January 6, 2015

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 161, Pt. 1

NEW MEXICO
Lojan Urisham
Lojan, Ben Ray
Pearce

NEW YORK
Collins
King
Slaughter
Gibson
Reed
Stefanik
Jeffries
Rice
Zeldin
Katko
Serrano

NORTH CAROLINA
Adams
Holding
Meadows
Butterfield
Hudson
Pittenger
Ellmers
Jones
Rouzer
Fox
McHenry
Walker

NORTH DAKOTA
Cramer

OHIO
Beatty
Jordan
Stivers
Beshour
Joyce
Tiberi
Chabot
Kaptur
Turner
Fudge
Latta
Wenstrup
Gibbs
Renacci
Johnson
Ryan

OKLAHOMA
Bridenstine
Lucas
Russell
Cole
Molina

OREGON
Blumenauer
DeFazio
Walden
Bonamici
Schrader

PAENNYSLYVANIA
Barletta
Boyle
Deegan
Duffy
Murphy
Boehner
Kaptur
Pocan

PENNSYLVANIA
Boehner
Kaptur
Pocan

RHODE ISLAND
Langer

SOUTH CAROLINA
Clyburn
Mulvaney
Wilson
Duncan
Rice

SOUTH DAKOTA
Noem

TEXAS
Black
Cooper
Fincher
Blackburn
Deseray
Fleischmann
Bosher
Joyce
Tiberi
Chabot
Kaptur
Turner
Fudge
Latta
Wenstrup

TENNESSEE
Black
Cooper
Fincher
Blackburn
Deseray
Fleischmann
Bosher
Joyce
Tiberi
Chabot
Kaptur
Turner
Fudge
Latta
Wenstrup

TEXAS
Babin
Granger
Olsen
Barton
Green, Al
O’Rourke
Brady
Green, Gene
Poe
Burgess
Hensarling
Ratcliffe
Castro
Hinojosa
Sessions
Conaway
Hurd
Smith

UTAH
BISHOP
Love
Stewart

VIRGINIA
Beyer
Forbes
Rigell
Brat
Goodlatte
Scott
Comstock
Griffith
Wittman
Connolly
Hurt

WASHINGTON
DelBene
Larsen
Newhouse
Heck
N为目标
Reichert
Herrera Beutler
McMorris Rodgers
Smith
Kilmer

WEST VIRGINIA
Jenkins
McKinley
Mooney

WISCONSIN
Duffy
Grothman
Moose
Peacock
Kind
Ribble
Ryan
Rensingbrenner

WYOMING
Lummis

The Clerk. Four hundred and one Representatives-elect have recorded their presence. A quorum is present.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The Clerk. Credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of:

The Honorable PEDRO R. PRIERLUSI as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2015;

The Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia;

The Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam;

The Honorable STACEY E. PLASKETT as Delegate from the Virgin Islands;

The Honorable CAMILLA A. T. PATTERSON as Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands.

REIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Clerk. The Clerk is in receipt of a letter from the Honorable MICHAEL G. GRIMM of New York indicating that he will not serve in the House in the 114th Congress.

Without objection, the letters relating to his resignation will be printed in the Record.

There was no objection.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. John Boehner,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

Dear Speaker Boehner: I am writing to inform you that I have notified Cesar Perales, Secretary of State of the State of New York of my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective January 5, 2015. A copy of that letter is attached.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the hardworking families of Staten Island and Brooklyn, and I am sincerely grateful for the love and support that I have received from so many over the past few difficult months. I have seen first-hand how extraordinary the people of this District are—vital values, their love of community, and their care for each other in the best and worst of times—it is humbling. I am grateful, and I will always keep them in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Michael Grimm,
Member of Congress, Eleventh District of New York.

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 114th Congress.

Nomineations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMorris Rodgers).

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Madam Clerk, it is an honor to address the House at the start of the 114th Congress. If there is one thing I have learned as a legislator, it is that we cannot achieve great things alone. It takes a willingness to come together, find common ground, and advance solutions that make people’s lives better.

In that spirit, I welcome America’s new Congress, one that will chart the path towards a government that is more open, transparent, and trustworthy.

To lead us on this path, the Republican Conference has nominated a man of great character and conviction. The second oldest of 12 children, he grew up mopping floors and waiting tables at his family’s tavern. He ran a successful small business. He was elected to the Ohio State House and then this House, where he served as committee chair, Republican Conference chairman, minority leader, majority leader, and Speaker. He is a reformer who works every day to make government more...
accountable to the people. For all of this, he calls himself a regular guy with a big job; and that job, he says, is to listen, because if we listen to the people, listen to one another, there is no telling what we can accomplish together for the future of this great country.

