

was to keep people safe and bring people together. I see that as my job here in Congress. This is my 14th and last year. I am not running for re-election.

Some people in this body call themselves leaders. A title does not make you a leader, Mr. Speaker. It is the actions that make you a leader. I believe that true leaders lead from the heart. I believe that leaders have the heart of a servant. I believe that when I got elected to this office, my job was to serve the people of the Eighth District of Washington and to put their needs before my needs.

Mr. KELLY here and I are friends. He comes to work every day putting my needs before his. I do the same. We formed a friendship, a bond, and we want to be honest with each other. Honesty is okay. But honesty is a moment in time. We need integrity and consistent honesty.

Servanthood and integrity is what this country should be built upon, that is what leaders are, not calling for each one of us to say, you are not welcome here anytime, anywhere, anywhere. That is not leadership. That is division.

Leadership, heart of the servant, integrity. That creates a team that we all want to be a part of. That gives this country the opportunity to be the leader of the world. You can each do that across this country, Mr. Speaker—we can all do that—by being leaders in our community. Beginning in the White House. Beginning from that Oval Office, speak with civility. Beginning here in Congress, speak with civility. If you are a member of a State legislature, speak with civility. Serve with the heart of a servant.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple: respect and love your neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is a violation of the rules of the House.

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 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

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

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Martin Frost, vice presi-

dent of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of history, we thank You for this day when former Members return to Congress, to continue in a less official manner their service to our Nation—and to this noble institution.

May their presence here 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 since last year's meeting, 17 in all. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to the House.

Finally, bless those here gathered, that they might 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 Martin Frost 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.

Mr. FROST. The Chair now recognizes the president of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Honorable Cliff Stearns of Florida, to address the Members.

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Father Conroy, for that wonderful blessed prayer.

It is a distinct pleasure to be here with you this morning, to be back in this revered Chamber and to see so many of my good friends and colleagues. So on behalf of the former Members of Congress, I appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this wonderful place and to present to the Congress the Former Members of Congress' 48th annual report.

I will be joined by some of my colleagues in reporting on FMC's activities and vision for our future. I am also submitting for the RECORD a more detailed review of our activities for the year 2017.

I. LEADERSHIP

President—Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
Vice President—Martin Frost (D-TX)
Secretary—Tim Petri (R-WI)
Treasurer—Karen Thurman (D-FL)
Immediate Past President—Barbara Kennelly (D-CT)

II. BOARD MEMBERS

The Hon. Mary Bono (R-CA)
The Hon. Jack Buechner (R-MO)
The Hon. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY)

The Hon. Bob Carr (D-MI)
The Hon. Bob Clement (D-TN)
The Hon. Jim Courter (R-NJ)
The Hon. Jim Coyne (R-PA)
The Hon. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
The Hon. Vic Fazio (D-CA)
The Hon. Mike Ferguson (R-NJ)
The Hon. Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
The Hon. Dan Glickman (D-KS)
The Hon. Bart Gordon (D-TN)
The Hon. Lee Hamilton (D-IN)
The Hon. Dennis Hertel (D-MI)
The Hon. Steven Horsford (D-NV)
The Hon. Jim Jones (D-OK)
The Hon. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)
The Hon. Ken Kramer (R-CO)
The Hon. Martin Lancaster (D-NC)
The Hon. Larry LaRocco (D-ID)
The Hon. Dan Maffei (D-NY)
The Hon. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
The Hon. Matthew McHugh (D-NY)
The Hon. Jeff Miller (R-FL)
The Hon. Jim Moran (D-VA)
The Hon. Connie Morella (R-MD)
The Hon. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)
The Hon. L.F. Payne (D-VA)
The Hon. Nick Rahall (D-WV)
The Hon. Ron Sarasin (R-CT)
The Hon. Dick Schulze (R-PA)
The Hon. David Skaggs (D-CO)
The Hon. Jim Slattery (D-KS)
The Hon. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
The Hon. Jim Walsh (R-NY)
The Hon. Ed Whitfield (R-KY)
The Hon. Albert Wynn (D-MD)

III. STAFF

Peter M. Weichlein—Chief Executive Officer

Sabine Schleidt—Chief Operating Officer
Sharon Wend Witiw—Director of Community Outreach

Paul Kincaid—Director of Congressional Outreach

Patrick Egenhofer—Program Manager
Lorraine Harbison—Program Manager
Alexis Terai—Senior Program Officer
Dongwon Kim—Program Officer
Kathy Hunter—Development and Membership Officer

Alia Diamond—Communications Officer
Alexa Etheredge—Fellow

IV. PARTNERS

The Diplomatic Advisory Council (DAC) is an informal body of current Ambassadors posted in the nation's capital and serves as a direct outreach to our strategic allies abroad. All of our programming benefits from the input, guidance, and participation we receive from the members of DAC.

DAC Members

H.E. Wolfgang Waldner, Ambassador of Austria

H.E. Elfin Suleymanov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan

H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium

H.E. Tihomir Stoytchev, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria

H.E. Lars Gert Lose, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

H.E. Francisco Borja Cevallos, Ambassador of Ecuador

H.E. David O'Sullivan, European Union Ambassador

H.E. Kirsti Kauppi, Ambassador of Finland

H.E. Emily Haber, Ambassador Designate of the Federal Republic of Germany

H.E. Geir H. Haarde, Ambassador of Iceland

H.E. Navtej Sarna, Ambassador of India

H.E. Budi Bowoleksono, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan

H.E. Cho Yoon-je, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Kurt Jaeger, Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein

H.E. Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania

H.E. Sylvie Lucas, Ambassador of Luxembourg

H.E. Gerónimo Gutiérrez Fernández, Ambassador of Mexico

H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco

H.E. Henne Schuwer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Tim Groser, Ambassador of New Zealand

H.E. Kåre R. Aas, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway

H.E. Hunaina Sultan al-Mughairy, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman

H.E. Domingos Fezas Vital, Ambassador of Portugal

H.E. George Cristian Maior, Ambassador of Romania

H.E. Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore

H.E. Peter Kmec, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

H.E. Dr. Martin Dahinden, Ambassador of Switzerland

H.E. Serdar Kılıç, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

H.E. Pham Quang Vinh, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Institutional Partners

Democracy Fund
German Marshall Fund of the United States

Japan-US Friendship Commission
Korea Foundation
The Korea Society
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

2017 Grantmaking & Program Partners

American Bar Association—Division for Public Education
Atlantik-Brücke I
Bridge Alliance
Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
Committee of 100
Congressional Federal Credit Union
Council of American Ambassadors
Envision
Democracy Fund
Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany
Embassy of Japan
Embassy of Switzerland
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung
German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the European Recovery Programme

George Washington University
Hanger
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung
Embassy of Japan
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Legacy International
Lou Frey Institute
National Archives and Records Administration

Northrop Grumman
Stennis Center for Public Service
Leadership Embassy of Switzerland
Tee It Up for the Troops
University of Maryland, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of Maryland
VF Corporation
War Fighters Sports USA
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius

2017 Business Advisory Councils

All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.
Allianz
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
B. Braun Medical, Inc.
Bank of Tokyo—Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
BASF

Bayer

Central Japan Railway Co.

CJ America

Daimler

Deutsche Telekom Inc.

DHL

Evonik Corporation

Fresenius Medical Care North America

Fresenius SE

Gale International

Hitachi, Ltd.

Hyundai Motor Company

Itochu INTERNATIONAL Inc.

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

KAI America Inc.

KITA

Lockheed Martin

Lufthansa German Airlines

Marubeni

Michelin NA

Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc.

Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

Nissan North America

Nomura

Panasonic Corporation of North America

POSCO America

RatnerPrestia

Representative of German Industry and Trade

Samsung Electronics North America

Sojitz

Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

United Parcel Service

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Sustaining Members

The Hon. Brian Baird (D-WA)

The Hon. Dan Benishek (R-MI)

The Hon. Rich Boucher (D-VA)

The Hon. Dave Camp (R-MI)

The Hon. Ben Chandler (D-KY)

The Hon. Charlie Dent (R-PA)

The Hon. Sam Farr (D-CA)

The Hon. Martin Frost (D-TX)

The Hon. Phil Gingrey (R-GA)

The Hon. Bart Gordon (D-TN)

The Hon. John Kline (R-MN)

The Hon. Jim Matheson (D-UT)

The Hon. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

The Hon. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)

The Hon. Tim Murphy (R-PA)

The Hon. Jeff Miller (R-FL)

The Hon. Jim Moran (D-VA)

The Hon. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)

The Hon. Tim Petri (R-WI)

The Hon. Cliff Stearns (R-FL)

The Hon. John Tanner (D-TN)

V. EVENTS/PROGRAMS (2017–2018)

January 2017

Jan. 11—CSGG: Lunch discussion with Daimler leaders

Jan. 12—CSGJ: Dinner with the Chairman and President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Jan. 19—Former Members speak with students at Osgood Center

Jan. 31—CSG: Democratic Co-Chairs discussion; 115th Congress: Priorities for the Minority

February 2017

Feb. 6—CSGJ: Ambassador Sasae welcomes the New Members of the 115th Congress

Feb. 6—CSGG: Bilateral Discussion for AmCham delegation

Feb. 16—Committee of 100 Panel: After the Pivot, What's Next for US-Asia Relations?

Feb. 18–25—CSGJ: Member Study Tour to Tokyo and Nagoya

Feb. 22–24—Congress to Campus: Millersville University

Feb. 26–28—Congress to Campus: Middle Tennessee State University

Feb. 27—CSG: Dinner hosted by the Ambassador of South Korea

March 2017

Mar. 5–7—Congress to Campus: United States Naval Academy

Mar. 5–11—Congress to Campus: United Kingdom

Mar. 8—Congress to Campus: Penn State University, Erie

Mar. 15—Former members speak to the ABA National Civics and Law Academy students

Mar. 16—Congress to Campus: University of Maryland

Mar. 17—Former Members Speak to students at the Washington Center

Mar. 17–23—CSGG: District Director Study Tour to Stuttgart, Germany

Mar. 21—Former members speak with professors visiting from Japan

Mar. 27–29—Congress to Campus: Cumberland University

Mar. 30—Former Members speak with Korean business leaders

Mar. 30—Congress to Campus Webinar

Mar. 20—Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner

April 2017

Apr. 2–4—Congress to Campus: St. Bonaventure University

Apr. 6—CSGG: Trade and Manufacturing in the Digital Age

Apr. 13—Regional Meeting in Chicago, IL

Apr. 25—CSG: Tax and trade in the 115th Congress

Apr. 25—Former Members speak with the Emerging Young Leaders program fellows

Apr. 26—Former Members speak at UMD Civil Rights Symposium

May 2017

May 1—Former Members roundtable with Legacy International Fellows

May 2—CSGG: President Trump's Trade Agenda discussion with AmCham

May 3—CSGJ: Science and Technology conversation with Japanese Diet Members

May 6–12—CSGG: Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Berlin and Dusseldorf, Germany

May 16–19—District Director Study Tour to Houston, TX

May 16—Former Members meet with Bob Walker Fellows

May 23—CSGG: German Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Conversation

May 27–June 3—34th Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany

May 27–June 3—CSGJ: Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan

June 2017

June 1—National Archives Panel: Congressional Reform

June 7—CSGG: Lufthansa chair and CEO Roundtable

June 9–11—CSGJ: Retreat for Chief of Staffs of the new Members of the 114th and 115th Congress

June 26—Former Members speak to middle school students visiting Washington D.C.

July 2017

July 10—Former Members speak with middle school students visiting D.C.

July 11–14—District Director Study Tour to Boston, MA

July 14—CSGJ: Conversation with Budget Committee from Japanese Diet

July 14—FMC Regional Meeting in Boston, MA

July 17—The Members: FMC's 10th Annual Congressional Charity Golf Tournament

July 17—Former Members speak with middle school student visiting Washington D.C.

July 18—ROK Roundtable: "Future of U.S.—Korea Relations"

July 19—Former Members discussion "The State of U.S. Politics" One Year into the Trump Administration

July 20—CSGJ co-chairs speak with visiting Japanese Professors and the Chiefs who traveled to Japan

July 20—Congressional Staffers speak with interns

July 24—Former Members speak with middle school students visiting Washington D.C. September 2017

Sept. 5—CSGE: Dinner hosted by Danish Ambassador

Sept. 11—CSGG: Roundtable Discussion with Federation of German Industries

Sept. 12–14—Congress to Campus Penn State University

Sept. 25—Former Members speak at local high school

Sept. 25—CSGJ: Dinner with Business Advisory Council

Sept. 26—Former members on a panel discussing effective lawmaking

Sept. 26—Former Members host delegation of former EU parliamentarians

Sept. 26—CSGG: Discussion featuring Ambassador Wittig of Germany

Sept. 27—FMC Annual Meeting

Sept. 27–29—Congress to Campus: Millikin University

Sept. 27—Memorial Service in Statuary Hall hosted by FMC/FMCA

October 2017

Oct. 1–7—District Director Study Tour to Iceland

October 5—DAC an evening with Ambassador of Finland

Oct. 8–10—Congress to Campus: Indiana State University

Oct. 11—Former Members Discussion with U.S. Embassy in Turkey

Oct. 11—Mini Congress to Campus: Lutheran College Washington Semester

October 12—CSGG co-chairs meet with German visitors

Oct. 14–18—CSGE: Member Study Tour to Geneva, Bern, and Zurich Switzerland

Oct. 15–17—Congress to Campus: Rhode Island College

Oct. 14–20—CSGG: Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany

Oct. 14—Congress to Campus: United States Naval Academy

Oct. 16—Former Member roundtable with North African Professional Fellows

Oct. 26—CSGJ: Breakfast with Governor Omura of Aichi Prefecture

Oct 22–24—Congress to Campus visit to the Naval Academy

November 2017

Nov. 2—Breakfast Discussion with Committee of 100: China, North Korea and President Trump's trip to Asia

Nov. 5–11—Congress to Campus: United Kingdom

Nov. 6—CSGJ: Dinner discussion with former Members "One Year After November 8, 2016"

Nov. 7—An evening with former Members discussing NAFTA

Nov. 16—National Archives Panel: Vietnam 50 years: Lessons Learned and Lessons Ignored"

Nov. 29—DAC Dinner: The Future of NAFTA hosted by Mexico/Canada

December 2017

Dec. 13—CSG: "The Future of NAFTA" Roundtable Discussion

Dec. 14—Appreciation Reception for Friends of FMC hosted by H.E. Sylvie Lucas, Ambassador of Luxembourg to the U.S.

January 2018

January 8—Dinner with Retiring Members of Congress

January 11—Former Members speak to college students visiting DC

February 2018

Feb. 1—National Archives panel: Meet the Better Half: Congressional Families

Feb. 5—Farewell Reception for Japanese Ambassador

Feb. 6—Roll out Reception for the Congressional Study Group on Korea

Feb. 11–13—Congress to Campus Denison University

Feb. 11–13—Congress to Campus Millersville University

Feb. 13—Dinner with Retiring Members of Congress

Feb. 25–17—Congress to Campus: Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Feb. 26–28—Congress to Campus: Suffolk Univ.

