

beaches of Normandy and ended up at Bastogne.

What are we going to have written on our headstone when this fight is over? Did we keep and preserve this republic for our kids and our grandkids?

That should be the question that guides everything we do as Republicans in charge of this House Chamber going forward.

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

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) for 60 minutes as designee of the minority leader.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to give valedictory remarks as my service as a United States Representative comes to a close.

Nearly 32 years ago, I arrived in this Chamber after the people of the most distinguished congressional district in our country gave me the honor of a lifetime to serve as their Representative in the Congress.

Over those years, I have worked to live up to that sacred trust that they placed in me and I can say that I have given it my all.

In 1993, I was sworn in as a Member of the largest freshman class since World War II with 110 new Members and one of the 47 women elected in the House in that "Year of the Woman." I was the first Democrat and the first woman in the history of my congressional district to represent it.

During that time, I had the honor to serve among the giants of the bay area delegation: Congressman George Miller, Congressman Norm Mineta, so many from the bay area known as the conscience of the House of Representatives, and my forever Speaker, NANCY PELOSI.

They gave me the guidance I needed to accomplish my goals for my first term. In my second term, I became a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, one of the oldest House legislative committees and the committee with the broadest of jurisdictions.

From that powerful position of enormous privilege, I was determined to be an ambassador to the future from the Silicon Valley District, drafting and passing 68 bills into law signed by five Presidents.

I didn't do this alone. Nearly every single bill was bipartisan and many had more than 200 cosponsors. I am proud of this body of work and what we achieved together.

During my tenure, I have witnessed much. We have witnessed much together: the horror of September 11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a painful and deep recession, the loss of over a million American souls to the pandemic, and January 6th.

However, there were so many high points: The passage many years ago in

1995 of the Telecommunications Act, the Affordable Care Act where finally we had a national health plan, a real health plan for the American people, the Violence Against Women Act, the end of over 100 years of silence by the United States with the passage of the Armenian genocide resolution, and the election of the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI.

□ 1800

Each weekend I have flown home to be with my constituents, and I have seen the words of the laws that we have written walk into people's lives. In my community, as in so many others, Federal grants paved new bike paths, created ADA accessibility, and unveiled the 21st century transportation system of electric trains.

I heard from my neighbors about small improvements, like my law many years ago to lower the volume of loud TV commercials, and big improvements like children whose lives were saved because of new pediatric treatments at Stanford's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

I am especially proud to have created two new Federal agencies to bring life-saving research to the American people: the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority—we call it BARDA—and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, ARPA-H. That agency is at work to pursue the cures for those diseases that are death sentences today.

During my tenure, I had the privilege to serve on the House Intelligence Committee, where I worked to protect and defend during the challenging times of the Iraq war, and to visit our courageous troops in the war zones where they were serving. I still picture them in the places that they were, these young men and women who answered the call of our country.

One of the most memorable events, for me, that took place right here in this Chamber was the visit of Pope Francis in 2015. I recall his words: "A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty, as Lincoln did; when it fosters a culture which enables people to 'dream' of full rights for all their brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work. . . ."

My brother-in-law carries forward that work at the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, California.

To my staff, you have been a brilliant team, a team that has crafted and negotiated the legislative legacy that I am so proud of and who have successfully helped thousands upon thousands of constituents with immigration issues, housing needs, Social Security benefits, and other important Federal issues. You heard them, you saw them, you served them, and you gave them hope. I thank you.

To all who work in this Chamber and throughout the Capitol, cleaning, cook-

ing, repairing, and administering, I thank you for your labors.

To all of my colleagues, I am grateful to you for your friendship and your support over all the years. I will miss working with you and seeing you every day.

To my beloved California delegation, to say that I will miss working with you and being with you doesn't begin to describe it. Thank you for keeping our State the golden one in our country, and I know that you will continue to. For your precious friendships, I can never thank you enough. To the Connecticut delegation, thank you for adopting me. I was born in Connecticut.

To the people of California's 16th Congressional District, you have my unending gratitude for choosing me to be your voice in Congress.

To my family, thank you for your love, your support, most of all your patience. You have sustained me every single day of my service.

While it may be customary to end these farewell speeches with advice or warnings about the future, I am not going to do that.

What I have carried with me throughout my public service are the words of my grandmother. When I was a child and I would walk past her bedroom every morning, there wasn't a time that she didn't lean over and kiss the ground. When I asked her, "Nana, why are you doing that?" this was her answer: "To thank God for this country, for what it represents, and what it has given to us."