Madam Clerk, as chair of the Republican Conference and by unanimous vote of that conference, I present for election to the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress the name of the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, a Representative-elect from the State of Ohio.

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Clerk, first I would like to recognize each and every Member who has taken to this floor to represent the people of the United States and say congratulations to them, as well as to all of their loved ones who are here witnessing this solemn event where we will have an opportunity to lead our country. We say congratulations to them as well.

Madam Clerk, I have the distinct pleasure of nominating someone who is a proven leader, someone who already will go down in history as one of the most effective Speakers the House of Representatives has ever had, someone who has shown that it doesn't take a man to get this job done, that it can be done by an American who is devoted to this country, someone who knows her heritage, someone who has worked tirelessly for the American people, but someone who understands first and foremost that the job of this House is to get things done.

I have been empowered, Madam Clerk, to nominate on behalf of all working Americans, those Americans who believe in the American Dream, to put the name of the gentlewoman from San Francisco who will serve again in the House of Representatives, put her name forward for the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress. I, therefore, at this point put before you the name of NANCY PELOSI to serve as the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress. I, therefore, at this point put before you the name of NANCY PELOSI to serve as the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress. I, therefore, at this point put before you the name of NANCY PELOSI to serve as the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Clerk, I present for the election of the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress the name of Judge LOUISE GOHMERT, a Representative-elect from the great State of Texas.

Madam Clerk, Judge GOHMERT proudly serves the First District of Texas. He is serving his fifth term in the House of Representatives. Prior to being elected to serve in Congress, he was elected to three terms as district judge in Smith County and was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to be the chief justice of the 12th Court of Appeals.

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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]
January 6, 2015

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PELOSI—164

Adams
Podgor
Neal

Aguilar
Gabbard
Norcross

Ashford
Gallego
O’Rourke

Bass
Garamendi
Pallone

Beatty
Grayson
Pascrell

Becerra
Green, Al
Payne

Bera
Green, Gene
Polisi

Beyer
Grijalva
Perlmutter

Bishop (GA)
Gutierrez
Peters

Blumenauer
Rahn
Petersen

Bonamici
Hastings
Pinge

Boyle (PA)
Heck (WA)
Pousan

Brady (PA)
Himes
Polis

Brown (FL)
Hinojosa
Quigley

Brownley (CA)
Horn
Rice (NY)

Bustos
Hoyer
Richmond

Butterfield
Huffman
Roybal-Allard

Capuano
Capps
Ruiz

Carson (IN)
Capito
Russell

Carter (TX)
Kaptur
T.

Castor (FL)
Kelly (IL)
Santarsiero

Chu (CA)
Kennedy
Schakowsky

Clark (MA)
Kildee
Schiff

Clay
Kuster
Serrano

Cleaver
Kind
Scott (VA)

Clyburn
Kinzicky
Scott, David

Cohen
Kuster
Serrano

Connelly
Langevin
Sewell (AL)

Cox
Larson (WA)
Sherman

Courtney
Larson (CT)
Sires

Currial
Lawrence
Slaughter

Cummings
Lee
Smith (WA)

Davis (CA)
Levin
Speier

Davis, Dan
Lewis
Swallwel (CA)

DeFazio
Lieu (CA)
Takai

DeGette
Loebsack
Takano

DeLauro
Logdren
Thompson (CA)

DeLauro
Lowenthal
Thompson (CT)

DeBenedetti
Lujan, Ben Ray
Titus

DeSaulnier
NM
Torres

Deutsch
Lujan, Ben Ray
Tengs

Dingell
Lynching
Van Hollen

Dodd
Lynch
Vargas

D permanent
Matzes
Veasey

Edwards
McCulloch
Vela

Ellison
McDee Dermott
Visclosky

Enoch
McGovern
Walz

Espy
McNerney
Waterman

Farr
Moulton
Schultz

Fattah
Moulton
Watson Coleman

Foster
Murphy (FL)
Wilson (FL)

Frankel (FL)
Napolitano
Yarmuth

Gohmert—3

Bridenette
Gohmert
Weber (TX)

Yoho—2

Massie
Yoho

JORDAN—2

Amash
DesJarlais

DUNCAN (SC)—1

HON. RAND PAUL—1

Clawson (FL)

COLIN POWELL—1

Cooper

GOWDY—1

Duncan (SC)

