

	MISSISSIPPI			TENNESSEE		
Pickering Shows	Taylor Thompson	Wicker	Bryant Clement Duncan	Ford Gordon Hilleary	Jenkins Tanner Wamp	
	MISSOURI			TEXAS		
Akin Blunt Clay	Emerson Gephardt Graves	Hulshof McCarthy Skelton	Arme Barton Bentsen Bonilla Brady Combest Culberson DeLay Doggett Edwards	Frost Gonzalez Granger Green Hall Hinojosa Jackson-Lee Johnson, E.B. Johnson, Sam Lampson	Ortiz Paul Reyes Rodriguez Sandlin Sessions Smith Stenholm Thornberry Turner	
	MONTANA			UTAH		
	Rehberg			Hansen		Matheson
	NEBRASKA			VERMONT		
Bereuter	Osborne	Terry		Sanders		
	NEVADA			VIRGINIA		
Berkley	Gibbons		Cannon	Goode Goodlatte Moran Schrock Scott	Sisisky Wolf	
	NEW HAMPSHIRE			WASHINGTON		
Bass	Sununu			Hastings Inslee Larsen	McDermott Nethercutt Smith	
	NEW JERSEY			WEST VIRGINIA		
Andrews Ferguson Frelinghuysen Holt LoBiondo	Menendez Pallone Pascrell Payne Rothman	Roukema Saxton Smith	Boucher Cantor Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Thomas M.	Mollohan	Rahall	
	NEW MEXICO			WISCONSIN		
Udall	Wilson		Baird Dicks Dunn	Kind Klecicka Obey	Petri Ryan Sensenbrenner	
	NEW YORK			WYOMING		
Ackerman Boehlert Crowley Engel Fossella Gilman Grucci Hinchey Houghton Israel Kelly	King LaFalce Lowey Maloney McCarthy McHugh McNulty Meeks Nadler Owens Quinn	Rangel Reynolds Serrano Slaughter Sweeney Towns Velázquez Walsh Weiner	Capito	Cubin		
	NORTH CAROLINA			□ 1236		
Ballenger Burr Clayton Coble	Etheridge Hayes Jones McIntyre	Myrick Price Taylor Watt		The CLERK. The quorum call dis- closes that 429 Representatives-elect have responded to their name. A quorum is present.		
	NORTH DAKOTA			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
	Pomeroy			The CLERK. The Clerk will state that credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of the Honorable ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA as Resident Commissioner from the Com- monwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2001; the election of the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia; the election of the Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands; the election of the Honorable ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA as Delegate from Amer- ican Samoa; and the election of ROB- ERT A. UNDERWOOD as Delegate from Guam.		
	OHIO			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Boehner Brown Chabot Gillmor Hall Hobson Jones	Kaptur Kucinich LaTourette Ney Oxley Portman Pryce	Regula Sawyer Strickland Tiberi Trafigant		The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	OKLAHOMA			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Carson Istook	Largent Lucas	Watkins Watts		The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	OREGON			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Blumenauer DeFazio	Hoohey Walden	Wu		The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	PENNSYLVANIA			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Borski Brady Coyne Doyle English Fattah Gekas	Greenwood Hart Hoeffel Holden Kanjorski Mascara Murtha	Peterson Pitts Platts Sherwood Shuster Toomey Weldon		The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	RHODE ISLAND			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Kennedy	Langevin			The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	SOUTH CAROLINA			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
Brown Clyburn	DeMint Graham	Spence Spratt		The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		
	SOUTH DAKOTA			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK		
	Thune			The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Rep- resentatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Ju- lian C. Dixon.		

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CLERK. Pursuant to law and to precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Clerk, the Congress and the Nation have been blessed these past 2 years by the inspiring leadership of a gentleman whose only special interest in these United States of America is these United States of America. We are deeply grateful for his selfless devotion to this institution and to the advancement of the American people and the American Republic.

Mr. Clerk, as Chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that conference to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress the name of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois.