Feb. 27—Coffee with Senator Cardin

Feb. 27—Discussion: The rebalance of global Energy after the Shale Revolution

March 2018

March 4–10—Congress to Campus UK

March 4–6—Congress to Campus Naval Academy

March 13—Former Members speaking to high school students visiting DC

March 13—Embassy Discussion: The American Korean Relationship in a Dynamic Security Environment

March 19–21—Congress to Campus visit to Ohio State University

March 21—Statesmanship Awards Dinner

March 22—A conversation with former Members "Perspectives on US domestic politics, US-Korea Trade and Security

April 2018

April 2–4—Congress to Campus: Georgia College and State University

April 5—Breakfast discussion with Michelin North America

April 6–11—District Director Study Tour to Ireland/North Ireland

April 13–19, 2018—District Director Study Tour to Germany Leipzig and Dresden, Germany

April 15–17, 2018—FMC—Congress to Campus—Bonaventure University

April 17, 2018—CSGK: Breakfast with KITA chairman

April 22–24, 2018—Congress to Campus: Napa Valley Community College

April 24th—"The 18 Midterms: U.S. Politics in an Election Year"

April 24th 10:30–11:30—Congress to Campus High School Webinar

April 27th—Infrastructure in the 115th discussion

April 28–May 5, 2018—CSGK Member Study Tour

May 2018

May 3, 2018—Fms Roundtable with visiting Russian delegation

May 4, 2018: FMC—Legacy International Congressional Roundtable and tour

May 10, 2018, 6:30 PM—SAC: Reception "An Evening with Ambassador Jha"

May 15th 9:00–10:30AM—Meet with Bob Walker Fellows

May 17th—CSGJ BAC: Prospects for the Midterm Election

May 18—Panel discussion: unseen benefits of Congressional Travel

May 20–21— District Director Symposium

May 22—Panel discussion: Leaving the Iran Deal: Implications for the World

May 23—C-100: Breakfast on Trade and Economic Relations

May 26–June 2, 2018—6th Annual Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Japan

June 2018

June 4—Dutch Senior Civil Service briefing with Former Members

June 7—District Director Fly-in (Republican)

June 8–10—CSGJ Chief of Staff Retreat on Asia

June 11–12—FMC/CSGJ—"Bringing Washington to New York" in cooperation with Mizuho

June 12, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor

June 13, 2018—FMC/C-100: China Breakfast

June 14—Congressional Baseball Game

June 14, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Democrats

June 16–June 24, 2018—District Director Trip to Japan (with JUSFC) Tokyo, Sendai, and Fukushima, Japan

June 19, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor

June 20, 2018—NARA: Citizen Engagement in America's History

June 21, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Republicans 8:00–9:15 am

June 25, 2018—Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor

June 25–26, 2018—Annual Meeting and FMC Board Meeting

June 14, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Democrats

June 21, 2018—Midterm Election Analysis—Republicans

June 16–June 24, 2018—District Director Trip to Japan (with JUSFC)

June 25—CSGK: Post US-DPRK Summit: Lessons Learned and Next Steps discussion with Dr. Victor D. Chao and Amb. Mark Lippert

June 26, 2018—FMC/Envision: Former Members meet with Middle School Students visiting D.C. on the House Floor

Mr. FROST. Now, I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll and the following former Members answered "present":

Mr. Boustany of Louisiana

Mr. Buechner of Missouri

Mr. Carnahan of Missouri

Mr. Clement of Tennessee

Mr. Davis of Tennessee

Mr. DioGuardi of New York

Mr. Frost of Texas

Mr. Gingrey of Georgia

Mr. Hochbrueckner of New York

Ms. Kennelly of Connecticut

Mr. Konnyu of California

Mr. Kramer of Colorado

Mr. Moran of Virginia

Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania

Mr. Nethercutt of Washington

Mr. Neugebauer of Texas

Mr. Payne of Virginia

Mr. Rahall of West Virginia

Mr. Stearns of Florida

Mr. Walsh of New York

Mr. Weller of Illinois

Mr. FROST. The Chair announces that 21 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to all of you for joining us this wonderful morning.

As I prepared for today's report, it has brought back many happy memories, as I am sure it does for you, too. I served in Congress 24 years.

One image I keep honing in on is the image you currently have as you are looking at me: the quote by Daniel Webster inscribed directly behind the Speaker's chair: "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its greatest interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered."

For all of us, service in this remarkable building was the pinnacle of our

professional lives, and I know that for each and every one of us, there is a memory of something “worthy to be remembered.” Whether it was a groundbreaking piece of legislation or simply a constituent and how we changed their life by helping them, by serving in Congress, we were given the opportunity to serve our country and its citizens.

I am very proud that, through the former Members of Congress, we can continue, in a small but yet larger measure, the public service that brought us to Congress in the first place. It is, therefore, a great honor in my capacity as president to report on the former Members of Congress’ activities for 2017 and 2018.

We are a very small group of non-profits that have a congressional charter, and as such, we are required to report to Congress every year on our past activities. I will give a broad review of our past work and will submit for the RECORD a more detailed written report.

Our association was founded in 1970 and chartered by Congress 13 years later, in 1983. We are completely bipartisan and see our mission as informing about Congress and bridging the political divide. That mission has translated into programs that bring former Members together with student audiences across this country, focussing on civics and public service. We also further our mission by creating programs and study missions involving current Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis.

This work over the years has been extended to now also include congressional staff, both from the D.C. offices as well as the district directors across the Nation. We are successful because Republicans and Democrats, whether former Members or current Members, come together in a bipartisan way with a willingness to work together for the common good.

We are proud to have been chartered by Congress, and we are equally proud that absolutely no taxpayer dollar is earmarked or expended to make our programs possible. Everything FMC does is financed through grants and sponsorship, our membership dues, and, of course, our annual fundraising gala, the Statesmanship Awards Dinner.

Our colleague Martin Frost, sitting behind me in the Speaker’s chair, led our fundraising efforts for the most recent gala dinner at the Mellon Auditorium, and I am extremely pleased to report that, thanks to Martin’s leadership and the incredible efforts of a great many former Members, we had our most successful fundraising dinner by far last March. We surpassed our previous year’s record by \$200,000.

So, thank you, Martin, for being the captain of our fundraising effort.

My colleagues, thanks to his success as well as our 4-year fundraising efforts, I can report to Congress and the FMC membership that our finances are very sound, our projects are fully funded, and our most recent annual audit

by our outside accountant confirmed we are running FMC in a fiscally sound, responsible, and transparent manner.

And let me stress again that no taxpayer dollars are earmarked for our work, and everything that we do is self-funded.

Let me stress, also, that none of our programs involve any kind of honorarium or fee paid to former Members for their participation. We are successful because former Representatives and Senators come together, across party lines, for the good of our organization, and they do so in a pro bono basis. They believe in our mission, and they continue to have the public servant’s heart.

Former Members of Congress, in 2017, donated to FMC over 7,000 hours of energy, wisdom, mentoring, and expertise without receiving any compensation for it. Their only remuneration is the knowledge that they are giving back, that serving in Congress was a unique privilege, and that it comes with the mandate to encourage and empower the next generation.

So on behalf of FMC, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have contributed their time and expertise to make FMC such a great success. Thank you very much.

We are extremely proud of our nearly 50-year history creating lasting and impactful programs that teach about Congress and representative government at home and abroad.

Let me now give you a brief overview of 2017 and also a vision of 2018 and beyond.

In 2017 and 2018, FMC staff has conceived, organized, advertised, and implemented an astonishing 85 events to move our mission forward. These ranged from meeting with middle school students right here in the House Chamber to talk to them about the many responsibilities of Members of Congress, to week-long study missions where current Member delegations, split evenly between the parties, traveled to countries including Germany, Japan, and Korea, to study issues on trade and security.

Our programming has included hundreds of current Members, former Members, senior congressional staff, and district directors. They work with us because they know we are completely bipartisan, 100 percent non-advocacy, and we seek to tell the positive story of our extraordinary representative democracy. Allow me to share with you some highlights of our work.

You will hear more details about our congressional study groups in a second, but for 2017, we are proudest of the creation of our newest study group: the Congressional Study Group on Korea. It shows how timely and right-from-the-headlines our work is.

The Korea program was conceived in 2017 and supported by a number of Capitol Hill events to gauge its relevancy. Then, in February of this year, we felt

the time was right to officially launch this newest study group. We have already sent to Korea a codel under the study group’s umbrella.

The Korea program now joins our other longstanding international projects: the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Japan, and the Congressional Study Group on Europe.

In addition to numerous Capitol Hill events, over the past 12 months, we have sent seven congressional delegations overseas, some for current Members, others for chiefs of staff, and a number for just the district directors—and, of course, all bipartisan.

The purpose of these trips is to educate our participants on specific issues affecting U.S. international relations, mostly trade and security questions. An important side effect is the possibility of building across-the-aisle relationships to create a network of peers that transcends party labels and partisanship. All of these trips, of course, go through the rigorous process of the ethics review, and we ensure 100 percent compliance with all regulations governing travel by Members or staff.

