

It is important for all of us to realize that this affects everyone, that we must address this question of violence and must not take it for granted. It can affect any family throughout this Nation, and it is important that we do all that we can to send a message that this is just not acceptable.

Surely, we all agree on helping victims of crimes. The time to help victims is now. We must help victims. We must send a message that this is unacceptable, no matter where we live, no matter where we are, no matter where in this Nation.

For the victims who are being affected, we must rise up and send a message that this behavior is no longer accepted. It will take us all working together to make a difference.

I share with you, Madam Speaker, that it is important during this moment, like never before, that we come together and focus. No matter what city, no matter what State, no matter where in the United States, it is unacceptable.

□ 1045

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL BARNARD ADAMS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Samuel Barnard Adams, a veteran, a banker, and a businessman from Savannah, Georgia.

Sam was a graduate of Roanoke College and a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Sam served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. Afterwards, he worked as a banking officer with Citizens & Southern National Bank before beginning his own company, Intermodal Shipping Maintenance.

Sam was committed to community throughout his life, serving on the vestry of Christ Church, as chairman of the Tybee Island Beach Task Force, and a board member of both Hospice Savannah and Savannah Little Theater.

His contributions to the culture and vitality of Savannah will be felt for years, and his presence will be dearly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MICHAEL HOLTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Michael Holton.

Michael was recently recognized as the Most Fab School Support Staff member of 2023 by Effingham Living Magazine for his work at South Effingham Elementary School.

He is an alumnus of South Effingham Elementary where he currently works as instructional support staff in the technology department.

Outside of work, Mike was vice president of the Lowcountry Down Syndrome Society, and he was selected to

be 1 of 10 participants on Treasure Maps: The Georgia Storytelling Roadshow. Treasure Maps is a collection of short films that provide a personal viewpoint on living with a disability.

He also was an avid moviegoer, current event guru, and a very impressive equestrian.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Michael and I know personally that he is deserving of this award.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael again, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TOMMY DUBBERLY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Mr. Tommy Dubberly, a committed and heroic volunteer firefighter from Glennville, Georgia.

Dedicated to public service, Tommy spent 40 years fighting fires in addition to his work at the Department of Corrections where he retired as a sergeant.

At Tattnall County EMS, he served as deputy director, always leading by example and demonstrating unwavering care and support for his community.

Even when he was off the clock, Tommy still found ways to build community. As the vice president of his county's Shriners Club, he helped build fraternity and camaraderie among his peers.

Mr. Dubberly's devotion to serving others is emblematic of the virtues we should all strive to live by, and I mourn his loss dearly.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONNOR MATHIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Connor Mathis, a 16-year-old whose tragic passing has impacted our entire community.

Set to enter his junior year at Glynn Academy, Connor was a joyous, young boy, always seen with a large smile on his face. His smile lit up every room he entered, and Connor's infectious energy and love, especially for sports, was constantly felt by those closest to him.

I mourn the loss of such a caring young man, and I give my most sincere prayers to Connor's family. His family now wears shirts with hearts colored green—Connor's favorite color—to honor him.

Madam Speaker, to those listening, next time someone wears green, I encourage them to think of and remember Connor, a life we lost far too early.

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 48 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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Barbara Comstock, President-Elect of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8:42 a.m.

PRAYER

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

God of the ages, we give You thanks for the past, for the present, for the future, and all the opportunities therein as we gather today, and we consider those whose past was dedicated to serving You and this country and their country with the abilities and the skill and the enthusiasm that You have graced upon them. Thank You that they have the opportunity, and we have the opportunity to honor their service in this moment together.

In our present, may we realize that You are not done with us yet, that You have continued to give us opportunity, even an opportunity like this one here, to connect with people we haven't seen in a while, to connect with people over the pond, to be able to see that in this time and in this place, yet, we are needed, and that You look to us once again to our graces, our abilities, our skills, our enthusiasm, to find a way to serve You in a different way with as much effectiveness and purpose.

So we give to You then our future that as we have dedicated ourselves in service to You and to our countries, we ask once again that You can look within us and You call within us a sense of reality, of purpose, and of hope that in our contributions, we will be effective, but most importantly, faithful in our service to You. We pray these things in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Barbara Comstock 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.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. I now ask the clerk to call the roll of all former and retiring Members.

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

Mr. Altmire of Pennsylvania
Mr. Carnahan of Missouri
Mrs. Comstock of Virginia
Mr. Davis of Tennessee
Mr. DiGiardi of New York
Mr. Goodlatte of Virginia
Mr. Gordon of Tennessee
Mr. Gorman of Maryland
Mr. Nye of Virginia
Mr. Payne of Virginia
Mr. Ross of Florida
Ms. Sánchez of California

Mr. Stearns of Florida
 Mr. Upton of Michigan
 Mr. Yarmuth of Kentucky
 Mr. Baird of Washington
 Mrs. COMSTOCK. The Chair announces that 13 former Members have responded to their names.

The Chair now calls on the Honorable L.F. Payne of Virginia, president of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, to address the Members.

Mr. PAYNE. Good morning.

Barbara, thank you very much. It is always a great honor and a real pleasure to be back here in the House Chamber and especially being here with friends and so many colleagues. Thank you all for being here.

Let me begin by thanking Speaker MCCARTHY for inviting our association into the House Chamber for this annual report. You may recall that it wasn't that long ago in December when we were here to do the 2022 report. You may wonder why are we back so soon. Well, the reason for that is that we are returning to normal. We had changes during COVID, and now we are back to what we have done for a very long time. I am so pleased that we are here and so pleased that you all have joined us.

