

see you again, I may be sitting on that side of this podium, so I look forward to that.

Thank you all for your patriotism, for your love of this great country, the greatest country that ever existed in the history of the world.

Let me tell you what is happening today. Today, the President will be signing the Respect for Marriage Act. That is a big deal for some of us. In my first speech on this floor, I talked about HIV and AIDS 35 years ago. One of the last bills I signed as Speaker for the first time was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. One of the last bills I signed to send over to the President that he will sign today is the Respect for Marriage Act, in between the other things that relate to the hate crimes and all that.

The reason I mention it is because it was always an expansion of freedom in our country, and that is what we hope we always continue to do—ever increasing the freedom in our country.

At the end of the day, I will welcome 50 heads of state from Africa. The President is having an African summit now, and he will be welcoming 50 heads of state at the White House. Then, tonight, they will come here.

I am so proud that we can show them this temple of democracy, welcome them here, hear what they have to say, build a strong bond with them.

So many of you have been so much a part of everything that has happened here. I thank you for that, forever expanding freedom in our country. Thank you so much. Lovely to be with you.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for visiting with us, and thank you, especially, for your great leadership of the Congress.

The Speaker mentioned Don McEachin, our fellow Virginian, and she also mentioned Norm Mineta, both of whom passed away recently.

I would also like to say a few words about our good friend Jim Kolbe. As many of you may know, Jim passed away about a week ago. It was quite sudden and quite unexpected.

With his passing, we and FMC lost a good friend, a longtime board member, and a voice of reason and compassion during these tumultuous political times that we are currently experiencing. All of us at FMC, from the staff to the board, loved working with Jim. We will certainly miss him greatly.

As you may know, and many of you participate in this service, we, each year, organize a memorial service in Statuary Hall. The Speaker just talked about it. This is to honor the Members whom we have lost in the previous year. It is a fitting tribute to their public service.

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of all the Members whom we honored in Statuary Hall this past September.

#### LIST OF FORMER MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY FALL OCTOBER 2021-DECEMBER 2022

The Hon. Todd Akin (Missouri), Brad Ashford (Nebraska), Dan Benishek (Michigan), Bill Brewster (Oklahoma), Clarence "Bud" Brown Jr. (Ohio), Albert Bustamante (Texas), Max Cleland (Georgia), Barbara-Rose Collins (Michigan), John Cooksey (Louisiana), Bob Dole (Kansas), Harris Fawell (Illinois), Vic Fazio (California), James Florio (New Jersey), Ed Foreman (Texas and New Mexico), George Gekas (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Jim Hagedorn (Minnesota), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Kaneaster Hodges Jr. (Arkansas), Larry Hopkins (Kentucky), Carroll Hubbard (Kentucky), Johnny Isakson (Georgia), Timothy Johnson (Illinois), Dale Kildee (Michigan), James "Jim" Kolbe (Arizona), Bob Krueger (Texas), Claude "Buddy" Leach (Louisiana), Gary A. Lee (New York), Romano "Ron" Mazzoli (Kentucky), Jack H. McDonald (Michigan).

The Hon. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia), Carrie Meek (Florida), Norm Mineta (California), Dennis Moore (Kansas), John Porter (Illinois), Harry Reid (Nevada), J. Roy Rowland (Georgia), Norman D. Shumway (California), Neal Smith (Iowa), Mark Souder (Indiana), James Stanton (Ohio), Standish "Fletcher" Thomson (Georgia), Esteban Torres (California), Jolene Unsoeld (Washington), Jackie Walorski (Indiana), Don Young (Alaska), Bill Zeliff (New Hampshire).

Mr. PAYNE. For them, and for Jim Kolbe, I am asking that you in the Chamber and any visitors in the gallery please stand, if you are able, so that we can show our respect to these Members with a moment of silence.

As you can see, FMC is an active and impactful organization that empowers Members to continue their service after leaving Congress. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for, really, three reasons.

One is the outstanding work that our board and our staff have done to solidify our mission, to put in place achievable goals and strategize how to best move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are the corporations that donate to us, especially by way of the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. They have meant so much to FMC and to allowing us to achieve our purpose.

You have heard of these entities. Connie mentioned them previously. They have done so much, and we so appreciate all that they have done. They believe in our capabilities, and they believe in giving us the opportunity to grow and create long-lasting programming and to allow us to do all the things that we are able to do. So, we thank them again.

The third and the most important reason for FMC's success is all of you, the former Members of Congress who are my colleagues who donate your time, expertise, wisdom, and leadership. You do this by becoming dues-paying, active members of FMC.

I hope that you retiring Members have found the insight that we have shared today helpful. We hope that you would also consider becoming part of us and help us continue this mission. We would love to connect with you in person, and I hope you will join us immediately after this downstairs in H-120. We will have a reception, and we would like to have you be part of that.

I would also like to thank our staff: Pete, who is here, and our staff members there, if you would all stand, please. Let's give them a round of applause.

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

Mr. ROSS. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair again wishes to thank the former and retiring Members of Congress of the House for their presence here today.

