

actually talk with Putin. That takes real courage, given the general view among Republican elites.

Contrast that with Clinton, who thinks we should not be talking too much to Putin and that we ought to further expand NATO because, in her view, Russia would be an even greater threat had it not been for NATO expansion. Of course, to admit that NATO expansion triggered the current crisis would be admitting that her husband is largely responsible for it.

Trump seems to understand George Kennan's warning that NATO expansion would directly lead to a more paranoid and aggressive Russia.

Trump, for all his bizarre commentary on domestic issues, better grasps the subtleties of global politics and the dangers of thinking ourselves infallible and invincible.

It is quite an irony: The ostensibly more reckless, infantile, inexperienced and bombastic candidate may actually be more mature, level-headed, and reasonable on foreign policy than his critics who, against all the good advice our parents gave us as children, pout and refuse to talk to those they don't like, escalate arguments to violence when they are upset, lack any remorse for the harm caused by their past opinions and actions, and fail repeatedly to see that there might be two sides to any disagreement.

Mr. Speaker, I think these words of Ambassador Musson should be considered very seriously by all of our Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

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 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Martin Frost, Secretary of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8:30 a.m.

PRAYER

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

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

May their presence here bring a moment of pause, where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died since last year's meeting. May their families and their constituents be

comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to the House.

Finally, bless those gathered here, that they might bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your Holy Name now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARTIN FROST led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. FROST. The Chair is happy at this point to recognize the distinguished Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. First of all, welcome everybody. I see a lot of familiar faces, a lot of folks I served with, people I know who came here before I served.

I came here when I was 28, in 1998, and never thought I would be doing what I am doing. And it is just funny how this place can work its will.

I would say a couple of things.

I grew up with mentors. I lost my dad when I was young, so I went from mentor to mentor to mentor. When I came here to this job at a young age, I had a lot of mentors. Jack Kemp was my original mentor, who taught me about public service and politics and policy. A lot of you, like Jim, you served with Jack; you knew him well from the delegation and the rest.

But then when I came here, I had mentors. I don't know if McCreery is here or not. Jim is a part of the organization, I assume; right? So Jim McCreery.

Bill Thomas was a mentor of mine. Even though that is hard to imagine, he really was because he taught me to be scrutinous, how to really pay attention to detail.

I see Tim Petri is here. Tim Petri was a mentor. He taught me kindness. He taught me how to relate to people. He taught me how to be like a nice person and still be a nice person after years in Congress. I try.

But all I would say is it is great to have you home. So welcome home.

I look at you, and I see relaxed faces. I see the lines have kind of gone away. I see happy people. I see people in a great phase and stage of life. So know that when we see you, it gives us happiness and hope because we know that, in the mix of the day and all the tumult we go through around here, a lot of this is just a tempest in the teapot; a lot of this is just noise that doesn't take us off the horizon where we are all going to.

So I would say a couple of things. Thank you for being the mentors you have been, on behalf of the people you have been mentored to, number one. Number two, thank you for your passion and for keeping your dedication to the causes you believed in and the causes you came here to fight for.

I came young, idealistic, you know, thinking I kind of knew everything. And then as time got on, in the ninth term, I realized discernment, temperament, and just good judgment is what matters the most. And I realized that there is so much we have yet to learn from people who have walked the same path and have been in the same kind of shoes. And because you are here giving the rest of our Members—on our side of the aisle, 65 percent of our people are first- or second-termers. So we have so many new people for whom it is important that they learn from those who have been through this. It is important that you make new friendships with new people so that they can get a little discernment and get a little wisdom from your pearls that you can drop them. So thank you for being here and being involved in doing that. Please mentor some of our folks.

And the last point I would say is just thanks for showing that this life of public service continues on in a very graceful way, in a very relaxing way, in a way where you can really be in control of your own destiny in your own time. I mean, probably you look back at this and you remember time was my problem, time management, having time to do this, having time to do that. That is one of the big frustrations of the day to day around here. And just knowing that you can get back in control of your own time and your own life after these days of public service, that, to me, is very comforting. It is a very comforting thought.

So your presence helps our Members kind of get their keel, get their groove, get their sense of peace and calm so that they can focus on what is really important and not get distracted by the things that knock us off our game. So all I would say is welcome. It is great having you, and thanks for doing what you do. I appreciate it.

Mr. FROST. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we all wish you well in the months ahead.

The Chair recognizes the distinguished Democratic whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I am glad I got here to hear the Speaker talk a little bit. And I am so glad that you guys have brought calm and consideration to us junior Members. I happen to be one of the old junior Members, as all of you know—I am older than some of you—but I am still here.

Mr. FROST. We wish you a happy birthday.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you so much.

I always loved so many of you with whom I had the opportunity to serve.

I remember a time many years ago when I got into the Members' elevator on floor seven, which my office is on floor seven in the Longworth. I have got an office here, too, obviously, as you know. But anyway, this young kid gets on, tall, dark, nice-looking kid got on, and I sort of looked at him and wondered who he was. He thought I was looking at him as if he shouldn't be on

the elevator, which I, by the way, think is a pretty kind of arrogant thing to have. This is a Members' elevator.

In any event, I said, "Hi." He said, "I am PAUL RYAN. I am a Member." And he has since been calling me "old man" for a number of years now, which I highly resent, which I don't think is very bipartisan and not good camaraderie. But in any event, he does it anyway.

All of you have seen the House for a long period of time. I came in 1981. Some of you came before, and I have been here since. I remember Jim and I serving together on the Appropriations Committee, others of you—Jo Bonner. Bev Byron I have known since—there was just censorship there. She said, "All right. That is enough."

She is like NANCY. I start telling stories about NANCY, and NANCY says, "Nope. Nope. That is not when it happened. It happened 20 years later than you are saying it happened."

But in any event, it is lamentable what has happened to the House. You know, we can have a lot of happy talk, and we can talk about all this. It is lamentable—it is manifest, frankly, in our Presidential campaign—and our country deserves better.

ELIJAH CUMMINGS, our colleague, whom many of you know, he says, "We are better than that." And we are better than that.

I remember serving with so many of you for such a long period of time where, yes, there was an aisle, but there was much greater diversity of sentiment in terms of working together than exists today—in part, because a lot of Members are new. We have had great turnover.

Remember, we talked about term limits. You have got to have turnover. There has been extraordinary turnover. Has it been helpful? I am not so sure. I am not so sure because Members come, and before they get to know people as individuals, as opposed to just Republicans or R's on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle, they want to confront.

Now the longer you get to know people—you know, Chris Shays. Sure, he was a Republican, I am a Democrat, but we had an opportunity to sit down and talk. And Jim and Chris are sitting next to one another now. You know, they are friends. We are all friends.

