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No. 48

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Don Borling, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church, Orland Park, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

O God of goodness and grace, it's another day and maybe just an ordinary moment.

We are here in the very heart and soul of our Nation, a place committed always to the very goodness and power of the human spirit, a spirit binding us together in a world that is too often divided by things that really should bring us together: our diversity, our varied colors and religions, our cultures and backgrounds.

O Lord of all life, we call You by many names, we worship You in styles and ways that reflect the humanity with which You create us, we debate and we argue, we vote and we compromise, we come together in this sacred Chamber with so much at stake, with so many people counting on us and needing the very best of what we have to offer.

Please watch over us today. What we do here is sacred. Please give us the humility and grace to live up to our calling.

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 Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NUSSLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DON BORLING

(Mr. NUSSLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me acknowledge and welcome so many of our former colleagues back to the House Chamber here today. We welcome you. We thank you for your many years of service, and we look forward to the opportunity to renew old friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome our guest chaplain here today, Don Borling, who is the pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park, Illinois. He has been the pastor there for over 30 years. You might wonder why a guy from Iowa is introducing a minister from Illinois. Well, when I went to high school there, this was my home church. It is still my parents' home church. Don has been a good friend for many years. It is a pleasure to be able to welcome him and his wife, Jude; his son, Quinton; and his extended family who are here today.

For many years Don has taught me and so many members of our church on the south side of the Chicagoland area about the living God that is with us here today, that is in our hearts, in our minds, is in the great moments of a Chamber like this where we come together with the spotlight of history and the television cameras, but also the kind of God that is there in the small moments, when no one is watching and when it really matters. He has taught us not only about the God that we worship on Sundays but the God that needs to be there every day, Monday through Saturday, in our lives. He has been a minister to me; but he has also been a mentor, he has been a brother, he has been a friend.

We welcome Pastor Don Borling and his family, and we thank him for opening our House today in prayer.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 25, 2006, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker of the House presided.

The SPEAKER. On behalf of the House, I consider it a high honor and distinct personal privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming so many of our former Members and colleagues as may be present here for the occasion. We all pause to welcome you.

I want to say personally, good morning. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I am pleased to welcome back all of you. It is always good to see so many familiar faces, and for me who has been here 20 years, even a few unfamiliar faces. I see my former leader, I see people who I have served with, so many people I have come into Congress with and have continued to serve this Nation well. I am especially glad to see my friend from the great State of Missouri and your president, Jake Buechner. Jack, I know of the loss of your dear wife, Nancy, this year after a courageous fight with cancer. I just want to let you know on behalf of all of us in the House of Representatives, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Matt McHugh is a worthy choice for the Distinguished Service Award, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Matt. Matt served in the House while I was here, a great

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Member from New York. During his tenure, he was a valuable member of several committees, including the Appropriations Committee and what has been called the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus. Since leaving the House, Matt has continued his efforts to improve our Nation and our world. He has served as vice president at Cornell University and currently serves as counsel to the president of the World Bank. He is also chairman of Bread for the World, a group that fights to end hunger in this world.

Meetings like this are more than just a chance to catch up with old friends. It is a time when you, our more seasoned Members, can offer some words of advice and maybe even tell us a few things that maybe we're doing right. Trust me, you're in a room full of lawmakers and we love to hear what we're doing right.

Seriously, though, I am also glad to see this group and hear about all the great things that you continue to do for our Nation. This organization serves a valuable purpose. You spread the good news about the importance of our democratic government. And I understand that you have a new project that you are undertaking in cooperation with some of our international partners, the International Election Monitors Institute.

Again, I want to thank you once again for the work that you continue to do on behalf of the American people. I want to thank you for coming. Personally, I want to say that as all of us who get up in years and have served 20 years or so in this place, we don't always look forward to becoming former Members, but we know that we will be. I want to look forward to say I appreciate the welcome that you have given everybody that has left these Halls and look forward someday to joining your ranks myself.

Thank you, God bless you, and have a great day.

The Chair now recognizes the Honorable Jim Slattery, vice president of the association, to take the chair.

Mr. SLATTERY (presiding). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see you. On behalf of the association, we certainly wish you good health and continued wonderful service to our country, also. It's great to see you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

The Clerk will now read the roll of the former Members of Congress.

The Clerk called the roll of the former Members of Congress, and the following former Members answered to their names:

FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PARTICIPATING
IN 36TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING THURSDAY,
APRIL 27, 2006

William Alexander (Arkansas)
Glen Browder (Alabama)
James T. Broyhill (North Carolina)
Jack Buechner (Missouri)
Bill D. Burlison (Missouri)
Beverly B. Byron (Maryland)
James K. Coyne (Pennsylvania)
Ron DeLugo (Virgin Islands)
Joseph J. Dioguardi (New York)

Thomas W. Ewing (Illinois)
Harold Ford (Tennessee)
Louis Frey, Jr. (Florida)
Benjamin A. Gilman (New York)
William Grant (Florida)
William Goodling (Pennsylvania)
Margaret Heckler (Massachusetts)
Dennis M. Hertel (Michigan)
Peter Hoagland (Nebraska)
George J. Hochbrueckner (New York)
William J. Hughes (New Jersey)
Robert W. Kastenmeier (Wisconsin)
David S. King (Utah)
Ernest Konnyu (California)
Peter Kyros (Maine)
Romano L. Mazzoli (Kentucky)
Matthew F. McHugh (New York)
Richard Dale Nichols (Kansas)
Howard W. Pollock (Alaska)
Larry Pressler (South Dakota)
William R. Ratchford (Connecticut)
John J. Rhodes, III (Arizona)
Patricia Schroeder (Colorado)
Richard Schulz (Pennsylvania)
David E. Skaggs (Colorado)
Jim Slattery (Kansas)
Dennis A. Smith (Oregon)
Lawrence J. Smith (Florida)
Stephen J. Solarz (New York)
R. Lindsay Thomas (Georgia)

Mr. SLATTERY. The Chair is pleased to announce that there are 39 former Members of Congress that have responded to their names here today.

The Chair at this time would recognize the distinguished gentleman from the State of Missouri, the Honorable Jack Buechner, the president of our association.

Mr. BUECHNER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker pro tem, and all of you for being with us this morning. We are especially grateful to Speaker HASTERT for taking the time from his busy schedule to greet us and give us his warm welcome.

It is always an honor and a privilege to return to this magnificent institution. We revere it and we have shared so many memorable experiences here that I think it is indelibly inked into our psyches. Service in Congress is both a joy and a heavy responsibility. Whatever your party affiliation, we have great admiration for those who continue to serve here, serve their country, serve their constituency in this rather unique institution. We thank all of you who have served and all those who continue to serve, and we thank those who are here for giving us the opportunity to report on the activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. This is our 36th annual report to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be permitted to revise and extend their remarks.

Mr. SLATTERY. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BUECHNER. Our association is nonpartisan. It has been chartered by Congress, but receives absolutely no funding from Congress. We have a wide variety of domestic and international programs which several other Members and I will discuss briefly. Our membership numbers 550; and our purpose is to continue, in some small measure, the service to country which began during our terms in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Our finances are sound. We support all our activities via three income sources: membership dues, program-specific grants and sponsorships, and our annual fund-raising dinner. In addition, we have had the good fortune to receive a bequest from Frieda James, the widow of the late Benjamin Franklin James, a five-term Republican from Pennsylvania.

During the presidency of my esteemed predecessor, Larry LaRocco of Idaho, the association established its first endowment fund. The goal of the fund is to ensure the financial viability of the Former Members Association, for not just this coming year but for many years to come. We envision a time when investment earnings of the endowment fund can be used to supplement the association's budget during lean years, a safety net to guarantee that tough economic times will not shut down this association. Many of our members have made contributions to this fund, and we thank them for their kind generosity.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Association of Former Members again has had a very 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. We have had many of our members involved in election monitoring missions worldwide. We again sent dozens of bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to university campuses here in the United States and abroad as part of our Congress to Campus Program. I am therefore pleased to now report on the program work of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

When I stood at this podium 1 year ago to present our association's activities to the Congress, I announced that we were in the process of creating an election-monitoring organization to train former legislators in this important aspect of democracy building. I am very pleased to report today that in the past year we have cofounded the International Election Monitors Institute, an organization jointly administered by the U.S. Association of Former Members, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, and the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament. We have joined in the drafting of initial by-laws of the institute, and later this week we will select four members of our association to join four Canadians and four Europeans as the first board of directors of this exciting new venture.

