



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery  
Luncheon Honoring German Consul General Annette Klein  
Winter Park, FL  
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Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Murphy and I am proud to represent the people of central Florida in the U.S. Congress.

First, I would like to offer a warm welcome to German Consul General Annette Klein. Given your record of service from Poland to Afghanistan, it is clear you bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with you to Florida, and we're so happy to have you here with us.

I look forward to working with you to fortify the already-strong bonds between the United States and Germany. Our two countries are united by common interests and, more importantly, by shared values. Whether it is tourism and trade, economic development, or security cooperation against terrorism, the world is a more prosperous and peaceful place because of the American-German alliance.

I would also like to thank Honorary Consul Brock McClane and our hosts, Ed and Edye Haddock, for planning this beautiful lunch with so many distinguished members of our community.

Central Florida is a special place, and the word is out. In fact, of the nation's 30 largest regions, Orlando is the fastest growing. The Orlando Economic Development Commission noted that, over the past six years, our region has on average added 138 new residents every single day.

So, the question facing us is how do we handle that population growth in a smart and strategic way that builds a prosperous and inclusive economy for everyone? That's the vision I want to discuss with you all today.

With all the building blocks already in place, I believe central Florida has the potential to become one of the nation's top innovative economies—and that's what I'm working to help build as your Member of Congress.

What exactly is an innovative economy?

It means we harness the power and promise of modern technology in order to create well-paying and personally-fulfilling jobs; to provide quality goods and services that meet customer demand both domestically and internationally; and to generate broad-based economic growth that benefits the many, not the few.

For example, the national epicenter for modeling, simulation and training is here in Orlando. The military and other government agencies, private industry, and academia—known collectively as “Team Orlando—are working together as partners to develop advanced training and other products for our men and women in uniform and the commercial sector.

Downtown Orlando has a thriving, rapidly-growing technology ecosystem representing a wide range of sectors. Seminole County is home to a hub of data centers and back-office operations for major corporations.

Feeding all of this is a dynamic and diverse higher education system, including the second-largest research university in the country, a leading liberal arts college, and numerous other institutions that help students develop the precise skills they need to thrive in this brave new world, which is evolving at a dizzying pace.

It is no wonder that companies from all over the United States and around the world, including Germany, are investing in central Florida.

To cite one example, just down the road, Siemens is delivering solutions to make our electric grid more efficient and reliable and our energy more affordable.

Now, government at all levels—federal, state, and local—can help foster an innovative economy through thoughtful legislation and regulation. Or, alternatively, government can frustrate the development of an innovative economy by enacting policies that are not carefully considered, or are overly-burdensome or over-reaching.

As your voice in our nation’s capital, I am working to ensure the federal government fosters, rather than frustrates, the innovative economy here in central Florida.

- First, I secured an assignment on the Armed Services Committee, where I will have an active role in shaping the Department of Defense budget priorities, fighting for investments in modeling and simulation technology that will prepare our military with the most realistic, cost-effective training possible. This will have the added benefit of creating well-paying jobs in central Florida, since we are the nation’s leader in fostering this technology.
- Second, I secured an assignment on the Small Business Committee where I hope to serve on the subcommittee that oversees federal government contracting, so we can help small businesses in central Florida compete for and win federal contracts and hire more workers.
- Third, I am already working with both Democrats and Republicans to fight for investments in our aging infrastructure, including critical investments in central Florida that will help our region facilitate its booming population.

While the primary roles for a Member of Congress are crafting legislation and casting votes, I also see the role as a convener and a catalyst—bringing people together regardless of party affiliation—who may not even be aware that they have common interests and the potential to be partners, just as I did in the Department of Defense and in the private sector.

By expanding opportunities to grow for our businesses, empowering workers and those who want to work, and leveraging the tremendous talent in our local universities and colleges, central Florida's economy can become bigger than the sum of its parts. We just have to be willing to do the hard math.

Thank you again for inviting me to speak here today. I look forward to working with all of you to establish and enhance our innovative economy and to create a stronger, more prosperous area for our families to call home.

Thank you.