My colleagues, love our country, defend her, make her stronger and better to serve its good and decent people.

I thank God for the blessings that have come to me, and I say farewell to all of you, my colleagues. This has been the joy, the privilege, and the pleasure of my life, and I thank you for it. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

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

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 in violation of the rules of the House.

THANKING REPRESENTATIVE CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS FOR HER SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, from the great State of Washington.

Through her 20 years of service, she has made an incredible impact in the Halls of Congress and touched the lives of so many Members who have had the privilege of working alongside of her.

I will begin by just giving my remarks. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to serve in the Halls for the past few years, but an even greater one to do so beside my colleague, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

CATHY has served in Congress for nearly 20 years, and she has made incredible sacrifices, accomplished incredible feats, and dutifully served her constituents every step of the way.

As I have gotten to know CATHY, I have learned that she leads with a servant's heart. It is her incredible affinity for helping others that has allowed her to find success and accomplish so much during her time here. She never sought the spotlight or the prestigious position she held in Congress for her own gain, but did so because of her colleagues who encouraged and trusted her.

She has paved the way for countless women in the GOP, inspiring us with her leadership, wisdom, and dedication, and she has achieved some of the highest levels of success, become a beloved friend to countless colleagues, and in my opinion, leaves us 20 years too soon.

Thank you, CATHY, for everything you have done for us. I might add, I am going to miss our prayer time, and I am going to miss walking around the Capitol praying for our Nation and just the incredible mentor you have been to me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), our new chairman of Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and dear colleague, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, for her service to our country and the committee, everything that she did with the committee, and the way it affected our Conference, this Congress, and this country.

First and foremost, I have been honored to serve with CATHY, our chair for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, for more than 10 years, the last 4 years as our leader. What an outstanding job she has done. Under her leadership, we have worked together on healthcare policy. She put her faith in me to make me the subcommittee chair for the Health Subcommittee.

By doing that, I was able to gain expertise. I am a manufacturing guy by

background, and I really dug in and learned healthcare and learned other parts of the committee. As I think my good friend from Tennessee just said, I was honored by the selection to follow her in her wonderful footsteps. I have big shoes to fill, and I look forward to having the opportunity to do so.

Under her leadership, we took on some difficult things. She has fought to force the sale of TikTok, something that is really hurting all our youth and a lot of people in our country, in a way that the court has said works. She took a while to do it, but she wanted to make sure it was right. She wanted to ensure that people have access to TikTok, people can use TikTok. She did not ban TikTok. All she said was a foreign adversary cannot own this type of business in our country.

Thank you for your leadership and for what you do, but more importantly, thanks for your friendship.

When my friend from Tennessee talks about prayerful leadership, that is absolutely the case. When the chair says, I am praying for you, you know that she is, and it is really heartfelt.

Not only do I get the opportunity to follow in your great, great path, but I also get to continue to follow you and your young and beautiful family.

What I always say, what happens in this House affects people in their homes. Congress is a snapshot of America, and our chair is a fantastic wife and mother. The experiences in her home I know she brings here, and it affects families across this country because of her leadership.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to say thank you, CATHY, and to wish you well. I know there was much celebrating when you were named chair, breaking that barrier, becoming the first woman to lead Energy and Commerce.

As we know, we just heard from our colleague, ANNA ESHOO, that there is this breadth and depth to the committee that enables us to serve people in so many ways on so many issues. On behalf of the Democrats in the House, I thank you for the opportunities you presented to work together to do a lot of legislation and certainly to effect policy in the realm of energy and environment, which have been strong points for the committee and certainly of particular interest for me.

I do appreciate all the work on the challenged, the differently abled, the people in our society who teach us much by their daily walks in life. I know your son is an inspiration to you. Thank you for carrying the torch for legislation that enables people to showcase their abilities, to be able to be included in a very powerful way. It is a lifesaving, life-changing opportunity that we can present the given community. I thank you for that forcefulness.

Personally speaking, thank you for the assistance on the medication-as-

sisted treatment effort, the MAT Act, which will, in my opinion, save lives as we enable people to prescribe for those who are struggling and living with the illness of addiction. That is going to be a major difference for so many people that we will never ever meet. That is the joy and I think the soulfulness of this job, where we are able to assist those who will be here in this universe well after we have gone or people who live here and share the moment with us but that we will never meet. Those are great opportunities for us to express in compassionate measure making a difference on behalf of individuals who have deep challenges each and every day in life.

