

She is going to do tremendous work. The group of them who are in charge now at LA County, I know, will make tremendous strides for the region and for all of their constituents.

It is very clear that Janice is an expert on transportation and infrastructure. She has helped a lot of us to understand port issues and stands up for the working people who make the goods move.

It is always a great privilege to travel with Janice. I had that opportunity on a few occasions. I am certainly glad she will be serving in elected office. She still has such a great contribution to make.

So, in closing, I just want to say that we certainly are going to miss these Members for different reasons, but those of us still here will carry on their legacies and never forget the marks they have each made.

I have learned from all of them, and I will try to carry on their legacies by making my New Year's resolution to be as genuine as LOIS, as edgy as LORETTA, as engaging as SAM, as good at singing as MIKE, and as spiritual as Janice.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who represents north of San Francisco and the north coast.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I love about serving in Congress is I am always presented with new and interesting experiences. Each year brings more of these experiences, but I have already, in just 4 years, found that there is one experience I have quite enough of, and that is saying goodbye to incredible, irreplaceable colleagues who are just remarkable public servants. I wish them well. I am happy for them in retiring, but I am going to really miss them.

Last year, we had the tough duty of saying goodbye to Henry Waxman and George Miller. This year, we have got another class of terrific people who are moving on.

□ 2015

I am going to miss all of my California colleagues, including our southern California friends, Janice Hahn and LORETTA SANCHEZ; but I want to focus the time I have on our northern California neighbors, starting with our great friend, SAM FARR.

A lot will be said, now and long into the future, about SAM's incredible public service career. People will talk about his time in Colombia in the Peace Corps, the 6 years that he spent on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, his 12 years in the State assembly, his nearly 23 years in Congress. SAM has been such a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is not just the duration and the breadth of those offices. It is really the quality and the character of SAM's service and, particularly, when it comes to the ocean.

SAM was the founder of the House Oceans Caucus, and a longstanding advocate for our coasts and oceans, and

reminding all of us and our country, how important they are to our economy. He helped lay the groundwork for a National Ocean Policy that recognizes that there are tens of millions of jobs across this country and trillions of dollars of economic activity that depend on healthy oceans.

SAM has helped all sorts of special places throughout his career, especially in the Central Coast. He has never rested on his laurels. Despite his many accomplishments—and there are too many to list here—I think it is important to note that he created the Pinnacles National Park, which was signed into law in 2013.

He successfully lobbied to have a national monument at Fort Ord, which was designated in 2012. And SAM has told me many times, even in recent days, that the most satisfying part of his work here in Congress is the enduring part of his legacy, those permanent protections that he, through a lot of hard work and perseverance, has been able to make happen.

Beyond all of this, all of these achievements, all of these offices that define SAM's public service career, I think it is also important to just note he is a heck of a human being.

I will miss SAM. It has been said by Susan and others that he has just always got a warm smile. He greets you on the airplane. He is a pleasure to travel with. He will come up and give you a picture that he took from the last holiday party, sometimes like a year and a half earlier because he has kept it in his pocket for a long time waiting to see you.

SAM, you are just a wonderful friend and human being, and I am so honored to have served with you.

So let's talk about another great human being and public servant, LOIS CAPPS. What I love about Lois and will deeply miss is the fact that she is a nurse to the core, and a health advocate. She really, as a Member of Congress, and as a health advocate, just walks the walk all the time, constantly advocating for affordable and accessible health care for all, and that includes, obviously, being a champion with her work for the Affordable Care Act. She really does leave this institution, I think, as one of its most respected members, one of the kindest members, certainly one of the ones with widespread affection from her colleagues. That is a reputation that I think everyone in public life should strive for.

LOIS, of course, is another stalwart for California's oceans and our coast, and has helped lead the charge against offshore drilling throughout her tenure.

I think the part of Lois that I will especially appreciate and especially miss is that she is my living bridge to a wonderful time in my life when I was a student at UC Santa Barbara. Of course, Lois herself is a graduate of USCB, and I know that my fellow alumni and everyone in the UCSB community is so proud of her.