The CLERK. The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Clerk, as Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that caucus to present for election to the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress the name of the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, a Representative-elect from the State of Missouri.

The CLERK. The Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois, and the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, a Representative-elect from the State of Missouri, have been placed in nomination.

Are there any further nominations?

There being no further nominations, the Clerk will appoint tellers.

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choice.

The reading clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

□ 1330

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

HASTER T—222

Aderholt
Akin
Army
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggart
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combust
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Thomas M.
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Paul
Pence
Goodlatte
Goss

Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Sessions (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Morella
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri

Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Sweeny
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Taylor (OK)
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

GEPHARDT—206

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry

Bishop
Blagojevich
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)

Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)

DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinche
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inlee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kleczka
Kucinich

LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Morkey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-
McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps

Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Sisisky
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

MURTHA—1

PRESENT—2

Hastert

NOT VOTING—3

Gutierrez Lipinski Stark

□ 1249

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast for a person by name is 429, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTER T of the State of Illinois has received 222, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT of the State of Missouri has received 206, and the Honorable JOHN P. MURTHA of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received 1, with 2 recorded as “present.”

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTER T of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress, having received a majority of the votes cast.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Chair: The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT),

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY),

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY),
The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR),
The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS),
The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS),
The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY),
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON), and
The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

□ 1345

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 107th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Members of the House, families of House Members, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. First, I want to say that I thought a few moments ago about asking for a recount, but I decided against it.

This is a day of celebration for candidates and our families, and it is also a day of celebration of our continuing experiment in democracy, which we again have successfully achieved, even in the face of a very close election. What sets America apart is that despite very difficult events, we decide elections by the rule of law, and we have peaceful transitions of power.

Mr. Speaker, I called you after the election to congratulate you, and all of us on the Democratic side extend our congratulations to you and your Members today.

We hope for a bipartisan atmosphere in this new Congress, and we understand that this requires not just words, but deeds and actions. We know that our differences on issues are heartfelt and real, but I hope the closeness of the margin between our parties in the Congress will be viewed as an opportunity, not a hindrance. This is the people's House, and we are all proud to be part of it. It is not a Republican House; it is not a Democratic House. As a recognition of that principle, it is our hope that in gestures, both small and large, on the part of each of us as individuals and as leaders, we will make that principle a daily reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, we honor your leadership and we respect your majority. Our pledge is to meet you halfway and, in return, we hope that great things in these 2 years can be accomplished for the American people that we serve.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, it is my honor to present the Speaker of the House of the 107th Congress, the gentleman from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT.

Mr. HASTERT. I guess I really should not hammer it down while I am still getting applause, but I want to thank DICK GEPHARDT for his gracious remarks. DICK GEPHARDT has been a great leader of the House Democrats. He has unified his Democrat Caucus over the last 2 years with unusual effectiveness. He has criss-crossed the Nation, doing his best to help his candidates take a majority in the House. He has worked day and night with a singular determination. I know how hard he has worked, because I had to do my best just to keep up with him.

DICK, let me say that I respect your commitment to your principles, I respect and deeply admire your competitive spirit, and thank you so much for your heartfelt comments today. Thank you very much.

Now that the campaign is over, I know you will put the same energy and determination that you demonstrated during the campaign in working with me to do the people's business. Thank you all, Democrats, Republicans, for this honor, to be Speaker of the whole House.

Today, I stand before you at the beginning of a new year, some say the beginning of a new millennium, and certainly, the beginning of a new Congress. Today, we swear in 41 new Members in the House. One of our new Members is one of the greatest football coaches in college football history, TOM OSBORNE. On the Senate side, we welcome nine new Senators, including the first First Lady ever to run for public office.

□ 1400

We have a new President in the White House who won in the closest election in our Nation's history. While

times in the past 2 years have been difficult, this time of new beginnings provides us with new opportunity to reach out and to work with all of our colleagues to get the people's work done.