I mentioned Jo's name. But a lot of Republicans that I have been very close to—as many of you know, ROY BLUNT is one of my best friends, and he was the minority whip and then the minority leader for a while, and we worked very closely together.

You know what I tell my staff? I say, when they leave—all to make more money than I am making, for the most part, or that you made when you were here. I say, "I let my staff go off the payroll, but not off the staff."

You are off the payroll. But I hope none of you—and obviously your presence here in this Chamber reflects that

you think you are off. And that is what PAUL was talking about. PAUL was talking about those of you who have served.

Connie and I—and Connie and I were on different sides of the aisle in our State; but Connie and I have been good friends, with great respect for one another. And I know that Bev and Connie are good friends. They represented sort of the same part of our State, the western part of our State.

We have lost that. And, frankly, I want to tell my Republican former colleagues that your side of the aisle now is having great difficulty working together with one another—forget about the other side of the aisle—and that is why John Boehner wasn't speaking to you today. John Boehner ultimately said, look, if you don't want to work with me, I am out of here. Not to us. John and I worked very closely together. We had a great relationship.

And I think a lot of PAUL RYAN, but he has got a lot of Members who think that they are not part of a team but they are part of a different group that is outside, that wants to confront. I don't want to be too negative here, but we would be silly and we would be Pollyannaish if we didn't look at this and say this is a problem for our country and we need to resolve it.

We need to let our citizens know that, yes, each of us has ideas in our own districts, but we come here in a body of 435 people. It wasn't that large when our Founding Fathers constructed it, but they constructed it so that it would be a crucible to which we could bring all the differences and different perspectives and different interests that we have in the country and try to bring them together, sort of grind them up so they would come out as a positive substance together.

Barb is shaking her head. Barbara and I came in special elections, and we came just sort of back-to-back in special elections. Bev was already here. Some of you were already here when I got here. We were able to work together.

I tell people, you know, even in the Gingrich years, when it was perceived to be really—you know, Gingrich came in on fire, and he worked us about 9,000 hours a week. My Republican friends were coming over here and saying, "He is going to kill us." I mean, we were working around the clock, some of you who were here. But the fact is there was a large number of people who were in the body at that point in time who were used to working together.

Of course those of us who served on the Appropriations Committee, on the Appropriations Committee, it was pretty easy to make a deal. You know, if you have got \$100 and you are in the majority, you get \$60, the minority gets \$40. There is not a philosophical issue here. It is easy just to divide it up. On the authorizing committees, it is a little tougher. But, frankly, all the committees now, as you have seen, have become sort of partisan con-

frontations—not good for the country, not good for the Members.

By the way, the working conditions of Members has been sorely tested. And I will tell you—and I tell my Republican friends, if I were the Speaker or the leader, I would work very hard to get earmarks back, make sure that Members get COLAs so they don't have to be living in their offices, and make sure that we go back to the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. Not only have Members not gotten COLAs for 7 years, but they are paying \$4,000, on average, more for their health insurance, because GRASSLEY thought it would be a fun thing to do to say, okay, you want the Affordable Care Act, all of you guys are going to have to be in, in effect, the D.C. small market.

So, Members, when you see Members, they are getting \$4,000 or \$5,000 less in take-home pay because the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program is no longer available to them. We are not serving Members well or this institution well.

My view, as a leader, was to try to protect Members from themselves. I am serious. You know, if a leader can't take the heat and say, look, this is what we are going to do for Members who cannot take the heat because they will be demagogued by taking a 1.5 percent COLA—what a lot of baloney that is. We don't have the press here, but I say this publicly.

Members are feeling put upon—I don't mean some of the ideologues who think it is great to beat their chest and wear a sack cloth and black ash all over them. But we need you to speak up on that because you can speak up on that, and you can say, if you don't have respect for your Members, you are not going to have respect for your institution.

I forget which Member said—we were talking about pay at one point in time. He said, "Well, pay then was probably, you know, maybe \$120,000 or something." And I said, "Well, you may not think I am worth it, but the job is worth it. And elect somebody you think is worth the job."

I think former Members can do a great deal, given your perspective, given your experience, and given the fact that it no longer has political consequences for you, that you can speak up to make the institution stronger by respecting our Members and making it affordable for all but the rich to serve here.

So I thank you for staying in touch, for staying on the staff—not on the payroll, but staying on the staff—and for making sure that the public understands what a great institution this is.

And I tell people the Congress of the United States, right now, in my view, is less than the sum of its parts. And I tell people there are great Members on both sides of the aisle, but together we are not, as a board of directors for the greatest country on the face of the Earth, doing what we need to do for our country and for our people.

Thank you for staying involved. Thank you for raising up the message of what a great institution this is and how critically important it is to have respect for our institutions if our democracy is going to be all that we want it to be.

God bless you. Thank you very much.

Mr. FROST. I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

The Chair now calls upon the Honorable Jim Walsh, vice president of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, to present the Association's annual report to Congress.

Mr. Walsh.

Mr. WALSH. I thank the Chair and ask the Clerk to call the roll of former Members.

Mr. Altmire of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Blanchard of Michigan.

Mr. Bonner of Alabama.

Ms. Byron of Maryland.

Mr. Carr of Michigan.

Mr. Edwards of Texas.

Mr. Ferguson of New Jersey.

Mr. Frost of Texas.

Mr. Gordon of Tennessee.

Mr. Gingrey of Georgia.

Mr. Hertel of Michigan.

Mr. Horsford of Nevada.

Mr. Hughes of New Jersey.

Ms. Kennelly of Connecticut.

Mr. Konnyu of California.

Mr. Kramer of Colorado.

Mr. Lancaster of North Carolina.

Mr. Lungren of California.

Mr. McIntyre of North Carolina.

Mr. Mezvinsky of Iowa.

Mr. Moran of Virginia.

Ms. Morella of Maryland.

Mr. Petri of Wisconsin.

Mr. Rahall of West Virginia.

Mr. Sarasin of Connecticut.

Mr. Shays of Connecticut.

Mr. Slattery of Kansas.

Mr. Stearns of Florida.

Mr. Tanner of Tennessee.

Mr. Walsh of New York.

Mr. FROST. The Chair announces that 30 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

Mr. Walsh.

Mr. WALSH. Thank you all for coming here and being with us this morning. It is always a great privilege to be back in this Chamber and to reconnect with so many friends and colleagues, and there are many here.

I am honored to represent the Association today in my capacity as vice president of the organization. I am a nonascending vice president. I ask that I not be considered as president, and I am delighted that Cliff Stearns will be the new president. So I suspect this will be my last opportunity to speak from the well, other than perhaps with a tour of family and friends and so forth.

My dad served here before I did, so it is a great, great pleasure to make this presentation with you this morning, to have the associations that I have had with you all over the years. It is a huge and distinct honor to serve in this place. You all have experienced that. Very few people do. You all know the

purpose of this place and the importance of this place, and we, every day, even as retired Members, represent those values.