I will now yield to our association's secretary, Dennis Hertel of Michigan, to give more details about this association program.

Mr. HERTEL. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for giving me the opportunity to report on the International Election Monitors Institute and the other advances our association

has made in this field. The goal of the institute is to train former legislators from the three associations in proper standards of election monitoring. We have adopted the U.N. Code of Conduct For Election Observers and will train our members to be objective and impartial monitors of elections.

It is clear what a crucial role election monitors can play in furthering true democracy across this globe. In addition, former legislators offer such a unique and unparalleled experience in this field that really no other group of people can match. To then couple this with a truly international undertaking that involves former parliamentarians from the United States, Canada, and Europe is a very exciting and groundbreaking idea. I am pleased that our association has created this new entity and through it will send well-trained election observers around the world. We will not only monitor on election day, but even preceding the election will have teams in place to observe how the actual campaign is being conducted.

Earlier this year we had the chance to apply this model to the parliamentary elections in Ukraine where we had international observer teams in-country for both the campaign and the actual election. I proposed this commission after the Ukraine election in November a year and a half ago. We had over 90 former Members, Republicans and Democrats as always, who participated in the lead-up and in that election in November which was overturned because of what the election observers had seen and reported. So we made a difference in that country for democracy.

We also had after that November election for the December election, former Members come over the Christmas holidays to be away from their families, but to fight for democracy as election observers for that final election in the Ukraine also. Funding for this venture came from the U.S. Agency for International Development via a grant to the U.S. Ukraine Foundation. I personally had the chance to spend election day in Kiev and be an officially accredited observer of Ukraine's election this year.

I recommend our Web site for a detailed report of our missions. What we have seen is that there are issues; and as much as our people are well-trained and politically aware, we want to prepare them and those members from the EU and the Canadian Parliament for whatever surprises might come during the election period.

In addition to creating the International Election Monitors Institute, our association during this past year created partnerships with some of the key institutions in this field. For example, we teamed with IFES and successfully applied to the U.S. Agency for International Development to become one of their approved organizations to receive democracy-building grants. We also partnered with OSCE and have re-

ceived an invitation from this international body to send former Members of Congress as U.S. delegates on their election monitoring missions.

One partnership of which we are especially proud is with the House of Representatives. DAVID DREIER and DAVID PRICE head up the House Democracy Assistance Commission, and former Members of Congress will serve with current Members of Congress on democracy-strengthening missions all over the world, not just for elections but after, to do democracy-building. In addition, we will lend some of our expertise and experience to panels for legislators from newly emerging democracies as they learn the nuts and bolts of a representative democracy.

These are all very exciting developments for this association, and I am extremely pleased to be a part of this undertaking, and I am so very proud of the former Members who give of their time with no compensation whatsoever to be away from their families, to travel to all ends of the globe for these activities, to be gone from home for 10 days, 2 weeks, to report back and to continue to monitor those activities.

During the past year, we also placed some of our association members on election monitoring missions organized by the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.

I now yield to my colleague Jay Rhodes of Arizona to report on his experience monitoring the election in Afghanistan.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Dennis. It is a pleasure to be with you this morning and to just share with you very briefly an experience that I had monitoring the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan in September of last year. I was invited to join a monitoring team by the International Republican Institute. Frankly, I was invited to join on fairly short notice and I hesitated, because we're all busy people, but my wife said to me, How can you possibly think about passing up an opportunity like this? And I said, Well, you know, that makes a lot of sense, so I said, Yes, I will go to Afghanistan.

One of the things I have to tell you is being in Afghanistan is a very interesting experience, but getting to Afghanistan is likewise a very interesting experience. It's a long way from anyplace. Also, speaking of places like Afghanistan, security is an interesting proposition, but I can tell you it is more difficult to get out of Dulles Airport than it is to get into Afghanistan.

The country is absolutely beautiful, but it is really a tough place. Kabul is one of the most poverty-stricken places I have ever seen in my experience. But to sum it all up, the Afghans, with very, very little history of democracy and very, very little history of conducting elections, conducted in what was the unanimous opinion of virtually all the international observers a very, very good, well-run, capable election. I personally went to 16 polling places.

Our team went to 110-some polling places. This was the IRI team. There were others. I think probably over a thousand polling places were visited on election day. Everybody came away with the almost unanimous impression that the election itself was handled capably, professionally, and well.

That is the good news. The bad news is that as soon as the polls closed, the ballot boxes all disappeared and didn't reappear for another 4 weeks. We were pretty well assured about ballot box security, and I heard very little to indicate that in that 4-week period of time anything happened to the ballot boxes. But Afghanistan is such a far-flung place and it is so primitive that it took virtually 3 weeks to gather all the ballots in a central place where they could be counted.

The most impressive thing that I came away with aside from the fact that this country with no electoral history at all handled an election very capably was a meeting that our team had with 10 female candidates for the parliament. The new Afghan Constitution requires that 25 percent of the parliament be filled with ladies, females. We sat and listened to these candidates for 2 hours. Of the 10, five were professionals: four doctors and one registered nurse. The other five were people who had run a shop someplace or did rugs or stayed home. Their stories about living under the Taliban were chilling, scary. Their stories about their intense desire to take part in the new Afghanistan was thrilling. We watched the women vote on election day. They voted in great numbers. That was the most important, I think, experience that I came away with from having been there, was the dedication on the part of the new leadership in Afghanistan to include women, and to include them in a meaningful way.

I have a great deal of hope that democracy in Afghanistan is going to take hold. It is not going to be easy. The Taliban is not dead. But I think that the dedication of those people that we were able to interact with in the week that I was there indicate to me that this is a place where it can happen.

Dennis, thank you very much.

Mr. BUECHNER. Reclaiming my time, I want to thank Dennis and Jay for those reports.

Mr. Speaker, since its founding, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress has played an important role in fostering dialogue between the leaders of other nations and the United States. We have arranged more than 450 special events at the United States Capitol for delegations from over 80 countries and the European Parliament. We have hosted meetings for individual members of parliaments and parliamentary staff. We have organized approximately 50 foreign policy seminars in about a dozen countries involving more than 1,500 former and current parliamentarians, and we have conducted over 20 study tours abroad for Members of Congress.

The association serves as the secretariat for four legislative liaison programs which bring current Members of Congress together with their colleagues in the parliaments of Germany, Mexico, Japan and the most recent addition, Turkey. The Congressional Study Group on Germany, which is our largest and most active exchange program involving the U.S. Congress and the parliament of another country, is our flagship international program of the association. It is a bipartisan organization with approximately one-third of the Members of Congress, both House and Senate, participating. The Congressional Study Group on Germany serves as a model for all other study groups under the umbrella of the association.

For over 20 years, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has been a forum for lawmakers from Germany and the United States to communicate on issues of mutual concern. The study group was founded in 1983 as an informal group and was established as a formal organization in 1987. The primary goal of the study group is to establish a forum for communication between Members of Congress and their counterparts in the German Bundestag. Ongoing study group activities include conducting a Distinguished Visitors Program at the United States Capitol for guests from Germany, sponsoring annual seminars involving Members of Congress and the Bundestag, providing information about participants in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program to appropriate Members of Congress, and organizing a senior congressional staff study tour to Germany each year.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is funded primarily by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Additional funding to assist with administrative expenses is received from a group of corporations whose representatives serve on a business advisory council to the study group. The business advisory council is chaired by former Member Tom Coleman of Missouri, who served as the chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany in the House in 1989. The study group has established itself as the most productive means of communication between the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. To date, 163 Members of Congress belong to the Congressional Study Group on Germany: 34 Senators and 129 House Members.