I want to welcome a very special group of guests who are with us today. We are very pleased to have more than a dozen of the Irish Association of Former Parliamentarians and their guests who traveled to Washington to join our annual meeting. They are led by their association's president, Mary Flaherty, and they will be with us today for the activities of the day. They will experience the Gettysburg battlefield tomorrow and Congressional Baseball Game tonight, which is a wonderful bipartisan tradition where the Democrats and Republicans play each other at the Nationals Ballpark. We thank you all so much for coming a long way to join us, and we are very honored by your presence here.

Like most of you here, I consider my service in Congress to be the most important and impactful chapter of my professional life, and the memories that are evoked standing here in this Chamber are ones that are really very, very special. I cherish these relationships, and I cherish the relationships I had with my colleagues and the congressional staff when I was a Member of Congress.

I am proud of the legislation that I was involved in. There is a great sense of satisfaction, as you all know, that comes with public service. That is what I remember most, and that is what I try to highlight when I speak about our Congress, our Article I branch of the Constitution.

That is why I am so committed to this organization, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, because it empowers those of us who have served to be able to continue to give back. We do so by both involving Senators and House Members, and more importantly—and this is really impor-

tant today, more than a lot of other times—we are doing this in a completely bipartisan manner. Today, you will hear members of the Democratic Party and members of the Republican Party speaking about our organization, the U.S. Former Members of Congress.

We will focus today, my colleagues and I, on two of the main programs that achieve our mission. First is the Congress to Campus program, which aims to engage the next generation in representative democracy. Second are the Congressional Study Groups, which have become an unparalleled resource to current Members, and they serve to strengthen our important international relationships with our allied countries, including Korea, Japan, Germany, the EU, all while fostering bipartisanism in Congress.

Let me just briefly highlight some of our accomplishments, our organization's accomplishments, during the first half of this year before we get to those two main programs. We had a record year this year for recruiting, with an unprecedented number of new former Members joining us both as annual members and sustaining members.

Of the Members who left in the last election, more than half have already joined our organization, and the recruiting process is still going on. This new class of former Members has yielded our biggest number yet of new sustaining members, which is a special category of membership. These folks make financial commitments to ensure the longevity of FMC, our organization, the Former Members of Congress. I want to thank all of the former Members who have made this commitment.

I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD their names to help express our appreciation and our gratitude.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF FMC

The Hon. Les AuCoin (Oregon)
 The Hon. Brian Baird (Washington)
 The Hon. Joe Barton (Texas)
 The Hon. Mike Bishop (Michigan)
 The Hon. Rick Boucher (Virginia)
 The Hon. Susan Brooks (Indiana)
 The Hon. Cheri Bustos (Illinois)
 The Hon. Dave Camp (Michigan)
 The Hon. Ben Chandler (Kentucky)
 The Hon. Mike Conaway (Texas)
 The Hon. Paul Cook (California)
 The Hon. Ryan Costello (Pennsylvania)
 The Hon. Rodney Davis (Illinois)
 The Hon. Peter DeFazio (Oregon)
 The Hon. Val Demings (Florida)
 The Hon. Jeff Denham (California)
 The Hon. Charles W. Dent (Pennsylvania)
 The Hon. Sean Duffy (Wisconsin)
 The Hon. Donna Edwards (Maryland)
 The Hon. Elizabeth Esty (Connecticut)
 The Hon. Sam Farr (California)
 The Hon. John Faso (New York)
 The Hon. Bill Flores (Texas)
 The Hon. Martin Frost (Texas)
 The Hon. Tom Garrett (Virginia)
 The Hon. Bob Gibbs (OH)
 The Hon. Phil Gingrey (Georgia)
 The Hon. Dan Glickman (Kansas)
 The Hon. Bob Goodlatte (Virginia)
 The Hon. Bart Gordon (Tennessee)
 The Hon. Tom Graves (Georgia)
 The Hon. Gene Green (Texas)
 The Hon. John Hall (New York)

The Hon. George Holding (North Carolina)
 The Hon. Asa Hutchinson (Arkansas)
 The Hon. Lynn Jenkins (Kansas)
 The Hon. Doug Jones (Alabama)
 The Hon. Kaiiali'i Kahele (Hawaii)
 The Hon. John Katko (NY)
 The Hon. Ron Kind (Wisconsin)
 The Hon. Adam Kinzinger (Illinois)
 The Hon. John Kline (Minnesota)
 The Hon. Scott Klug (Wisconsin)
 The Hon. Brenda Lawrence (Michigan)
 The Hon. Andy Levin (Michigan)
 The Hon. Alan Lowenthal (California)
 The Hon. Elaine Luria (Virginia)
 The Hon. Jim Matheson (Utah)
 The Hon. Ben Michael McAdams (Utah)
 The Hon. Jim McDermott (Washington)
 The Hon. Mike McIntyre (North Carolina)
 The Hon. Pat Meehan (Pennsylvania)
 The Hon. Jeff Miller (Florida)
 The Hon. Jim Moran (Virginia)
 The Hon. Stephanie Murphy (Florida)
 The Hon. Randy Neugebauer (Texas)
 The Hon. Erik Paulsen (Minnesota)
 The Hon. Tim Petri (Wisconsin)
 The Hon. Ted Poe (Texas)
 The Hon. Kathleen M. Rice (New York)
 The Hon. Tom Rice (South Carolina)
 The Hon. Martha Roby (Alabama)
 The Hon. Peter Roskam (Illinois)
 The Hon. Dennis Ross (Florida)
 The Hon. Loretta Sanchez (California)
 The Hon. Kurt Schrader (Oregon)
 The Hon. James Sensenbrenner (Wisconsin)
 The Hon. Donna Shalala (Florida)
 The Hon. John Shimkus (Illinois)
 The Hon. Bill Shuster (Pennsylvania)
 The Hon. Lamar Smith (Texas)
 The Hon. Jackie Speier (California)
 The Hon. Cliff Stearns (Florida)
 The Hon. Steve Stivers (Ohio)
 The Hon. John Tanner (Tennessee)
 The Hon. Mac Thornberry (Texas)
 The Hon. Pat Tiberi (Ohio)
 The Hon. David A. Trott (Michigan)
 The Hon. Fred Upton (Michigan)
 The Hon. Greg Walden (Oregon)
 The Hon. Henry Waxman (California)
 The Hon. Rob Woodall (Georgia)
 The Hon. John Yarmuth (Kentucky)
 The Hon. Ted Yoho (Florida)