So I have had the great pleasure of serving with Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut. I am very proud of the many impactful things that we have been able to accomplish through the Association this year.

We have many, many programs. And over the next 20 minutes or so, Barbara and I will report on our work. Unlike other years, we are a bit pressed for time, so Barbara and I will submit for the RECORD a more in-depth report covering our activities since the 2015 annual meeting. I encourage you to go online in a day or two and take a look at the additional information in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because we really are delighted with how much our Association accomplishes, both domestically and abroad.

Our Association is bipartisan. It was founded in 1970 and chartered by the Congress in 1983. The purpose of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is to promote public service and strengthen democracy, abroad and in the United States. About 600 former Senators and Representatives belong to the Association. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents are united in this organization's desire to teach about Congress and the importance of representative democracy.

We are proud to have been chartered by Congress, and we are proud to receive no funding from Congress. All the activities which we are about to describe are financed via membership dues—thank you—program-specific grants and sponsors, or via our major fundraising dinner, which many of you have helped with, and we would welcome even more.

Our finances are sound, our projects are fully funded, our most recent audit by an outside accountant confirmed that we are running our Association in a fiscally sound, responsible, and transparent manner.

It has been another successful, active, and rewarding year. We have continued our work serving as a liaison between the current Congress and legislatures overseas. We have created partnerships with highly respected institutions in the area of democracy building and election monitoring. We have developed new projects and are expanding others. And we again sent dozens of bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to teach about public service and representative democracy at universities and high schools, both in the United States and abroad.

Our most important domestic undertaking is teaching America's next generation about their government and their responsibility of citizenship. We do so via our Congress to Campus program. And I would like to thank Larry LaRocco of Idaho and Jack Buechner of Missouri, who co-chair the Congress to Campus program, for the terrific job that they are doing with this program.

The Congress to Campus program sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges and universities across the country and around the world. The program engages our Members from all over the country, to educate the next generation of leaders about the institution of Congress, the duties and responsibilities of being a Member of Congress, and, most importantly, the value of public service. And since our visits always involve a bipartisan team, they demonstrate that civil discourse can be—and should be—respectful and dynamic, all while remaining courteous.

The former Members volunteer their time leading classes, meeting with student leaders and campus organizations, speaking to campus media, sharing meals with students and faculty, joining in student government meetings and holding community forums and interacting with local citizens.

The schools are encouraged to offer the program to the entire campus community, and even to reach out into the community at large, to show how decisions in Congress affect their areas of study, and their everyday lives. The former Members also ask the students to look at the importance of public service and to consider whether they would like to engage in public service.

We are delighted to report that this year we have added some new schools to our roster as well as having returned to visit some of our favorites. During the 2015–2016 academic year, the Congress to Campus program visited over 22 schools, including Palm Beach State, Missouri Western University, Boise State University, Waubesa Community College, both the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point, and, I am proud to say, my alma mater, St. Bonaventure University, where I was joined by Richard Stallings of Idaho. It was fun. That is just to name a few of the colleges. More than 40 former Members participated during the academic year, including a few who had never participated in the Congress to Campus program before, but have vowed to participate more in the future. Most of the former Members wonder who gets more out of the visits, they or the students.

I hope the Members in attendance this morning will consider volunteering and inviting a friend from across the aisle to join them on a visit. If your time is limited, you can still help the program, for example, by connecting us with your alma mater or a school located in your old congressional district.

We are thrilled that we continue our outstanding partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we are grateful particularly to its associate director, Brother Rogers. The Stennis Center has been a great partner in bringing the program to schools all around the country.

Internationally, the Congress to Campus program was again able to send two delegates to the U.K. for a week-long visit where the former Members met with hundreds of British students and also participated in town

hall meetings open to the public. It has been reported that this is one of the highlights of their semester, and we want to thank Philip Davies with the British Library in London for all he does to make the U.K. program so successful.

Also thanks to David Skaggs, our colleague from Colorado, who was able to arrange for a Congress to Campus visit to Oman, Jordan. I understand it was a fascinating experience. We hope to arrange for more international Congress to Campus visits. We find that students around the world are deeply interested in the U.S. Government and the political system. Who better to explain how Congress truly works than former Members. The students of the host countries are extremely inquisitive and immensely appreciative of the visit. We hope to have more international Congress to Campus visits on the roster in the future.

Sadly, after years of partnering with the People to People program, the organization is no longer in existence. However, Former Members of Congress has expanded its partnership with Envision, which brings hundreds of middle school students from around the country to our Nation's capital to learn about leadership and the American government. We have 12 days this summer for a bipartisan pair of former Members to speak to hundreds of middle school students. In fact, Jason Altmore from Pennsylvania and Ann Marie Buerkle from my old district of upstate New York addressed a group of students this morning here in the House Chamber. Thank you to all of the Members who have been available to the students, and if there are any former Members here now willing to talk with these young people this summer, please tell our staff.

We also partnered with the Ford's Theatre and their oratory programs, by being an example of how public speaking is critical to influencing people and getting across a point of view. We have recently begun to work with the D.C. Public Schools system to bring former Members into the D.C. high school U.S. Government classes.

An informed and engaged citizenry helps our democracy prosper. As former Members, I hope that you will consider becoming involved in this program and all of the programs that FMC has to offer to inspire and educate America's young people and future leaders.

Since our last annual meeting and our last report to Congress, we have added a number of projects to expand our outreach in civic education. One is a series of webinars which brought a condensed version of Congress to Campus to community colleges across the country. Bipartisan teams of former Members were assembled here in Washington and spent 2 hours via Internet connecting with a number of community colleges.

The schools brought the former Members team either into a specific class or had a large

group of students meet as an extracurricular activity. After making some opening remarks focused on a specific topic, for example our environmental policy, the students were given the opportunity to question our former Members via email.

While this certainly cannot replace the value of a person-to-person visit, it is a cost-effective and abbreviated way of bringing Congress to Campus to audiences we would not normally reach.

At our last annual meeting, we began an effort to engage former Members across the Nation in an effort to restore civics to our Nation's public school curriculum. Working with the University of Central Florida, where the Lou Frey Institute is housed, as well as with the Civic Mission of Schools, we positioned the Association to become an umbrella group connecting former Members across the country with like-minded NGOs in their States. Through us, former Members in any State can team up with a statewide effort to incorporate basic civics back into the State's public school system. Who better than former Members, who have public service and civic responsibility in their DNA, to become an advocate at the State level for increased civic understanding.

Our Common Ground work also continued to bring bipartisan groups of former Members together with the public for a constructive and productive dialogue on the issues that affect all of us. We achieve this mostly via a wonderful partnership with the National Archives. And we thank the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, for his many years of supporting our public outreach in this manner. Those are great programs.