Let me just interject a little anecdote, and that is, when the Iraq war commenced and there were the attitudes in Europe, and particularly Germany and France chose not to participate as Germany had, for instance, in Afghanistan, Members of our Congress were contacted by or contacted their Bundestag counterparts. The French Ambassador, who had just come to the United States, inquired of the German Ambassador why was it that France was beaten about on the floor of the

House and the French toast was taken off the menu and French fries, and Germany seemed to, although it had the same position, not receive the same amount of sort of verbal pummeling. The German Ambassador said, quite candidly, that the study group had developed a rapprochement between Members of the House and the Senate and their counterparts in the Bundestag so that there were phone communications and e-mail communications, and there was a lot of political understanding that went on, where a member who stands for election in Germany was talking to Members who stand for election over here, even though their politics were not necessarily the same. You could have a Social Democrat in Germany meeting with a Republican here, or vice versa. You could have a member of the Free Democrats in Germany talking to a very liberal Democrat over here.

And the idea was that there was communication and there was an understanding. I think that that is the greatest thing that we can do with these other parliaments is create an atmosphere of understanding. That understanding goes a long way toward creating better relationships; and, for that matter, it makes our Members better Members. The Federal Republic of Germany is one of our most important allies, and the study group has been instrumental in helping to cement trans-Atlantic ties over the years.

The most visible activity of the group is its Distinguished Visitors Program. That brings high-ranking German elected officials to Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress. In 2005, the Study Group on Germany organized briefings for Members of Congress with the then German Ambassador to the United States, Wolfgang Ischinger; member of the Bundestag, Minister President Gunther Oettinger; Minister President Roland Koch; and a group of newer Bundestag members.

The highlight of each programming year is the Congressional Study Group on Germany's annual seminar. Every year, the study group brings approximately eight Members of Congress together with German legislators for several days of focused discussion on a predetermined agenda. The parliamentarians usually are joined by several Members of the Congress and Bundestag officials of the two federal governments, think tank and foundation representatives, and members of the German American corporate community.

The 2005 annual Congress-Bundestag seminar took place in Berlin; Brussels, which was an acknowledgment of the part that the EU played especially in trade issues; and Frankfurt from March 18 to March 24, 2005. This program included high-level meetings with representatives of the German Government, the European Union and NATO. For the first time the Congressional Study Group on Germany spent part of the annual seminar in Brussels, as I said, because many policy areas

are now being governed out of Brussels. One of those policy areas under the EU domain is agriculture, which was examined in detail with experts during a panel discussion in Brussels. In addition, seminar participants attended meetings with NATO officials in Brussels. A visit with American soldiers at the Landstuhl military hospital, which is usually the first destination for the wounded from Iraq, occurred at the end of the annual seminar.

A report about the activities of the Congressional Study Group on Germany would be incomplete without thanking its financial supporters. First and foremost one needs to thank Craig Kennedy and the German Marshall Fund of the United States because without him and his foundation, the study group could not function at its present level of activity. Also, one must not forget former Member Tom Coleman of Missouri who chairs, as I said, the business advisory council to the study group. His tremendous dedication in raising much-needed funds to support the administrative side of the study group has been essential. He has put together a group of companies that deserve our gratitude for giving their aid and support to the administrative aspects of this program. Current BAC members are Allianz, BASF, DaimlerChrysler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL Americas, EDS, Eli Lilly, Luftansa, RGIT, SAP, Siemens, and Volkswagen.

Modeled after the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the association established a Congressional Study Group on Turkey at the beginning of 2005. Turkey, one of our strategic allies, is situated at the crossroads of many important challenges for the 21st century: peace in the greater Middle East, the expansion of the European Union, and the transformation of NATO. The Study Group on Turkey brings current Members of Congress together with their legislative counterparts in Turkey, government officials and business representatives in Turkey and serves as a platform for all participants to learn about U.S.-Turkish relations firsthand.

Thanks to funding from the Economic Policy Research Institute, a think tank established by the Turkish business association TOBB, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and a group of corporate sponsors, the Study Group on Turkey has started a Distinguished Visitors Program in Washington. This program involves events for Members of Congress such as roundtable discussions or breakfast/luncheon panels featuring visiting dignitaries from Turkey. Recent guests include then-Turkish Ambassador to the United States Logoglu; the EU Ambassador to the United States, John Bruton; Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan; Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Arinc; and current Turkish Ambassador to the United States Sensoy.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-

Turkey seminar. The seminar is a week-long conference for U.S. Members of Congress to discuss areas of mutual concern with their legislative counterparts from Turkey. The 2005 U.S.-Turkey seminar took place from May 28 to June 3 and included stops in Istanbul and Ankara. The members of the delegation met with high-level representatives, including Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Arinc; Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan; the Minister of State for the Economy, Ali Babacan; Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul; and the Chief of the Turkish General Staff, General Ozkok; and Minister of Defense Gonul. Topics that the participants discussed included the U.S.-Turkish military alliance; Turkey's relationship with its neighbors, including Armenia and Syria; economic issues; trade and human rights.

Because of the Congressional Study Group on Turkey, Members of Congress were able to interact with their Turkish counterparts and learn more about the vital relationship between the two countries. The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is pleased to add the study group to its portfolio of international programs. It is certain to attract great interest in Washington and in Ankara. The next U.S.-Turkey seminar is scheduled to take place in November of this year.

The association also serves as the secretariat for the Congressional Study Group on Japan and the Congressional Study Group on Mexico. Founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii, the Congressional Study Group on Japan is a bipartisan group of 71 Members of the House and Senate with an additional 36 Members having asked to be kept informed on study group activities. The Congressional Study Group on Japan arranges opportunities for Members of Congress to meet with their counterparts in the Japanese Diet in addition to organizing discussions for Members to hear from American and Japanese experts about various aspects of the U.S.-Japan relationship. In the past year, featured guests have included Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ryozo Kato; Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns; and former Senior Director for Asian Activities at the National Security Council, Michael Green.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. I am also glad to say that our member, the former Speaker of this House, Thomas Foley, has made himself available at least on two occasions to discuss the issues of concern and his Japanese counterpart has joined him at some of these meetings for a rare insight of diplomat to diplomat.

Last but not least, the association administers a Congressional Study Group on Mexico. U.S.-Mexican relations are a priority and not merely set against the backdrop of immigration,

though this is obviously a very important and timely issue of mutual concern. The Congressional Study Group on Mexico is a unique organization in that it serves as a bipartisan forum for U.S. legislators from both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to engage in issue-specific dialogue with Mexican elected officials and government representatives so the two countries' political decision-makers receive a comprehensive picture of the issues revolving around U.S.-Mexico relations.

The study group also replicates this forum for senior congressional staff. Topics such as border security, trade and narcotics trafficking are just a sample of the subjects pertinent to the bilateral relationship with Mexico. The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey, Japan and Mexico are examples of how the Former Members Association can provide an educational service to current Members, their staffs and aid in the foreign relations of this country. Let me also add that the association has enjoyed a highly productive working relationship with the French embassy, in particular our relationship with the French Ambassador, his Excellency Jean-David Levitte. This has led to the creation of the Former Members Committee on France, which brings former Members of Congress together with current members of the French National Assembly and their friendship societies. We have had very interesting discussions on foreign policy and trade, and we thank Ambassador Levitte for the numerous times he has hosted our association for roundtable discussions and panel presentations.

Mr. Speaker, of course not all of our activities are international in nature. One of the most gratifying programs involving this association and its members is the Congress to Campus Program. This is a bipartisan effort to share with college students throughout the country our unique insight on the work of the Congress and the political process more generally. Our colleague from Colorado, David Skaggs, has been managing this program for the association for the last 4 years as a project of his Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the Council for Excellence in Government, in partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service.

I now yield to David to report on the program.

Mr. SKAGGS. Thank you, Mr. President, I appreciate your yielding the time, and I am proud to be able to report to our colleagues about the Congress to Campus Program activities for this past academic year, 2005-2006. As the gentleman from Missouri indicated, this is a partnership between my organization and the Stennis Center for Public Service in Mississippi. I would ask unanimous consent that a full report on the activities of the program be submitted for the RECORD.

