

Andrew Shoenig, who is our international programs manager. He makes all the international programs that you have heard about possible. He truly does. He started as an intern and has now been with us full-time for over 2 years. We are really very fortunate to have him.

Sharon Witiw, she is our member services manager. You probably have gotten emails from her. She takes exceptionally good care of our 600 association members and all their various requests, needs, and inquiries. Also, without her, our most important domestic program, the Congress to Campus Program, would not be in as good a shape as it is.

Sabine Schleidt is our international programs director and oversees all the current Member programs which are so impressive and important. In the 3 years that she has been with us, she has transformed all the Study Groups into substantive and incredibly productive exchanges that now involve more current Members than ever, including a Diplomatic Advisory Council, which now has about 30 ambassadors from the region that belong.

Pete Weichlein, he is our CEO, and he has been with the organization for 15 years. Pete, I call him the renaissance man because he does so many things and does them all so well: managing, extending our services to other programs, finding synergy in places we never even thought existed. He is there every step of the way, and we very much value his leadership.

And so I would like to have you give a round of applause. It is amazing, so few people can do so much. You heard about the programs, just think, these are the people who help it happen.

In addition to our wonderful staff, we benefit greatly from volunteers who lend their talents and their expertise pro bono. None deserve more appreciation than Dava Guerin. She has taken on the role of our communications director. She tells our story and connects us with the media.

Thank you, Dava. We really appreciate all that you do also. And I hope you are watching this program, although we will see the minutes.

Every year at our annual meeting, we ask the membership to elect new officers and board members. I therefore now will read to you the names of the candidates for board members and officers. They are all running unopposed. I have never run in an election unopposed. They are all running unopposed, and I therefore ask for a simple "yea" or "nay" as I present to you the list of candidates as a slate.

For the association's board of directors the candidates are:

Mary Bono of California
Vic Fazio of California
Martin Frost of Texas
Bart Gordon of Tennessee
Jim Kolbe of Arizona
Steve LaTourette of Ohio
David Scaggs of Colorado
Cliff Stearns of Florida

Jim Walsh of New York
Albert Wynn of Maryland.

All in favor of electing these ten former Members to our board of directors, please say, "yea." I hear it unanimously. All opposed? Hearing no objection, the slate has been elected by the membership.

Next, we will elect our executive committee. The candidates for our executive committee are: Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut for president, Jim Walsh of New York for vice president, Martin Frost of Texas for treasurer, Mary Bono of California for secretary.

All in favor of electing these four former Members to our Executive Committee, please say, "yea." I hear it. All opposed? Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership. I shall join the executive board in my capacity as immediate past president. And let's have a round of applause for all those newly elected members of our board and our officers.

Well, now it is 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 any visitors, to rise as I read the names, and at the end of the list we will pay our respects to their memory with a moment of silence.

We honor these men and women for their service to our country, and they are:

Howard Baker, Jr. of Tennessee
Ben Garrido Blaz of Guam
Lindy Boggs of Louisiana
Harry F. Byrd, Jr. of Virginia
Howard Callaway of Georgia
William Coyne of Pennsylvania
Butler Carson Derrick, Jr. of South Carolina
Alan Dixon of Illinois
Thomas Foley of Washington
John Gilligan of Ohio
Rod Grams of Minnesota
Kenneth James Gray of Illinois
William Gray of Pennsylvania
William Hathaway of Maine
Jack Hightower of Texas
Donald Irwin of Connecticut
Andy Jacobs, Jr. of Indiana
Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey
John McCollister of Nebraska
Jim Oberstar of Minnesota
Major Owens of New York
Otis Pike of New York
Robert Roe of New Jersey
William Roy of Kansas
William Scranton of Pennsylvania
E. Clay Shaw of Florida
Ike Skelton of Missouri
David Michael Staton of West Virginia

Michael L. Strang of Colorado
Arlan Strangeland of Minnesota
Barbara Vucanovich of Nevada
George C. Wortley of New York
Charles Young of Florida.
Thank you.

That concludes the 44th report to Congress by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

We thank the Congress, the Speaker, and the minority leader for giving us the opportunity to return to this re-

vered Chamber and to report on our association's activities. We thank them also personally for their comments to us and encouragement. We look forward to another active and productive year.

Thank you.

Ms. KENNELLY. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Lord God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

For all of us, some days are better than others, some tasks more difficult than others, but You have shown grace and favor to our country since its inception. Please guide our Nation's leaders to make wise decisions in the best interests of citizens everywhere.

For those who feel called by You to serve, let them say, "Here I am. Send me." Grant all of the Members of this House integrity of action so that they act not for their own honor and glory but, rather, for the welfare of all of their constituents.