Since our last report to Congress, we assembled former Member panels on the topics of The Partisan Divide, based on the book of same title written by our chair, Martin Frost, and also Tom Davis. There was a program on D.C. Statehood and Representative Democracy, a panel on which I participated. I was chair of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee when we set up the Financial Control Board, and all of the emotions came back. It was pretty cool. I was joined by former D.C. Mayor Tony Williams and D.C. Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. There were panels Caring for Our Veterans, a panel that included Purple Heart recipient Charles Eggleston; also Money and Politics, in partnership with a great organization called Issue One; and a conversation about Congress with former Members Lee Hamilton and Ray LaHood. It was a wonderful evening.

Again, this is one of our most impactful ways to connect with the public, and all of our programs are carried live—if not by C-SPAN then on the YouTube channel of the National Archives.

Next I will cover our charitable golf tournament. Another great example of how powerful and productive bipartisanship can be is our Annual Congressional Golf Tournament. It is chaired

by our past president, Dennis Hertel of Michigan, and by fellow board member Ken Kramer of Colorado. We benefit two great charities, Disabled Sports USA's Warfighter Sports and Tee It Up for the Troops.

The mission of Warfighter Sports is simple: to provide adaptive sports to severely wounded warriors free of cost. The organization was founded by Vietnam War veterans in 1967 and now offers 30 sports as part of its rehabilitative programs. In 2015 alone, over 1,500 wounded warriors received support. Their experience includes a family member, so that in addition to improving the warrior's self-confidence and independence, the program also helps unite families through shared healthy activities. I encourage you to find out more about this outstanding organization at www.disabledsportsusa.org.

Please also get to know Tee It Up for the Troops. Tee It Up believes in engaging and inspiring communities across the United States to do great things on behalf of the military men and women who have served and sacrificed so much for our freedoms. Tee It Up for the Troops targets its efforts across the most pressing areas of need, with priority emphasis in supporting PTS research and treatment, suicide prevention, employment, rehabilitation, and athletics equipment and services. You can find them at www.teeitupforthetroops.org.

The Members Charity Golf Classic was held in April this year, which turned out to be a great decision. We had fabulous weather, the course at Army and Navy Club was outstanding, and we had one of the best turnout of sponsors and players in many years. There were 25 current and former Member players and over 30 wounded veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

This tournament gets better and better every year. Nine years ago we converted the event from a highly competitive tournament with just former and current Members of Congress to a fun and meaningful and inspiring charity event. It is still a great day of golf on a great course, and the tournament continues to have a friendly competition with the Speaker's Cup. This year, I am proud to say, this side of the aisle won that trophy. Actually, I believe JIMMY DUNCAN from Tennessee, one of the honorary co-chairs of the tournament, was here a few weeks ago making note of the Republican win. Congressman GENE GREEN, our good friend from Texas, the Democrat honorary co-chair, assures us that he will be back and the Democrats will bring home the trophy next year.

Over the past 9 years, we have raised nearly three-quarters of a million dollars for our beneficiaries. One of our beneficiaries has been with us since the very beginning, Warfighters Sports, a program of Disabled Sports USA, and this was our third year with a second beneficiary, Tee It Up for the Troops. Both of these organizations use golf to help severely wounded veterans. At the tournament this year, several wounded

warriors spoke to the group and explained how warfighters are competitive at their core, and using sports profoundly helps them with their readjustment to civilian life.

I want to thank our tournament co-chairs Ken Kramer and Dennis Hertel and everyone at the Association for all they have done to make this tournament such a great success. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous contributions. We look forward to continuing to raise money and awareness, and having a little bipartisan fun with the tournament again next year. We hope all current and former Members will consider joining us.

And we should also thank our great corporate partners who make the event such a success and help us support this highly deserving constituency. They include Lockheed Martin, AIG, PING, Trijicon, Oshkosh Defense, Anthem, Robert Trent Jones Charitable Golf Foundation, Ernst and Young, Willis Group Holding, Ariel Corporation, The Club Foundation, AVI Systems, International Council of Shopping Centers, Geoffrey Feldesman, Master Electric, B-3 Solutions, Trinity Logistics, Northrup Grumman, BMW of Fairfax, Hanger and the Congressional Federal Credit Union. Our sincere thanks to all of them for making such an impactful contribution to a very worthy cause.

Let me add one more veterans-oriented group which our Association supports and which you should take a closer look at: Veterans Campaign. Veterans Campaign's goal is to demystify the process of running for public office, and make it accessible to veterans who are interested in continuing their service as elected officials. The organization encourages, mentors, and prepares veterans for a second service in civic leadership. Veterans Campaign works with potential candidates from both parties, as well as independents. In addition to love for country, leadership, and commitment to service, veterans are united by a common bond that has historically encouraged bipartisanship, cooperation, and better government. We strive to connect former Members from both sides of the aisle with veterans interested in running for office, regardless of party affiliation. Our former Members serve as mentors and sounding boards to these outstanding men and women. We are pleased that there exists an organization aimed at recruiting highly qualified candidates for elected office, and we hope you will consider getting involved in this effort. Please check out their website at www.veteranscampaign.org.

In addition to the National Archives panels which we already reported on earlier, our Association continues to identify opportunities to highlight in a bipartisan way the many important contributions our Members have made to our representative democracy and the lessons learned from present day politics. An example of this type of outreach is a full-day conference we organized focused on the accomplishments of the 94th Congress, the group

of legislators elected following Watergate.

In September, former Members partnered with the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland to present a symposium at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. The event commemorated the 40th anniversary of the 94th Congress by highlighting and exploring its record and the political change it helped to initiate. Reforms adopted by both the 94th Congress and the 104th Congress under GOP control were contrasted with the current management and operation of today's 114th Congress. With the 2016 elections looming and the challenges to govern facing the Republican-controlled Congress, the symposium was of great currency and of great relevance.

While a number of former Members from that class were involved in putting this effort together, we should acknowledge again that David Skaggs and Bob Carr, two of our active Members, along with our CEO Pete Weichlein were the driving force behind this effort, which gives me an opportunity to thank Peter and all of our staff for the marvelous, marvelous work they do to prepare us for these events.

Opening remarks were given by FMC President, Barbara Kennelly (D-CT) followed by FMC Board Members and event organizers David Skaggs (D-CO) and Bob Carr (D-MI). FMC Board Member Ron Sarasin (R-CT) served as the moderator to the Congressional Reform and the Republican Resurgence panel. Former Members Dave Obey (D-WI) and Mickey Edwards (R-OK) were integral panelists during the afternoon discussions on Congressional Reform in the 1970s and Congressional Reform and Republican Resurgence. FMC was delighted to be working with UMD and the members of the Steering Committee to help make this event a huge success.