Mr. SLATTERY. Without objection, so ordered.

CONGRESS TO CAMPUS PROGRAM

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U.S. ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS—APRIL 27, 2006

Introduction

The Congress to Campus Program addresses a significant shortfall in civic learning and engagement among the country's young people of college age. It combines traditional educational content about American government and politics (especially Congress) with a strong message about public service, all delivered by men and women who have "walked the walk." The Program sends bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress—one Democrat and one Republican—to visit college, university and community college campuses around the country. During each visit, the Members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, visit high schools and civic organizations, and do interviews and talk show appearances with local press and media.

In the summer of 2002, the Board of Directors of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (Association) engaged the Center for Democracy & Citizenship (CDC) at the Council for Excellence in Government to help manage the Congress to Campus Program (Program) in partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service (Stennis). CDC and Stennis, with the blessing of the Association, have worked together since to increase the number of campuses hosting Program visits each year, to expand the pool of former Members of Congress available for campus visits, to develop new sources of funding, to raise the profile of the Program and its message in the public and academic community, and to devise methods of measuring the impact of the program at host institutions.

Quantity and Quality of Program Visits

This is the fourth year under the current program management. In the 2005-2006 academic year, the Program sponsored twenty-six events involving twenty-nine colleges and universities around the country and the world. [See Attachment 1—Roster of '05-'06 Academic Year Visits & Participants.] These visits took former Members to universities, service academies, colleges and community colleges in seventeen states and three countries. Over the past four years, former Members have visited over 120 colleges and universities during campus visits in the U.S. and around the world speaking to nearly 40,000 students in the process.

We have found college and university participation in the Program to be cyclical in nature. While the numbers were down slightly this academic year, applications and expressed interest from host institutions indicate that the 2006-2007 academic year will likely be Congress to Campus' most productive year ever. The average number of visits for fall semesters has been 13 over the last three years; a number already surpassed by applications and requests for visits from schools for this coming fall.

We continue to fine-tune the content and substance of Program visits based on feedback from Members and host professors. The Program asks visiting Members and host professors to complete an evaluation of each visit. As the result of those evaluations, we encourage host schools to include nearby colleges and universities in Congress to Campus visits and to schedule a broad scope of classes and activities for the former Members. We will continue to make changes in response to the suggestions of participating former Members and host faculty.

The Program asks host schools to insure contact with at least 250 students over the

course of a visit, and that number is often exceeded. During the past academic year, approximately 9,000 students heard Members' unique story about representative democracy and their special call to public service.

A draft schedule of events is prepared in advance of each campus visit and reviewed by staff to assure variety as well as substance. There is a conference call before each trip with Members and the responsible campus contact person to review the revised schedule and iron out any remaining problems. Members also receive CRS briefing materials on current issues and background information on government service opportunities prior to each visit.

Recruiting Member Volunteers for Campus Visits

The success of the Program obviously depends on Members' participation. With travel back and forth, Members end up devoting about three days to each campus visit. This is a priceless contribution of an extremely valuable resource.

Each year Members of the Association are surveyed again to solicit information regarding their availability for and interest in a Program campus visit. Using responses to these surveys and direct contact with a number of former Members, CDC developed a pool of just over one hundred available former Members, and some forty participated in visits this year. A "bench" of one hundred was deep enough to fill the openings during the current academic year, but more will be needed to meet the demands of future academic years. Association Members are encouraged to complete and return the survey they will receive this summer and then to be ready to accept assignments to one of the fine institutions of higher education the program will serve next year.

Funding Sources

In addition to the generous contribution of money and staff time made each year by the

Stennis Center for Public Service, the Association continues its support of the Program. Other organizations have also provided funding to help with the expansion of the Congress to Campus Program for this academic year including the Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Canada (visit specific) and the Eccles Centre for American Studies at The British Library and the Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom (visit specific). While Stennis' commitment to the Program is ongoing, funding from the other organizations is being provided on a year by year basis. The effort to find new sources of funding for Congress to Campus is a continuing challenge.

Host schools are expected to cover the cost of Members' on-site accommodations and local travel and to make a contribution to cover a portion of the cost of administering the Program. A suggested amount of contribution is determined according to a sliding-scale based on an institution's expenditures per pupil [see Attachment 2—Application Form]; a waiver is available to schools that are not able to pay the scale amount. Several schools received a full or partial waiver in 2005–2006. Still, school contributions produced several thousand dollars in support of the program. Additional funding sources will be necessary if the Program is to continue at current levels.

International Initiative

Congress to Campus made its first international visit in October 2003 to the United Kingdom. An earlier Association study tour had laid the groundwork for the visit and had established a relationship with Philip John Davies, Director, Eccles Centre for American Studies at The British Library and the U.S. Embassy's Cultural Affairs Office. The success of that initial visit in 2003 has led to visits to the United Kingdom in 2004 and 2005 with another planned for fall of 2006.

This academic year the Program developed a relationship with the U.S. Embassy in Can-

ada which resulted in support for a campus visit to Carleton University in Ottawa in February, 2006. We expect this relationship to continue and lead to support for future Congress to Campus visits to colleges and universities in Canada.

In past years, the program has sponsored campus visits to Germany and China, as well.

Program Outreach and Publicity

The continuing interest on the part of colleges and universities in hosting Congress to Campus visit is the result of a multi-faceted outreach effort. Association leadership and numerous former Members, as well as staff at CDC and Stennis, have made many personal contacts on behalf of the Program. In addition, CDC Executive Director and former Member David Skaggs has made a number of public presentations in behalf of Congress to Campus and informational material has been emailed directly to all members of the APSA's Legislative Studies and Political Organizations & Parties Sections, as well as to many other college and university organizational contacts.

Campus press and media at host institutions are offered access to visiting Members. Each host institution is also encouraged to make commercial print and broadcast media interviews a part of each Congress to Campus visit's schedule.

Conclusion

Interest in Congress to Campus remains strong in the academic community. Association Members participating in campus visits are enthusiastic about the value of the Program and the rewards it brings to all who are involved in those visits. The Program could be expanded further on domestic and international levels if funding uncertainties can be addressed.

<p style="text-align: center;">Congress to Campus Program The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress</p>

Congress to Campus Program

ROSTER OF '05 –'06 ACADEMIC YEAR VISITS AND PARTICIPANTS

FALL

High Point University - September 18-20, 2005

Republican: Arlen Erdahl (R-MN)
Democrat: Ken Hechler (D-WV)

Denison University - October 2-4, 2005

Republican: Denny Smith (R-OR)
Democrat: Andy Jacobs (D-IN)

Frostburg State University (MD) - October 16-18, 2005

Republican: Bill Goodling (R-PA)
Democrat: Dennis Hertel (D-PA)

Wilkes University – October 18-20, 2005

Republican: Nick Smith (R-MI)
Democrat: Jim Bilbray (D-NV)

University of Missouri – Kansas City – October 24 & 25, 2005
(in association with fall USAFMC meeting)

Democrat: Jerry Patterson (D-CA)
Cathy Long (D-LA)
Republican: Jan Meyers (R-KS)

Ursinus College – October 31- November 2, 2005

ATTACHMENT 1

Republican: Lou Frey (R-FL)
Democrat: Jim Lloyd (D-CA)

United Kingdom – November 5-13, 2005
De Montfort University

Republican: Ron Sarasin
Democrat: Beverly Byron

Siena College – November 6-8, 2005

Democrat: Bill Roy (D-KS)
Republican: Peter Torkildsen (R-MA)

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor – November 6-8, 2005

Democrat: David Skaggs (D-CO)
Republican: Orval Hansen (R-ID)

Rhode Island College - November 13-15, 2005

Republican: Jan Meyers (R-KS)
Democrat: George Hochbrueckner (D-NY)

Suffolk University, November 13-15, 2005

Republican: Mikey Edwards (R-OK)
Democrat: Barbara Kennelly (D-CT)

Indiana University – South Bend – November 13-15, 2005

Democrat: Harold Volkmer (D-MO)
Republican: Dan Miller (R-FL)