These international projects are just one component of our work to create bipartisan relationships and to strengthen our representative democracy. Domestically, the main focus of our work is connecting citizens with their government, highlighting the responsibilities of citizenship, and dispelling many of the myths that are out there when it comes to the United States Congress.

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud of our Congress to Campus Program. Now, for over 30 years, we have sent a bipartisan team of former Members to meet with university students across this country. These are not simple meet-and-greet events where the Members drop in for a quick speech with some questions and answers. Instead, these visits are a 3-day commitment by our former Members team so that the university can make the best possible use of FMC as a resource. We now average about 30 visits during the academic year, which is incredible, given that as recently as 15 years ago, we averaged only 5.

As I have said during previous meetings, the Congress to Campus Program was near extinct until our colleague David Skaggs gave it some much-needed leadership.

We work hand in glove with each university so that each visit is tailored specifically to the school’s needs and curriculum. Our colleagues walk into different classroom settings throughout the day, sometimes engaging in discussions about U.S. foreign policy, at other times focussing on questions such as money in politics.

The outcome of each Congress to Campus visit is twofold: one, to showcase a partisan, yet respectful debate on the issues of day; and to encourage the next generation a respect for public service that may translate into future work on Capitol Hill.

We have reached thousands upon thousands of students through our own polling, and our own polling can demonstrate that we are making a positive difference when it comes to attitudes about Congress and our elected officials. You will hear more about this and our other civic education activities and initiatives when I yield to our colleague George Nethercutt in just a short while.

Our work to reconnect citizens with their government takes many different forms. For example, we have a long-standing partnership with the National Archives, bringing former Members of Congress and other issue experts together with the public for a conversation about issues that affect all of us.

For example, just last week, we hosted a conversation about citizen engagement, where a panel included Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON speaking about her engagement in the civil rights movement, as well as Sarah Lerner and Rain Valladares from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Former Members Jane Harman and Tim Petri were joined by Congressman TED DEUTCH to give their insights how grassroots movements affect those serving all of us in Congress.

What I have described so far is just a small part of the work we have done on our membership's behalf. And while programs such as Congress to Campus or the Congressional Study Group on Germany are longstanding undertakings that we have offered to the public for decades, they, along with our other existing projects, all were infused with a new energy, a new vision and enthusiasm, thanks to the extensive strategic planning process I briefed you on last year.

Let me thank Mark Sobol, a highly respected expert in the field of strategic planning and organization management, who donated to us completely free of charge his tremendous expertise to help us achieve the next level in professionalism and impact. He helped us craft an extremely thoughtful and visionary strategic plan, which the FMC board approved a little over a year ago. Since then, the effect of this incredibly important exercise can be felt in all aspects of our organization today.

We, our board of directors, and the exceptional FMC staff have made great strides in implementing this plan, for example, when it comes to branding FMC as a unique authority on Congress, unparalleled in our experience and expertise. We now have a much more focused media strategy. We have unified our current Member programming with our former Member programming under one logo and one recognizable brand and are much better at pushing out our message of bipartisan ship using social media, for example.

I am also more than pleased to report to you that a brand new website showcasing our new logo and new look will go live on July Fourth. This has been a major focus of mine during my 2 years

as FMC's president, and I am simply gratified and thrilled that through a lot of hard work it is coming to fruition with the new website, which will reflect much more accurately the vibrant and impactful organization that we have become.

I am very excited about the future of this organization, obviously. My 2 years as president have been incredibly rewarding, and I look forward to supporting my good friend Martin Frost as his term of presidency begins.

Our bylaws add the immediate past president to the executive committee, so that there is a continuity from one president to the next. So it will be great fun to transition into that role, plus it will free up my calendar a little bit. As Martin will soon discover, being FMC President is akin to a second full-time job.

As I look at FMC's future, some very exciting initiatives stand out. We have begun finding ways to take FMC out of the D.C. bubble in an effort to serve a larger constituency and also to have more impact with parts of the country that may feel disconnected from this representative government.

In the future, we will increase this effort by working much more closely with former Members all over the country. This will involve regional meetings such as the ones we hosted last year in Boston and Chicago, and this year in Orlando and New York.

In addition, we include in these regional activities the greater congressional family, which means that when we gather former Members in one part of the country, we will strive to include the district directors of the local Representatives or Senators, as well as local NGO's focused on our government, and local civic organizations.

We expand our regional footprint by translating Congress to Campus to other audiences, including high school and middle school kids, as well as corporate headquarters or international organizations.

For 2018 and beyond, we will build up our newest domestic program, the American Democracy in Civics Initiative. We are deeply concerned about the state of civic education in this country, and we strongly believe that FMC needs to take a leadership role in bringing civic education to the next generation of America's leaders.

This initiative will serve as the umbrella under which existing programs, such as Congress to Campus or our National Archives panels, will be joined by new projects, for example, The Legacy Program, which will interview retiring Members of Congress to create an oral history of all those who have served in the House and the Senate.

Just adding up the years of experience of these current Members who have announced their retirement or have lost their primaries leading up to the 2018 midterms, we are faced with over 1,000 years of combined institutional knowledge walking out the door. FMC sees it as a major responsibility

to future generations that this knowledge is recorded and properly archived.

We will also increase our use of modern technology to better communicate our message and to find ways to engage the next generation that clearly has a very different understanding of where they get their information and how they communicate with each other. To do so, we will initiate a podcast series in 2019 where former Members can speak on a specific issue of the day, but also share some of their very unique insights when it comes to just simply serving in Congress.

In addition, through webcasting, we will reach out to the vast audience of college students we have engaged via our Congress to Campus Program so that a visit by our bipartisan team has continued effect.

So as you can see, my colleagues, the future for FMC is incredibly bright. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for three reasons. One I have already mentioned, which is the outstanding work our board and staff has done with Mark Sobol to solidify our mission, spell out our achievable goals, and strategize on how to best move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are the corporations that donate to us, especially via the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. These partners also include outstanding grant-giving entities: the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, the Hewlett Foundation's Madison Initiative, the Democracy Fund, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the Korea Foundation, and the Korea Society, just to name a few. They believe in our capabilities and are giving us the opportunity to grow and long-lasting programming. Obviously, we appreciate their support very much.

The third and most important reason is you, my fellow Members, Members of Congress, former Members, who donated to us your time, your expertise, your wisdom, and your leadership, and as I mentioned earlier, over 7,000 hours of combined former Members' time donated pro bono by our membership. I thank all of you for that.

I have to warn you, our demand on your time and good will is only increasing. As we all know, there are many challenges our Nation faces, and FMC can play a pivotal role in bringing folks together for these challenges. This Nation's strength has always been found in its ability to unite and move the country forward for the greater good.

FMC, like no other organization, can build a bridge between Democrats and Republicans, build bridges between those being represented and those doing the representing, and build bridges between one generation of public servants and the next. To do so will require more and more of your commitment to our work, and I am sure

former Members of Congress will rise to the challenge.

In addition, in anticipation of your support, I thank you from the bottom of my heart as I pass the mantle to our new president, Martin Frost.

Before getting to the business of electing our new officers and board Members, I do want to recognize two of my colleagues to give you just a little bit more detail about our domestic and international programs.

I first invite George Nethercutt of Washington to focus on FMC's civic education work. He will be followed by Charles Boustany of Louisiana to speak about our international programs.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, former colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you, Cliff, for the opportunity to make some remarks on a topic that is incredibly important and is near and dear to my heart: our Nation's woeful attitude toward civic education.

FMC, its board, and its staff are as concerned as I am when it comes to the civic knowledge—or, more specifically, the lack of civic knowledge—that is exhibited by many of our fellow citizens, particularly the young. We as an organization have made restoring civic education one of the cornerstones of our mission and strategic plan. I am, therefore, honored to be back in this Chamber representing FMC in describing our new initiative to restore and renew the essential civic mission of our Nation's schools.

Civic education, simply defined, is the act of providing the essential civic knowledge of how our system of government operates at all levels and the critical role all citizens play in our representative democracy.

