

	NEVADA	
Berkley	Gibbons	Porter
	NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Bass	Bradley	
	NEW JERSEY	
Andrews	LoBiondo	Rothman
Ferguson	Menendez	Saxton
Frelinghuysen	Pallone	Smith
Garrett	Pascrell	
Holt	Payne	
	NEW MEXICO	
Pearce	Udall	Wilson
	NEW YORK	
Ackerman	King	Rangel
Bishop	Kuhl	Reynolds
Boehlert	Lowey	Serrano
Crowley	Maloney	Slaughter
Engel	McCarthy	Sweeney
Fossella	McHugh	Towns
Higgins	McNulty	Velázquez
Hincheey	Meeks	Walsh
Israel	Nadler	Weiner
Kelly	Owens	
	NORTH CAROLINA	
Butterfield	Jones	Price
Coble	McHenry	Taylor
Etheridge	McIntyre	Watt
Foxx	Miller	
Hayes	Myrick	
	NORTH DAKOTA	
	Pomeroy	
	OHIO	
Boehner	Kaptur	Pryce
Brown	Kucinich	Regula
Chabot	LaTourette	Ryan
Gillmor	Ney	Strickland
Hobson	Oxley	Tiberi
Jones	Portman	Turner
	OKLAHOMA	
Boren	Istook	Sullivan
Cole	Lucas	
	OREGON	
Blumenauer	Hooley	Wu
DeFazio	Walden	
	PENNSYLVANIA	
Brady	Hart	Platts
Dent	Holden	Schwartz
Doyle	Kanjorski	Sherwood
English	Murphy	Shuster
Fattah	Murtha	Weldon
Fitzpatrick	Peterson	
Gerlach	Pitts	
	RHODE ISLAND	
Kennedy	Langevin	
	SOUTH CAROLINA	
Barrett	Clyburn	Spratt
Brown	Inglis	Wilson
	SOUTH DAKOTA	
	Herseth	
	TENNESSEE	
Blackburn	Duncan	Jenkins
Cooper	Ford	Tanner
Davis	Gordon	Wamp
	TEXAS	
Barton	Gohmert	Marchant
Bonilla	Gonzalez	McCauley
Brady	Granger	Neugebauer
Burgess	Green Al	Ortiz
Carter	Green, Gene	Paul
Conaway	Hall	Poe
Cuellar	Hensarling	Reyes
Culberson	Hinojosa	Sessions
DeLay	Jackson-Lee	Smith
Doggett	Johnson, E.B.	Thornberry
Edwards	Johnson, Sam	
	UTAH	
Bishop	Matheson	

	VERMONT	
	Sanders	
	VIRGINIA	
	Boucher	Drake
	Cantor	Forbes
	Davis, Jo Ann	Goode
	Davis, Tom	Goodlatte
	WASHINGTON	
	Baird	Inslee
	Dicks	Larsen
	Hastings	McDermott
	WEST VIRGINIA	
	Capito	Mollohan
	WISCONSIN	
	Baldwin	Moore
	Green	Obey
	Kind	Petri
	WYOMING	
	Cubin	

Therefore, Mr. Clerk, as chairman of the House Republican Conference, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that conference, and am very honored to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress of the United States of America the name of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois.

The CLERK. The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Clerk, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by a unanimous vote of that caucus to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress a lady of great distinction, a lady of integrity, a fighter for America's children and families and a leader not only of House Democrats but a leader for our Nation and this Congress, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a Representative-elect from the State of California.

The CLERK. The Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois, and the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a Representative-elect from the State of California, have been placed in nomination.

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

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), 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.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]
HASTERT—226

Aderholt	Boozman	Conaway
Akin	Boustany	Crenshaw
Alexander	Bradley (NH)	Cubin
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Culberson
Baker	Brown (SC)	Cunningham
Barrett (SC)	Brown-Waite,	Davis (KY)
Bartlett (MD)	Ginny	Davis, Jo Ann
Barton (TX)	Burgess	Davis, Tom
Bass	Burton (IN)	Deal (GA)
Beauprez	Buyer	DeLay
Biggart	Calvert	Dent
Bilirakis	Camp	Diaz-Balart,
Bishop (UT)	Cantor	Lincoln
Blackburn	Capito	Diaz-Balart,
Blunt	Carter	Mario
Boehlert	Castle	Doolittle
Boehner	Chabot	Drake
Bonilla	Chocola	Dreier
Bonner	Coble	Duncan
Bono	Cole (OK)	Ehlers

□ 1234
The CLERK. The quorum call discloses that 424 Representatives-elect have responded to their name. A quorum is present.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of the Honorable LUIS FORTUÑO as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2005; 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 American Samoa; and the election of the Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Representatives to the 109th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the Fifth District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

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 109th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Clerk, for the past 6 years, this House has been led by a man with great strength, passion and a sense of fairness. With a steady hand and quiet conviction, he has helped to guide this body and this Nation through periods of both trial and triumph.

