January 5, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 157, Pt. 1

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk. Pursuant to law and precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Clerk, every Congress represents a sacred responsibility to write a new and greater chapter in our Republic’s history. Be it providence or destiny, a unique man of uniquely American values is now called to lead this effort.

At a time when far too many of our countrymen remain unemployed, a former small businessman will lead the House to pass policies to encourage job creation.

At a time when all agree our Nation is on an unsustainable fiscal course, a fiscal reformer will ensure that this House never mortgages the torch of liberty in order to pay our debts.

At a time when too many doubt that their children can enjoy a brighter future in our country, he has lived the American dream, and will protect it for our posterity like few others before him.

This proud son of Ohio—one of 12 children born into a working-class family—has waited tables, mopped floors, tended bar, worked construction, worked his way to a college degree at night school, led a thriving company. And through his faith, his hard work, his values, he is now poised to become the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

He knows firsthand that unlimited opportunity can only arise from limited constitutional government.

Madam 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 Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress the name of the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, a Representative-elect from the State of Ohio.

The Clerk. The Clerk now recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Larson).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Clerk, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by the vote of that caucus to present for election to the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress the name of the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, a Representative-elect from the State of Ohio.

The Clerk. The names of the Honorable PEDRO R. PIERLUISI as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2009; the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia; the Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam; the Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands; the Honorable ENI F. H. FALEOMAYAEGA as Delegate from American Samoa; and the Honorable GREGORIO S. SABLAN as Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands are in order.

The Clerk. The roll will now be called, and those responsive to their names will indicate their presence.
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]

BOEHRINGER—241

Buchanan
Garrett
Gallegly
Frelinghuysen
Franks (AZ)
Foxx
Fortenberry
Fleming
Fleischmann
Flake
Fitzpatrick
Fincher
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gibson
Gerlach
Garrett
Gardner
Gallegly
Frelinghuysen
Franks (AZ)
Foxx
Fortenberry
Fleming
Fleischmann
Flake
Fitzpatrick
Fincher
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert

PELOSI—173

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hanna
Heineman
Hastings (FL)
Henrich
Himes
Hinchevy
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, R. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kucinich
Langevin
Larson (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (GA)
Loanj
Lowey
Lynch
Maldonado
Markley
Matsui
McAuliffe
McBride
McDermott
McGovern
McInerny
Meeks
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Morgan
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Owens
Pallone
Parrish
Pastor (AZ)
Pérez
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Ra hubs
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
Sánchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schatz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shepherd
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MI)
Terry
Tennessee
Taylor
Terlizzi
Walter
Watkins
Watson
Weinberg
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR)

The gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI)

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MCATTHEY)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING)

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. MCMORRIS RODGERS)

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER)

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN)

The gentleman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM)

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER)

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT)

The gentlwoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAUNO)

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WAXMAN)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HUNTER)

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SCOTT)

The gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ)

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM)

The gentleman from California (Ms. BASS)
January 5, 2011

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And the Members of the Ohio delegation:

Ms. KAPTUR
Mr. LANTITURE
Mr. KUCINICH
Mr. TIBERI
Mr. RYAN
Mr. TURNER
Mrs. SCHMIDT
Ms. SUTTON
Mr. LATT
Mr. JORDAN
Ms. FUDGE
Mr. AUSTRIA
Mr. CHABOT
Mr. GIBBS
Mr. JOHNSON
Mr. RENACCI, and
Mr. STIVER

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 112th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Ms. PELOSI. It is a high honor to welcome all Members of Congress and their families to the House of Representatives.

To the new Members and their families, a special congratulations and welcome to you. We all wish you great success. Congratulations to you.

We all come here to represent our constituents. Our respect for each other is founded in our respect for the people that we represent.

This month, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as President of the United States.

As a student, I was there in the freezing cold. For some of you, you have read about it in the history books, but to Bob and me, it was our youth.

Right, Bob?