Civic education provides our youth with the civic skills they need to effectively engage in civic affairs and civic education to help youth develop a disposition to participate in the civic life of our communities, their State, and our Nation. This is the historic civic mission of our Nation's schools, a mission nearly as old as our Republic.

How well are we as a nation meeting this critical mission? By any objective measure, not well. If I were to grade us as a nation in meeting this important task, I would have to give us a C-minus or a D.

On the only reliable national measure of student attainment of civic knowledge, the National Assessments of Educational Progress in civics, NAEP, scores have been flat for 20 years, with barely a quarter of students able to show a proficient knowledge in this area so critical to our Nation's future.

An overemphasis on the STEM subjects over the past two decades has significantly reduced the instructional time for civics in almost every school. Where most States used to require two to three distinct civics courses, today, most only mandate one, and nine States don't have any requirements

that students take a civics course to graduate from high school.

In the elementary grades, instruction in the entirety of the social studies has been reduced to a paltry 18 minutes, a week on average. That is not enough.

The results of this neglect of civic education are stark:

Nearly two-thirds of Americans cannot name all three branches of government, yet three in four people can name the names of all Three Stooges.

Only about 29 percent of eligible Americans participated in the 2016 primary elections.

Americans distrust the government at record levels, and they also distrust their fellow citizens to participate in governance. According to The Pew Research Center: "Just 34 percent say they have 'very great' or a 'good deal' of trust and confidence in the political wisdom of the American people. Fully, 63 percent have 'not very much' confidence or 'no confidence at all.'" That is also a bad statistic.

And most alarming, in a 2016 survey, nearly a quarter of young Americans said they think that a democratic form of government is bad or very bad. That is also a terrible statistic.

These are among the many reasons FMC has partnered with the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida—and Doug Dobson is here—and the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools—Ted McConnell is here, and they both head up these efforts—to strengthen and improve civic education for all students in every school in the Nation.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of moderating a panel focused on civics during the FMC's annual meeting. Many of you were in attendance, and I thank you for participating in this incredibly important dialogue. We brought together some of the leaders in this space, all of whom represent outstanding organizations with which FMC seeks to partner as we engage former Members for our civics cause.

One of the things we certainly learned during the panel discussion is that today's definition of civic education is no longer the one our grandparents or our parents used. We need to think about civics in broader terms and include in civics education ways to find fact-based information, ways to discern fact from fiction, fake news from real news, and also ways to have productive and respectful debates on the issues that concern all of us—civility, if you will.

I want to thank our outstanding panelists for their insight and thought-provoking analysis. The panel included Beth Caron of the National Governors Association; Louise Dube, who is the executive director of iCivics, Justice O'Connor's organization, former Supreme Court Justice O'Connor; from the Library of Congress, we had Colleen Shogan, who is doing fascinating research on Congress and social media; and my old friend, my dear friend, Ted

McConnell, who has spent much of his professional life fighting the good fight when it comes to restoring civic education across the Nation. Thanks, Ted.

As I said earlier, FMC seeks to play a crucial leadership role when it comes to strengthening civic education in the United States. We already have a long and proud track record of connecting the next generation with their representative democracy through our wonderful Congress to Campus program. It is a great program. Our bipartisan teams reach thousands of students throughout the year, and students is the place where civic education can best be found and emphasized.

But this work has proven to be not enough. FMC needs to double, if not triple, its efforts on this issue, and we need former Members in all parts of the Nation representing all different political persuasions to step up to the plate and lend us their time, their expertise, and their leadership.

FMC has commenced the American Democracy and Civics Initiative, which will continue to build upon the success of Congress to Campus and expand that model to other audiences, both student and adult. In addition, through this program, we will host Capitol Hill events to engage current Members on this issue and also to send to different parts of the country bipartisan congressional delegations which will meet with a wide variety of voter groups. This will be a combined former Member and current Member effort, and I thank Representatives JOE KENNEDY from Massachusetts and RODNEY DAVIS from Illinois for agreeing to co-chair this project here in the House.

Our vision also includes creating an ongoing program that will bring civics teachers from across the country to Washington, D.C., for a total immersion experience to learn about Congress and its role vis-a-vis the judiciary and the executive branches. And most importantly, we are actively recruiting former Members from both parties to take a leadership role in their communities and States, to work with local NGOs that need their help, and to be a resource to State legislatures as they seek to strengthen their civic education requirements. It is incredibly important. That is why we had the National Governors Association there yesterday to talk about this effort.

Former Members of Congress can play a significant role in restoring the essential civic mission of our schools. Former Congressman Lou Frey and former Senator Bob Graham teamed up to pass legislation in Florida that is revolutionizing middle school civics and serves as a model for all the States thanks to Doug Dobson. These are strong campaigns for more and better civics in a number of States. Former Members can and are engaging in these efforts, lending their expertise, contacts that they have, and time.

In States where there is currently no active effort to improve civic education, former Members can start one—

that is up to you all—working with civic education and civic engagement organizations. Former Members can and should visit schools to offer real-life civics lessons to students. These students rely on former Members. They have a great reputation, and the former Members can provide assistance to these students.

Former Members can help teachers better understand the legislative process, too, so they can teach about the legislative branch with more confidence. Former Members can use their “bully pulpit” to issue public calls for more and better civic learning through op-eds and interviews. I have done it. It is easy to do. Papers will accept your submissions.

Following this presentation, we will be having a reception where leaders from the Lou Frey Institute and the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, Doug Dobson and Ted McConnell, will be on hand to provide more information on how former Members can get engaged in their States.

I hope that all of you will join us for this reception, learn more about the productive role that former Members can play, and sign up for the cause.

We all remember Benjamin Franklin's charge to each generation at the close of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He said to a woman who asked him: Mr. Franklin, what have you created?

He said: A democracy, Madam, if you can keep it.

And it is up to all of us to keep this Republic. Providing effective civic education to each generation is an essential part of keeping Dr. Franklin's charge. We have to provide that. And so it is up to each of us to keep and renew and pass along this greatest experience in self-governance in the history of mankind. Please join us within this crusade.

Cliff has asked me to yield some of my time to Charles Boustany from Louisiana to share with the membership an update on our international work, which I will gladly do.

I thank you very much for your time and your attention, and I now yield the floor to Charles Boustany.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Ladies and gentlemen, more than 40 years ago, our colleagues, led by Lee Hamilton, realized that our organization offered a very unique resource to those who still serve our country in this Capitol, on this floor, and in the United States Senate. We could bring the institutional memory and the understanding of a Member of Congress regarding this country's foreign policy decisions that would not be limited or beholden to the idea of focussing on the next election. That is the focus of our congressional study groups.

Many of us have often heard the expression, and I think it is attributed to Arthur Vandenberg, that “politics stops at the water's edge.” Unfortunately, for too many who serve in Congress, interest and curiosity about our

national policies and priorities also ends as the waters lap our shores.

We have long felt protected by the oceans that define our hemisphere. For some Members, that has created the luxury of a focus solely on domestic policies. Information, real information, about our neighbors, our allies, and the billions who live outside our Nation comes from gut instinct or old beliefs.

FMC decided, those many decades ago now, that this is not acceptable. We created the Congressional Study Group on Germany, which was followed by a group focused on Japan, then one on Europe, and finally, this past year, the Congressional Study Group on Korea, which was received with great fanfare.

We sought to leverage the experience and networks created by former Members to provide a nonpartisan, non-advocacy resource for active Members and staff in Congress. Small, informal programs on Capitol Hill and travel opportunities bring the realities of these countries, and our relationships with them as Americans, into relief. We also introduce Members and staff to their peers overseas.

FMC understands that, more than anything, meeting face-to-face with our partners overseas to face global problems and having a person-to-person, legislator-to-legislator discussion can result in a solution to more of the challenges we face than any other factor. The bottom line is it always comes down to personal relationships.

I would like to share a little bit about what each of our congressional study groups have done this year and what we will do in coming months both to advance this mutual understanding and to advance the strategic goals of FMC.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is, of course, our oldest study group. This year, elections were held at a time when Germany became even more critical to a rapidly changing Europe, and we heard a little bit about this yesterday.