Emerson	Kingston	Ramstad	Maloney	Ortiz	Skelton
English (PA)	Kirk	Regula	Markey	Owens	Slaughter
Everett	Kline	Rehberg	Marshall	Pallone	Smith (WA)
Feeney	Knollenberg	Reichert	Matheson	Pascrell	Snyder
Ferguson	Kolbe	Renzi	McCarthy	Pastor	Solis
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Kuhl (NY)	Reynolds	McCollum (MN)	Payne	Spratt
Flake	LaHOOD	Rogers (AL)	McDermott	Pelosi	Stark
Foley	Latham	Rogers (KY)	McGovern	Peterson (MN)	Strickland
Forbes	LaTourette	Rogers (MI)	McIntyre	Pomeroy	Stupak
Fortenberry	Leach	Rohrabacher	McKinney	Price (NC)	Tanner
Fossella	Lewis (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen	McNulty	Rahall	Tauscher
Foxx	Lewis (KY)	Royce	Meehan	Rangel	Thompson (CA)
Franks (AZ)	Linder	Ryan (WI)	Meek (FL)	Reyes	Thompson (MS)
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Ryan (KS)	Meeks (NY)	Ross	Tierney
Gallely	Lucas	Ryun (KS)	Melancon	Rothman	Towns
Garrett (NJ)	Longren, Daniel	Saxton	Menendez	Royal-Allard	Udall (CO)
Gerlach	Mack	Schwarz (MI)	Michaud	Ruppersberger	Udall (NM)
Gibbons	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner	Millender-	Rush	Van Hollen
Gilchrest	Marchant	Sessions	Sessions	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez
Gillmor	McCaul (TX)	Shaw	McDonald	Sabo	Visclosky
Gingrey	McCotter	Shays	Miller (NC)	Salazar	Wasserman
Gohmert	McCrery	Sherwood	Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Goode	McHenry	Shimkus	Mollohan	T.	Waters
Goodlatte	McHugh	Shuster	Moore (KS)	Sanchez, Loretta	Watson
Granger	McKeon	Simmons	Moore (WI)	Sanders	Watt
Graves	McMorris	Simpson	Moran (VA)	Schakowsky	Waxman
Green (WI)	Mica	Smith (NJ)	Murtha	Schiff	Weiner
Gutknecht	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)	Nadler	Schwartz (PA)	Wexler
Hall	Miller (MI)	Sodrel	Napolitano	Scott (GA)	Woolsey
Harris	Miller, Gary	Souder	Neal (MA)	Scott (VA)	Wu
Hart	Moran (KS)	Stearns	Oberstar	Serrano	Wynn
Hastings (WA)	Murphy	Sullivan	Obey	Sherman	
Hayes	Musgrave	Sweeney	Oliver		
Hayworth	Myrick	Tancredo			
Hefley	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)			
Hensarling	Ney	Terry			
Herger	Nunes	Thomas			
Hobson	Nussle	Thornberry			
Hoekstra	Osborne	Tiahrt			
Hostettler	Otter	Tiberi			
Hulshof	Oxley	Turner			
Hunter	Paul	Upton			
Hyde	Pearce	Walden (OR)			
Inglis (SC)	Pence	Walsh			
Issa	Peterson (PA)	Wamp			
Istook	Petri	Weldon (FL)			
Jenkins	Pickering	Weldon (PA)			
Jindal	Pitts	Weller			
Johnson (CT)	Platts	Westmoreland			
Johnson (IL)	Poe	Whitfield			
Johnson, Sam	Pombo	Wicker			
Jones (NC)	Porter	Wilson (NM)			
Keller	Portman	Wilson (SC)			
Kelly	Price (GA)	Wolf			
Kennedy (MN)	Pryce (OH)	Young (AK)			
King (IA)	Putnam	Young (FL)			
King (NY)	Radanovich				