It is extra special because, of course, she holds the seat in Congress that was previously held by the late Walter Capps, a UCSB professor who was one of my favorite professors way back in the 1980s when I was a Gaucho student.

Finally, it is tough to say good-bye, but we have to, to our great friend, MIKE HONDA, who has so ably represented the Bay Area on the Appropriations Committee. He has made sure that Congress has invested in key priorities for our Bay Area region. The extension of BART is just one of many, many examples of MIKE's great work.

He served in public life for more than 3 decades, from the San Jose School Board to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly, and here in Congress.

MIKE's very special service draws upon his life experience. He has just been an incredible champion for civil rights and human rights and equality. He has really been our North Star, I think, here in Congress on these critical issues.

He has gone to bat for the AAPI community, the LGBT community and, frankly, anyone who has been disadvantaged and who needs a champion in their quest for equality.

MIKE is my neighbor here in Washington. I will miss running into him. I will miss seeing that old, beat-up, first-generation Toyota Prius with all the faded stickers on the bumper. Most of all, I will just miss MIKE's great sense of humor, his warm smile, and his friendship; but I do know that that friendship will continue.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleague, ZOE LOFGREN, thank you for the time to lend my voice of appreciation and gratitude to these great, great, champions for California and for our country. We wish them well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I had a number of other Members who had planned to be here but, because of the hour, there is a conflicting event, so they will be adding their voices to the RECORD.

Let me just close by saying that our delegation—really, all the Congress and the public—are going to miss the distinguished service of SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA, and Janice Hahn. Each of them very different, but each of them made their mark in a way that will not be forgotten. We are sad to see them go, but here's the good news: we have fresh faces coming in to replace them who are very distinguished and who will also make their mark because none of us here will be here forever. We are just passing through this people's House in an effort to serve our country as best we can. Certainly, these Members have served that public with tremendous distinction, and we are honored to have served with them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

UNMANAGEABLE CABINET AGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the people's House this evening.

Last night, I talked about my initial reflections on having been a freshman Congressman spending my first term in the United States House of Representatives. Last evening, I talked at length about the growth of the administrative state, the expansion of executive power, to the detriment of the first branch, the legislative branch. I traced those changes from my previous service on Capitol Hill as a young man in the Senate staff of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and then, most recently, working for President Bush 41 during his 4 years in the Presidency.

Tonight I want to turn and continue that discussion with our American people, Mr. Speaker, and talk about how the cabinet agencies, since I worked for President Bush, worked in cabinet affairs, coordinated economic policy during the last 2 years of his Presidency from the White House staff. I want to talk tonight about those cabinet agencies and how, in my view, they have become essentially unmanageable.

You can see the critical need for spending and personnel reform in many of our departments. In fact, one may assume that change is desired by both the legislative and executive branches, yet reform flounders, whether it was at the Pentagon under Secretary Rumsfeld during Bush 43 or the Veterans Affairs Department today under the current administration.

I have watched the VA for the past 2 years. Secretary McDonald's plans changed, laws are changed, yet malfeasance, incompetence, and worse persist.

On just this Monday, Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post published a shocking report that Pentagon officials buried evidence of \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste during 2015. For that horrific activity, they were the recipients of this month's Golden Fleece Award by my office.

To make it worse, they even made the effort, according to The Washington Post, of hiding this effort, knowing that it would be impetus for the Congress to come together and cut their budget. Clearly, that is a problem with an unmanageable cabinet agency.

I have seen this firsthand right in Little Rock, my hometown, where the center of the Air Force's C-130 program is, for America's airlift, where the Department of the Air Force officials planned for years to transfer aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi to Little Rock Air Force Base, basing it as a critical, cost-saving initiative, along with other force structure changes of some \$922 million across future years of their 5-year plan.

Yet, Congress' meddling prevented this commonsense Air Force plan cost-