It was into this dynamic atmosphere that FMC sent several delegations in the past year. This year, travel focused on much of the northern and eastern portions of Germany. In October of 2017, bipartisan chiefs of staff from offices of the House traveled to Berlin and Frankfurt. Meeting with government officials, journalists, civil society, and students, they learned about the challenges facing modern Germany and the mutual challenges faced by the United States and Germany.

In April of this year, the Congressional Study Group on Germany continued outreach to a previously underutilized part of the congressional family: district directors. A bipartisan group of district directors traveled with FMC to Berlin and Leipzig, learning about lessons about workforce development revolutions sweeping through Germany that could have immediate impacts here in the United States.

The past year, of course, was full of turmoil in the Pacific as well, resulting in substantial Capitol Hill programming conducted by the Congressional Study Group on Japan. As concerned about China and the future of American trade in the region continued to mount, FMC hosted several bipartisan discussions on the TPP-11, tariffs, and other potential trade issues affecting the region.

Ambassadors from both Canada and Mexico spoke at a dinner for Members of Congress about trade and the importance of multilateral trade agreements. It was the first time that those two leaders had appeared together, speaking to Members, at a single event.

Within the last month, more than a dozen chiefs of staff, district directors, and State directors from the House and Senate, on a bipartisan basis, traveled to Japan to meet with government officials, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's personal speechwriter.

They had a unique opportunity to visit the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, learning more about the cleanup that is occurring, and the gratitude felt by the Japanese in the region toward America's response to this disaster.

FMC continued the cornerstone foreign travel program of the Study Group on Japan, sending our two co-chairs, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE and Congressman BILLY LONG, to Japan with a bipartisan delegation that met with Prime Minister Abe during the Korean Summer Olympics. Members discussed the Korean Peninsula and the continued focus on trans-Pacific trade before visiting American servicemen and -women at the Yokosuka Naval Base.

Our engagement with Europe during that study group has also focused on some of the tremendous changes occurring on the continent and in the United Kingdom. As Brexit comes closer to reality and the swing toward rightwing politics continues its spread throughout both Eastern and Western Europe, the Study Group on Europe focused on ensuring the congressional family has a full understanding of the challenges facing our allies, Russia, and all the countries in the region.

Six Members of Congress visited Switzerland toward the end of last year, meeting with the President of the Swiss Federation and touring several facilities in Switzerland that have created incredible job training programs, including Nestle, whose work with apprenticeships has become one of the gold standards in the industry.

Our outreach to Europe has also continued through the study groups' Diplomatic Advisory Council, a group of more than three dozen Embassies and Ambassadors who have agreed to serve as a sounding board for FMC events, attend programming, and to open their doors to events hosted for the congressional family. That council has been expanded in the past year, and we will continue to work to make certain we

are engaging with as many nations as possible.

Finally, the Congressional Study Group on Korea was launched this year, beginning with a very large reception on Capitol Hill attended by more than 100 staff and Members of Congress. That rollout was followed by the recruitment of more than two dozen Members of Congress and seven new members of the Business Advisory Council, whose members are anxious to support programming focused on the Korean Peninsula and its role in Asia.

Earlier this year, a five-member team traveled to meet President Moon and to tour Korea production facilities. The members were the first American Government officials to travel to the region following the historic summit at Panmunjom between the leaders of North Korea and South Korea.

In the coming weeks and months, we will focus on creating programming that targets not only the “news of the day” events, but on creating an understanding of longer term issues that define the relationship between the United States and our foreign allies.

Mr. FROST. I would ask that the gentleman suspend for just a moment. I know he is near the end of his report. We have been joined by the Speaker of the House.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I don't want to cut him off.

Mr. FROST. He will come back.

We have been joined by the Speaker of the House, Speaker RYAN. I don't know how busy your schedule is, Mr. Speaker. I know you have a lot of demands on your time.

I will let Charles finish, and then we will call you up.

Charles, go ahead.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, welcome. Great to see you.

As we work to highlight and emphasize the FMC brand, a far-reaching effort on social media will better utilize the relationships we have developed on Capitol Hill, at Embassies, in the business communities, and in foreign nations alongside the efforts of our former Members.

As with the rest of FMC, the future of the congressional study groups are strong and vibrant. I look forward to watching the incredible programming and travel opportunities that they provide to continue the goal set by our Members and Lee Hamilton back in 1970, to truly create an effective, bipartisan avenue for impactful legislative and knowledge exchange between the congressional family and our friends and allies abroad.

I appreciate the opportunity to make these remarks. It is my understanding that we have some membership business to accomplish, and, therefore, I will yield back to our president, Mr. Stearns from Florida.

And again, Mr. Speaker, a real pleasure to see you again.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Charles.

It is my privilege, at this point, to recognize the Speaker of the House, the

gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), who will be joining the ranks of the former Members at the end of this year.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why do you think I am smiling all time?

I just wanted to come and say I am really excited about joining your freshman class next year with SAM JOHNSON, TOM ROONEY, JEB HENSARLING, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. There is a number of us who will be joining the freshman class.

This is my 20th year serving here. I have learned, 20 years with three teenagers at home, sometimes you have just got to make the right decision for the right reasons, and I am very comfortable with the decision I have made because I did it for the right reasons. And so I look forward to that next chapter. I look forward to reaching out to some of you, people I have known a long time, about how that next chapter looks.

I just want to say one thing. You don't take Bears fans; right? Because I don't want to join any Chicago Bears fans in this thing.

I see Jerry Weller over there. So we have got some pretty big rivalries that we have had throughout the years.

You turn on the TV and you think it is nothing but a snake pit and it is nothing but just vitriol. We just passed about 70 opioid bills that we bundled together, massive bipartisan vote; WRRDA, massive bipartisan vote; FAA, massive bipartisan vote. So about 80 percent of what we do through here, we are running, on average, about 350 votes for. So, believe it or not, there is a lot that is getting done.

We have passed about 800 bills, this session, of the House. It is a pretty big pace. That place over there has got about 550 of those bills stacked on top of them. Two hundred bills have received around 400 votes in the House.

So we are pleased that they are staying in August to kind of work on this list, but there are a great deal of things that we have been able to get out of here on big issues, whether it is defense, national security, veterans, basic health research, opioid epidemics, that really are bipartisan. And then we do have the partisan issues, whether it is tax policy or welfare reform on the farm bill. Those things are, more or less, partisan, but the place is working.

That is the point I want to leave you with. The place is working, does work, and this new social media, cable TV ratings chase age we are in, it is a different system. We are going to have to figure out how to navigate this system. We are going to have to figure out how to make sure the body politic in our Republic and our sense of civility still lasts and persists in this system. We are in this strange, uncharted territory right now. So I look forward, frankly, to thinking about those issues and how to overcome those when I have a little time to think when I am out of here.

But the one thing I do think former Members could be really helpful in is trying to figure out how do we still keep that sense of unity and civility with big differences of philosophical and ideological opinions while moving the country forward. That is something we are all going to have to think about in this new sort of digital 21st century age we find ourselves in. That is one thing I actually look forward to thinking about when I am done with this.

So I just wanted to come and say welcome. I am happy to answer a few questions. I have got to open Conference at 9, so I have got a few minutes.

Mr. FROST. Does anyone have any questions for the Speaker?

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I just commend you for this. What you are indicating is this place is working, and I think the problem is out there in America, at least through mainstream media.

It does appear to be working, and I think it is because of your leadership. And so we welcome you as a former Member, eventually, to be part of our process, which our mission is to create civility and, at the same time, to show how important it is that Congress work together.

So we thank you very much for all you have done, and we look forward to working with you when you leave Congress.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you, Cliff.

Mr. FROST. Any other questions?

Mr. WALSH. Can I just offer, a great Democrat Hubert Humphrey said a long time ago that he who throws mud loses ground, and if we could somehow get Members of Congress to think about that in relation to this institution. I don't know how you do it. Maybe it is something you think about when you have more time. But instead of running against the institution, which drags everybody down, including the country, build it up, focus on the positive things, as you have, but don't tear the institution down, because we are all less for it.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Yes. I have thought about this a bit. I think results will ultimately matter, not the acrimony in between, but actually achieving results.