PELOSI—199

Abercrombie	Cooper	Harman
Ackerman	Costa	Hastings (FL)
Allen	Costello	Herseth
Andrews	Cramer	Higgins
Baca	Crowley	Hinchey
Baird	Cuellar	Hinojosa
Baldwin	Cummings	Holden
Barrow	Davis (AL)	Holt
Bean	Davis (GA)	Hooley
Becerra	Davis (FL)	Hoyer
Berkley	Davis (IL)	Inslee
Berman	Davis (TN)	Israel
Berry	DeFazio	Jackson (IL)
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Jackson-Lee
Bishop (NY)	Delahunt	(TX)
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Jefferson
Boren	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Boswell	Dingell	Jones (OH)
Boucher	Doggett	Kanjorski
Boyd	Doyle	Kaptur
Brady (PA)	Edwards	Kennedy (RI)
Brown (OH)	Emanuel	Kildee
Brown, Corrine	Engel	Kilpatrick (MI)
Butterfield	Eshoo	Kind
Capps	Etheridge	Kucinich
Capuano	Evans	Langevin
Cardin	Farr	Lantos
Cardoza	Fattah	Larsen (WA)
Carnahan	Filmer	Larson (CT)
Carson	Ford	Lee
Case	Frank (MA)	Levin
Chandler	Gonzalez	Lewis (GA)
Clay	Gordon	Lipinski
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lofgren, Zoe
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lowe
Conyers	Grijalva	Lynch

tleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ); 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. DAVIS); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN); and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

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

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 109th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, first may I thank my Democratic colleagues. What an honor it is to have my name placed in nomination as your leader to be Speaker of the House as the first woman and as the first Italian-American. I was honored by the kind remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

It is a privilege, as the gentleman from New Jersey knows and as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) knows for us to represent this magnificently diverse caucus. Thank you for the honor of being your leader. It is a privilege to represent one of the greatest forces, in my view, for idealism, integrity and innovation in our country. My thanks to the members of the Democratic Caucus.

I want to thank and acknowledge my husband, Paul. Thank you, Paul. In acknowledging Paul, I want to acknowledge all of the spouses who are here today for the contributions they make. I know Members all share my view when I say our husbands and wives, our spouses, and in my case my five children and five grandchildren, represented by Ryan and Madelaine here today, are the source of our strength and inspiration. Our children and grandchildren are the future. Many children are here today. We want them to know that we know and think it is our responsibility to make the future better for them.

To my constituents, I am grateful for the privilege of representing them.

I know Members all want to join me and the Speaker in acknowledging our courageous men and women in uniform.

□ 1345

As we end this holiday season, we know it is their service that makes it

MURTHA—1

Taylor (MS)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Hastert

NOT VOTING—7

Cannon	Honda	Shadegg
Cox	Northup	
Gutierrez	Norwood	

Stated for Mr. HASTERT:

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Clerk, on rollcall No. 2 I missed the vote due to airline problems. Had I been present, I would have voted for the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT for Speaker of the House.

Mr. COX. Mr. Clerk, on rollcall No. 2 I was in consultation with the leadership staff outside the chamber and was therefore not present when my name was called. Had I been present I would have voted for J. DENNIS HASTERT of Illinois as Speaker of the House.

□ 1337

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total of number of votes cast is 427, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois has received 226, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI of the State of California has received 199, and the Honorable JOHN MURTHA of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received 1 vote, with 1 recorded as "present."

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress, having received a majority of the votes cast.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair: the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT); the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER); the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); the gen-

possible for us to strive for peace on earth and good will to mankind every day of the year.

A special congratulations and welcome to the Capitol to our newest Members of Congress, to our freshmen Members. You as freshmen are the fresh recruits. You are here to reinvigorate the Congress with your fresh ideas, straight from campaigns. We are all straight from campaigns. Our Founding Fathers planned it so that every 2 years Congress would be reinvigorated with new membership to bring new ideas and new energy to the debate. As you take your oath of office today, you not only enter the Congress, you enter the annals of history. You are colleagues not only with each other, you are colleagues with all those who have served before you.

Sadly, this weekend, we lost two of our most pioneering and courageous colleagues. Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to Congress. Imagine the courage. She said of her service that it demonstrated the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo. We must make that legacy part of ours. When Shirley Chisholm came to Congress as the first African-American woman, it was not only a breakthrough for African Americans, it was not only a breakthrough for women, it was a breakthrough for America.