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

On behalf of FMC, my sincere thanks to all congressional staff who were such a terrific resource and support to make today's presentation possible. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the reception.

We are adjourned.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Satisfy us this morning, O Lord, with Your unfailing love, that our only response would be to sing to You our joy and be glad in all our days.

Today, may we be faithful not only in our words but in our deeds.

May we follow bravely Your footsteps wherever they may lead.

May we be uncompromising and honest with ourselves.

May there be no self-pity or self-indulgence in our lives today.

May our thinking be clear, our speech truthful and open, and our action courageous and decisive.

Our prayers today are not just for ourselves, but also for the communities and people we serve. And so we pray:

For all who today will face any great decision.

For all those today working to settle important affairs in the lives of individuals and nations.

For all who are shaping public opinion in our time.

For all who write what other people read.

For all who are lifting up the light of truth in a world of ignorance and sin.

For all whose hands are worn with too much work, and for the unemployed whose hands have found no work today.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, those we pray personally as well as for others. Forbid that we should live for ourselves this day, but may we be faithful in our service to Your people, even as we serve You.

In Your most Holy name we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BUSTOS 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate progress in America's pledge to provide liberty and justice for all Americans.

Today, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law. The legislation ensures equal rights and protection for married couples regardless of the color of their skin, where they live, or whom they love.

This act is long overdue and necessary as threats remain to undo the hard-fought ruling giving same-sex couples the fundamental right to marriage equality.

I am honored to have cosponsored this bill, and I am proud this day has finally come.

#### PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that will affect millions of Americans unless Congress acts.

Unless we prevent the Medicare reimbursement cut that is scheduled to go into effect, the doctors, hospitals, and

healthcare providers who work each day to treat Medicare patients may be forced to eliminate services, furlough staff, and delay health initiatives.

These cuts will have the deepest impact on those patients who rely on Medicare to see their doctors.

At a time when our healthcare industry is already facing record burnout, we cannot afford to risk losing more doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in fighting these potential cuts in order to protect American patients who rely on Medicare each and every day.

#### THANKING THE TEAM BUSTOS STAFF

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Team Bustos. Every Member of Congress knows that the real work is done by staff.

Those with me from day one are: Lucie VanHecke, Miranda French, Ellie LaBonne, and Katie Papa.

Our dedicated and determined district team include: Laura Rude, Dennis Littlejohn, Austin Stadelman, and Coburn Gillies.

The legislative team that makes our accomplishments possible are: Elaine Ansah, Noah Emanuel, Jon Heppen, Yusuf Nekzad, and Leighton Huch.

The communications team that makes sure everyone back home knows we are working for them are: Katie Anderson, Philip Shelly, and Heather Sager.

The person who keeps the train on its tracks is Mitchell Dunn.

My chief of staff who has helped me complete 10 years of service is Trevor Reuschel.

Because of each of them and those who have served on Team Bustos over the years, peoples' lives are better, and Illinois is stronger. It has been my honor to serve with them.

#### IRREVERSIBLE PROCEDURES ON VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, our Nation's founding was based upon the idea of defending our borders and defending our people within it.

Yet, in a complete 180 from the original purpose, our top government officials want our tax dollars to fund irreversible gender reassignment surgery for children.

Chemical castrations, mastectomies, and hysterectomies for sex reassignment on minors are life-altering decisions that are permanent and should not be taken lightly. Moreover, the

government has no business paying for them with our tax dollars. It is not only irresponsible but also flat-out dangerous and encourages irreversible and sterilizing procedures on young people.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of young people who experience gender dysphoria move on from that when they become adults.

Some doctors and teachers—sometimes even parents—pressure vulnerable children into these invasive surgeries to keep in line with their woke agenda. Adults have no business forcing these decisions upon young people or making them themselves. Indeed, we have run legislation here saying that this should not be a discussion for minors, they must be at least 18 years old if they want to go through these procedures.

It is unacceptable the way adults, media, and government are putting children entrusted in their care in these situations directly in harm's way with irreversible, life-changing, and even suicide-inducing decisions.

#### FIGHTING CHORDOMA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Joshua Smith, who was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer known as chordoma.

Classified as a rare cancer of the spine and skull, chordoma is diagnosed in thousands of people worldwide every year, about 300 of whom live in the United States.

In honor of Josh and others diagnosed every year, I introduced a resolution last week to help shine a light on the need for more research and awareness of this kind of cancer which is very rare.

Thankfully, Josh is recovering and back at work, but his illness serves as an important reminder of the need to bolster research and funding to combat cancers of all kinds. Fighting cancers, particularly rare forms like chordoma, can and should bring us together,

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues for their support for this resolution.

#### GREATER COMPETITION WITHIN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on December 8 the House passed the JAMES M. INHOFE National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023 on a bipartisan basis.

I am particularly proud to see that my amendment, the Defense Maintenance Data Transparency Act, was included in this crucial package.

The challenges facing the Department of Defense's inability to access