This will be my second term as Speaker of the House, but I could not have done this without the voters of Illinois' 14th District. This past November they elected me to my eighth term in the House of Representatives. I want to thank those people from the Fox Valley and environs of Illinois for trusting me year after year to represent them in this, the people's House, in the Nation's Capitol.

I also appreciate the bipartisan support that I receive from our Illinois leadership. With us today we have the Governor of the State of Illinois, we have the mayor of the great city of Chicago, Richard Daley, along with Governor Ryan. We also have the Republican leader in the Illinois House of Representatives. I thank them for joining us today.

To my family, my wife, Jean, my two sons, Josh and Ethan, I thank you for your love, your encouragement, your understanding. Jean, thank you for providing me with a good dose of midwestern common sense every time I need it. And in this job, I need it often.

As I said 2 years ago and it is still true, the Fox River, not the Potomac River, is still my home. My family reminds me of that fact every day.

Two years ago I stood here as the Speaker of this House, untested and largely unknown. While Hastert may still not be a household name, I hope that I have earned your respect as a fair and just Speaker of this House. By this election today, I am reassured that I have performed the duties that have been asked of me to lead this House and do the will of the people.

To all those Democrats who have gone out of their way to support me over the last 2 years, I value your respect and your loyalty because I had to work harder to earn it. And for the rest of my Democratic colleagues, if I have not earned your respect in the last 2 years, I hope I can earn it in the next 2. I know it is not easy to have a rival party lead the House's agenda. After all, I, too, used to be in the minority. But I gave my word that I would go out of my way to make sure your voices are heard, and my word is my bond.

Our political system has endured a trial. This trial has exposed many warts in our political process. It has also exposed the great strength of our democracy. After all, our system is based upon laws, not on personalities, and ultimately, our Constitution triumphs.

Our democracy is stronger also because we have two strong political parties and a vibrant opposition. Make no mistake, the system of checks and balances originally devised by our Founding Fathers works, and it will continue

to work to protect the freedom of our citizens.

Many have commented about the deep wounds caused by this latest political competition, but it serves no purpose to dwell on the past. After all, our country is at peace. Our economy is still fundamentally strong. Our people are united with a strength of purpose and by a desire to live the American dream. It is only in Washington where many still have a lingering animosity over the political parties.

We need to get over it. We need to work together to revitalize this democracy. We need to get to the people's business. I have a great faith that we can do so. This Nation has faced greater trials, and we have persevered and prospered.

A former Speaker, a gentleman from Texas by the name of Sam Rayburn, once said, "I do believe when critical hours arise, the Members of this House will do as they have done in the past: Rise to the occasion, and show to the world that whether Republicans or Democrats, we are all Americans, and love and want to protect and defend and perpetuate the institutions of this, the best, the mightiest, and the freest government that ever blessed mankind in all the world."

He was right then, and his words ring true today. Let us show people that even those who disagree can reach reasonable solutions for the sake of a nation.

Our new president was elected on an agenda to promote prosperity, opportunity, and security for all Americans. We have a duty to consider his agenda and to help him lead America in this next Congress.

Two years ago I stood before you and said that every child should have the right to a good education and a safe school. We have made some progress, but we have a long way to go.

In a sense, this election was all about the education of our children. Improving education still represents one of the Nation's greatest challenges. Every child must have access to a good education and a safe environment. Every school must be more accountable. Every parent must have faith that his or her child is getting the best education possible.

President-elect Bush spoke of ending the soft bigotry of low expectations. We must expect more of our teachers, more of our parents, more of our students, and more of our schools. We must make sure they have the resources to do the job without wasting money on more Federal bureaucracy.

I taught government and history at a small high school in northern Illinois for 16 years. My wife taught in that same town for 34 years. I know firsthand some of the problems that our public schools face: declining test scores, rising dropout rates, complacency, decreasing graduation rates.

Yet, I know hundreds of teachers personally, and I know there are hundreds of thousands of dedicated teachers who want to see our children succeed.

