

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.

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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.

I want to give you a personal insight from RANDY WEBER. She was the conference chair, I don't know, 4 years ago maybe, and she got some opposition when she was going to run for conference chair, from a woman. It was going to be a little tough. It was going to be a little tough on the Republican Conference, the Republican Members of Congress.

CATHY very graciously stepped down and said she would not run, which left the seat open for the lady that did get the Republican Conference chair. That just shows that she has grace and she cared more about the conference than she cared about herself.

Her deep commitment to her faith, her family, and the cause of freedom has been that kind of guiding light and undoubtedly is going to leave that void I talked about.

Under CATHY's leadership, I have watched this committee tackle critical issues from affordable energy to healthcare challenges, making our Nation stronger.

I was involved with about three Bible studies, and then I found out that CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS had one on Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. I said I am going to start going to that Bible study if she will let me. Unfortunately for her, she did. She let me in. I have watched her grow. I have watched her lead and pray for the Nation and pray for our friends on both sides of the aisle.

CATHY's dedication to America, Washington's Fifth District, and her colleagues, all I can say to them and to us is that we have walking among our midst—if you read the Bible, book of Proverbs, chapter 31, we have a virtuous woman.

CATHY, we are going to miss you in these Halls, but we are grateful that you were here. In the words of our Lord: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to be here, to get to recognize such an exemplary Member of Congress.

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS does all of the things that you could hope a Member of Congress would do, and she does them with integrity and incredible skill. She leads on policy, tackling some of the most challenging issues of our time. She is completely unafraid to confront an issue because it is complicated or because it is a political challenge. If it is the right thing to do, she will stand behind it and she has. She has been an example to all of us in that way.

Equally important, she is an example to us of the type of person and the type of Member that we should all aspire to be. She is a spiritual leader to so many in Congress.

You have heard mentioned already tonight not just of one Bible study but of numerous, because she ensures that

she meets Members where they are and that each of us has an opportunity to have a friend, a partner, somebody to walk with in our own spiritual journey as we are here. That is so vital to this place and our relationships with one another.

Everyone who knows her knows that she cares about her home and her family, and she is also an example to so many of us that we don't have to sacrifice that in order to serve here.

When I was thinking about running for Congress and before I had decided whether I could, she was one of the people who stopped what she was doing to talk to me. She shared with me the story of her family and how she managed to do both this, to be a good, strong Member fighting for good policy and for her constituents, but also to remain a wife, a mother, a servant of God, and that all of those things could, in fact, be done at once. She made the case that, in fact, it was necessary to have people in this place who were willing to try to do all of those things well at the same time.

There is no other person who I can think of who has done more to reach out, support, mentor, and help particularly new women who are Members of Congress. She has shown the way to do this and to do it well.

I am so happy for her, for her family, for the people back home who get to have her more often. I will tell you this, for those of us who stay here in Washington, D.C., she will be dearly, dearly missed.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague and good friend, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

As chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congresswoman RODGERS not only delivered results for the American people but she helped me secure wins for Idahoans.

Among many things, I am thankful for her commitment to boosting liquefied natural gas capacity in Idaho and the Northwest, for support of my bill to expand broadband solutions in rural Idaho, for her work in cracking down on China's surveillance of Americans' data, and for providing me with the opportunity to support building out the nuclear workforce, along with advancing legislation to issue a warning label on mobile apps owned by Communist China.

It has been such a privilege to serve alongside such a respected and impactful leader. I join many in expressing my support and encouragement to you, CATHY, as you move forward to this next chapter of life.

Most importantly, and my bottom-line message is, Washington State, the United States of America, and the United States Congress is all better because of you.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I believe that leaves the individual of focus this evening, the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS).

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as I rise here tonight, yes, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. To all my colleagues, I thank you. I thank you for your friendship and your support. What an amazing institution the United States House of Representatives is.

Part of my mission has been to restore trust and confidence in this institution because I believe it is so important in our Nation.

To my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee and beyond, it really is great to be with you tonight.

What an amazing journey for me, a farm kid, growing up and working alongside my brother and parents at our orchard and fruit stand in Kettle Falls, Washington, to walking the Halls of Congress, being elected the 200th woman ever to serve in this institution, and ultimately as the chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

I have truly lived the American Dream.

To the people of eastern Washington, thank you. Thank you for putting your trust in me to be your voice in Congress for the past 20 years. Each person that I have met along the way influenced and inspired me in ways that I couldn't imagine. Serving you has been the honor of my life.

I also want to thank my family. I couldn't have done it without my amazing, loving, and supportive husband, Brian, who has been by my side the last 18 years, at least. He said carrying the load at home was harder than anything he ever did in the Navy in his 26 years there.

Thank you, Brian. You are the love of my life and the man of my dreams.

To our beloved, beautiful children, Cole McMorris Rodgers, now 17; Grace Blossom Rodgers, 14; and Brynn Catherine Rodgers, 11: You are the greatest blessings of my life. We are so proud, and I can't wait to be home with you.

I thank my mom, Corene McMorris, for being my fierce defender against all who dare accuse me of anything wrong; my stepdad, Vern White, for his embracing of this journey.

I thank my brother, Jeff McMorris, who managed my first campaign for Congress in 2004. It was there that he renewed his acquaintance with and fell in love with my sister-in-law, Sarah, an amazing woman who also dedicated much of her time and energy to helping me win.

I thank my nieces and nephew, Kate, Reagan, Conner, and Halle, who I adore for joining me on the campaign trail.