Thank you also for the efforts on bringing together, with our side, with Ranking Member PALLONE, to be able to do the Parkinson's bill. There are 1 million people in this country who live with Parkinson's, and the fact that we are able to provide for an effort, an all-out effort, a collaborative effort with agencies in the Federal Government, working with clinicians, patients, and caregivers to make a difference, to make certain that we focus on a cure, better, earlier prognoses, and better treatments. These are measures that will really speak to the dignity of the individual and deliver hope to the doorsteps of so many people who struggle with that illness.

There are countless achievements. I know you will leave here with your heart filled with opportunities that presented themselves where you were able to deliver. On behalf of this side of the aisle, I say thank you. I am sure we haven't heard or seen the last of you. I wish you well as you go into the next phase of life.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from the great State of Tennessee for yielding to me.

Tonight we gather to honor and bid farewell to an extraordinary leader and friend, Energy and Commerce Chairwoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS. Tonight we say good-bye, as she concludes her remarkable tenure in Congress. Serving under her leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee has truly been a privilege and an honor.

□ 1815

I first met CATHY when I was a chief of staff. It was 2013, and I came to meet with her as she was the Conference chair at the time. I was shaking I was so intimidated, and I just remember she exuded a cool calmness, an openness, and, most importantly, a warmth that was immediately putting me at ease. As someone who was brand new to the Hill, someone who was a very young woman at the time who didn't know much of anything, she still made me feel like my opinion mattered. That is one of her many gifts.

Fast forward as a Member of Congress with the honor and privilege to serve here, I will never forget the night that I was in the Cloakroom and CATHY comes up to me and says, KAT, I think you would be good for the Energy and Commerce Committee. I am shaking and intimidated like, holy crap, the chairwoman is asking me to serve on the best damn committee in Congress.

It was her faith in me that really gave me an insight into how she would be as a leader, as someone who we would look to as we navigated some of the toughest pieces of legislation and controversial issues.

I later recall, after having joined the committee, attending a speech where she was asked by the moderator to give her life story. Any Member of Congress will start spouting off that I was born here, I did this, and I am that. No. CATHY stopped, and she said, I will give you my life story and who I am in 10 words. She used the following words to describe her commitment to service, who she was, who she is: a pioneer, trailblazer, leader, working mom of three, wife, ability advocate, and trust builder.

In my time serving with her, I have learned that not only does she embrace these words, but she lives them every single day.

As a pioneer and trailblazer, she is the first woman to lead the Energy and Commerce Committee, paving the way for many others to follow. She has forged paths in policy areas that were complex, controversial, tough, but, most importantly, critical to saving our Nation's future.

As a leader, she was a unifying force and continues to unify within the Energy and Commerce Committee. She has an exceptional ability to bring together Members with diverse viewpoints—which as we know here in Congress, there are many—ensuring that everyone has that feeling of being valued and also being heard.

As a wife and mother, she has balanced the responsibilities of public service and motherhood, which we all know is no easy task. She has managed it with grace and unwavering dedication.

As an ability advocate, she has been an unwavering voice for those with disabilities, advocating for policies that promote inclusion and opportunity, knowing the experience firsthand. We expect to see Cole on this House floor in many, many more years to come. He is going to be here.

As a trust builder, her honesty, transparency, and commitment to doing what is right have earned her respect in every single room that she has entered.

Chairwoman RODGERS' legacy in Congress will continue to inspire us all. I thank her for her service, her leadership, and her example. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about my good friend, an outstanding leader, Chairwoman RODGERS. We are going to miss her. I am glad we can gather today, actually this evening, to recognize the outstanding leadership of Energy and Commerce Committee Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

For the last 4 years, she has been an inspiring partner, leading priorities on our side of the aisle to protect consumers from harm, hold the administration accountable for regulatory overreach, and save children from the mental health crisis of the online generation.

This leadership is best exemplified in the work done to ban Chinese access to Americans' personal data and national security information, starting with the divestiture of TikTok from the Chinese Communist Party.

Throughout her tenure, Chair RODGERS' tenacity to fight for the people is a trait that should be emulated by us all. It is this determination that has served a great service to our committee and our country.

