

During his career, he received many awards from Texas A&M for his research, his teaching, and his service to our university.

John's contributions went far beyond the scope of Texas A&M University, however. Throughout his career, he served as the president of, founded, or cofounded many prestigious organizations, including the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, the William James Society, and the Josiah Royce Society.

John's scholarship and labor in the field of philosophy was acknowledged in 2016 when he was named as one of the world's 50 most influential living philosophers.

Among John's many accomplishments was his reputation for nurturing personal relationships with his five children, six grandchildren, great-grandchild, extended family, friends, strangers, and students.

John and his wife, Patricia, were known to regularly host students at their home to learn more about them and to mentor their development.

I was fortunate enough to get an opportunity to meet Professor McDermott in early 2007 and to serve Texas A&M University with him. During that year and the next, we served as members of two Texas A&M administration executive search committees. Even though our ideological beliefs were widely divergent, we became great friends and were both passionate about the future of Texas A&M University and its students.

Mr. Speaker, John's life was defined by his service to those around him. His scholarship and teaching influenced generations of people across the world. He will be forever remembered as a selfless servant, an educator, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and a great friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the McDermott family. We also lift up the family and friends of Professor McDermott in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor his life and legacy. As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who serve us, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 W. Goodwin Street, Pleasanton, Texas, as the "Pleasanton Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 400 N. Main Street, Encinal, Texas, as the "Encinal Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 3184. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 McCormick Road in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Captain Humayun Khan Post Office".

H.R. 4326. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 West North Street in Normal, Illinois, as the "Sgt. Josh Rodgers Post Office".

H.R. 5395. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Main Street in Dansville, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexandria Gleason-Morrow Post Office Building".

H.R. 5412. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 2nd Avenue in Brentwood, New York, as the "Army Specialist Jose L. Ruiz Post Office Building".

H.R. 5791. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9609 South University Boulevard in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, as the "Deputy Sheriff Zackari Spurlock Parrish, III, Post Office Building".

H.R. 5792. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 North 4th Avenue in Brighton, Colorado, as the "Detective Heath McDonald Gumm Post Office".

H.R. 6020. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 325 South Michigan Avenue in Howell, Michigan, as the "Sergeant Donald Burgett Post Office Building".

H.R. 6216. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3025 Woodgate Road in Montrose, Colorado, as the "Sergeant David Kinterknecht Post Office".

H.R. 6217. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 241 N 4th Street in Grand Junction, Colorado, as the "Deputy Sheriff Derek Geer Post Office Building".

H.R. 6405. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2801 Mitchell Road in Ceres, California, as the "Lance Corporal Juana Navarro Arellano Post Office Building".

H.R. 6428. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 332 Ramapo Valley Road in Oakland, New Jersey, as the "Frank Leone Post Office".

H.R. 6513. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1110 West Market Street in Athens, Alabama, as the "Judge James E. Horton, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6591. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 South Kirkman Road in Orlando, Florida, as the "Napoleon 'Nap' Ford Post Office Building".

H.R. 6621. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 530 East Main Street in Johnson City, Tennessee, as the "Major Homer L. Pease Post Office".

H.R. 6628. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4301 Northeast 4th Street in Renton, Washington, as the "James Marshall 'Jimi' Hendrix Post Office Building".

H.R. 6655. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 44160 State Highway 299 East Suite 1 in McArthur, California, as the "Janet Lucille Oilar Post Office".

H.R. 6780. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7521 Paula Drive in Tampa, Florida, as the "Major Andreas O'Keeffe Post Office Building".

H.R. 6831. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 35 West Main Street in Frisco, Colorado, as the "Patrick E. Mahany, Jr., Post Office Building".

H.R. 7120. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend through 2023 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

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

H.R. 1222. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1158. An act to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to present, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1580. An act to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

S. 2076. An act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3031. An act to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to improve the management of Federal personal property.

S. 3482. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

S. 3748. An act to amend the removal and transfer procedures for the Inspectors General of the Library of Congress, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Government Publishing Office.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 115-254, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate, appoints the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group:

Vance F. Serchuk of New York.

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RECOGNIZING JEREMY DEUTSCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank my chief of staff, Jeremy Deutsch. Every day Jeremy reminded me and my team to show up like it is day one, you know, eager to give it your best, you are driven by that desire to delight people, a customer-obsessed culture. And for the past 10 years, as my chief, Jeremy has led by that very example.

Now, Jeremy never wanted to come to Congress. He questioned why anyone

would want to come to D.C. Too many prisoner guards resistant to change and can you really make a difference.

We first met when he actually moved from Ohio to Washington State after I had been elected minority leader in the State house. And when I decided to run for Congress, he said: "Sorry, Cathy, but I am not interested in national politics."

Then I won, and I asked him to join me in D.C., and again he said: "You know, no, I am not going to Congress." But in 2006, I was in a very competitive race, and I needed him, and he came and helped me win. And even after he rescued my campaign, he still didn't want to come to Congress. He said: "I will help you campaign, Cathy, but that's it."

Finally, in 2008, Jeremy said "yes." I was just elected as vice chair of the conference and eager to bring a more tech-forward approach to how we engage with the American people. I was told at the time that it was unconventional to have a chief of staff who had never worked on Capitol Hill, and I said: "That's exactly right. Jeremy is unconventional." In a world where people are quick to tell you "no," why something can't be done, he embraces change, and because of all of that, he brings a visionary approach to politics.