This wonderful conference was made possible by grants from three outstanding foundations, which we wish to recognize and acknowledge: The Williams and Flora Hewlett Foundation; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Links to the videos of the presentations and photographs can be found through the FMC website at www.usafmc.org.

Having thus far reported on our domestic programs, I would like to yield at this time to our Association's distinguished president, Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut, to report on our international work. She has been a tireless president. I have greatly enjoyed working with her and learning from her and laughing with her and sometimes whining with her about all of the work that this organization performs. It has been a great experience. I would like to add that I enjoyed the experience every minute. She was an outstanding president for our organization who has really put her personal stamp on the terrific work that we do.

Barbara, thank you for your leadership, and I yield the floor.

Mr. FROST. Ms. Kennelly is recognized.

Ms. KENNELLY. Thank you, Jim, for those kind words. I really enjoyed working with you also. These past 2 years have been incredibly busy. You heard Jim's report. Now get ready, I am going to take more than 1 minute, to be sure. We have done so much.

Each year when Connie was president and following, it is magnificent work how much work this staff is able to accomplish, and include the Members who want to be active. Tell your friends how much they can get out of this Association and how we have grown. We are really becoming part of the scene here.

Listening to STENY, aren't we lucky. We are totally nonpartisan. We all get along. If that can happen, it can happen to them, too.

As Jim has already demonstrated when reporting on our domestic undertakings, we are just as busy and impactful in the larger world. This is certainly true in our international work.

In addition to the domestic programs Jim has just described, our Association has a very active and far-reaching international focus.

We conduct programs focused on Europe and Asia. We bring current Members of Congress together with their peers in legislatures overseas. Just last week, a group came back from China. Some of you are sitting right here. I understand it was a marvelous trip and you were exhausted, but that is the way it should be.

We partner with former parliamentarians from other countries for democracy strengthening missions. Two of our most valued partners over the years have been the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament.

Right now, we have a former head of the European group, Enrique Baron Crespo, and he has come all of the way from Brussels. I met him in Brussels about a month ago and told him that he had to be with us because I enjoyed the visit in Brussels with him so much. It was shortly after the bombing, and it was an absolute wonderful thing to see the parliament functioning and seeing everything being absolutely calm. I thank you for being such a wonderful host.

In Brussels, I participated in the annual general meeting of the former members of the European Parliament. And just a few weeks ago, my colleague Martin Frost joined the Canadian former Members for their annual meeting in Ottawa. We are expecting representation from the group, but their plane was held up and I guess they haven't gotten here yet. We will welcome them later.

Via the Association of Former Members, I have met with numerous groups of legislators from emerging democracies who have come to Washington for a better understanding of our representative government and our form

of democracy. These conversations and meetings are always two-way streets, and I have learned as much, if not more, from our visitors as they do from me. Just last month our Association hosted at our offices a large group of young professionals from ASEAN countries including Vietnam and Indonesia. We had a great dialogue about running for office and serving our constituency. I would also like to thank Bev Byron because when we have some of these wonderful folk coming in from other countries, she has been very generous in entertaining them in her home and it has been a delight.

Our Association has also had a long-standing partnership with a great NGO called Legacy International—bringing young professionals from the Middle East and North Africa to the United States. Our most recent group just completed their 6-week D.C. stay last month and was composed of young professionals from Morocco and Tunisia. An earlier group also included young professionals from Egypt.

Our program promotes a positive relationship between the United States and North Africa, which, in light of the Arab Spring is now more vital than ever. Our Association connects the Fellows with former Members, whom they meet with several times over the course of their stay. The former Members act as a kind of mentor to these young men and women through one-on-one meetings, roundtable discussions, and by attending Program discussions and events.

The goal of this program is to seek a better understanding between cultures and establish an avenue of dialogue between nations. It is a unique opportunity to create a constructive political and cultural discourse between the United States and North Africa. I am very proud that our association can be part of this very interesting and vital dialogue.

In addition to hosting visiting delegations, our Association organizes former Member delegations to travel overseas and engage overseas audiences—students, government officials, NGOs, and corporate representatives—in a dialogue about the many challenges that are global in nature and require across-border communication.

You have already heard about our Congress to Campus program, and it has a very active international component in that we have brought the program to numerous universities and countries such as Turkey and the U.K.

Also, earlier this year we brought a bipartisan team of former Members to Germany for a number of town hall meetings in Munich and Berlin to talk about the United States election. It was no surprise that many discussions this year veered toward the upcoming Presidential election and the two presumptive candidates. Even in Europe, it is a lead topic of conversation, as you can well imagine.

Two foundations in Germany invited a bipartisan pair of former Members to provide some insight into what they thought about the elections, the candidates and how it may or may

not impact the US-Germany relationship and the US-Europe relationship. Speaking to audiences in both Berlin and in Munich this spring Mary Bono of California and Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois participated in two journalist moderated town-hall style discussions, fielding questions from business leaders, student and political junkies. The former Members were asked to address a number of central issues that appeared controversial during the presidential debates. The discussions included the TTIP agreement, the role of Putin, education reforms, growing populism on both sides of the Atlantic and the status of western democracies in general. The audience was also able to take part during the course of the debate, by vote on central issues by iPods, with the results revealed at the end of the discussion.

We thank the BMW Foundation and the Alfred Herrhausen Foundation for their partnership and sponsorship of this excellent program.

Other overseas delegations, we called them ExDELS, have traveled to countries where dialogue is often difficult, but nonetheless incredibly important. A country on which we have focused quite extensively is China. In the past 5 years, we have sent nine delegations of former Members to China. The most recent one just returned last week, and included your colleagues Cliff Stearns, Tim Petri, Mike Ross, Jim McCrery, and Tim Roemer, as well as our Association's CEO Pete Weichlein. They traveled to Beijing, Chongqing, and Shanghai, and had meetings with the National People's Congress, the Foreign Ministry, as well as corporate and academic representatives, and engaged in dialogue focused on issues ranging from environmental policy to the South China Sea. I can see why they were somewhat tired when they got home.

The ExDELS are an excellent example of how former Members can play a pivotal role in establishing a dialogue where current Members might be a bit more curtailed in their outreach.

Since starting our China outreach, we have been able to send 9 delegations totaling almost 40 former Members of Congress. These ExDELS depend on strong partners in China, and we are extremely fortunate to work with two of the most respected and influential NGOs in China: The China Association for International Friendly Contact, and the China United States Exchange Foundation. In addition, we have partnered with the Committee of 100 to bring a more productive and impactful focus on China to Capitol Hill. Thanks to these three outstanding partners, our China program now involves current and former Members of Congress as well as senior staff in both the House and the Senate.