While Chair RODGERS returns to Washington State as a constituent to her successor, she does so having improved the lives of Americans, and she should be proud of the work achieved under her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outstanding individual, what a role model and great statesperson. We are going to miss her. She has helped me in so many different ways over the years, first as Conference chair and as chair of the best committee in the House of Representatives. I will always be grateful to her. I thank her, and God bless her.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

During the time I have known CATHY, I have admired her hard work and the devotion that she has toward her constituents and upholding her conservative values. Mostly, I admire her love of God. She is a light to all who meet her.

I have always looked forward to her leadership along with my other wonderful colleagues during our weekly morning prayers with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON in his office.

CATHY has achieved so much throughout her political career. She served in the Washington House of Representatives before coming to Congress. She has introduced key pieces of legislation, built bipartisan relationships, and ensured that the interests of her constituents and the American people are all looked out for.

CATHY will be sorely missed, but I also know that she will continue to go on and do amazing things for others. Good luck to her, and God bless her.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jer-

sey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I don't know where to begin. I think of Chair CATHY RODGERS as a friend. I truly mean that. We use that term a lot, but in her case, it is truly true. I consider her a real friend.

The other thing I wanted to say is that you hear me a lot on the floor and in the committee talking about how I often blame Republicans for being in the pocket or somehow beholden to corporate interests, to big corporations, to the wealthy. Forgive me for saying that tonight because I do say it a lot, but I have to say it is never the case with her. She has a set of values that I don't know if it is just her, it is from eastern Washington, or what it is, but she is always looking out for what I call the little guy, particularly the children.

You never get the impression with CATHY that she is here because she wants to cater to some special interest group or somebody who is wealthy. She is always looking out for the average person in a way that—I am not saying there aren't other Republicans that do that; of course, there are, many who are on the floor tonight—but there is something very special about the fact that she always looks out for the little guy. Everything that she does is oriented to trying to help the average American and not thinking about any trade association or lobbying association, at least from what I have seen.

I know she was a trailblazer. The very first day she walked in, I said I guess I always had hoped that somehow the Democrats would have the first chairwoman—not that I would want anybody to replace me as chairman or ranking member—but the fact that she was the first woman chair as a Republican I thought was rather significant, not only that she was the first chair but also that she is a Republican and in that capacity as the first chair.

Our committee has this tradition of being bipartisan. It is easy to say, but it is not always easy to make sure it happens because it is very easy in the way things are today with the media, social media, whatever, for us all to digress into shouting matches, hollering at each other, and saying bad things about each other.

CATHY would never let that happen. Oftentimes, if it was going to happen at a hearing or a markup, she would come over to me, or if she was sitting next to me, she would say: Look, what can we do to kind of calm this down so people don't go after each other?

We maintained not only bipartisanship when we can but also dignity and respect for each other. There were many occasions when, if it wasn't for the fact that she was willing to step in and do that with my help, we would have digressed into the kind of the law of the jungle or whatever you want to call it.

I know a lot has been said tonight about the legislation that she shepherded through. I missed part of it in the beginning, but a lot of it was significant. In all honesty, the nuclear package—we were at the White House, I guess in the summer, when the President signed the nuclear package. That wasn't easy. There are a lot of people who are opposed to nuclear energy, even the President himself in the past has often been against nuclear energy. We managed, through her efforts, to get that bill passed on a bipartisan basis. It was a major achievement.

Other bills that I think were very significant was the hospital transparency bill. We call it that, but it actually went way beyond hospitals. It dealt with PBMs. It dealt with insurance companies. It dealt with so many other things. Again, this goes back to, I think, her championing the idea that if we pass legislation where people can sort of be empowered themselves to do things, that that works. That is what that bill was all about. We haven't passed the Senate, but we will get it passed at some point.

It was the idea that we would empower the consumer, the individual, or the group to actually be able to do comparison shopping, create competition, which is the American way, to create that competition. I think that was, again, to her credit that she championed this, made it bipartisan, and it passed out of our committee and also passed the floor of the House.

I have to say, CATHY, that many times you would bring up China.

Oftentimes, we would have a hearing and she would start going after not China per se, but Beijing, Communist China. I would often laugh and say: Here we go again. She is going to talk about Beijing and the Communist Party in China.

The fact of the matter is, I agreed with her. I mean, I do think that the biggest threat that we face is from Beijing, from China, militarily. In terms of trade, the competition is there. That culminated in the TikTok bill and the data brokers legislation, which I know is still being challenged in the courts, but it seems like we are doing pretty good.

That was a recognition of the fact that the Communist Party in China was really out to spread misinformation and lead us down a path that was contrary and dangerous to our national security.