Lord, we also pray for all former Members of Congress, many of whom are gathered here at the Capitol today. Continue to guide them along their way, revealing to them the truth and bringing them to the fullness of life. May their examples of heroic statesmanship be an inspiration to all.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

BORDER TRIP

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the immigration crisis taking place on the southern border of my home State of Texas demands our undivided attention as well as immediate action.

That is why, unlike the President, I will head to the Rio Grande Valley on Friday. This area covers over 320 river miles and 19 counties, equating to over 17,000 square miles. Knowing this, there is no way to fully grasp the scope and depth of the crisis through a simple briefing in Washington.

The President and HARRY REID just don't get it. Last night, HARRY REID declared, "The border is secure." That blew my mind. If he and the President spent any time at the border, they would see just how out of touch they are.

Mr. President, Americans, particularly Texans, have been waiting 5½ years for a secure border. It is time to secure our border. It is time to enforce our immigration laws.

ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL FOR WOMEN

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped we would have settled this debate decades ago. Yet here we are in 2014, and we are still arguing over access to birth control for women.

According to the five-man Supreme Court majority in the Hobby Lobby case, it wasn't enough for politicians to have a say in women's access to health care. Apparently, their employers should have a say, too. This decision is yet another example of the constitutional rights of individual Americans being trumped by the apparent rights of corporations. So a woman is entitled to her own religious beliefs as long as they don't get in the way of the religious beliefs of the corporation she works for.

The Court's ruling in Hobby Lobby allows for for-profit companies to interfere with the personal health decisions of their employees, opening the door for employers to discriminate against women who are simply seeking practical medical care.

Justice Ginsburg said it best in her scathing dissent: "The Court has ventured into a minefield." Now it is up to Congress to find a way out.

ISRAEL

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with full and unwavering support that I stand beside our greatest friend and ally in the Middle East, the State of Israel.

We condemn the violent terrorist attacks that have been executed in the name of jihad, and the resolution we passed in the House reaffirms Israel's right to defend herself.

When 5 million innocent Israelis wake up every morning to the threat of deadly rocket attacks, they have the right to protect themselves.

When Hamas, a terrorist organization that has fired more than 600 rockets from Gaza in the last month alone, calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, the people have the right to respond.

This Congress will stand beside them as they do.

Our resolution reaffirms Israel's right to defend herself, and it calls on Hamas to immediately cease its deadly rocket attacks.

We must come together as a Congress and as a country to condemn the terrorist attacks against the people of Israel. Furthermore, we urge this administration, as it moves forward in its nuclear negotiations with Iran, to take a somber look at Iran's support of Hamas.

#BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago, over 200 Nigerian schoolgirls were abducted and a hashtag went viral—#bringbackourgirls.

While talking about the girls may no longer be trendy, it is more important now than ever to bring them home. Every moment they are gone is a moment they are in danger.

Mr. Speaker, 3 months without our girls means that the time is now to keep pressure on the Nigerian Government. We must tweet with a fervent passion that extends beyond the glamour of a breaking news story. We cannot slow down. We cannot lose momentum. We cannot rest until our girls are home.

Every morning between 9 and 12, tweet "Bring Back Our Girls" with a

hashtag—#bringbackourgirls, #bringbackourgirls, and #joinrepwilson, #joinrepwilson. Tweet, tweet, tweet. Keep tweeting until we bring back our girls.

AMERICA WILL STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the continued attacks by Hamas on our Middle East ally Israel causes innocent Israelis to live under the daily threat of rocket attacks from Hamas at any given moment.

Our closest ally in the region must defend itself against vicious attacks aimed at its civilians. Each rocket attack that Hamas launches to kill civilians in Israel is an act of war. The United States must not underestimate how serious these attacks are and how crucial it is that we continue to support Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I am shocked that the Obama administration intends to continue funding the Palestinian Authority. Their decision to form a new government with Hamas is appalling, and we must respond appropriately.

How can we possibly continue funding a foreign government that has embraced a terrorist group currently attacking one of our closest allies and that has refused to acknowledge its right to even exist?

Our message to the world must be clear: America will always stand with Israel, and America will always punish acts of terror.

#BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark over 3 months since Boko Haram kidnapped over 270 girls from a school in northeastern Nigeria.

Abducting innocent young girls and forcing children into marriage or slavery is unconscionable, and no child in any part of the world should live in such fear. These kidnappings are not just a concern for Nigerian students but an issue that impacts all nations that respect basic human rights, including a person's right to pursue an education.

I stood with my colleagues in Congress in support of a resolution, sponsored by my friend and colleague Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, condemning Boko Haram and their heinous acts. Boko Haram relies on the tactics of fear and intimidation to make their victims feel helpless, and will try to convince these girls that the world has forgotten them and that no one cares about them.

The United States and the international community must continue to send a loud message that we have not forgotten about these girls and that we