Mr. PAYNE. In addition, we have supported the work of the House Democratic Partnership, so ably led by two of our good friends and colleagues, David Price and Peter Roskam, both of whom will be with us today. The HDP aims to support the legislative branches of emerging democracies and when invited to do so, we involved former Members in overseas legislative strengthening projects. This year, for instance, former Members have traveled to places like Kenya, North Macedonia, or Guyana to support the important work of the HDP.

These are some of the 2023 highlights of two of our three objectives: teaching about Congress and supporting Congress as an institution. The third is FMC's original mission: to serve as an alumni group for former Senators and Representatives. We are aware that this is an important aspect of our work, and today's annual meeting clearly is a good example of that work.

In addition, we have hosted author presentations. We have tapped into our membership's institutional knowledge. For example, during the recent debt ceiling negotiations, our members held seminars that others learned from. When the new rules package was adopted by the Congress in January, we explained to the public what that meant,

and we have sent former Member delegations overseas to places like Iceland and Korea.

At this point, I want to give my colleagues an opportunity to talk more about our two main programming staples that the Former Members of Congress are rightfully very proud of. They are the Congress to Campus program, as well as our Congressional Study Groups.

I invite my colleague, Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, to make some remarks. He will be followed by Loretta Sanchez of California. We will then hear from Dennis Ross of Florida and Bart Gordon of Tennessee who will each talk about the Congressional Study Groups.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Thank you, L.F., for giving me and Loretta the chance to report to the membership on FMC's largest and most important domestic program, Congress to Campus. Loretta, who is a good friend, and I had the opportunity to actually participate in the program together. We have both done it many times, but we were together at Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Pennsylvania just last year.

L.F., thank you for your outstanding leadership of FMC and for your tireless efforts to make us an even better organization. I know I speak for our board and our membership when I say how much we appreciate all that you do for the Former Members Association.

I want to take a point of personal privilege now and join L.F. in welcoming the former members of the Irish Parliament. I do so, especially to Leader Flaherty because my wife, Mary Ellen Flaherty Goodlatte, is a first-generation American. Both of her parents were born in Connemara, west of Galway. On the west gate of the town of Galway, it says in Gaelic, from the fierce wrath of the O'Flahertys, dear Lord please save us. I married into that family.

As those of you who are active with FMC know well, the Congress to Campus program brings bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress to college campuses for a day and a half to 3 days at a time to meet with classes, student groups, clubs, local media, faculty, and other members of the campus community.

We don't shy away from difficult conversations with these various audiences, and our bipartisan teams engage in frank, honest dialogues about our legislative branch in action, public service, our democracy, the role citizens play, current legislative issues, and other topics dictated by the headlines. Just because we are former Members of Congress doesn't mean we no longer have strong opinions shaped by our values and political beliefs. We continue to be partisan beings, and we showcase to our audiences that you can be partisan but still respectful and civil and that a clash of ideas is actually a good thing. We call it healthy partisanship, and that is what we showcase with Congress to Campus.

When you go to a Congress to Campus visit with a colleague from the

other side of the political aisle, you will be asked to share real-life experiences in both the political and public realms. You and your colleagues discuss your unique experiences, balancing public and private lives, giving an unparalleled insight into the many roles of our elected Representatives. In addition, you will focus on the real-world application of policymaking and illustrate how government policy influences the everyday lives of citizens. Congress to Campus is an exceptional insight into life in Washington and on Capitol Hill.

During a typical visit to a campus, Members arrive the evening before the full day of programming and connect with students and faculty right away with a welcoming reception. The next day starts around 8 or 9 in the morning and lasts until 5 or 6 in the afternoon, meeting with students for the entire day. The school is responsible for putting together the minute-by-minute schedule, which Members receive before hopping on a flight or driving in their car. Members then spend half of the third day with students on campus and the other half heading back home. During any regular visit to a campus, Members meet with anywhere between 150 to 800 students. Most importantly, we let the school dictate the schedule. Our conversation with the school always starts with: What is the best use of this resource? How can our Members team be most productive for your students?

Currently, there is a great deal of negativity surrounding Congress. The Congress to Campus program highlights the power of bipartisanship, the dignity of public service, and the importance of an actively engaged citizenry.

The three goals of Congress to Campus are first, to showcase civil, respectful, and productive debate on issues where former Members still wear their partisan hats, like environmental policy or the Second Amendment, but can engage the students in a back and forth, very different from the shouting matches they witness on cable news and social media, and, I hasten to add, all too often nowadays on college campuses themselves.