In addition to these former Member international programs, our Association supports Congress' international dialogue in a meaningful, productive and bipartisan way via our Congressional study groups. These are groups that I am really most proud of because sometimes—years ago—when we became members of the Association of Former Members, we really didn't know what we were getting into or what it was. Now we have these study

groups, and they are incredibly successful. They are incredibly successful. We have luncheons and we have get-togethers, and that means that present Members of Congress are familiar with our organization and are ready to join us. As you can see as we read these many programs that we have, we need more active Members. We are so appreciative of you coming this morning at 7:30, but we do need more active members, and I think this is going to do it by having present Members be active in the Association before they leave Congress.

"The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Turkey and Europe are the flagship international programs of FMC. The Study Groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges for current Members of Congress and their senior staff that strive to create better understanding and cooperation between the United States and our most important strategic and economic partners abroad.

The Congressional study groups are not the only programs dedicated to this mission, but they are unique in their year-round outreach to Capitol Hill. Unlike our other formats, we provide long-lasting staff support and maintain a well-respected reputation as independent and nonadvocacy. As a result, our network attracts a large, diverse group of legislators and policy-makers who are committed to international dialogue. What is most important for us is that they join the discussion.

Our model celebrates active discussion among all participants, avoiding lengthy speeches or formal presentations in order to create an atmosphere that promotes personal connections. We believe that the network of peers created via our programs have acted to renew and expand areas of mutual cooperation.

Each Study Group has a membership roster of between 75 and 125 Members of Congress and is led by a bipartisan, bicameral pair of co-chairs. Our co-chairs are true leaders, who not only serve in their role at official Study Group events, but are also called on by various embassies and outside organizations to speak on panels, attend roundtables, and meet with countless visiting delegations.

I would like to acknowledge the service of all of our co-chairs for their hard work and dedication to these critical programs:

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is led by Senator JEFF SESSIONS, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, Representative CHARLIE DENT, and Representative TED DEUTCH.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is led by Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Representative DIANA DEGETTE, and Representative BILLY LONG.

The work of The Congressional Study Groups is complemented by our Diplomatic Advisory Council. Initially focused on European nations, the Diplomatic Advisory Council is now comprised of four dozen ambassadors from six continents who advise and participate in our programming. Their interest and commitment to multilateral dialogue is a valued addition to The Congressional Study Groups and provides a valuable outreach beyond our four core Study Groups.

In the past year, we have also formed the Congressional Staff Advisory Council. As former Members of Congress, we know the value of good staff. The Staff Advisory Council formally recognizes the mutually beneficial relationships we have in offices across Capitol Hill. We are as grateful for the staff who participate in and support our programming as we are for the Members of Congress.

Finally, I would like to thank the institutions, foundations, and companies which support our mission. We would like to give particular thanks to Admiral Dennis Blair and Ms. Junko Chano of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA and Dr. Karen Donfried and Ms. Reta Jo Lewis of the German Marshall Fund for their support as our institutional funders of The Congressional Study Groups in 2016.

The Congressional Study Groups are also grateful for the support of the international business community here in Washington, D.C., represented by each Study Group's Business Advisory Council. Companies of the 2016 Business Advisory Council are: Allianz, All Nippon Airways, Airbus Group, American Honda Motor Co., BASF, Bank of Tokyo—Mitsubishi UFJ, B. Braun Medical, Central Japan Railway Company, Cheniere Energy, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Fresenius, Hitachi, Honda, Lockheed Martin, Lufthansa German Airlines, Marubeni America Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Mitsui, Representative of German Industry and Trade, Sojitz, Toyota Motor North America, United Parcel Service, and Volkswagen Group of America.

Because of this support, our activities not only help to build vital bilateral relationships between legislatures, but also build bipartisan relationships within our own Congress. Mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are crucial to solving pressing problems, whether at home or abroad.

As former Members of Congress, we are proud to bring the important services provided by The Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues still in office and are proud to play an active role in our continued international outreach.

In addition to these substantive and issue-specific international projects, our Association also offers its members the opportunity to participate in group travel where our staff puts together the logistics and participating Members assume all the costs. These trips are unique because they combine a tourist experience with more formal meetings that involve current and former government officials in the country we are visiting.

For the 2015 FMC Study Tour, over 25 former Members traveled to Cuba, on two separate trips. Both trips proved to be incredibly insightful at this interesting time in the history of U.S.-Cuban relations. After fifty years of limited travel to the country, the recent changes in our diplomatic relations make it one of the most intriguing destinations for Americans at this time.

The proud people of this culturally rich country were welcoming to the delegations. The former Members met with experts on the U.S.-Cuban relationship, Cuban government officials helping to define the new bilateral relationship, and government officials dealing with trade and the promotion of new businesses. We met with Cuban professors focused on Cuba's economy, Members of the

Cuban National Assembly, internationally acclaimed Cuban artists, students and average citizens of Cuba. The group also had the privilege of meeting with Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis (Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba). The contingent heard frank opinions regarding the burden the embargo has had on the citizens of Cuba and many of their international relationships.

Many Cuban citizens welcome a more extensive relationship with America. However, concerns about the endurance of Cuban cultural identity have grown in light of increasing American presence. There is clearly apprehension and suspicion directed toward the motives of the United States.

Though Fidel Castro is still much respected and admired, there was a clear feeling that Raul Castro—or rather the current political state—as softened the hard edges of communist living and blurred the bold line defining the U.S.-Cuba bilateral relationship. The Cubans remain very proud of their government's ability to provide free healthcare, free education, and support for the arts. That being said, the study groups noted a substantial positive effect that private businesses, such as the paladores (privately owned restaurants), had on the Cuban community.

We visited artists' studios, art museums and went to iconic music and dance shows, enhancing the rich cultural experience. Though many of the buildings in Havana were shadows of their past beauty, one could see in the restored Old Havana how it was once one of the most cosmopolitan cities of the Caribbean, and very well could be again.

We all came home from the visit with a new appreciation and understanding of the country. Changes are happening which will take a lot of work and may take a long time. In fact, later today we will be hosting a panel discussion on Cuba that will include some of those who traveled there.

By traveling at this time and meeting the U.S. Ambassador, members of the Cuban government, esteemed professors and citizens of Cuba, the former Members were able to still see how Cuba has existed for the past fifty years while getting a glimpse of the dynamic and promising future of this island nation.

All the programs you have heard about clearly require funding, and we have been very successful in growing our fundraising capabilities along with our programming. The most impactful single fundraising mechanism we have created is the Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner.

We held our 19th Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner on April 14 of this year at the historic Mellon Auditorium on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. This year's theme was Recognizing Those Who Support Our Nation's Heroes. The dinner paid tribute to individuals and programs that have made it their mission to support the nation's active duty troops, veterans, and military families.

The Statesmanship Awards Dinner has become a "must attend" event in Washington, and this year was no exception. There were over 400 VIP guests, including former and current Members of Congress, Ambassadors, wounded warriors, military service members from the U.S., France and Japan, and heads of industry.