University of Kansas (Dole Institute) - November 15-17, 2005

Republican: Orval Hansen (R-ID)
Democrat: Cardiss Collins (D-IL)

SPRING

Washington Center for Internships “Inside Washington” – Jan 3-6, 2006

David Skaggs (D-CO) Beverly Byron (D-MD)
Mickey Edwards (R-OK) Jack Buechner (R-MO)
Ron Sarasin (R-CT)

Dartmouth College – February 6-8, 2006

Republican: Robert Walker (R-PA)
Democrat: Vic Fazio (D-CA)

Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada) February 6-8, 2006

Democrat: Bob Carr (D-MI)
Republican: James Greenwood (R-PA)

University of California, Irvine – February 12-14, 2006

Democrat: Dennis Hertel (D-PA)
Republican: Peter Torkildsen (R-MA)

U.S. Naval Academy - February 26-28, 2006

Democrat: Charlie Stenholm (D-TX)
Republican: Bill Goodling (R-PA)

Mississippi State University - March 5-7, 2006

Republican: Ron Sarasin (R-CT)
Democrat: Earl Hutto (D-FL)

University of Utah - March 5-7, 2006

Republican: Orval Hansen (R-ID)
Democrat Jim Lloyd (D-CA)

Fitchburg State College April 2-4, 2006

Republican: Steve Kuykendall (R-CA)

ATTACHMENT 1

Democrat: David Minge (D-MN)

Amherst College – April 2-4, 2006

Democrat: Matt McHugh (D-NY)

Republican: Bill Goodling (R-PA)

West Virginia University - April 2-4, 2006

Republican: Dan Miller (R-FL)

Democrat: Ron Klink (D-PA)

University of Texas – Austin – April 10-12, 2006

Democrat: Mike Forbes (D-NY)

Republican: Robin Beard (R-TN)

People to People Ambassador Program – April 11 & 18, 2006

David Skaggs (D-CO)

Washington Center for Internships “Inside Washington” – May 19, 2006

Congress to Campus Program

The United States Association of Former Members of
Congress

in partnership with

center for

DEMOCRACY

and

CITIZENSHIP

and

STENNIS

Center for Public Service

APPLICATION FOR CONGRESS TO CAMPUS VISIT

Please complete this form (you may include attachments as needed) and email, fax or mail copies to:

Congressman David Skaggs
 Center for Democracy & Citizenship
 1301 K Street NW, Suite 450 West
 Washington DC 20005
 Fax: 202-728-0422
 Email: congresstocampus@excelgov.org

Name of Institution _____

Address _____

Sponsoring Department _____

Responsible Contact Person _____

[This individual must have authority to act for the host school regarding all arrangements and aspects of the visit.]

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Submitted by _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 2

Background on Institution [founding; governance; accreditations; degrees offered; student body size and characteristics; faculty size and characteristics; geographic area served; religious affiliation; endowment; if this information is readily available on your website, just provide the address for the website.] (Attach additional sheet, if needed.)

Please check those activities from the following list you expect tentatively to be able to include in the Members' schedules if your application for a visit is approved. Experience suggests that allocating most of the visit to a variety of classes works best.

- Introductory classes in political science or U. S. government [Please try to avoid multiple appearances in different sections of the same course.]
- Advanced classes in political science or U. S. government, including courses in the Congress, political theory or foreign affairs
- Classes in political philosophy or history*
- Classes in other disciplines [e.g., health, science, engineering, environment] for students who may be interested in public service careers or who simply need a better grounding in American government*
- ROTC classes
- One-on-one or "office hours" style meetings with individual students interested in public service or political careers [To work well, this option needs to be well publicized, preferably with advance sign-up.]
- Campus political clubs, e.g., Campus Democrats and Young Republicans
- Campus extracurricular activities or clubs with some public policy dimension, e.g., an environmental or international relations club
- Campus speaker series or open campus forum [Please be prepared to do some work to publicize such a session, or give class credit, or risk low attendance.]
- Meeting with student government organization or leadership
- Meetings with school president, chancellor, dean or other senior administrator [This option is offered if it meets a real need for your school; there is no need for a meeting just for protocol reasons; if included, should be *brief*.]
- Meeting with career counseling staff regarding public service
- Faculty departmental colloquium
- Interview with campus newspaper(s) and radio station
- Interview with local newspaper(s) and editorial board(s)
- Interview or talk show appearance with local radio station(s)
- Interview or talk show appearance with local TV station(s)
- Meeting with community service organization(s), e.g., Rotary, Lions, League of Women Voters
- Community talk or forum, e.g., "town hall" type meeting at a public library
- Class visits or assembly at local high school

* At least one class should be in a discipline other than political science or government studies.

ATTACHMENT 2

- “In-service” teacher training on Congress, federal government for middle and high school social studies teachers arranged through local school district(s)
- Major federal government installation or major private sector employer near campus able to host a session with a significant number of employees
- Meeting with local government officials, e.g., appearance at City Council or County Board session or meet with state legislators
- Other (specify) _____

While it is not possible to include all the activities suggested above, the schedule for each visit should include a good variety of activities and not be limited only to classes. Please include at least one class from outside the political science (or government studies) department. Visits typically cover 2 full days following Members’ arrival, with no more than two nights on site. If Members arrive the evening before the schedule begins, they will expect to depart in time to get home the evening of the second day of scheduled events; if they arrive on a morning, they will expect to leave after noon on the third day. Activities may be scheduled from 8 or 9 AM until (as late as) 9 PM, including (some) meal times; for each 4 or 5 hours of scheduled time, an hour of “down” time should be set aside (this may be lunch hour), with facilities for Members to check emails and use a phone. Please attach a proposed schedule for your school visit, comprised of two full days, incorporating the elements tentatively checked above. Please indicate the number of students expected at each proposed activity. (The Program hopes for both quality and quantity, with substantive contact with at least 250 students during a visit as a goal.)

If your application is approved, you will need to submit a complete schedule for the visit at least one month prior to the visit; this is a critical deadline. For class presentations, the instructor for the course should provide brief written guidance to the Members in advance of the visit about what they should discuss during the class period and how it fits into the course (a copy of the course syllabus is helpful. Program staff may request revisions to the schedule if necessary to meet Program standards. Formal campus tours and other area touring are secondary to the Program’s educational objectives and generally should be avoided.

Preferred dates for a visit that fit your academic calendar. _____

Transportation: nearest airport; distance from campus; means of transportation to campus. _____

Other considerations that make your school a good site for the Program. _____

ATTACHMENT 2

The host school is expected to cover the on-site expenses for Member accommodations, meals and local transportation. Please understand that the average Congress to Campus visit also entails about \$5000 in administrative, overhead and transportation expenses. In order to make the Program as widely available as possible, we would also like to recover a portion of those costs, based on the host school's ability to pay. Please indicate the financial category applicable to your institution from the following schedule. _____

Host School Suggested Contribution

Category	Current expenditures per "full-time" student*	Suggested contribution
A	\$30,000 or more	\$3500
B	\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$2500
C	\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$1500
D	\$9999 or less	\$1000

We do not want this cost-sharing goal to prevent any school that wishes to host a visit from doing so. With that in mind, do you need a waiver of all or part of the applicable contribution, and, if so, do you also need assistance with on-site costs? _____ (If 'yes,' please attach an explanation and statement of need signed by an appropriate financial officer of the school.)

Where or how did you learn about the Congress to Campus Program? _____

Note: The host school contact person will be responsible for identifying faculty members who will assist in administering a brief survey instrument to be completed after the Congress to Campus visit by a sample of students in classes visited by Members and by an otherwise comparable sample of students in classes *not* visited. The purpose of this survey is to determine any difference (change) in attitude about politics, government and public service in one group compared to the other, and so to indicate the impact of the visit on student attitudes. In addition, the host school contact person will be expected to complete an evaluation of the visit and to report on print and electronic media coverage of the visit, the expenses paid by the school in connection with the program visit, and the student attendance at each event on the schedule.