Second, to encourage public service in the next generation, show interested students a path toward Capitol Hill, and mentor future public servants.

Third, to remind the students of their roles as citizens. They need to be active participants in our representative democracy. Otherwise, our form of government does not work. Students hear from the former Members that, at a minimum, they have a responsibility to be informed voters, but Congress to Campus also shares the many other ways those being represented can hold accountable those doing the representing.

The program is important because it helps present a positive image of how government should work and can work, and it is really important for students

and faculty to see Democrats and Republicans talking to each other, joking with each other, agreeing with each other on some things, disagreeing on other things, but with grace and respect and ultimately teaching that people can and do like others who come from different backgrounds and points of view. This is something that there is just too little of today.

The former Members of Congress all donate their time and insight pro bono to the program. None of them receive any fee or honorarium for their time. FMC funding only goes toward covering travel and lodging costs. Congress to Campus is made possible, thanks to the support of the Stennis Center and the Park Foundation.

This past spring, Congress to Campus went to 16 different college campuses, 13 in-person and 3 virtual, reaching nearly 10,000 students. This fall, Congress to Campus is slated to host over 25 programs, which is a record-breaking semester by far. Most schools are hosting in-person programming, but there are still opportunities to hold these events virtually, as well.

To date, Congress to Campus sessions have been held on 181 campuses in 43 States and 5 countries with 2 new countries reaching out for programming this year. In just the past 10 years alone, the program has reached almost 60,000 students. Every year, Members donate between 800 and 1,000 hours to the program.

A faculty member at Boise State, who participated in programming earlier this year said: "The Congress to Campus event went really well. Both Representatives were fabulous and very open to the busy schedule. It was a near perfect 3 days, and I look forward to doing it again. Representative Smith was wonderful, and I would recommend her to any Congress to Campus program. She has an interesting story that resonated with a lot of different people. Representative Jones was also fantastic. We would have him back for other events without hesitation. He is a perfect representation of the program, and I hope you are able to entice him to other Congress to Campus events in the future. Truly A-plus-plus."

To quote a student from Skidmore College in New York: "Coming here today, [for the former Members] it was not a political opportunity. For them, it was just a talk about their beliefs and their experiences. So, it was definitely a new experience for me, and it was very refreshing."

A professor from the school also stated: "First, we talk about congressional committees. We talk about term limits. We talk about elections and gerrymandering in my class. But to hear the Members of Congress talk about how they experience those things, at a real level, just brings that material alive."

Another wonderful aspect of Congress to Campus is the summer program with Envision by WorldStrides. Envision is where over 225 middle school students

gather in this very room to listen to a bipartisan pair of former Members of Congress sharing their experiences and wisdom with young minds.

As you entered the Chamber this morning, you actually ran into a group of Envision kids who had just concluded one of these sessions led by Steve Israel and myself. Every summer there are between 13 and 15 slots to fill, 1 Democrat and 1 Republican each, every Tuesday and Wednesday during the summer. Programming started yesterday and happened earlier this morning. Out of the 26 spots we have available, 25 have been filled so far. We need one last Republican volunteer.

It is because of Members like you all, that students from around the Nation have the opportunity to come to the United States Capitol and hear Members from both sides of the political aisle discuss leadership and bipartisanship. That being said, if anyone will already be in D.C. on June 28 from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m., please contact Patricia Ochs at FMC. I encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful experience. You will feel like you were back in Congress again talking to a town meeting.

I participate because I think it is a great way to reach young people and give them a positive understanding of how government is supposed to and actually can work. I also believe strongly that it is important for all of us, including students, to learn that an important part of solving problems in their daily lives is to work with and listen to others, including people you don't agree with, in order to solve problems and move ahead.

Thank you very much for giving me this time, and I will now pass this on to my good friend from California, Loretta Sanchez.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Thank you for yielding me the time, both Mr. Payne and Mr. Goodlatte, and good morning to everyone. What a pleasure it is to be here and to speak to you on one of our greatest programs, the Congress to Campus program.

As Bob mentioned, the program continues to grow and to reach wider audiences. It is great because we get to educate and to inform our youth.

Thanks to a grant from The Park Foundation these past 2 years, we have actively reached out to minority-serving institutions, such as historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, women's colleges, community colleges, Tribal colleges, and service academies.

The Park Foundation is a nonprofit, and it is dedicated to advancing a more just, equitable, and sustainable society and environment, both nationally and in our local communities.

They are committed to challenging the powers that threaten an independent media, a robust democracy, and the future of the planet.

The Park Foundation helps with funding, specifically for these minority-serving institutions, to put the program on their campus.

This year, we had 32 schools reach out to FMC to bring the program to their institutions. Seven of those were at these minority-serving institutions. The past spring, the number was four, and the fall before that, the number was three.

The word is getting out about our Congress to Campus, and it is spreading, and I think it is making a difference.

Most of us would agree that some students, or at least where I come from, I am a Latina, they don't get the opportunity to connect with current or former Members of Congress. Some don't even know what it is, quite frankly, and they want to be engaged. They want to be mentored, especially once they find out about what we are all doing here.

The program allows them to have one-on-one experiences, to inspire them, to show them the path that leads to public service.

A new vision and a possible extension of our current program is an idea that is called the Congressional pipeline.

FMC will expand and build upon the current program we have by encouraging the next generation of public servants. That is what we are really about, getting people excited about doing what we have done or being a staffer here or being in our Federal agencies. We want them to want to be public servants and demonstrating how respectful debate and a focus on solutions is really the root of our American democracy.