FMC was honored to give the Statesmanship Award to Senator Max Cleland of Georgia, who has been a distinguished public serv-

ant for nearly 50 years. Senator Cleland served his country in uniform and returned from Vietnam a highly decorated and severely wounded veteran. His commitment to our troops continued during his time in elected offices in the state of Georgia and in the United States Senate, and while heading the Veterans Administration. Currently, he preserves the memory of American troops who have fallen overseas by leading the efforts of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Fellow Georgian, Representative JOHN LEWIS, presented the award to Senator Cleland.

In recognition of its company-wide commitment to facilitate the transition of active duty personnel and veterans into the labor force, FMC was proud to present Audi of America, Inc. with the Corporate Statesmanship Award. Audi's highly successful "Veterans to Technicians" program trains former military personnel to become service technicians, service consultants, shop foremen and parts specialists in dealerships across the country. Scott Keogh, president of Audi of America, accepted the award on behalf of Audi.

The Navy SEAL Foundation, whose mission is to provide immediate and ongoing support and assistance to the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community, their families, and the families of the fallen, as well as wounded and transitioning NSW veterans, was the recipient of the Civic Statesmanship Award. Robin King, Chief Executive Officer and wife of a Navy SEAL, accepted the award for the Foundation. This is as impressive and outstanding an NGO as we have ever worked with, and I urge you to find out more about their crucial work by visiting www.navysealfoundation.org.

The tradition of holding a panel discussion with the awardees was continued this year, and our new emcee, Jennifer Griffin of Fox News, deftly moderated the discussion with Senator Cleland, Scott Keogh and Robin King, which touched upon the different ways we can support our troops, veterans, and military families. The award recipients talked about the progress and challenges this community has faced, as well as what needs to be done to take care of our heroes in the future. FMC was proud to recognize these individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a true commitment to our nation's armed forces, veterans, and military families.

All the programs we have described of course require both leadership and staff to implement. Our Association is blessed to have top people in both categories. I want to take this opportunity to thank our board of directors—30 former Members divided equally between parties—for their advice and counsel, I really appreciate it.

I also want to thank the many partners and supporters we have to make our programs possible. We are truly lucky to have assembled a group of corporations and foundations that believe in our work and make our success possible, and we very much value our partnership with them. Also, I would be remiss if I did not thank the other members of our Association's Executive Committee: our Vice President, Jim Walsh; our Treasurer, Martin Frost; our Secretary, Mary Bono; and our Past President, Connie Morella. You all have made this Association a stronger and better organization than it has ever been, and I thank you for your time and energy.

To administer all these programs takes a staff of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals.

Alexis Terai is part of our international team and runs our Congressional Study Group on Japan. She was born here in the United States, but spent many years in Japan. She's fluent in Japanese and has already been an invaluable addition to our Japan program, as well as a host of other projects.

Lorraine Harbison is our other international programs officer, focusing mostly on our Germany and Europe programming. She has studied both in the United States and in Europe, is fluent in Spanish, and has been instrumental in making our Diplomatic Advisory Council such a huge success.

Rachel Haas is our CEO's right hand person, but she is so much more. First of all, she's the most pleasant professional you could ever spend time with, and I would know because Rachel and I traveled to Brussels together earlier this year for our sister organization's annual meeting. In addition to that, Rachel runs the office, controls the books, and plays a leading role in putting together our outstanding gala fundraising dinner.

Andrew Shoenig, who is our Associate Director of International Programs, has been with the Association for five years now. He is instrumental in putting together all the international programs you heard about earlier today, and as we're speaking he's leading a delegation of District Office Directors on a Study Tour to Germany.

Sharon Witiw is our Domestic Programs Director and without her our Congress to Campus Program would not be half as active and as successful as it currently is. In addition, she oversees all of our civic education projects, makes sure the golf tournament is a success and put together the two Cuba trips you heard about earlier.

Sabine Schleidt is our Managing Director who designs and implements all the current Member international programs called the Congressional Study Groups. In addition, she's the driving force behind our fundraising efforts, has 10 brilliant ideas every day, and never seems to take a break!

Pete Weichlein is our Chief Executive Officer, who has been with the Association since 1999 and became CEO in 2003.

In addition to our wonderful staff, we benefit greatly from volunteers who lend us their talents and expertise pro bono. None deserve more appreciation than Dava Guerin, who has taken on the role of our Communications Director. She tells our story and connects us with the media. She also is an author and her most recent publication is a terrific book called "Unbreakable Bonds" about the mothers who become full-time caregivers again when their grown children return severely injured from the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I should also mention that we are benefitting tremendously from the support of our Association's Auxiliary, led so ably by Betty Ann Tanner, wife of former Member John Tanner. The Auxiliary is playing a more and more prominent role in working with us on our programming, and the memorial service in Statuary Hall, which we will host for the first time later this afternoon, is a great example of the tremendously valuable contribution our Auxiliary is making. Thank you Betty Ann, and we're looking forward to getting the same outstanding leadership from her successor, Chris English, spouse of Phil English.

It is now my sad duty to inform the Congress of those former and current Members

who have passed away since our last report. I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to now rise as I read the names and at the end of the list we will pay our respect to their memory with a moment of silence. We also want to use this time to include in our thoughts and prayers the victims of the horrible massacre in Orlando, and remember them as well as all victims of terrorism across the globe. Thank you.

We honor the following Members of Congress for their service.

They are: Bruce Alger of Texas, Thomas Cass Ballenger of North Carolina, Robert Bennett of Utah, Mario Biaggi of New York, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, Don H. Clausen of California, Howard Coble of North Carolina, Wes Cooley of Oregon, Frank Denholm of South Dakota, Don Edwards of California, Allen Ertel of Pennsylvania, Joe Gaydos of Pennsylvania, Robert Griffin of Michigan, John Paul Hammerschmidt of Arkansas, Robert W. Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, Delbert Latta of Ohio, Arch A. Moore, Jr. of West Virginia, John H. Murphy of New York, Morgan Murphy of Illinois, John T. Myers of Indiana, Allen Nunnelee of Mississippi, Mike Oxley of Ohio, Martin Sabo of Minnesota, James Santini of Nevada, Gus Savage of Illinois, Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, Louis Stokes of Ohio, Fred Thompson of Tennessee, Tim Valentine of North Carolina, George Voinovich of Ohio, Jim Wright of Texas.

Mr. FROST. Will the gentlewoman suspend for just a moment.

We have been advised that we have to vacate the floor in 5 minutes by 9:25. I would ask that the gentlewoman submit the remainder of her remarks for the RECORD. However, she must proceed directly to the election of the board and the officers for the coming year.

Ms. KENNELLY. Yes.

I really want to thank Betty Ann Tanner, wife of former Member John Tanner.

