Greetings–

I wanted to make sure you knew about this event we’re hosting at the National Archives on June 20th.

We’re excited that Rain Valladares, one of the students who survived the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. will be joining us, along with her teacher and several other panelists, to talk about citizen activists and how they’ve succeeded in changing our country over the past decades. We’d love for you, or one of your colleagues, to attend the event and if you would like to do any interviews, please let Alia (below) know, and I know she’ll be happy to set that up.

If you have any questions, please let us know. Also, if you are interested in grabbing coffee sometime and learning more about FMC and the work we do to strengthen Congress and our representative republic, I’d love to do that at your convenience!

Thanks for your time,

pk

**Paul Kincaid | Director, Congressional Outreach**

**Congressional Study Groups | U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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 **ADVISORY: MSD High School Student Joins FMC Panel On Citizen Engagement**Parkland student will be joined by her teacher, civic activists and former Members of Congress for conversations about making your voice heard.

(June 15, 2018) – **Rain Valladares**, co-photo editor of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School yearbook, will join her teacher **Sarah Lerner** at a panel hosted by FMC, the Association of Former Members of Congress, and the National Archives, focusing on the impact of civic activism.

Valladares’ photos, taken an hour before the horrific shooting that took 17 lives at the school, went viral following the shooting, helping further focus on the children and educators who lost their lives.

The panel, “Citizen Engagement in American History” will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at the National Archives, 700 Constitution Ave. NW in Washington, D.C.

Valladares and Lerner will join **Candace Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), former U.S. Rep. Tim Petri (R-Wisc.)** and **Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.)** for a discussion moderated by former **U.S. Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), Director, President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Center**.

Their discussion will focus on how American citizens have been an active participant in their representative democracy, from the civil rights movement in the 50s and 60s, to today’s grassroots movement on gun control.

**Lightner** will discuss the grassroots efforts that led to the creation of MADD. After her daughter was killed by a drunk driver, who received little punishment for the crime, Lightner started at her kitchen table and began the movement that led to toughening of DUI laws nationwide and beginning a national discussion about the real impact of drinking and driving.

**Norton**, who has represented Washington, D.C. as a delegate to Congress since 1981, has been a civil rights activist most of her life. She was the first woman appointed as chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, working on combatting religious discrimination and other issues, to protect the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of race, gender, religion and the like.

**Petri,** who represented Wisconsin from 1979 until his retirement in 2015, will discuss the importance that grassroots activism plays in influencing the thinking and voting on the part of our elected representatives.

FMC is a non-profit organization chartered by Congress in 1970 and dedicated to creating a better Congress, through civics and democracy education, encouraging communication between former and current Members and a robust international legislative exchange, created by FMC’s Congressional Study Groups on Japan, Germany, Korea and Europe.

For more information, or to RSVP to cover this event, please contact Alia Diamond, FMC Communications Associate at adiamond@usafmc.org or call 202-222-0972.

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