It is also going to provide unparalleled resources and opportunities to college students who participate in our Congress to Campus program and then want to take additional steps to become a public servant.

We envision accomplishing these goals by bringing some of these students who have experienced our program, for example, at an HBCU or an Hispanic-serving institution to Washington, D.C., for the total Washington experience.

The pipeline will do five things: It will provide equal access to opportunities for a wide range of students, including those students, like myself, who would have never had an opportunity to visit here or our district offices.

It will provide Congress to Campus students with information and resources on pursuing public service career paths, both in person and virtually.

It will facilitate opportunities for students to meet with individuals currently serving in Congress, and also the former Members because we are still important, including our staff, both in Washington and in the district offices.

It will create a one-semester fellowship for four and six students, which would include a semester internship at the FMC office here in downtown Washington, D.C.; scheduling meetings each week with current and former Members and staff and ambassadors

and embassy staff here in D.C. on how to pursue the careers in public service; of course, free time on weekends so they can go and see everything that you Irish leaders all want to go and see.

It will establish a network of Congress to Campus grads and FMC fellows who, in turn, will help other students who are interested in following in their footsteps by becoming speakers, reaching out in their own home districts, et cetera, so that we can continue to move people into public service.

We ask you to be a part of our Congress to Campus program, to help us to identify students, to help students seek bipartisanship and civility, that they are still alive and thriving and that this is the way forward, especially during a time that has been a difficult time for our Nation.

One big testament to the program is our before and after surveys. I don't know about before, but 100 percent—imagine that—100 percent of students on their post-event survey say that their mind has actually changed for the better about Congress.

The 76 percent—and I don't know what happened to the other 24, but 76 percent say they want the Congress to Campus program to come back to their school again.

I love this program. I love it because it makes me younger, right? When you are interacting with the young people, it makes you feel young. You hear their voices, their ideas. You hear their dreams about a better tomorrow. It makes me feel better about what kind of world we are leaving for our kids. They inform me. They inspire me. I see them, their minds clicking, thinking about how they can shape the world.

Many of the students come up to me afterward and they say: How do I get involved in politics? And I hand them my card, and I say: Let's keep in touch; and we do. Many of them are working in their local areas now to become politicians, and they are not afraid of it. It is not a bad thing to be a politician.

If you want to get involved, please contact Patricia Ochs, our Congress to Campus program manager.

L.S., let me thank you again and echo what Bob said earlier about your exceptional leadership at FMC, and thank you for the opportunity. I really think it is a godsend to be able to participate in the Congress to Campus program. Thank you also for giving me the opportunity to report on the program.

Mr. ROSS. Loretta, thank you. I admire your passion and your enthusiasm for the Congress to Campus program. I have had the fortunate opportunity, of course, of doing one of those digitally with you. It was inspiring for me as well and something I hope that we continue to develop with the game plan we have.

Today, my colleague Bart Gordon and I would like to report on the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Europe, Japan, Korea, and maybe in the future with Ireland—who knows.

In the past year, there have been critical developments on the international stage amongst America's closest allies and partners around the globe.

We witnessed the somber anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and rededicated ourselves to a robust and reliable NATO alliance and celebrated one of our closest partnerships in the Indo-Pacific with Korea's President Yoon visiting Washington on an official State visit that culminated with his rousing speech right here in this Chamber.

With consideration of these and other international developments, it is my great pleasure to highlight the work of the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Europe and Korea, the flagship international programs of FMC.

As you know, our four Congressional Study Groups are the most active and unparalleled peer-to-peer exchange involving current Members of Congress and senior congressional staff in a highly impactful dialogue with their colleagues in legislative branches overseas.

In an ever-changing world, the year-round bipartisanship, and nonadvocacy outreach of these study groups to Capitol Hill remains the premier forum for productive, candid, and timely dialogue on the issues most relevant not only to America's leaders but to our friends and allies abroad.

One is hard pressed to find another organization that so consistently engages a diverse group of Members of Congress, the diplomatic community, administration officials, the private sector, and civil society in such critical conversations.

Each study group is proud to count over 75 Members of Congress as members, and each is led by a bipartisan, bicameral group of four co-chairs. These co-chairs exemplify the study groups' dedication to meaningful and robust education, not only serving in their role at the official study group events, but connecting with the embassies and outside organizations to speak on panels, attend roundtables, and meet with countless visiting delegations to further the goals of their respective study groups and the international relationships that they support.

In the past year, the study groups have led six tours for Members of Congress and their senior staff; engaged new Members of the 118th Congress in introductory events with our embassy partners; hosted a German delegation of parliamentarians, business leaders, and key members of German civil society on a study tour in Texas; and held dozens of roundtables between Members of Congress, chiefs of staff, the diplomatic corps here in D.C., and business advisory members on critical issues such as the war in Ukraine, the debt ceiling, the IRA, supply chain security, energy, and international security, among other topics.

This critical work, however, would not be possible without the general pa-

tronage of a dedicated group of individuals, organizations, and business advisory council members.

In particular, I recognize Dr. Satoshihiro Akimoto of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Thomas Byrne of The Korea Society, Sung Won Bae of the Korea Foundation USA, Heather Conley of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Paige Cottingham-Streater of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, and Julia Friedlander of the Atlantik-Brücke for their support as key funders of the Congressional Study Groups in 2023.