Another thing I am going to say quickly is we are working very closely with the Auxiliary. This afternoon, I am going to read the names of former Members who have died this year, and this afternoon at 6 p.m. we are going to have a memorial. It was my visit to the European community where they had the most wonderful, wonderful memorial to their members who had died that year. And another one in Canada that some of our Members went to, and I want to have something like that this afternoon so I hope you can come. Staff has put a great deal of thought into it.

Now we are going to have the election of our board of directors.

Every year at our annual meeting we ask the membership to elect new officers and board members. The candidates are running unopposed. Everybody who wants to say "yea," say "yea." I doubt there will be any "nays."

For the Association's board of directors, the candidates are:

Ann Marie Buerkle of New York
Bob Clement of Tennessee
Mike Ferguson of New Jersey
Phil Gingrey of Georgia

Dan Maffei of New York
L.F. Payne of Virginia
Tom Petri of Wisconsin
Nick Rahall of West Virginia.

All in favor of electing these eight former Members to our board of directors, please say "yea." Any opposed? Hearing no "nays," the slate has been elected by the membership, and I congratulate them on their election and the work they are going to do.

Next, we will elect our executive committee. The candidates for our executive committee are:

Cliff Stearns of Florida for president
Martin Frost of Texas for vice president

Tim Petri of Wisconsin for treasurer
Karen Thurman of Florida for secretary.

All in favor of electing these four former Members to our executive committee please say "yea." Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership. Congratulations to all four of them, and I especially look forward to working with Cliff Stearns.

Mr. FROST. We need to go directly, if we may, to Cliff Stearns.

Ms. KENNELLY. All right. But before I do that, I do want to tell you that the 6 p.m. event, the memorial that many of us have worked hard on, will take place at 6 in Statuary Hall, and we have invited the families of the Members who have passed this year, and we have had a good reception from them. If you have to leave, I do hope you will come back for the memorial. We will have the memorial, and then we will have a reception after the memorial.

Now our new president will say a few words to us.

Mr. STEARNs. Barbara, thank you very much. And thank you, Members, for your confidence.

I think in light of the hour here, we will go right directly to honoring our past president and our vice president.

Pete, if you will give me the plaques, I would like to read them. They have done an extraordinary job, and I think at this point we are going to recognize what they have done.

So, Jim, would you mind coming up here.

I want to thank Congressman Jim Walsh of New York for his stewardship and counsel as vice president of the association. His dedication to bipartisanship and his respect for the Congress, as an institution, were evident in every program he led, and he played a pivotal role in making our association even more impactful and successful.

Jim, congratulations.

Mr. WALSH. Thank you.

Mr. STEARNs. Barbara, if you will come up.

Barbara, your plaque is inscribed:

"We thank Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut for her leadership and guidance for the past 2 years as president of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. Her wisdom and sage counsel have been invaluable. The dedication and support she

has given to the board, her fellow Members, and the Former Members of Congress staff has guided and grown the Association, and we are a better organization thanks to her.”

Thank you, Barbara.

Ms. KENNELLY. As I accept this award—and we are not going to read the names of the memorial that we are going to have this afternoon—I think we all ought to just stand for a moment and just say a small prayer for what happened in Orlando.

Thank you.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Barbara. And let me just conclude before we leave here to say we have a lunch today—and I hope all of you will come—to bestow the 2016 Distinguished Service Award on the current Senators and Representatives who are retiring after the 114th Congress. Our Association has decided that every 2 years, we will take our Distinguished Service Award and dedicate it to the retiring Members as an opportunity to thank them for their public service and to let them know that, through our Association, their service can continue.

And since we cannot hand a plaque to all of these people, we have decided to award a \$1,000 scholarship in their name to a graduating high school senior from a D.C. school. We invited students to compete for this scholarship by writing an essay about civic responsibility and what it means to be a citizen. Out of the many really outstanding submissions we received, we selected a very impressive individual who is graduating and is heading to Harvard. His name is Nicholas Stauffer-Mason, and he and his mother will join us for lunch later today. I hope all of you will attend.

Thank you, everybody, for this opportunity.

Mr. FROST. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House for their presence here today and also the leadership of the House of Representatives for hosting us once again in this revered Chamber.

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

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Father Mina D. Essak, St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Troy, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for our lives, our health, and the opportunity to serve our beloved United States of America. Send Your spirit for protec-

tion of her inhabitants as she continues to exist as the most powerful nation in the world.

Send Your spirit to touch the hearts of our Nation's leaders.

Endow the spirit of wisdom on President Obama and the Members here today with familiar words: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Accept the great goodness they strive for: trust, justice, and peace in our great Nation. Inspire our leaders with new approaches to increase the prosperity of those whom they represent. Grant each Member talent with which to multiply their fruits.

May we please You, O God, this day. Hear us, Almighty God.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND FATHER MINA D. ESSAK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Father Mina and the Coptic community he represents in southeast Michigan. Egypt's Coptic Christians have been a staple in my district since they held their first liturgy at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Troy almost 40 years.

Father Mina is an engineer by trade, but in 1991, he accepted God's calling and became a priest to serve the then-small congregation of Coptic Christians in southeast Michigan. Under the leadership of Father Mina, the Coptic community has grown from a handful of families to over 750 today.

The Copts are my neighbors and friends. They are our nurses, schoolteachers, public servants, and business leaders. The Copts represent what America represents. Their story is America's story: the story of people who dreamed of a better life, the story

of people who left everything they had ever known to come to this country for a new beginning.

I am proud to represent this vibrant and welcoming community, and, under the leadership of Father Mina and Father Maximus, the Copts will continue to serve an important role in southeast Michigan for a long time.

I want to thank, again, Father Maximus and Father Mina for leading the House in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 241st birthday of the United States Army, a celebration for the strongest fighting force in the world. There are now more countries liberated and thriving in peace and democracy than in the history of the world because of the American military.

It is an honor to represent Fort Jackson in the Midlands of South Carolina, the largest initial entry training facility of the Army. I was grateful to meet the incoming commanding general of Fort Jackson, Brigadier General Pete Johnson. I appreciate departing Brigadier General Roger Cloutier, who served in the tradition of Major General Bradley Becker.

This is also a special day for my family, as the son of a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, as a grateful 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and the South Carolina Army National Guard. I especially appreciate the Guard service of my sons, Alan in Iraq, Julian in Egypt, and Hunter in Afghanistan. My fourth son, Addison, served as a Navy doctor with the Army Rangers in Iraq.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Happy 241st birthday, U.S. Army.

ORLANDO

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the victims of the tragedy in Orlando. This act of terror and hate has reverberated across our Nation with a goal to divide us and instill fear against those who simply wish to express themselves and live their lives freely.

We cannot let fear lead us to single out an entire community or take our