I would laugh when she talked about the Communist Party in China, but I agreed with her. I totally agreed with her every time she talked about it because it is absolutely true. There is no question about it.

I know another bill that we didn't have complete success on was data privacy, but again, that goes back to her caring about kids. I remember when she had all of her children. I often wondered: How is she going to do this? How is she going to have all these kids while she is in Congress? How is she

going to have these children and how is she going to continue to be a leader? She was head of the Conference, I think, part of the time, but she just managed to do it all.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, she managed to be the mother, to be the example for women as a mother, as a leader in politics, and as a legislator. I don't know how you did it, but you did manage to do it all.

Of course, when we talk about data privacy, a lot of that was her concern for social media and how it is negatively influencing kids.

I think you felt the same way about fentanyl and the drugs and how young people were being hooked on fentanyl and other drugs and that we had to do something about it. We have done some things about it in my opinion.

I thank you, CATHY. I don't want to keep going on. I know there are others who want to speak.

Thank you, CATHY. Thank you to your husband, Brian, your three kids, Cole, Grace, and Brynn, who basically sacrificed a lot while you were here. I know you want to get back to them and to eastern Washington, which you love so dearly.

I also thank Nate, Sarah, and the entire team. They not only made it possible for her to accomplish what she did but they really loved her, too. That showed, as well.

We are going to miss you. I know we are going to see you again and hopefully see you often.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Thank you, Ranking Member PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outgoing chairwoman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, on an extraordinary career in public service.

As a leader of the most powerful committee in Congress, CATHY has stood out as a dedicated public servant and a tireless champion for the children.

Under her leadership, we have advanced policies that uplift American families and inspire a new era of innovation. Her commitment to service and her vision for a brighter future have left a lasting mark on this institution.

Back home in eastern Washington, she is known simply as a humble public servant and a dedicated voice for her constituents.

CATHY has served the people of Washington's Fifth Congressional District with grace and dedication for 20 years, and she leaves behind a legacy of selflessness and service.

As she embarks on her next chapter, I extend my best wishes to CATHY, as well and my heartfelt gratitude to her husband, Brian, and her children for their unwavering support of her and her work.

Thank you, Chairwoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, for your exceptional leadership.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in celebrating the time we got to spend with our colleague, Chairwoman MCMORRIS RODGERS.

I can sum this up in one thought, and this is what I will take. The best part of this place is we get to interact with some of our colleagues and learn from others. What I will take going forward was what she exemplified, and that was being a well-rounded person.

When you talked to her, you could dive deep on all of the policy matters that go on in the Committee on Energy and Commerce. You could also dig in and learn about her experience leading the Republican Conference with her efforts on messaging.

More importantly, what she always loved to talk about was being a mother to amazing children, some of which I have had a chance to meet and been inspired by, as well. She and her husband have lived and will continue to live a life of service.

She is somebody who doesn't just talk about reading the Bible. She lives it. This is somebody who isn't narrowly focused on one aspect of life. She embraces a well-rounded way to live and touch as many people as possible, and that is what I will learn and continue to take from her example.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant, loving wife, mother, and a distinguish Member of this body, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, and to share the story of our work together on behalf of America's military families.

In 2009, we founded the Congressional Military Family Caucus. Every year since then, we hosted a summit, alternating between Fairchild Air Force Base and Fort Moore, which gives the members of America's Armed Forces, their spouses, and their children an opportunity to hear from the Department of Defense leaders and subject-matter experts, as well as share their families' experiences and challenges.

The caucus has brought to the forefront and tackled numerous issues such as food insecurity, medical care, spousal employment, family relocation challenges, childcare, and so much more.

I have especially been inspired by her advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities, her dedication to our veterans and military families, and her commitment to statesmanship and bipartisanship in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I join all of my colleagues in commending Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS for her dedicated service to the American people. While we will greatly miss her leadership on Capitol Hill, we wish her and her family the best as she embarks upon the next chapter of her life.

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

RECOGNIZING RETIRING U.S. REP.
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my friend, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS.

From taking on TikTok, as we have talked about, to boosting America's energy strategy, Chairwoman RODGERS has been our fearless leader for the last 4 years on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and as Conference chair before that.

I am most thankful for her commitment to taking care of our Nation's children, all our children. Through her efforts on kids' online privacy and safety, as well as on improving health outcomes for babies, children, and mothers, her passion and hard work have never wavered.