We also benefit tremendously from our partners and Business Advisory Council, and I include their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BAC PARTNERS TO FMC AND CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUPS

Aflac, Allianz, All Nippon Airways, BASF, Bayer, B. Braun Medical, Beam Suntory, Central Japan Railway Company, CJ America, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Fresenius SE, Hitachi, Honda, Hyundai, Itochu, JTI, KITA, LG, Lockheed Martin, Lufthansa German Airlines, Marubeni America Corporation, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Mitsui & Co., Mizuho, NEC, Nissan, Nomura, Panasonic, Philips North America, POSCO, Representative of German Industry and Trade, Samsung, Sojitz, Subaru, Tellurian, Toyota Motor North America, UPS, and Volkswagen Group of America.

Mr. ROSS. Since last year's report to Congress, FMC's Business Advisory Council has grown with the additions of Philips North America and LG. Our Business Advisory Council continues to benefit from the guidance and leadership of advisory board members Brad Knox of Aflac, Majida Mourad of Tellurian, Anna Schneider of Volkswagen, Mark Sobol of Longwave Partners, Jeff Werner of Panasonic, and Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel of Lockheed Martin.

Amidst economic uncertainties, supply chain difficulties, and energy and climate crises, these companies continue to be champions for effective and productive dialogue between our elected parliaments. We thank them for their support of our Congressional Study Groups.

In an increasingly tumultuous world where the bonds America shares with her allies abroad are more important than ever, I am proud to say the sustained involvement of our stakeholders and continued engagement with our international partners play a critical role in the maintenance and growth of these relationships and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

I yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. Bart Gordon of Tennessee, for further remarks.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you, Dennis, for giving us that overview of the Congressional Study Groups. I have been asked to elaborate a little bit on that with specific details, but first, Pete has asked me to give a quick tutorial for our Irish friends. We are glad you are here.

This is really sacred ground for us and Members of Congress. This is the

House Chamber. It is sort of like church, how you go back to the same pews. Over here on this side is where the Democrats normally sit. You have heard the expression "side of the aisle." That is the aisle. Republicans normally sit over here.

It is really an opportunity, since we don't have specific chairs, to interact, to go talk with somebody about a bill that may be coming up.

Of course, here, where Barbara is, is where the Speaker would sit, but the Speaker really doesn't come in very often. Normally, it is a Speaker pro tempore. Next to her is the Parliamentarian to make sure that the Speaker doesn't get in trouble, and then Susan Cole is the Reading Clerk. There is a variety of other clerks down here. They are all part of the family and all make sure that things work well.

When bills come before the Congress, you will see these tables behind us where there are microphones. What happens is we have a Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will say, okay, we are going to have a certain bill that Fred brought out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It is going to have 4 hours of debate, equally divided between the Democrats and Republicans.

Fred would be here as chairman of that committee, and the Democratic ranking member would be over on the other side. "Ranking member" means the senior member of the minority party. They then would yield to folks as they go through the debate.

As a practical matter, there are not that many Members who are here during all of the debate because they can watch it on C-SPAN. When the bells start ringing, they know that they have 15 minutes to get here to vote.

When you come in to vote, you have an ID card like that. If you look on the back of some of these chairs, that is where we put in our ID for votes. This wallpaper will come up, and you can see how everybody votes up here. Above each door, it is like a basketball scoreboard. You will see the yeas and the nays, and we will have visitors.

This is a special place for all of us, and we are glad that you and the spouses are here.

It really does become a family here. It is spouses, our staff, and our clerks. We all work together to try to make this thing work.

Dennis gave you a good overview of the study groups. I am going to tell you a little more about it. Pete may give you a test, I am not sure, after this, but this year the FMC's Congressional Study Groups are celebrating an impressive and significant set of milestones. Our Congressional Study Group on Korea is celebrating its fifth anniversary. Our Congressional Study Group on Europe is celebrating its 12th anniversary. Our Congressional Study Group on Japan is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Our Congressional Study Group on Germany has been active for 40 years.

At their core, each study group engages an active cadre of Congresswomen and Congressmen dedicated to ensure productive dialogue between the prime decisionmakers in the United States Congress and our closest allies abroad.

This meaningful dialogue among elected parliamentarians, however, doesn't succeed in a vacuum. It is my pleasure to showcase a few takeaways of our past programming year that highlight the diversity of the Congressional Study Groups' programming.

The Congressional Study Groups' engagement has grown from beyond just including lawmakers in Washington to the active engagement of Members of Congress and their senior staff. It is complemented and synergized with discussions and events that draw from key voices in the executive branch, the diplomatic community, the private sector, and civil society.

Over the past year, our study groups had a chance to welcome new Ambassadors upon their arrival to Washington, featured Foreign Ministers upon visiting the United States, hosted CEOs and chairmen of the world's largest corporations, and engaged expert pollsters and journalists.

Congressional Study Groups gave current Members of Congress and senior congressional staff the chance to hear firsthand from our friends in Berlin, Tokyo, and Seoul about issues facing not just their nations but the everyday citizens of our closest allies.

Far more than just a few exchanges with policy experts, each visit is designed to ensure our programming has a reach far beyond our capital cities. Delegations met with student groups, representatives of the media, cultural and historical experts, and policy experts, all to give a comprehensive and representative impression of the bilateral relationship with the United States.

It bears repeating that all of our work through the Congressional Study Groups is completely bipartisan. Our delegations are always an equal mix of current Members or senior congressional staff from each side of the political aisle. As you all know, there is great value in creating opportunities for Members and staff to build relationships that transcend party labels.

While the Congressional Study Groups aim to chiefly strengthen relationships with our allies overseas, they also are a great resource for our current Members seeking to build collegiality and trust with Members of the other party.