And I think the kind of anxiety we have in the country, which is exploited by both fringes from both sides, can be reduced a bit if we have reduced economic anxiety in the country. We are beginning to reduce economic anxiety in the country. Getting the military rebuilt and veterans fixed will help us reduce national security anxiety.

But reducing anxiety means we sort of take away the oxygen that gives a lot of breathing room and life to preying on that anxiety, and it happens on all sides this day.

Tim.

Mr. MURPHY. PAUL, I thank the House and your leadership for moving so many bills dealing with the opioid

problem that are both life changing and life saving.

It is rare that so much is done in this Chamber, that to think about the 60-plus thousand, maybe 100,000 lives lost every year by this, it is clearly something that is going to save massive numbers of people.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I think, because we did CARA, which was 2015, we put dollars and resources out in the communities at the county level, for the most part. Then we got a lot of feedback and learned a lot of lessons, and then your committee did a lot of research on pharma and pharmaceuticals and all of that, and prescriptions, which gave us the result of, I think it is, 48 bills. I am going off the top of my head.

Because of the way the Senate works, we realized we are just going to have to package all of this stuff, put it in one big bill, H.R. 6, send it over there so they can just take it in a slug, because there is no way they could process all that legislation. So it was a really big effort, and I believe they are going to get that through.

I think they will get through a couple of our infrastructure bills.

What is really interesting—and I am going off your topic—is this appropriations process is broken. Some of you are former appropriators. I don't think there will ever be a day where the Senate can process 12 appropriation bills. I just don't think they will ever do it.

So we had the Joint Select Committee redesign the budget process. It is bicameral and bipartisan. I am very hopeful that they can produce a new process. I think biennial is probably a pretty smart way to go, maybe split the appropriations in half, six this year, six the next year, due in 2 years, something like that, because we are just doing CRs and omnis, and that is not good.

But this year, I think we might get three to six appropriation bills in law before the fiscal year, knock on wood. So we haven't done that since we have been in the majority. We passed, like, two 3 years ago.

Yes, Phil.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, PAUL, I would just like to say that I think a great part of the legacy of your Speakership has been showing civility and character, and I truly mean that. I think everybody in this Chamber would agree with that. We applaud you for that.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. FROST. The gentleman from Tennessee has a brief comment, because the Speaker has to go.

Mr. CLEMENT. I am Bob Clement.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Oh, yes, I remember you, Bob. You got new glasses. I didn't recognize you at first. Good to see you.

Mr. CLEMENT. I think you have done a great job, too, and I know you have got a tough job, but I did want to ask you about the committee process.

Are we, more and more, going around the committee process to make decisions?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Not really. The authorizing committee process works pretty well. We do suspensions fairly often. The minority gets one, we get two, you know, out of the deal, and those are only signed off by committees of jurisdiction. It is the appropriation committee's work that has basically been circumvented because we have omnibuses and CRs.

The authorizing committees do work. The Energy and Commerce Committee, they are the ones in charge, with Ways and Means, of all these opioid bills. Ways and Means did the tax bill. Every big bill, FAA, WRRDA, Transportation marked it up, brought it to the floor. So that committee process is working. The authorizing committee process totally, absolutely, fundamentally does work.

Appropriations is broken, and it is not because of the Appropriations Committee. It is, honestly, when it takes 60 votes to do anything over there, you don't do anything.

Last year, we passed all 12 bills before the fiscal year, but they just piled up, and I just don't think we are ever going to do 12 bills, 12 conference reports, all of that done before the fiscal year. In this day and age, we spend all our time doing that and then do it all over again next year.

So I think we need a new appropriating system, and that is, hopefully, what this committee we created in the omni will come up with. It is a bicameral and bipartisan joint select committee, and we want them to bring the results after the election so it is not politicized.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your time and for your service. We need to let you get on to your meeting of your Conference. Thank you very much for being with us.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Keep me on the schedule. Good to see you, guys and gals. Thank you.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Stearns.

Mr. STEARNS. I want to thank George and Charles for their report and for their outstanding leadership for these very important former Members of the Congress programs, and we appreciate very much what you do.

Normally, at this juncture in our report, I highlight each of the former Members' staff members, briefly describe their areas of responsibility and perhaps add a personal note, but since I worked so closely with each of them over the past couple of years, I cannot do that this year simply because our team has grown so much larger. There is just not enough time anymore to do that.

In our written report, which will be submitted into the RECORD, you will find their names and the tremendous contribution each and every one of them has made. However, I do want to highlight two names.

First, our CEO, Pete Weichlein, as you may know, he has been with the former Members of Congress in various positions since 1999, which means in just a couple of months, he will celebrate his 20-year anniversary with us.

When he became CEO in 2003, the staff consisted of him and an unpaid intern—incredible. There was enough money in the bank for a couple of Capitol Hill programs and 3 or 4 months of rent and payroll. An active year with FMC consisted of five Congress to Campus visits plus some lunches focusing on Germany.

We now have a team of 12 professionals conducting over almost 90 events over the past year involving huge constituencies, and we enjoy a huge amount of financial security that could see us through some rainy days if need be. He has turned this organization around, and we are very, very lucky to have Pete.

The other staff member I want to salute is our chief operating officer, Sabine Schleidt. She joined FMC over 7 years ago and has been the driving force behind so much of our tremendous growth and success, particularly with the Statesmanship dinner. Originally, her focus was on the congressional study groups, where she translated the success of the Germany model to new study groups, for example, the Korea program you have heard about several times. She is a tremendous fundraiser. She has mentored our staff of young professionals. And in her new role as chief operating officer, she will take a much more active part in implementing FMC's vision and mission beyond the international work. FMC is in very good hands, and thanks to her and Pete for their outstanding work. So Sabine, thank you.

My colleagues, at this point, let me also recognize two guests from overseas who have joined our annual meeting. As you well know, one of the closest relationships FMC enjoys is with our sister organization in Brussels, the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament. They have sent their newly elected vice president, Jan Willem Bertens, to join us, and we are so honored by his presence.

Jan, welcome.

In addition, all the way from Nepal and the former Members Association of that country is Alok Dahal. While he, himself, is not a former parliamentarian, his father is, and therefore, we are thrilled to have him here in D.C. with us representing his country and his country's former Members group.

Thank you both for joining us today.

Every year at our annual meeting, we ask the membership to elect new officers and board members. I, therefore, will now read to you the names of the candidates for board members and officers. They are running unopposed; and I therefore will 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 Class of 2018, the candidates are:

Mary Bono of California
Charles Boustany of Louisiana
Tom Davis of Virginia
Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania
Vic Fazio of California
Martin Frost of Texas
Bart Gordon of Tennessee
David Skaggs of Colorado
Cliff Stearns of Florida
and Albert Wynn of Maryland.

All in favor of electing these 10 former Members to our board of directors, please say "yea."

Any opposed?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Mr. STEARNS. Next, we will elect our Executive Committee. I automatically join the Executive Committee in my capacity as past president.

The secretary and treasurer are each elected to a 1-year term, with eligibility for another 1-year term.

The candidates for our executive committee are:

Ann Marie Buerkle of New York for treasurer.

L.F. Payne of Virginia for secretary. All in favor of electing these two former Members to FMC's Executive Committee, please say "yea."

Any opposed?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Mr. STEARNS. The president and vice president each serve a 2-year term and are term-limited to a single term. The candidates are:

For vice president, Charles Boustany of Louisiana.

For president, Martin Frost of Texas.

All in favor of electing these two former Members to our Executive Committee as president and vice president, please say "yea."

Any opposition?

Mr. FROST. Hearing no opposition, the slate is elected.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Frost and Mr. Boustany have been elected president and vice president of FMC.

Congratulations to you both.

Martin, at the risk of having the Speaker's chair be vacant for a minute, I would like for you to join us here at the rostrum to make some brief comments.