We are sad to see her go but wish her God's richest blessings in her next stage of life, for it is God who guided her good and principled representation of those she served.

The State of Washington and her family are lucky to have her back. Maybe I would change that from lucky to blessed to have her back full time.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for your years of service to this country, the committee, the God you serve, and Members like me who so appreciated your leadership. God bless you.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here tonight with my colleagues to recognize Chairwoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS and her remarkable service to the United States Congress.

When she was elected to Congress, CATHY was a Member of our leadership team, serving as the chair of the House Republican Conference. In the 115th Congress, she led our Conference's messaging machine as we delivered historic results for the American people including the best economy in our lifetime.

Additionally, I have learned a great deal from CATHY's leadership on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce this Congress as she helped each Member fulfill our promises to reclaim American energy dominance, expand clean power generation, and improve transparency in our Nation's healthcare system.

Above all else, I have cherished sharing our faith and fellowship during LEAD House over these past years.

Your love of God and family and devotion to your Christian values is

something we will miss in the next Congress. I am proud to call you my sister in the faith.

May God bless you and your family as you embark on your next season in life. Sister, I love you dearly.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate my friend, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, a dedicated leader whose two decades of service to Washington's Fifth Congressional District and our Nation have been truly exceptional.

If I only had one word to describe CATHY, it would be trailblazer, and many people have said that yet tonight. She has been a great example of how it is possible to balance a demanding career in public service, while also being committed to her family.

She was the 200th woman elected to Congress, the first female chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the first woman to have three children while serving in Congress. She embodies grace and resilience. She is kind and caring. She always desires to help others achieve success.

Quite frankly, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS is one of the driving reasons I stand in this Chamber today. Thank you.

Those are not the only reasons or the only qualities that make her stand out. Her leadership as chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been transformative. She has led efforts to advance energy security, promote healthcare innovation, and build a stronger, more competitive economy.

We could go on and on tonight on her policy success. She has been a champion for rural communities, small businesses, and families. She has advocated for policies that reflect the values of the American people. Her legacy is one of tireless advocacy, principled leadership, and a deep commitment to improving the lives of others.

It has been an honor to serve alongside CATHY and witness the incredible impact she has made while serving in Congress. While it is bittersweet and the Conference will miss her, we are overjoyed that she will spend more time with her beloved family, with Brian, Cole, Grace, and Brynn.

CATHY, best wishes and congratulations. Thank you for your guidance and friendship. You have shown us all what true servant leadership looks like.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman (Ms. TENNEY) from of New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great colleague from New York, Mr. TONKO. I really appreciate this honor.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard so many wonderful things about our outgoing chairwoman, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, or, as we like to call her, CMR. That is who she was when I first came into Congress.

As you know, she served 20 years. She served honorably. She is an incredible

mother. She has championed so many great policies.

I would just like to say I call CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS a friend. I have to say this from my heart. I have never met another person on Earth who represents the godly qualities so important to serving in public office. She is honest, she has integrity, she has compassion, and she has charity. Those things are very rare, and she is going to be so missed with those qualities.

She is also a true friend. True friends are hard to come by in Washington, D.C. She is one of those people who stands with you honestly and confidentially throughout the difficult times, throughout your good times.

I am so grateful to CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS for everything she has done for me as a leader, everything she has done for our Nation, and the State of Washington.

Another really important part of CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS that I am really going to miss is her son, Cole, who has been a dear friend of mine here when he comes to visit us in Washington. Cole has become a great friend and a wonderful inspiration for me. I know he inspires so many of us here in Congress and especially CATHY and her family.

When Cole was here last, I was a little agitated about a couple of things. I got a little anxious. Cole said: Chill out.

I think that is what CATHY will do when she retires next year. She is going to chill out for a little while. She will never stop serving our country, her State, our Nation, our world, her family, and our God.

We are so grateful to you and for having you here. It has been a complete blessing to know you.

There is never a better friend that I have ever met than CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, our beloved CMR.

I wish you and your family the best. You really are one in a billion, one in several billion on Earth. We thank you so much. Congratulations and thank you so much for your really honorable, wonderful service to our community.

□ 1845

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding, and I thank Congresswoman HARSHBARGER for doing this for us and for CATHY.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS exemplifies principled leadership. As chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, she has championed—you have heard about them—the policies that protect American families, secure energy independence, and foster innovation.

Her deep commitment to her faith, her family, and the cause of freedom has been a guiding light, and her presence will undoubtedly leave a void here in Washington.