Whether sending delegations abroad or hosting visiting delegations from overseas here in the United States, our mission remains the same: constructive, productive dialogue that informs, educates, and yields pragmatic solutions.

In addition to our many U.S. delegations traveling abroad, the study groups brought decisionmakers from Germany to Texas, Louisiana, and

Pennsylvania this past year to more deeply understand the issues that shape and inform American public opinion and the average voter.

A further delegation of Japanese parliamentarians will visit Texas this September, and maybe they can figure out what is going on in Texas.

In the spirit of furthering this dialogue among our friends and allies, FMC's Diplomatic Advisory Council continues to provide a form of high-level, candid dialogue among our partners abroad. This close group of dedicated diplomatic representatives based here in Washington grew in the past year to include 12 new Ambassadors. We now count 27 of the highest diplomatic representatives among this roster.

As a matter of fact, I am going to the Irish Ambassador's residence next week as they say good-bye to the German Ambassador. She has been a good friend of our group.

Furthermore, Ambassadors from Greece, Finland, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, and Japan have hosted over 30 individual Members of Congress through the council programs.

Let me conclude—and I am sure you are glad to hear that—with one important point. You all have heard over the past few years how supportive FMC is of the work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. This committee, which is now a standing subcommittee of the House Administration Committee, identified several ways to strengthen bipartisanship and stronger ties among current Members of Congress. Among these recommendations aimed at civility and bipartisanship, the committee recommended the support and encouragement of bipartisan congressional delegation travels overseas, which is the work of Congressional Study Groups.

I strongly encourage you as former Members to help educate the public about the importance of these types of experiences.

FMC plays an incredible role through these study groups. All of us can play an equally important role by sharing our insights about this work that is so important to the Nation.

Let me close with a bit of a historical note. As Lincoln Davis, my friend and neighbor from Tennessee, knows, Davy Crockett was a Member of Congress from Tennessee. He represented a portion of the old district that I had. He was the only Member of the Tennessee congressional delegation who voted against the Indian Removal Act. They were going to move them out somewhere. Because of that, he was defeated in his next election.

He came and stood right where I am standing on the House floor. His last speech to the United States Congress was: I told my constituents that I would serve them to the best of my ability, and I did. So to hell with them. I am going to Texas.

Mr. PAYNE. Bob, Loretta, Dennis, and Bart, thank you very much for

those informative remarks, and thank you very much for all you do for FMC.

Bart has told you about the important work done by the Congressional Study Group on Korea. I want to note that the study group is a program that is exclusively offered to current Members of Congress and current staff. However, there is a very active former Member program with Korea, which we call Korea ExDel, that runs in parallel with the study group.

While wholly separate, both programs strengthen the U.S.-Korean relationship, and it would not be possible without the tireless work of two very dear friends of ours, former Member of Congress Jay Kim, who was the first Korean American elected to Congress, and his wife, Jennifer Ahn. Both of them are committed to the active and high-level dialogue involving the U.S. and Korea. Through Jay and Jennifer, we have sent several delegations to Korea.

I thank them both very much for all that they have made possible and for their incredible support of FMC as an organization.

I will take this opportunity to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement of appreciation for all of their very good work.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

Hon. L.F. PAYNE,
FMC President of Virginia House of Representatives,

HONORING THE IMPACT OF MR. AND MRS. JAY
KIM TO U.S.-ROK RELATIONS

Madame Speaker, I rise today to thank our former colleague, the Honorable Jay Chang Joan Kim (R-CA, 1993-1999) and his spouse, Mrs. Jennifer Ahn Kim, for their incredibly positive impact on United States-Republic of Korea bilateral relations.

A survivor of the Korean War and witness to the birth of the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance, Mr. Jay Kim was born 1939 in what is now Seoul, South Korea, and notably became the first Korean American Member of Congress.

After immigrating to the United States, Jay Kim completed public schools in California and earned his undergraduate degree in engineering in 1967 and subsequently, his master's degree in environmental engineering in 1969, both from the University of Southern California. A shining example of the American Dream, Mr. Kim founded his own engineering business with a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Later, he tried his hand at local government and completed a PhD in Political Science at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. In 1992, Mr. Kim handily won the race for the newly drawn 41st Congressional District in California.

In the 103rd Congress, Mr. Kim was assigned to the House Public Works and Transportation and Small Business Committees. He served on the panel for both the 104th and 105th Congresses, where he spoke out against the North Korean regime. His tenure in the House helped pave the way for more Korean American Member of Congress to follow. After departing Congress in 1999, Mr. Kim continued to advance U.S.-ROK relations as Chair of the Washington Korean-American Forum, later founding his own organizations to promote the advancement of U.S.-ROK relations, including the Jay Kim Foundation.

His wife, Mrs. Jennifer Ahn Kim, serves as Vice President of the Jay Kim Foundation,

and has worked diligently for many years to strengthen U.S.-ROK relations by developing delegations for Former Members of Congress to South Korea, among numerous other programs. She most recently has collaborated with the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress to help connect Korean government officials, corporations, and civil society groups with our membership.

I wish to honor Former Member and Mrs. Jay Kim, for their years of dedication and hard work to continue fortifying the relationship between the U.S. and one of our key allies, as well as for being a great partner to the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. They have had a tremendously positive impact on the two countries they both love so much: Korea and the United States, and they are highly deserving of our recognition and appreciation for all they have accomplished.