And we mourn the passing of someone who was a dear friend to so many of us here. BOB MATSUI would have been sworn in today. BOB was the living combination of intellect and passion, someone who understood the complexities, for example, of the Social Security system but never forgot what it meant simply to the lives of America's seniors. President Bush rightly called BOB a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity. Thank you, President Bush, for that acknowledgment.

As a small child, BOB MATSUI was in a Japanese internment camp. He was a third-generation American but nonetheless he was in an internment camp. But that never dampened his spirit about America or his family's spirit. He went on in his words and his deeds with a commitment to guide us to the better America that was his dream. Let that be our legacy as well.

And we cannot gather here today without talking about the unspeakable devastation the world has witnessed in South Asia. It presents a special challenge to us, not only for the millions of people who are struggling to recover and rebuild but for all of us who are called by our faith and by our common humanity to help those in need. When the victims of disasters in Asia see our soldiers bringing food and supplies, they see the best of America, an America that is compassionate. We need to work even harder, not only to present

that America to the world but also to create that America here at home by staying true to our core American values. We do that by widening the circle of prosperity, because it is unacceptable that one in five children in America live in poverty.

Our sense of fairness demands that we expand access to health care because health care is a right, not a privilege. We must promote opportunity with a vibrant public education system and by making college education affordable to all Americans. We need to strengthen community, working to build safe communities free of crime and drugs and with a clean and healthy environment. And we must do this in a fiscally sound way by promoting accountability, by restoring fiscal discipline and paying as we go.

Above all, we must guarantee our national security with a military that is second to none, a strong commitment to homeland security, and a resolve to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. How we respond to times of difficulty is what will define us as leaders and the ability to draw hope from times of challenge is what defines us as Americans. Each generation of Americans has made our country stronger and better for the next. I do not want anyone because we are talking about losing our colleagues and our former colleagues and the devastation in South Asia, to have any of that diminish the cause for celebration here today for our new Members, their families, their friends, indeed for all of us. The lives of Shirley Chisholm and BOB MATSUI should be cause for celebration and they give us hope and proof that each one of us can make a difference.

A better America is our inheritance. I believe that for all of us serving in the 109th Congress, it can also be our legacy. Though we are divided by party and this aisle, we are joined by our common oath to protect and defend the Constitution and to form a more perfect union.

To our freshmen, again welcome to Congress. On this day of celebration, I join the Speaker and all of our colleagues in congratulating you and your families. Again I will say that our Founding Fathers made special provision for this House to be constantly reinvigorated and every person here must be elected. We cannot let again the sadness in the past weeks diminish this cause for celebration.

The lives of Shirley and BOB offer us hope and proof, as I said. The tragedy in South Asia and its ramifications raises the expectations for leadership. How we respond to times of difficulty will define us.

When I was a young girl, a college student here in Washington, D.C., I had the privilege of hearing President Kennedy's inaugural address. In his inaugural address, he ended his remarks in the following way, and I think it was

appropriate then and it is appropriate now. He said, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Again I have the privilege to present the gavel, this is getting tiresome, Mr. Speaker. And it is not about you. Two years ago when I had the privilege of presenting the gavel, I said of the Speaker that all of us are called honorable because of the title we hold as Members of Congress. But DENNIS HASTERT is honorable because he is a man of great character and dignity and he deserves the title. It is now my privilege to present the gavel to a man, a gentleman of character, integrity and skill who brings the values of heartland America to this highest position in the Congress of the United States, and I speak on behalf of all of our House Democrats, Mr. Speaker, in saying we look forward to working with you in the days ahead to create a better America, the gentleman from Illinois, the Speaker of the House, DENNIS HASTERT.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, NANCY, for those gracious remarks. You have been an able leader for the Democratic Caucus in this House and you have helped lead this Congress with honor and distinction. We have disagreed on policy matters in the past, and I suspect we will disagree again in the future, but we both love this House of Representatives and the great democratic process of representative government.

NANCY, we have some serious issues to confront in this new Congress and I look forward to a vigorous debate in the months ahead, for it is through debate that we arrive at the policy decisions that will keep this Nation safe and make it stronger. This House is where we fight the battle of ideas and at the end of the day we make the laws that govern this Nation, and so it is a great honor to serve in this institution. It is a special honor to sit in this chair. I thank each of you for allowing me once again to serve as your Speaker.

The new year confronted us with two sad tragedies. First came the images from the tsunami that ravaged countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Our deepest condolences go to all those who lost loved ones in this terrible event. Just as former Presidents Clinton and Bush will join together to coordinate private relief efforts here in the United States, we in the Congress will work together on a bipartisan basis to get the necessary relief to those in need.