* The expenditures figures used to calculate the contribution level should be for the most recent academic year and should be readily available from your school's business or finance office. They are standard data used by the Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For public institutions that follow the GASB 34/35 reporting model, use your school's total expenses – the sum of Operating Expenses and Non-Operating Expenses. Public institutions using the College and University Audit Guide should use the total of current funds expenditures and mandatory transfers. Independent institutions following the Not-for-Profit Audit Guide should use the expenses category. The enrollment figures should come from the IPEDS data for the current academic year, converted to a full-time equivalent enrollment based on one full-time student per three part-time students.

Mr. SKAGGS. Over the last 4 years, the Congress to Campus Program has visited over 120 campuses around the country and really around the world. As most of the people here in the Chamber know, this is a program that exists because of the volunteer time that our former Member colleagues are willing to donate to the program. A Republican and a Democrat spend a couple of days on campuses around the country and just as the association is dedicated to the promotion of democracy abroad, this program helps build democracy here at home. Its purposes are to educate this generation of college students and actually some of their faculty as well about how our government works and in particular how this Congress works, and, secondly, to encourage them to consider spending some of their careers in public service.

We hope that by having a Republican and a Democrat demonstrate that on most things there is more agreement than disagreement for members of the two major parties that we can also communicate some message about how we really solve problems in our political process. This program is only possible because of the generous donation of very precious time on the part of our colleagues, over 50 of whom participated in the program this year. I would like to call on two of them to give us a little bit of a snapshot of the experiences they have had both this year and in the recent past.

I first would like to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Goodling.

Mr. GOODLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First of all I want to thank the Stennis Center, Former Members Association, and David's leadership in giving me the opportunity to lift my spirits when I'm depressed after reading headlines in the local newspapers and The Washington Post and the New York Times, you name it, because it is a lifting experience to go out there and exchange with thousands of students all across this country. I have had the opportunity to go to northern Idaho, to northern Florida, to Amherst, U.S. Naval Academy and Frostburg State University. I am sure in most instances I have gained more than they have gained from my presence, but we give them the opportunity to dig in deeply as to just how this Congress works. We don't tell them everything, of course, but we are very frank. It is a great experience. If you become depressed, as I said, as I do occasionally and wonder whether there is a future for this country, go out and meet with these young people.

The greatest experience, I guess, was to sit in the dining room with 5,000 of the brightest and best young men and women at the Naval Academy and then exchange with them in their classrooms. It sent bumps up and down my spine just being there. So I would encourage you, if you haven't partici-

pated and you want an uplifting experience, go out to the Congress to Campus Program and meet with these young people. As an educator for 22 years before I came here, of course, it just gives me a great opportunity to get up in front and wax eloquently about everything that I don't know anything about and then respond eloquently.

As I tell them every time they ask a question, I'll do the same as I always did in town meetings. No matter what the question is that you ask, whatever it was that I wanted to say this night, I'm going to say whether it has any relevance whatsoever to the question you asked. So if you want an uplifting experience, go and serve on the Congress to Campus Program.

Mr. SKAGGS. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and for his participation.

I would like to yield to another stalwart in the program, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Hochbrueckner.

Mr. HOCHBRUECKNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time, and I lend my words of support to what the gentleman has just mentioned. The Congress to Campus Program is a great program because it gets you out there with real kids, real people; and it is a tremendous outreach program that certainly should be encouraged. I was very fortunate to visit Rhode Island College with Jan Meyers and also Fittsburg, Massachusetts, their college with Greg Laughlin. As was pointed out, there are really two goals of the program. The first is to promote careers in government service and secondly to provide an insider view of how does government really work. You would be surprised at some of the questions that you do get from the kids in terms of various things we do, how it works, and what the inside view is.

Of course as you know as former Members, we will tell most because we're open. We don't have an ax to grind. We're willing to share. I think it's a very educational program for the students. By the way, at Rhode Island, I was pleased that they actually expanded the program, so not only did we speak to the usual political science and other classes but also they had a forum for high school students, and then they took us off to the local media.

So it is a real good opportunity to get the message out that people in government are real people who happen to have fallen into this very important position through various mechanisms. We are just ordinary people serving our fellow people and we get there in a variety of ways. That is the kind of thing I think that gets expressed to the students.

As was pointed out over the last 4 years, the program has visited 120 campuses, and we have addressed over 40,000 students, 9,000 alone just in this past year. So it is a great program. If you have participated already, thank you very much. I know you appreciate it, as Bill does. If you haven't, please consider it. It is well worth your time

and the time of the people of our Nation. I am also very pleased that my former colleague from New York, Matt McHugh, is being honored today. Congratulations to you, Matt. Thank you for the time.

Mr. SKAGGS. Thank you.

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

Mr. BUECHNER. Thank you, David. And thank you, George and Bill, for your very astute observations.

Mr. Speaker, there are several other activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members which deserve to be highlighted today. One certainly is our annual Statesmanship Award Dinner. It has been chaired so exceptionally over the last few years by Lou Frey of Florida. I would like to now yield to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Frey, to comment on the dinner that was held this past March.

If I may reclaim my time for just a second, we have a visitor here. We have the chairman of the, we always say, the powerful Rules Committee, the gentleman from California, DAVID DREIER.

Would the gentleman like to address the organization?

Mr. DREIER. What do you think?

Mr. BUECHNER. I think you should.

Mr. DREIER. Thank you very much, Jack. Let me begin by extending congratulations to our friend Matt, and you all are obviously absolutely brilliant in choosing to honor him. As I look around this Chamber, I can't tell you how much I wish many of you were back. I can't tell you which ones exactly, but there are more than a few of you that I wish were back for many, many, many different reasons.

I want to thank Jack and Jim and David. As I listened to George Hochbrueckner and Bill Goodling talk about the Congress to Campus Program, I couldn't help but think about the fact that you all have been so intimately involved and supportive of a program that is taking place today right here in the Capitol, and that is the development of our House Democracy Assistance Commission. A year ago this month, we unveiled this bipartisan commission that Speaker HASTERT and Minority Leader PELOSI came together to form, I think it may have been the last time they met, but the fact is they came together to form this commission which is designed to build on the fact that there are so many emerging democracies all over the world.

We right now are hosting delegations from Macedonia, the Republic of Georgia, Indonesia and the newest country on the face of the Earth that was established in 1999, East Timor. The idea behind this, of course, as so many of you know, was to create over and above the National Endowment for Democracy and the Democratic Institute and the Republican institute, it was to build direct parliament-to-parliament relationships with these new democracies.

Now, I often quip that after they see us in operation, they may want to go back to totalitarianism in their countries, but frankly many have been able to benefit greatly from having spent last week in the States, in congressional districts, in congressional offices, meeting with chambers of commerce, the media, a wide range of other groups and this week here in Washington. At noon today, we are having our farewell gathering for these parliamentarians and we are also going to be expanding this into a number of other countries. I am going to be going to Kenya and Liberia and Lebanon. Obviously, we are going to focus on Afghanistan and Iraq.

I simply wanted to come by to express my appreciation to the many of you who have gotten involved in this very important issue. Obviously, you have the opportunity to take a little more time in working on this. But it is critical for us to do it.

Congratulations. It is great to see you all. Thanks very much for including me. Thanks, Jim.

Mr. SLATTERY. Chairman DREIER, let me just say that we deeply appreciate your leadership in this commission work, and we commend the work of Speaker HASTERT and Minority Leader PELOSI, and we know that you have given invaluable leadership to this commission.

Mr. DREIER. DAVID PRICE is the ranking member. He has worked very hard.

Mr. SLATTERY. And Congressman PRICE of North Carolina, we are aware of his participation, also. We look forward to working with you. Use us. Thank you.

Lou?

Mr. FREY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been asked to talk about two or three things briefly. The first is our Statesmanship Award Dinner. As you are aware, when I was chairman, I had an idea about 9 years ago to do it. I'm trying to figure out how to get out of running the dinner. But this is the ninth one, and it is very successful now. We have institutionalized it thanks to the hard work of so many people. I think we had over 400 people there this year. As you know, we auction off some memorabilia. It's a fun dinner. It has become a Washington institution, really.