Mr. PAYNE. I also thank all of the many volunteers, the former Members of Congress who make FMC's success possible.

All the work that you have heard about today is done by volunteers who are former Members of Congress. It is estimated that more than 7,000 hours a year of volunteer time is donated to FMC, enabling us to carry on what we consider to be this very important work.

In addition to volunteering their time, there are five members of the Executive Committee, and I thank Barbara Comstock, Donna Edwards, Dennis Ross, and Charles Boustany for that work.

I thank our Board of Directors, a number of whom are here today. There are 30 of us on the board, and we certainly appreciate all that you do. You are really a great board, and you do great work. Thank you all.

In that vein, we are asking now the membership of FMC to elect the 2023 class of board members to a 3-year term. In the interest of expediency, I will read their names, four Democrats, four Republicans, and ask for a vote.

The candidates are:

Russ Carnahan of Missouri,
Val Demings of Florida,
Elizabeth Esty of Connecticut,
Bob Goodlatte of Virginia,
Brenda Lawrence of Michigan,
Peter Roskam of Illinois,
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, and
Fred Upton of Michigan.

Do I hear a motion and a second?

All in favor, say "aye." Opposed, "no." The ayes have it.

Congratulations, and I thank all eight of you for your willingness to serve. You will be a great class.

One last thank-you goes, importantly, to the staff of FMC: Pete Weichlein, who is here with us today; Sabine Schleidt, who is not with us at the moment; and all the folks who are here who are part of our FMC staff.

When Pete first came 20 years ago, he was sort of all there was at FMC. Today, we have 13 very capable staff members, and I would like them, if they would, to stand. Let's give them a round of applause for all the good work they do.

Finally, as many of you know, every fall, the FMC organizes a quite moving

memorial service to pay tribute to the current and former Members who we lost in the previous year. We will do so again in September, and we hope you will be able to attend that. We are coordinating with Speaker MCCARTHY the best date for that to be held, usually in September in Statuary Hall.

Unfortunately, we have lost a number of our friends and colleagues since we last gave our report to the Chamber in December.

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of these public servants.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY SINCE SEPT. 2022 FMC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Standish "Fletcher" Thompson of Georgia
James "Jim" Florio of New Jersey
Mark Souder of Indiana
Bill Brewster of Oklahoma
William Conover II of Pennsylvania
Gary A. Lee of New York
Romano "Ron" Mazzoli of Kentucky
Norman D. Shumway of California
Carroll Hubbard of Kentucky
A. Donald McEachin of Virginia
James "Jim" Kolbe of Arizona
William P. Curlin Jr. of Kentucky
Elliott H. Levitas of Georgia
Elwood "Bud" Hillis of Indiana
Arthur Ravenel Jr. of South Carolina
David Durenberger of Minnesota
James "Jim" Broyhill of North Carolina
John Oliver of Massachusetts
James Abourezk of South Dakota
Brian Donnelly of Massachusetts
Louis Arthur "Skip" Bafalis of Florida
Patricia "Pat" Schroeder of Colorado
John Jenrette of South Carolina
Ronald "Ron" Sarasin of Connecticut
Nick Galifianakis of North Carolina
Elmer "Bud" Shuster of Pennsylvania
Charles "Charlie" Stenholm of Texas
Robert "Marion" Berry of Arkansas
Thomas "Tom" Sawyer of Ohio
Donald "Don" Bonker of Washington

Mr. PAYNE. I now ask if you all might stand for a moment of silence for these people and the service that they provided.

Thank you very much.

This concludes our report. Let me remind you that, today, we have a full and exciting program, including tours of the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, followed by a luncheon with the Ambassador and the people of Ukraine. Tonight, we have the Congressional Baseball Game, and tomorrow is our excursion to Gettysburg.

I want to highlight, too, that all Members and former Members by now should have received a survey. I would really appreciate it if you would take the time to complete this. It takes about 10 to 15 minutes, but it is going to give us a lot of information, not only about your insights into today's politics, but as we are embarking on a strategic planning process, this will be very helpful information about what you think is important for us to be doing over the next 5 years.

With that, I conclude my remarks, and I thank the Speaker for giving our association the opportunity to return to this place, which we cherish very much. Thank you all.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Thank you, L.F., for this report, and more importantly,

thank you for your thoughtful and exemplary leadership of this outstanding organization.

The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House for their presence here today. Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not earlier respond when the roll was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

On behalf of the FMC, I thank the congressional staff who have helped make today's presentation possible.

As always, you have been a terrific resource, and we continue to very much appreciate all of your service, both here today and, as always, every day.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy and righteous Lord, bring us back to You. When everything around us demands our attention away from You, distracts our awareness of You, and draws us apart from You, like a shepherd lead us back to You, that we would acknowledge Your saving grace and loving mercy in every aspect of our lives.

In this, may every Member of this body align their work, their wants, and their words according to Your righteousness, and may we each yield our desires and demands to Your virtuous design for this Nation.

Open our eyes to those countries around the world who do not enjoy the liberties we have, and yet in their faithfulness have been preserved from their enemies and upheld by Your mercy. Nonetheless, no country is strong enough to boast of worldly strength nor able to rely solely on their own human virtue. None, not even Ukraine can claim as sacred the works done from the rightness of their cause. Only by Your grace, reflected in their faith, are they able to withstand their adversary.

Awaken us to share in this testimony of faithfulness and their belief in the gift of Your protection against all odds stacked against them. Summon our hearts to follow their example of trust in Your guidance, and remind us to hold on to, and claim in the face of all adversity, the hope we have in You.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.