I was there in the freezing cold and heard the stirring address that inspired generations of Americans to public service.

In his 1962 State of the Union Address, right here from this dais, President Kennedy said to the Congress: the Constitution makes us all trustees of the American people, custodians of the American heritage.

Today, as we take the oath of office to support and defend our Constitution, we do so as trustees of America's best hopes and as custodians of America's highest values. However we may differ, let us never lose sight of our common laws for this exceptional Nation and our shared obligation to the way forward.

I started off by acknowledging and welcoming and congratulating the Members and their families. Our families have always helped light the way forward for all of us. With a full and grateful heart, I want to thank my family: my husband of 47 years, Paul Pelosi; my children, Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra; and my grandchildren. I am proud to be from a large family—the youngest of seven—and to acknowledge my brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, the former mayor of Baltimore, Maryland.

Welcome, Thomas.

Let me thank my constituents in San Francisco, whom I am proud to represent in the spirit of the anthem of our city of Saint Francis—the song of Saint Francis—and I am so pleased that that was recited by all of us at the interdenominational service this morning.

I am grateful to my colleagues for their commitment to equality, which is both our heritage and our hope, giving me the historic honor of being the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. Now doors are wide open for all of America's daughters and granddaughters.

I am also honored to be the first Italian-American Speaker. Like many Americans, our heritage is a source of pride, proving that patriotism which summons us to build a stronger Nation. We recognize that the proudest title we will ever hold is not recognized on this floor. It is the simple dignity of the title "American"—part of our great democracy that continues to be the greatest hope of liberty and progress for the entire world.

When I was first elected Speaker, I called the House to order on behalf of America's children; and now, as I prepare to hand the gavel over to Speaker BOEHNER, I know one thing above all else: Thanks to you, we have stood with those children and for their families—for their health, their education, the safety of the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat.

Thanks to you, for those children and their families, we have made the largest ever commitment to making college more affordable, enacted Wall Street reform with the greatest consumer protections in history, and passed a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. It means that children with preexisting conditions can get care; young people can stay on their parents' policies until they are 26; pregnant women and breast and prostate cancer patients can no longer be thrown off their insurance; our seniors are paying less for their medical prescriptions. Taken together, it will save taxpayers $1.3 trillion.

Thanks to you, thanks to all of us, we advanced the defining American cause of "equality for all" from the first days of the Congress with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to the last days with the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

And thanks to you, we achieved more for America's veterans than at any time since the passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. Because of our courageous troops and our veterans, we will always be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Let me now salute our men and women in uniform.

To honor them, we must build a future worthy of their sacrifice, which includes good-paying jobs when they come home. It is not enough that we staved off a depression. Much more needs to be done to open up the American Dream and lift up the American economy. The only acceptable outcome is to fully and finally restore fair prosperity that good-paying jobs provide.

Our most important job is to fight for American jobs, to make it in America—STENY—and so Democrats will work together. If that comes before Congress from either side of the aisle, as to whether it creates jobs, strengthens the middle class, and reduces the deficit, not burdening future generations. When the new Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, and the new Republican majority—and congratulations, again—come forward with solutions that will address these American challenges, you will find us a willing partner.

As we congratulate Speaker BOEHNER and our Republican colleagues, as we wish them success, we must stand ready to find common ground, to solve problems, and to build a more secure future for all Americans.

And as we take the oath of office today to support and defend the Constitution, we must be ever mindful that it makes us trustees for the American people, with an obligation to do what is right for them, and custodian of the American heritage—our great values.

Thank you, my colleagues, for the honor of serving in that tradition as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. I thank you, my colleagues.

Again, I want to congratulate all of the new Members of Congress, all of you who have been reelected, but especially the new majority and the new Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER.

Now, the House will be led by a proud son of Ohio, a man of conviction, a public servant of resolve, and a legislative leader of skill. Speaker BOEHNER is a leader who has earned the confidence of his conference and the respect of his colleagues in the Congress. He is a man of faith: faith in God, faith in our country, and faith in his family.