Mr. FROST. I don't know how many of you know the amount of time that Cliff has devoted to this organization. It is very, very impressive. He has a full-time job and has been an excellent president, has attended many, many of our functions, has taken great interest in everything we do, and from time to time makes comments and suggestions to Pete about how we can do even better, and his comments are always on point and usually followed.

So I would like to, at this time, Cliff, present this little token of our appreciation. Hopefully, it will find a place on your desk in your office. Thank you for all you have done for us.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you.

Mr. FROST. Now, those of you who know me know that I don't give long

speeches. I do recall when Newt Gingrich became Speaker and he was asked to give his acceptance speech, he spoke for an hour. That was very unusual. Most new Speakers just say: "Thank you, and I look forward to working with you."

You know, there is a time and a place for everything, and in my case, things have all come together, I believe, at the right time for me personally and for this organization. I retired from my law firm about 1½ years ago. While I still have some volunteer activities, I intend to devote a great deal of my personal time to this organization.

I particularly enjoy working with the staff. And Cliff has already recognized Pete and Sabine who just do an extraordinary job. Also, many of the other members of the staff are here today. We have a cross section of younger people and more mature people who are working with us, and I could not be happier than the staff that I will have the opportunity to lead in the next 2 years.

I want to thank you for entrusting this job to me. You will be seeing me around, and I will play the same role that Cliff did. I will be making suggestions to Pete and to the staff from time to time. I think they will listen carefully, and I expect that they will follow my suggestions from time to time.

Thank you very much for the honor you have given me.

Mr. STEARNS. Martin, I thank you, and congratulations again. I look forward very much to working with you and have great respect for you.

It is now my duty to inform the Congress of those former and current Members who have passed away since our last report. As you know, FMC has commenced a beautiful new tradition, which is to recognize, via a separate memorial service in Statuary Hall, all those of our colleagues who have passed away in the previous 12 months. It is a wonderful and fitting tribute, and I hope you will join all of us on September 5 as we do it again this year.

We also want to pay tribute to those Members by making sure their names are read here in the House Chamber and are included in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I, therefore, will now read their names and ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery if there are any, to rise as I read their names. At the end of the list, we will pay our respects to their memory with a moment of silence.

Please stand.

We honor these Members for their service to our country. They are:

John Anderson of Illinois
John Hall Buchanan, Jr., of Tennessee

Jim Bunning of Kentucky
Pete Domenici of New Mexico
Jon D. Fox of Pennsylvania
William F. Goodling of Pennsylvania
Orval H. Hansen of Idaho
Maurice Hinchey of New York
Marjorie Holt of Maryland

William H. Hudnut III of Indiana
Joe Knollenberg of Michigan
Tom Luken of Ohio
Marc L. Marks of Pennsylvania
Joseph M. McDade of Pennsylvania
Louise Slaughter of New York
Al Swift of Washington
John V. Tunney of California
Larry Winn of Kansas

We will now have a moment of silence.

Thank you, all of you. That concludes the 48th Report to Congress by the Former Members of Congress. On behalf of FMC, I wish to thank the Speaker and minority leader for giving us, simply, this opportunity to return to this very special place and report on FMC's activities.

I also wish to share with you how incredibly honored I have been to serve as president of this outstanding organization. I hope I was able to repay the trust of our membership, and I cannot thank you enough for having given me this great opportunity. I look forward to staying actively involved, and I wish our new president and our new executive committee the best of luck moving forward.

Mr. DIOGUARDI. Cliff, may I recognize two members of the Albania Parliament.

Mr. STEARNS. Please.

Mr. DIOGUARDI. What we do not only in the Congress, but as former Members, because Albania is still an emerging democracy, I would like to recognize Monika Kryemadhi, who is the chairwoman of the party, Movement for Social Integration, that made the difference so that Albania can function there, as a coalition government there, and she is with us today. I would just—and her other colleagues who are also with us, Mr. Petrit Vasili, chair of the parliamentary group, and Mr. Eriol Braimillari, head of foreign relations.

And I would like to, before we conclude, recognize that they are looking to America to make Albania stronger. These were two countries that were created by the United States. Woodrow Wilson recognized Albania in 1919. It almost didn't exist as a country and was about to be put into Yugoslavia. And 10 years ago, George W. Bush recognized her also, and this is the 10th anniversary.

Thank you very much.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you very much. They will now be part of the RECORD.

Mr. FROST. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House and Senate for their presence here today.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dan Spexarth, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Wichita, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, we ask You to abundantly bless these dedicated public servants and assist them in their tireless work on behalf of all Americans.

Give them clear minds to know Your will and understanding hearts, like King Solomon, to govern this vast people.

Fill them with courage and resolve and deep humility. Help them to listen attentively to one another and to work diligently with one another to find solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation. So many have worked so hard for so long. Let them not be dismayed or disheartened.

May the Prince of Peace protect the brave men and women of our military, deployed throughout the world. Please watch over their families here at home.

We give You praise, O Lord, and we give You thanks for our many blessings, especially our most precious gifts of life and liberty. We pray.

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. LAMALFA. 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. LAMALFA. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALDEN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DAN SPEXARTH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege to introduce the House to our guest chaplain, Father Dan Spexarth of Wichita, Kansas. As an ordained minister for more than 30 years, Father Spexarth has served six parishes in our community, including St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Wichita since 2008.

Father Spexarth was born and raised on a wheat farm near Colwich, Kansas. And after graduating from the seminary, we are fortunate Father Spexarth returned to our community.

Father Spexarth has been a tireless servant of God, leading an active parish committed to serving those in need in our community and throughout the world. As Congress addresses many complex issues facing our Nation, I am humbled by the opportunity to host Father Spexarth and thankful that we can join together in prayer for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Father Dan Spexarth, and thank him for offering today's opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PARDON STEVEN AND DWIGHT HAMMOND

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to raise an issue that would "shock the conscience." Those are not my words. Those are the words of a distinguished Federal judge when he refused to sentence two ranchers in my district to 5 years in prison. Judge Hogan looked at the case and he said: That is not right. It would "shock the conscience."

This Friday, the younger of those two ranchers will mark his fourth year in prison for starting a fire—by the way, fire on the range, high desert, is a management tool. They were using it for that purpose. They were tried. They were convicted. They never should have been sentenced to this.

The Obama administration came back and resentenced them to 5 years for 139 acres. We burn hundreds of thousands of acres every year. The government starts fires that burn onto private land. Nothing seems to happen.

It is time for the President to review this situation and to grant a pardon to

Steven and Dwight Hammond, pull them back together with their families. They have served long enough.

This is an issue that shocks the conscience. It is time for real justice, and President Trump can administer that.

AMERICA IS MEASURED BY GOODNESS AND PASSION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the communities I represent in Buffalo and western New York have a long, proud tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees from all over the world. We are a city of good neighbors in a Nation of immigrants.

The Trump administration's imposition of a Muslim travel ban, proposals to build a wall, and egregious policy to terrorize kids and tear families apart appeals to the tribal instincts of the weak and the paranoid among us.

Americans respect the rule of law, hard work, and hard truth. We are measured as a Nation by power and strength, certainly, but equally by goodness and compassion.

These are the values that made America great again, again, and again.

CONGRATULATING MIKE EARL SMITH FOR WINNING THE TRIPLE CROWN

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the Triple Crown is one of the most significant achievements in all of sports, but especially in the sport of horse racing.

In fact, it is such a rare achievement that only 13 times since 1875 has it been accomplished. This year, Mike Earl Smith, also known as "Big Money Mike," jockeyed his thoroughbred horse, Justify, to achieve the Triple Crown.

Now, the Triple Crown, in order to win it, you must win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes all in the same racing season. And Mike did just that. It was only the second time in the last 40 years that it has occurred.

Mike is the oldest jockey to ever win the Triple Crown. He was born in Roswell, New Mexico, and raised on a farm outside of Dexter, New Mexico. He has been racing since age 11. He won his first professional race in 1982 at the Downs at Santa Fe.

At one point, he broke his back and returned from that. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame; in 2013, into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame. Winner of nearly 5,500 races, these three this year set Mike into the history books.

Congratulations, Mike.