For your memory, our first award recipient was Dan Glickman. We had Lee Hamilton, Lynn Martin, Norm Mineta, Vice President CHENEY, Secretary Rumsfeld. Probably the greatest one, they are all great, but the World War II generation one was just incredible. Talk about chills going up and down you. Bob Dole, Sam Gibbons, John Glenn, George McGovern, and Bob Michel all talked. It was just an incredible experience. Then we had John Breaux and, of course, just recently Chris Cox was our honoree.

We have a lot of people helping. For instance, Dan Glickman still helps with an auction item from his associa-

tion, which is good. And we have on our trip to France got to be friends with a French count whose family goes back to William the Conqueror. He has a chalet over there. He has donated it to the association. Maybe something we should have known in the Congress, or learned, we sold it twice for the same amount of money. Denis de Kergorlay is the gentleman's name. He has become one of our biggest supporters of the association. We get a nice amount of money for it, and everybody is happy. It has been a good dinner, and it has been really our biggest fund-raiser because our dues don't amount to all that much, and we need that money to help run these various programs we have talked about.

We talked about the Congress to Campus Program. One of the complaints that we got early on is, gee, this is great, we learn all these things, but why don't you write it down. Why don't you put something down about all this. It is not in a textbook. So I said, okay, we'll write it down. And we did. With the help of 38 of our members in the House and Senate we wrote a book called Inside the House. University Press published it. It is being used now in a number of schools. I was just told now it is being used in the Ukraine as one of the texts over there. Obviously, it has had an impact and thanks to so many of you who participated.

That's the good news. The bad news is that we're getting complaints that they want something more written. So we are attempting to write a second book on the political rules of the road and how they apply to life. I have sent, I don't know, a lot of letters and some of you so many times you're sick and tired of it, but we have had over 200 and some responses from people. My rules are pretty simple of life and politics. Number one, don't get in a fight with a guy who buys ink by the carload and the second is, and I have been married close to 50 years and this rule applies in politics and at home, if you've got to explain, you're in trouble. Those are my two rules of life.

We have got some very interesting ones, and we are trying to put that book together which hopefully will add to what we're doing. It will probably be another year before we get done. It is not an easy thing to do, the toughest being getting help from you all. I am asking you again, those of you who haven't, please send in your paragraph or page about what your particular rules are.

The third thing I was asked to talk about is a trip to Chile that 14 of us took within, I guess, the last month, month and a half. I had been down there during the Pinochet days when people were disappearing and it was really a dicey time and a dicey place. I hadn't been there in 25 years. I was shocked. It is the jewel of South America. It is free. It has a free press. It has democratic institutions that are in there. They have elected a new President who is described by some people

as vegetarian leftist. I had never heard that before, but I think what they were trying to say is that she wasn't too far on either side. She appointed 10 women of the 20 to her Cabinet and she appointed 10 of the opposite party to it. I think she has got an incredible chance to continue to move Chile forward.

The only ominous part that we saw was China. China has signed an agreement to take 70 percent of their copper for the next 5 years. Of course that is their biggest export. The other interesting part is of the profits from copper, 10 percent by their statute goes directly to the military. As you move around Chile, you will see cultural centers that are there now. English is a second language, but now Chinese is a third language; and I would suggest to you that Chile, this is just the tip of the iceberg with what is going on throughout South America with Chile. We have written a report about it. If you want to get a hold of Pete on that, we can give you a more detailed report on Chile.

Just a couple of other things. Matt, congratulations to you. It is certainly well deserved. We are so pleased that your family is here to see you honored as you should be. The other thing I have to say is that, Jack, you have been through some terrible tough times. You have our respect and our admiration and our affection for what you have gone through and also for the fact that you have continued to give great leadership to this association even in the darkest days. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for what you have done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUECHNER. Thank you, Lou, and I thank you for your kind personal remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the association has some other wonderful things that we have done. I want to thank Lou for the work, obviously, that he has done, the invaluable leadership. But we would like to highlight a few of the other activities. Just so the people up in the gallery understand who we are, we are former Members of Congress. One day a year, the Speaker is good enough to allow this Chamber to be used for us for our annual report back to the Congress of the things that we have been allowed to do in our facility as former Members.

In October of last year, the association hosted a fall meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. We brought together a number of former Members and their spouses and spent a long weekend in my beloved home State. Our main focus was to go to the Truman memorial library in Independence. We had the great opportunity to listen to former Member of Congress Ken Hechler of West Virginia who started his career as an adviser to President Truman. It was a great but an informal way of connecting with old friends and have the association represented in a place other than Washington. We have had a golf tournament, picnics, a

Christmas party for the first time in 2005. I guess you have to call it a holiday party. The association benefits tremendously from the efforts and leadership of many people.

Mr. SLATTERY. Mr. President, might I interrupt you for just a moment?

Mr. BUECHNER. I yield back to the Speaker.

Mr. SLATTERY. I would like to just acknowledge the presence of the distinguished minority leader, the gentlewoman from California. If Congresswoman PELOSI would like to give greetings, we certainly will welcome that.

Congresswoman PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you very much. So what's this, a Democrat in the Speaker's chair? This is a very friendly group.

Good morning to all of you. Jack, thank you for your leadership and the good work of the Former Members Association. Jim, it is wonderful to see you there. It is wonderful to see all of you here.

Thank you for coming. Thank you for your ongoing interest. You know that we consider you on both sides of the aisle intellectual resources to us in the Congress. We also quote you. We build upon your good work. It is just really a source of great encouragement to us that you continue to have the interest to come back to this place.

All of us who have ever served here who have had the privilege of stepping onto this floor and represent the American people, what a great privilege. It is a banner of honor for life. I come here on behalf of the House Democrats to bring you greetings, to welcome you here, to thank you for being an ongoing source of inspiration to us, and also to say that, as I have said before, all of us who serve here consider ourselves colleagues of people that we never even served with before because we have all shared this great honor.

On their behalf, I am privileged to say what a privilege it is for us to call you colleague. I am glad that we are also joined by our distinguished minority whip, Democratic whip, I always use the name Democratic, Democratic whip STENY HOYER of Maryland. I see so many friends here again on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to chatting with you individually but also look forward to what comes from your meeting here. It will be very important to us.

Thank you again for being here.

Mr. SLATTERY. Thank you, Leader PELOSI. It is great to see you.

Mr. BUECHNER. I thank the gentlewoman for her kind remarks.

I want to thank my fellow officers of the association for their energy, dedication and invaluable counsel during my 2 years as president: Jim Slattery, who is in the chair as the Speaker pro tem; Jay Rhodes, who spoke earlier; Dennis Hertel and Larry LaRocco, who is the president emeritus. Let me also thank the members of our board of directors and our counselors for pro-

viding excellent guidance and support throughout the year. In addition, we benefit greatly from the wonderful work of our auxiliary, led so ably by Debi Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, to administer all these programs takes a staff of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals. We expanded our team from three to four full-time employees during 2005, another sign of how active and successful a year it has been for the association: Maya Yamazaki, our program officer; Rebecca Zylberman, who is the member relations manager; Sudha David-Wilp, the program director; and Peter Weichlein, executive director. Would you all stand and have the members give you a round of applause.

This has been a great 2 years. I have been honored to be in this position as the president. You have heard some comments about the loss of my wife who is going to be honored tomorrow and remembered at the auxiliary luncheon. I am sorry she is not here today to conclude my term.

In addition to all the programs and projects we reported on today, in addition to keeping all contact information about former Members of Congress as current and up to date as possible, in addition to identifying grant-giving institutions to fund programs such as the study groups, in addition to all that and more, our staff has organized and executed that office move I spoke to. We are now on K Street, but we are not lobbyists, so that works okay. We are in a bigger space.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HERTEL. I just want to thank on behalf of all the association members you, Jack, for all the work that you have done for making this organization so effective. There is so much that we can talk about that the members have volunteered their time internationally and around this Nation at college campuses. Every program has increased so much, the funding for these programs has increased, the volunteer support, the members' time, because of you, the dedication you have given this association, all the time that you have given it, even through these most, most difficult times. I just want to thank you on behalf of the association and give our heartfelt best to you and your son Charlie.

