Early Memories of Cuba
Representative Ros-Lehtinen remembers her early life in Cuba and her relocation to the United States.

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My early memories of Cuba were really as a child, my school, my neighborhood. And I remember, you know, being in the car when my parents were driving around, around Havana, and shots would be ringing out and we would, we would get, they would say to lie down in the car. So we thought that was kind of crazy and strange. But as a child, I had no recollection of this being a political revolution or democracy versus communism. I was only a kid. So I think eight year olds now are more aware than we were back in the day. But I thought it was an interesting adventure, when we got to leave Havana to go to Miami because my, my mom had bought some special clothes for us—for my brother and for me—and it was our first airplane ride. So, my brother and I, we were giddy with excitement, and my mother was just crying throughout the, it was only probably a 35-minute plane ride, but it was a heartbreak for her. But it was, it was a real joy for my brother and for me because we were kids. New clothes, airplane, wow this is great, and little did we know that the days would turn into weeks and months and years and decades. And here it is, to me, I mean the United States is obviously my home.