The hundreds of Federal programs created to remedy the problems are not helping. We need local solutions. If we really want to help children learn, we need to send more dollars and decisions to the parents, the teachers, and the folks who run the schools. We need to cut Washington red tape.

To show the Nation our commitment to better schools, I will reserve the first House bill, H.R. 1, for President-elect Bush's education proposal. Together, let us pledge to improve education for all of our students.

Retirement security is another challenge that Congress must face. Let me begin about social security. Social security is a sacred trust. Our challenge is now to keep it working far into the future.

In the last session of Congress we put Americans' social security dollars in a lockbox so that government could no longer raid those funds and threaten the future of the program. That helped social security in the short term. Now we must look to the long term. The American people deserve better than a fraction of 1 percent return on their social security investment. If this program does not do better, it will not survive.

The new President and the Congress have both promised to save social security. Now is the time to make good on that promise. Together we must search for a solution to a long-term problem.

Retirement security also means health care. Medicare must be modernized, and that process must include prescription drug coverage for all of our senior citizens. No senior should be forced to choose between putting food on the table and having access to life-saving drugs. Together, we can work to modernize Medicare.

National security is another challenge that the 107th Congress must face. We have done a good job of providing for more resources for our men and women in uniform, but we can do better. It is still a dangerous world out there, and our defensive capabilities must improve to keep our citizens safe.

President-elect Bush pledged to work with the Congress to support our national missile defense program and provide our military with the funds they need to stay strong. This will be a top priority of the 107th Congress. Together we can work with the President to improve our Nation's security and to keep our citizens safe from international threats.

Finally, we have a duty to be fiscally responsible and to take steps to keep our economy strong. The last Congress paid off more debt than any other Congress in history. That is an amazing achievement. You helped make that happen. We are on the road to pay off

our public debt by the year 2013. By continuing to pay off debt, we keep our economy strong. We need to also have the responsibility to return surplus money back to the taxpayers with commonsense tax relief.

We need to restore fairness to our Tax Code. It is not fair to tax people for being married. It is not fair to tax people on every penny they earn while they are living, and then tax them on what they have left over when they die. In the last Congress we made progress on these two tax fairness initiatives. This year, let us get it done.

Also, there are troubling signs that our economy is slowing down. President-elect Bush has proposed a tax relief package that will stimulate economic growth. I believe we have a duty to our constituents and this country to consider this proposal. Together we can work with the new President to keep our economy strong and to give tax relief to all Americans.

More than 20 years ago, I stood as a high school teacher before the classes of my high school day in and day out. I taught them about the promises and the possibilities of this Nation, this country we call America. I taught them that in America, people work hard to achieve their dreams for their families, for their careers, and for their communities. I told each student they could fulfill almost even their wildest dreams if they were willing to sacrifice and to work for that dream.

Little did I know then how fate would bring me to this place and to this position, the Speaker of the House. But fate has also brought all of you here. You all have sacrificed your time and your effort, and your families have sacrificed with you, for a chance to serve in this body. You have done so because you believe that you can get good things done for your constituents and for all the American people, and that by your efforts, you can make this even a better Nation.

□ 1415

Together we have a great opportunity to work for the American people as their representatives. There is no higher honor and there is no greater responsibility. As we promise in solemn ceremony to uphold the Constitution by taking the oath of office, let us do so with the conviction that we renew the American government with each new Congress; that we will renew our efforts by working together, fighting about principle and searching for truth through debate.

Today, we are sworn in to represent the people. We participate in the greatest ongoing democratic ritual in the world. Let us always be mindful of our duties to our constituents and respectful of the traditions of this institution. Let us pray that God guides us in all that we do in these halls; that he gives us the knowledge to do the people's

work, the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know when to listen to what others say on this floor. May God bless this House.

Now, it is my time to do the people's business, and it is my great honor to recognize my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Commerce, whose legislative skills I admire so much.

I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the honorable gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) to administer the oath.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to the precedents, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time.

If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now Members of the 107th Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as their majority leader the gentleman from Texas, the Honorable RICHARD K. ARMEY.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from Missouri, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.