It is very important for us, in acknowledging that, for us to acknowledge his family, his wife, Mrs. Boehner. As we congratulate him, we congratulate and thank Debbie for sharing him with us and Lindsay and Trisha and, indeed, the entire Boehner family. Thank you and congratulations to all of you.

Now, recognizing our roles under the Constitution, united in our love of our country, we now engage in a strong symbol of American democracy, the
peaceful and respectful exchange of power. I now pass this gavel, which is larger than most gavels here, but the gavel of choice of Speaker BOEHNER—I now pass this gavel and the sacred trust that goes with it to the new Speaker. God bless you, Speaker BOEHNER. God bless this Congress and God bless America.

Mr. BOEHNER. Thank you, it’s still just me.

Madam Speaker, thank you for your kind words, and thank you for your service to this institution.

Secondly, I want to welcome all of our new Members and their families on what is a very special day. All of us who have been here remember vividly that first day that we served here, and I think any of us can tell you that you will never forget today.

Mr. Speaker is here as well. I think you just met Debbie, and next to Debbie are Lindsay and Trisha, our two daughters. Welcome. We’re glad that you’re here. Ten of my 11 brothers and sisters and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law are here as well, and my poor brother Greg who runs a restaurant down in Georgia was unable to be here, but I wanted to acknowledge him.

I also want to acknowledge some of my close friends that are here from the other side of the Capitol: Mitch MCCONNELL, the Senate Republican leader is here; and two of my best buds, RICHARD BURR from North Carolina, SAXBY CHAMBLISS from Georgia, along with, you know, my buddy LATHAM. Thank you for being here, gentlemen. I appreciate it.

I am honored and humbled to represent a great, hardworking community in Congress. The people of Ohio’s Eighth Congressional District continue to afford me the privilege to serve, for which I am deeply grateful. We gather here today at a time of great challenges, when nearly one in 10 of our neighbors is out of work. Health care costs are still rising for American families. Our spending has caught up to our mission, including oversight. Old rules that have made it easy to increase spending will be replaced by new rules that have made it easy to increase spending will be replaced by new rules that make it easier to cut spending, and we will start by cutting Congress’ own budget.

Above all else, we will welcome the battle of ideas, encourage it, and engage in it—openly, honestly, and respectfully. As the Chamber closest to the people, the House works best when it is allowed to work its will. And I ask all Members of this body to join me in recognizing this common truth.

To my colleagues in the majority, my message is this: We will honor our pledge to America, built through a fair debate and vote. Legislation will be more focused, and we will begin by cutting Congress’ own budget.

And to my friends in the minority, I offer a commitment: Openness, once a hallmark of this institution but in recent years marred by a belief that bigger bills are always better, that fast legisature is more expedient, that allowing amendments and open debate makes the legislative process ‘less efficient’ than our Founders intended. These misconceptions have been the basis for the rituals of modern Washington. In my opinion, the American people have not been served well by them. Today, mindful of the lessons of the past, we turn to the future. Legislators and the public will have 3 days to read a bill before it comes to a vote. Legislation will be more focused, properly scrutinized, and constitutionally sound. Committees, once bloated, will be smaller with a renewed mission, including oversight. Old rules that have made it easy to increase spending will be replaced by new rules that make it easier to cut spending, and we will start by cutting Congress’ own budget.

More than a country, America is an idea; and it’s our job to pass that posterity of blessings that have been bestowed on us to those generations that follow us.

I want to wish all of you the very best. Welcome to the people’s House. Welcome to the 112th Congress.

I am now ready to take the oath of the office, and I ask the Dean of the House, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. BOEHNER of Ohio, as follows:

I now solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance
Majority Leader

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I have been directed to report to the House that the Republican Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable ERIC CANTOR.

Minority Leader

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to my colleague and chair of the Republican Conference.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by that conference to notify the House of Representatives officially that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from California, the Honorable NANCY D'ALESANDRO PELOSI.