Mr. BUECHNER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to have with us today several former legislators from our neighbor to the north, Canada. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Patrick Gagnon, Fred Mifflin, Barry Turner, and the Reverend Canon Derwyn Shea, all former members of the Canadian Parliament. Would you four please stand so we can give you a round of applause. We are honored that you have made the trip to join us today and by doing so reaffirm the great relationship that our organizations have.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my sad duty to inform the House of those people who

served in Congress and who have passed away since our report last year. They are:

Robert Badham of California,
J. Glenn Beall, Jr. of Maryland,
Albert Henry Bosch of New York,
Clair Callan of Nebraska,
Ronald Cameron of California,
Carol Campbell, Jr. of South Carolina,

Elford Cederberg of Michigan,
William Dorn of South Carolina,
John Erlenborn, past president of this association, of Illinois,
J. James Exon of Nebraska,
Joseph Karth of Minnesota,
Hastings Keith of Massachusetts,
Richard Kelly of Florida,
John Lesinski of Michigan,
Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota,
John McFall of California,
Donald McGinley of Nebraska,
Lloyd Meeds of Washington,
John Monagan of Connecticut,
Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin,
James Jerrell Pickle of Texas, also known as Jake,

Bertram Podell of New York,
Charles Porter of Oregon,
William Proxmire of Wisconsin,
Edward Roybal of California,
Dan Schaefer of Colorado,
James Scheuer of New York,
Stanley Tupper of Maine,
Richard Vander Veen of Michigan.

I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to rise for a moment of silence as we pay our respect to the memory of these citizens.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, as you know each year the association presents a Distinguished Service Award to an outstanding public servant who is a former Member of Congress. The award rotates between parties, as do our officers. Last year we presented the award to an outstanding Republican, former Senator Dan Coats. This year, we are very pleased to be honoring a remarkable Democrat, a remarkable public servant, former Representative Matt McHugh of the State of New York. Matt McHugh represented the 27th and 28th Congressional Districts of New York in the United States Congress from 1975 to 1992. He served on a wide range of congressional committees, including Appropriations, Intelligence, Standards of Official Conduct, Veterans' Affairs, Agriculture and Interior. He chaired the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus and the Democratic Study Group.

His colleagues dubbed him "the conscience of the House." One of his last congressional duties was to preside over a bipartisan panel set up to investigate abuses of the House Bank that gripped the House in the early 1990s and brought discredit unfortunately upon this House. His post-congressional career includes serving as vice president at Cornell University and being counsel to the president of the World Bank. If you ask him his most challenging, yet gratifying, experience after leaving Congress, I am sure he

will tell you it is the 2 years he was president of the Association of Former Members of Congress.

Matt McHugh personifies what a Member of Congress ought to be because of his integrity, his willingness to work with Members from both sides of the aisle for the good of the country, and because of his dedication to the ideals of deliberative representation. I would like Matt to come forward here.

This plaque that we are going to present to Matt is inscribed as follows: The 2006 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress to the Honorable Matthew F. McHugh for his long and illustrious career in the House of Representatives, and for his laudable efforts as counsel to the president of the World Bank. During his entire career in public service, Matt McHugh exemplified the highest standard of integrity, dignity, and intellect. He inspired those serving with him and left a legacy for those serving after him. His beloved State of New York sent to Congress one of the best and brightest ever to walk these hallowed Halls of the Capitol and his former colleagues applaud and salute him for his distinguished and dignified service.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Jack, for your very gracious remarks and for this recognition.

Thanks to all of you for being here this morning. We want to thank you, Jack, and the officers and staff for the great work that you do in leading the association and in making those programs that we heard about this morning work so well. On a personal note, I also want to say on behalf of my wife, Alanna, and myself how much we admire you and, as the Speaker said, our thoughts and prayers are with you and Charlie during these very tough times.

I also want to express appreciation to my wife and my family, some of whom are here in the gallery this morning. As we all know, politics is an exhilarating, serious profession with a lot of rewards and satisfactions along the way. But most of those rewards go to the candidate and the officeholder and precious few go to the spouse and the family. They make enormous contributions, but they are very seldom recognized. So today is a day to say thank you to Alanna and to my family for their patience and understanding and support at all times in my life, but especially during those very hectic political years that we are all so familiar with.

As I said, I am grateful for this recognition, but I am very much aware that the honor could as easily go to anybody sitting here. As I look around the Chamber, I see so many people who have contributed so much to our country and to the Congress. One of the great things about our association is that it gives us an opportunity to continue to serve an institution that we love. I see so many of you who have done that, during your years here and afterwards as well. The association

brings us together for a variety of reasons. We get to see old friends. We reflect upon some of the experiences we shared together here. We learn something new about what is happening in the world today. But most importantly the programs of the association give us a chance to continue to serve in some small measure the institution that we do love and that is so important to the lifeblood of this country, the Congress.

We are able in some small measure to increase public awareness of how important Congress remains to the country. We have heard many of the programs described this morning, some of which serve that purpose very well but none more important, I think, than the Congress to Campus Program. I know many of you have participated in those campus visits that have been already described. Bill Goodling and I went together recently to Amherst College, and as always we were really touched by how impressive the young generation is, idealistic, bright.

But at the same time given the kind of coverage that government and politics gets today and the other distractions and pressures young people have in their lives, there is a real risk that many of them will not really take a real serious interest in public service. Of course, that would be a great tragedy for the country because clearly the future of the country rests with them. It rests with young people like my own granddaughter who is here today who is going off to college in the fall. And so the Congress to Campus Program gives us a chance to reach out to those young people to explain why public service is important and rewarding, to demonstrate among other things that Republicans and Democrats who serve together can actually talk and discuss issues thoughtfully and constructively, and to encourage them to really engage in public service and community service when their school days are over.

I think we can be grateful to our association for giving us that opportunity, not only in the Congress to Campus Program but in many other ways as well. I know that we are very limited on time. We are almost ready to abandon the Chamber, so I would like to close simply by thanking all of you for your work with the association, for your continuing service to the Congress and the country, for the recognition that you have given me today, and for being with us to share this very special moment.

Thank you so much.

Mr. BUECHNER. Matt, we also are presenting you with a scrapbook filled with letters of congratulations and little notes and memorabilia from your good friends from across the years that you have served with in this Congress, just another additional measure of our respect for you and the compassion that you have always held for the people of the great country and your district.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thanks so much, Jack.

Mr. BUECHNER. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield back to the Chair for some closing remarks.

Mr. SLATTERY. Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, let the Chair again congratulate Matt McHugh. It is great to see Alanna here today and the McHugh family. We welcome you. Matt, let me just say that I don't think anyone who I had the honor of serving with brought greater credit to this institution than you. I always viewed you as someone, and I am sure this view was shared by your colleagues on both sides of the political aisle, as someone who went to work every day here trying to not only make the decisions that you thought were best for the people of New York and the people of this country. That sense of duty and commitment to our country was deeply admired by all of us who had an opportunity to serve with you. To sum up, I would just say that you are a public servant in the finest sense of the word. We are honored to know you. We are honored to recognize you here today. Matt McHugh, good luck to you.

Before we wrap up today, I would also like to again associate myself with the remarks of others made here today about Jack Buechner and his dedicated service to this association. Jack, without your leadership over the last 2 years and your dedication to the objectives of this association, we would not have seen the progress that we have seen with the Congress to Campus Program. We would not have seen the progress that we have also seen with our efforts in the global democracy building work and the election-monitoring efforts around the world. We recognize you for your dedicated leadership through a most difficult and painful personal ordeal and time in your life. We have the deepest respect for you. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done to advance the goals of the Association of Former Members of Congress. Jack, good luck to you, my friend. We look forward to your further participation in the work of the association. Jack Buechner, let's give him another round of applause.

The Chair again wishes to thank all of those former Members that are here today and give you all another opportunity to record your presence if you did not do that at the beginning of the events here today. The Chair also wishes to thank all the former Members of the House for their presence.

I am advised that the House will reconvene 15 minutes after the bells ring.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1055

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.