Second, we lost one of our own on New Year's Day. I too want to pay tribute to our fallen colleague, BOB MATSUI. BOB holds a special place in the hearts of Members on both sides of the aisle. He was a man of strong principle

but a kind and gentle spirit. He was a proud Democrat, but he also knew how to reach across the aisle when the interests of his country demanded it. He will be greatly missed in this House and we are a better House of Representatives because he served here.

Now let me welcome our new Members. We have 38 new Members, three of whom are returning after previous service here. Twenty-two of the new Members served in the State legislatures. Ten served in local government. For only the second time in House history, this class includes a Member whose ancestry is from the world's largest democracy, the nation of India. This is a motivated and talented group whom I believe will make a positive impact on the Congress for years to come.

I will not spend a great deal of time in these remarks to give you new Members a lot of advice, but I will say this. I hope that you will take the time to get to know your colleagues, to find mentors in this great body. There is a lot of wisdom and experience in this place. Even as each of you bring a new and fresh perspective to this place, there is also much to be learned from the past.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, to see our young soldiers as we visited the hospitals and bases across Europe and also visit with old soldiers who had served and given their all 60 years ago to help keep this country free. It was a great experience.

□ 1400

Our former colleague and Republican leader, Bob Michel who was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, accompanied me along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the dean of this House, another distinguished veteran, who will soon celebrate his 50th year in this body. And to you incoming Members, I must tell you I have learned much from these great men. In fact, I continue to learn from them. So, new Members, seek out the Henry Hydes and the Charlie Rangels and the Bill Youngs and the John Lewises and the many talented people who serve here. Get to know them and follow in their footsteps of distinguished service.

As we open the doors to the 109th Congress, we close the doors of the 108th Congress. Those returning Members can look with pride at the accomplishments of the last Congress: the historic reform of the Medicare system that includes a prescription drug package for our seniors, health savings accounts that give American consumers more power over their health care dollars, creation of the National Intelligence Director and a complete overhaul of our intelligence capabilities, tax relief that kept us out of a deep re-

cession and will propel us into better economic growth in the future.

But there is still much work to do.

"Make no little plan," said Daniel Burnham, the architect who helped design the great city of Chicago. "For they have no magic to stir men's blood."

In this Congress, big plans will still stir men's blood. The 109th Congress will be the Reform Congress. We have big challenges that face this country, and we need big ideas to meet those challenges. Today we must seize the initiative. Today we must start anew the process of reforming our government. Security and prosperity only come with hard work and responsible government. Today let us get to that hard work.

First and foremost, we must make this country safe from those who would do us great harm. Every day that I look out the window of my office towards the Pentagon building, I am reminded of that monstrous attack on September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 of our fellow citizens. And each day this Congress has taken important steps to make this country safer from the terrorists who seek to attack us again.

In the 107th Congress, we created the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. PATRIOT Act and the Visa and Border Security Act. In the 108th Congress, we created the Director of National Intelligence. And in this 109th Congress we have to continue making progress. We need to strengthen our borders, reform our asylum laws, and improve the national standards for driver's licenses.

The terrorists who attacked us did so by exploiting gaps in our border security system, by abusing our immigration laws, and by abusing the everyday freedoms that every American takes for granted, yet holds so dear to their hearts. We must fill those gaps.

As the Congress works to reform the executive branch, we must also work to reform our congressional oversight functions. In the 108th Congress, we created a Select Committee on Homeland Security. Today in the rules of the House that we will adopt shortly, I have proposed that we make the Select Committee on Homeland Security a permanent standing committee. Better oversight of the Department of Homeland Security will lead to better security for all Americans. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this effort.

As we secure the homeland, we must do everything we can to support our troops around the world who are on the front lines fighting the war on terror. I am troubled by accounts that our soldiers do not have the equipment and the armor to protect themselves against roadside bombs in Iraq. This cannot stand. This Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will continue to provide the resources needed to take care of

our fighting men and women. Protecting our homeland and winning the war on terror are critical components of making this country more secure.

But long-term security means more than fighting the war on terror. It also means taking important steps to get our fiscal house in order. The President has laid out a bold reform agenda. We need to move aggressively on his reform agenda to protect our Nation from a looming fiscal crisis. This Congress and its predecessors have a covenant with older Americans. We have repeatedly promised to keep Social Security strong, and so it is there to protect today's seniors and is available to our children and our grandchildren. But to keep it safe, we need to make some important changes. If we wait too long, the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic.