When I was vice chair of the Republican Conference, Jeremy helped me launch Sunshine.GOP. There was no other website like it to track earmarks and every single dollar within the stimulus package.

Now, you may remember, in 2009, the Obama administration also had a website, but it couldn't account for billions of dollars, and it showed jobs and taxpayer dollars going to districts that didn't even exist. With Sunshine.GOP, we delivered an innovative resource that the American people could trust and count on, and it was the best tool available to foster transparency and accountability as to how taxpayer dollars were being spent at the time.

In 2008, I also pitched to Minority Leader John Boehner a plan to bring our Members' offices into the 21st century. We called it "Moving the GOP from PC to MAC," and Jeremy was instrumental in executing my vision to use innovative technology, to build trust with the American people by reaching them on the platforms that they use every day.

When I became chair of the Republican Conference, we turned the conference into a comprehensive messaging operation. We focused on training, modernizing, equipping, and promoting our Members. Many said that it wouldn't work to bring cutting-edge strategies to Congress, but all along the way, Jeremy helped prove them wrong, even when it came to literally bringing creativity to our walls.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of Jeremy that chalkboard paint—yes, chalkboard paint is now an approved paint color for all congressional offices. When the CAO first told us "no," he asked five

times "why?" That is one of our things; ask why five times. And he got them to "yes."

When you are inspired and you imagine what is possible, it is amazing what you can accomplish. Never one to take credit or to think that he was the smartest person in the room, Jeremy brought together experts and positive disrupters to challenge us to be better and to be more innovative—people like Simon Sinek, Mark Cuban, Jennifer Hyman—she is the CEO of Rent the Runway—editors from Glamour, ELLE, and others. Who would have thought that people like this would be collaborating with House Republicans? But because of Jeremy, it happened.

It is Jeremy who established the Knish Club on Capitol Hill. It is a gathering of Republican Jewish Members and staff who come together over lox and bagels.

But what is really at the heart of Jeremy's success is his passion for people and his vigilant integrity. He is driven by a mission for those that we serve, and it is not just what you do. It is how you do it.

And that is why I am so grateful for the team that we have built together. Every day we work and live by our values. It is about serve, seek excellence, everybody matters, responsibly own it, vigilant integrity, and embrace change. It is because of those values that we have become a model office on Capitol Hill.

Just this year, we received the Democracy Award for outstanding achievements and innovation, and we have embraced technology to better serve our district. This wouldn't have been possible without Jeremy's vision and my team.

Now, there is a God component and a people component to all success, and it is Jeremy who often reminded us that God is with us in everything that we do. He is an incredible person with a big heart, and during the good times and the tough times, he brought us together. He would make us laugh. He brought joy to every day.

I remember when Jeremy surprised us by dressing up as Santa Claus for our holiday party. Here is this Jewish guy who doesn't celebrate Christmas bringing joy and cheer to my staff. There probably isn't anyone on Capitol Hill quite like Jeremy Deutsch, but for the sake of this institution, I hope that is not the case, because he has made a difference here.

Jeremy, thank you for your 10 years of service to the people's House, for your guidance, your leadership, and, of course, your friendship. May God be with you in everything that you do.

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

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for perhaps the last time to address the United States Congress. I stand before this esteemed body, honored to have been part of the people's House.

Our work here is a noble pursuit: debating, deliberating, and ultimately deciding issues of critical importance to the great people of the United States of America.

From a young age, Mr. Speaker, my parents taught me the value of service and the importance of our responsibility to contribute to our community, to leave things better than we found them. This is, frankly, part of the American tradition. We feel a commitment and a compassion to our neighbors.

Each American plays a role in weaving the fabric that makes this country so enduring and so strong. E pluribus unum—out of many, one—reflects not only the Federalist system of our Nation, but the great diversity and rich cultures that make us strong, each of us, with God-given, inalienable rights, protected by the Constitution—a truly exceptional Nation, a Nation that stands as a beacon, a shining example of democracy and freedom and unity, a Nation built on sacrifice and service and commitment to preserving our ideals. That is the Nation I love, and that is the Nation I was honored to serve in this United States Congress.

Now, like all Americans, I have my own story, my own heritage, my own upbringing. I grew up on a farm in central Kansas. It was a grain and livestock farm. We grew wheat, corn, soybeans, and milo. We raised cattle, hogs, sheep, and chickens. I grew up in the 1980s, and life was hard on American farms back then, still is in some ways, and some of our neighbors were going bankrupt.

We didn't have much, and commodity prices never rose to the point of profit. My parents pinched pennies hard, but they made a life for us. They taught us that education was the best way to create opportunity for yourself and that there is no substitute for an old-fashioned hard day's work.

My family has been farming in rural Kansas for generations. It is a way to make a living, but it is also a culture, a set of values that helped build this country. They are the values that made me who I am today, the values I now teach my own children, and the values that I brought with me to Washington as I travelled here each week since January 2011.

My grandparents, Orie and Edna Yoder, they embodied the prairie spirit. They carved a life out of the rich Kansas soil. They were hard workers whose faith in God and love of family drove them through good times and bad. My grandmother, Edna, passed last year at 105, and it was always a treasure to wish her a happy birthday from the House floor.

My grandparents, Bill and Jane Alexander, were from Wilmette, Illinois, where my mother grew up as well.