I thank my dad, Wayne McMorris, who impressed everyone as my sign chairman back in 2004, blanketing the Fifth Congressional District with red, white, and blue "Cathy for Congress" signs.

Brian's family also joined in the fun, as well as so many, many friends and supporters.

What an honor and privilege it has been for me to represent all of you.

To my team, words cannot express my gratitude for the hundreds of brilliant men and women who have served alongside me here in my congressional office and on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and back home in my district and campaign offices. While it was always my name on the door, it was your dedication that helped me succeed and deliver results.

Together, we have fun while we SERVE—Seek excellence, Everybody matters, Respectably own it, Vigilant integrity, and Embrace change. It made all the difference.

Although I would like to give each one of you a shout-out by name, I thank the leadership, various chiefs of staff, and district directors beginning with Connie Partoyan, Jeremy Deutsch, David Condon, David Peluso, Jared Powell, Kyle VonEnde, Karli Plucker, Dick Leland, Chud Wendle, Traci Couture, Patrick Bell, Kristina Sabestinas, Dawn Sugasa, Nate Hodson, and Sarah Burke, who helped me navigate the mighty waters, the many highs and lows, and the disappointments and crowning achievements of my time in Congress.

Most of all, I am grateful to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lovingly drew me closer to him over the past 20 years. He has spoken to me about his mercies that are new each morning, and he has poured out his grace on me and my family.

As I leave Congress, I urge all of us to look for ways to cultivate more grace, love, and forgiveness in this world and serve others. We hope for a time of healing.

Alexis de Tocqueville said it so well. He said: “America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

I have served with so many good people and had the honor of representing the good people of eastern Washington. For that, I am grateful. I say thank you, may God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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

HONORING KAY GRANGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart full of gratitude

and admiration to honor my dear friend and colleague, Representative KAY GRANGER, a true Texas legend whose retirement marks the end of an extraordinary era in this House.

KAY GRANGER is not just a trailblazer. She is absolutely a Texas institution. From her early days as the first woman to serve as the mayor of Fort Worth, to pave the way as the first Republican woman from the State of Texas to serve in Congress, to her historic tenure here in Congress serving Texas’ 12th Congressional District, KAY GRANGER has embodied the values that Texans hold dear.

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KAY GRANGER has embodied the values that Texans hold dear. Mr. Speaker, those values would happen to be faith, fortitude, and an absolute unwavering commitment to doing what is right.

As chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee where she made history becoming that, KAY demonstrated unparalleled leadership in guiding one of the most critical responsibilities for Congress, and that would be overseeing the power of the purse.

Mr. Speaker, KAY GRANGER’s wisdom and steady hand have ensured that our appropriations process prioritized the need of the American people while safeguarding the principles of limited government.

I have had the privilege of serving along with KAY in the Texas delegation for the past 11 years, Mr. Speaker, and let me tell you, she has been nothing short of extraordinary. In Texas we say: You done good.

The Texas row on the House floor will not be the same without her. KAY has been an absolute cornerstone of our Texas delegation, a voice we have relied on, a leader we have admired, and a friend we have cherished.

KAY’s leadership on the House Appropriations Committee and her ability to get things done have moved the needle in a giant Texas way, and not just for Texas, but for the entire country.

KAY, your dedication to service has truly been a blessing to this Congress and to every Texan who has had the honor of calling you their Representative. You have made Texas proud, KAY GRANGER, and we are all better for having worked alongside you.

KAY, please know this: as you head into retirement, you are leaving a legacy that will surely stand the test of time. We hope you get to enjoy that retirement in the greatest State in the Nation, the one and only Lone Star State.

Let me reiterate, KAY, thank you for your friendship, for your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to the values we hold dear.

God bless you, KAY. May He continue to hold you and continue to guide you in this next chapter.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the eve of her retirement to

honor Chairwoman KAY GRANGER for her many years of dedicated work on behalf of Texans everywhere and our entire country.

For nearly three decades, Chairwoman GRANGER has tirelessly served the 12th Congressional District of Texas. For many of us, she has been a valued mentor, and, more importantly, a respected friend. As the most senior member of the Texas Republican delegation, her experience, wisdom, and leadership have been a valuable resource. In fact, they have been invaluable.

Chairwoman GRANGER has been a true trailblazer, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten. Her time in public service has been marked by many firsts. She served as the first female mayor of Fort Worth, the first Republican Congresswoman from Texas, and the first female Republican to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

Over the years, Chairwoman GRANGER has left a lasting impact on the Dallas/Fort Worth area, our great State of Texas, and our Nation as a whole. She has worked tirelessly to advocate for her constituents and to advance policies and improve the lives of both Texans and Americans everywhere.

She has successfully secured funding for many worthy local funding projects in Fort Worth, increased local and national defense spending to protect the American people, and kept a close eye on overall Federal spending. Her contributions to preserving our national security and supporting economic growth will not soon be forgotten.

Chairwoman GRANGER, thank you for setting the standard in our mission to represent the great people of Texas. Your leadership is a testament to the strength of the Texas spirit, and your work will have a lasting impact for generations to come. We have truly been blessed by your leadership, dedication, and service, but, most of all, your friendship.

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of my lifelong friend, KAY GRANGER. We both shared Fort Worth as our hometown.

Throughout the years, I have watched her lead in the classroom, on the city council as mayor, as a Congresswoman, and as chairwoman. She can make a deal, she can close a deal, and she has no problem making a decision and sticking with it. Her word is her bond, and to her, a handshake means something. She has truly lived a life worth being copied.

To my friend and colleague, KAY, thank you for your friendship and thank you for your leadership.

May God bless you, and in God we trust.