And let me be clear. We do this without changing the system for those who receive Social Security benefits now. As we strengthen the Social Security system, we must also start a national debate on completely overhauling our Tax Code. In the last Congress, a lot of words were spoken on this floor about jobs leaving our country, about outsourcing. This Congress must do everything in its power to protect American jobs, and the one thing that kills American jobs is our Tax Code. Let me say that again. Our Tax Code is killing jobs in America. It disadvantages those who produce here to sell overseas and gives real great advantage to those who produce overseas to sell their products here. Our Tax Code is too complicated, it is too unfair, and it punishes job creators. It costs American taxpayers over \$250 billion every year just to fill out their tax forms and comply with the IRS. America must have a simpler Tax Code, one that makes sense for all Americans.

As we debate the larger issues of reforming the Tax Code, we should keep in mind that increasing taxes just as the economy is getting its footing is simply wrong. This Republican majority will not raise taxes. We should continue to keep taxes low by making permanent the tax cuts we passed in the 107th and 108th Congresses. I disagree with the position of some of my colleagues who believe that we should raise taxes to cut the deficit. The best way to close the deficit gap is to keep the economy growing as we control spending. I appreciate the hard work of the Committee on Appropriations slowing the growth of discretionary spending. We need to keep that kind of fiscal discipline in this Congress.

But we also need to take a look at entitlement spending. We must apply cost-savings technology to the government to improve efficiency, to cut down on waste, fraud, and abuse.

And as we look for ways to improve our Nation's economic future, we can start by finally passing laws to stop

lawsuit abuse. Most people know how abusive lawsuits have driven many doctors, especially OB/GYNs, out of business. This is just one example of how lawsuit abuse hurts our citizens, particularly women and children. We have to bring common sense to our legal process. And, yes, there needs to be accountability for those who do harm, but abuses must be ended. That is why we must pass class-action reform this year.

Another impediment to our continued economic prosperity is the volatile energy market. We passed an energy conference report out of the House the last Congress, only to see it die in the other body. We need to finish the job this year.

And, finally, as we prepare our economy for the next 50 years, we must keep our transportation system on the cutting edge. Our roads, bridges, and ports not only move people; they also move products. And we must make at home those products to sell abroad, and we must keep those institutions viable that move them from the marketplace to the markets. To keep our products moving, we must finish the work on the transportation bill early this year.

As we move this aggressive reform agenda, let us ever be mindful of our responsibilities laid out in the Constitution. The Constitution begins by describing the legislative branch. Article I, section 1 says that all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress. The mission of the Congress, as laid out in the Constitution, is stark: establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. One hundred nine times, newly elected Members of Congress have gathered together to be sworn in, to pledge a solemn oath to uphold that Constitution. The size of the delegations have increased, the numbers of constituents have multiplied, and the demands on the Members seem more complex than ever. But the basics of doing the job have never really changed. Those Members who do best in this place are those who never lose sight of where they came from or whom they represent.

My congressional district lies in the heartland of America. My home is in the Fox River Valley, not the Potomac River. And I want to thank my constituents of the 14th District of Illinois for giving me the opportunity to serve them again. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent these great Americans.

And as I thank my constituents, I must also thank my most important constituent, my wife, Jean, who, by the way, is the Speaker in our house.

Jean, thank you for your patience, your guidance, your sense humor, and your wonderful common sense.

As elected representatives of the people, each of us shoulders a great burden of responsibility. Our families often bear the brunt of that burden. And let me thank all of the spouses and the children, many of whom are here in this Chamber today. We want to thank you for your sacrifices on behalf of the American people.

And as we begin this historic 109th Congress, let us also give thanks to our Creator for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. May God bless this House and all who serve in it, and may God bless this great Nation we call America.

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I now recognize the Dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), my good friend and colleague, who will 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 upon which you are about to enter. So help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to 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 will 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.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 109th United States Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. 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 gen-

tleman from Texas, the Honorable TOM DELAY.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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 gentlewoman from California, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI.

MAJORITY WHIP

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. 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 majority whip the gentleman from Missouri, the Honorable ROY BLUNT.

MINORITY WHIP

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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 whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable STENY HOYER.

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE, SERGEANT AT ARMS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHAPLAIN

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Jeffrey J. Trandahl of the State of South Dakota be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen, III, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering that amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.