MCCARTHY—1

Gibson

COOPER—1

Graham

DEFAZIO—1

Lipinski

HON. JEFF SESSIONS—1

Palmer

LEWIS—1

Sinema

PRESENT—1

Babin

NOT VOTING—25

Boehner

Cartter (TX)

Cicilline

Clarke (NY)

Costa

Crowley

Duckworth

Engel

Gowdy

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Messer)

The gentleman from New York (Mr.Israel)

The gentleman from Kansas (Ms. Jenkins)

The gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DeLauro)

The gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx)

The gentleman from Maryland (Ms. Edwards)

The gentleman from California (Mrs. Mimi Walters)

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. Sessions)

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Ben Ray Luján)

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McIntyre)

And the Members of the Ohio delegation:

Ms. Kaptur

Mr. Chabot

Mr. Tieri

Mr. Ryan

Mr. Turner

Mr. Jordan

Ms. Latta

Ms. Pugh

Mr. Gibbs

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Renacci

Mr. Stivers

Mrs. Beatty

Mr. Joyce, and

Mr. Wenstrup

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 114th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Ms. Pelosi. My colleagues of the United States House of Representatives, it is a high honor to welcome you and your families to the 114th Congress.

To our newest Members, this is a special pleasure to give you an exceptional welcome and congratulations.

Welcome to our newest Members.

As was indicated by the vote, many of our colleagues from the State of New York are not with us because they are attending the funeral of Governor Mario Cuomo. I extend condolences to our colleagues from the State of New York and have extended the sympathies of many in this body to Governor Cuomo’s widow, Matilda, and to his family. As an Italian American, I am especially proud of his leadership and extend sympathies to his family.

Thank you, Cuomo family. Thank you, New York delegation.

None of us would be standing here without the support and the strength of our families. Today, I am going to
thank my dear husband of 51 years, Paul Pelosi, and my five children and nine grandchildren, all the Pelosi and D’Allesandro. Let all of us applaud all of our families.

To my Democratic colleagues and to my constituents in San Francisco, I thank you for the privilege of serving in the House, but to my colleagues, I thank you for the honor of serving as leader, but all of us should applaud all of our constituents for sending us here. So let us, again, applaud our constituents.

Each one of us, Mr. Speaker, as you know, represents Republicans, represent Democrats, Independents, and others, and we should always pay tribute to the American people. The American people have called upon each of us to serve them. They have entrusted us with their hopes, their dreams, and they have asked us to address their challenges.

The financial stability of a strong middle class and those who aspire to it is the bedrock of our economy and the backbone of our American democracy. We have a moral imperative to ensure that working men and women enjoy the bounty of their unprecedented productivity and to expand the purchasing power of families.

To that end, today, Democrats will put forward a legislative package to put Americans back to work building our roads and bridges and meeting the needs of the American people, paid for by bringing our tax dollars back home and to increase the paycheck of America’s working families.

We invite our Republican colleagues to join us in supporting the Stop Corporate Expatriation and Invest in America’s Infrastructure Act. It is time to stop rewarding companies to move overseas and instead use those dollars to create good-paying jobs here at home.

We ask for Republican support and action on the CEO-Employee Pay Fairness Act, legislation to ensure that workers share in the fruit of their productivity, denying CEOs the ability to claim tax deductions on annual income over $1 million unless they give their employees a well-deserved raise.

We must have an economy that works for everyone, not just a privileged few, and we hope Republicans will join us to achieve a better infrastructure and bigger paychecks for the working people of our country—better infrastructure, bigger paychecks.

We open this 114th Congress in the year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in our history. President Lyndon Johnson and Congress passed it. The President signed it. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, along with our own John Lewis, fought for it and inspired it. We must continue to inspire the engagement of every American. It is the vote that preserves our democracy, ends injustice, advances dreams, and sustains our freedom. In the face of protecting our freedom, let us recognize, salute, and thank all of those brave Americans who protect our rights—indeed, protect all of our liberty—our men and women in uniform, our veterans, and our military families.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are at the start of a new year and a new Congress, with fresh opportunity for the American people. Today is the Feast of the Epiphany, the visit of the magi: so let us have our own epiphany, for this moment, on this day, we are not just Republicans and Democrats, we are Americans not just in name, but in spirit, standing on higher ground than the last election.

My hope is that in the inevitable exchanges and clashes that may happen in the months ahead, we will not lose sight of the truth that is as fresh as this ceremony is today and as historic as our republic: ideas that unite us are stronger than the issues that divide us in this House.

That does not mean that we are dispensing with all disagreements in this debate. Our democracy is robust precisely because we have beliefs and we stand proudly, even persistently, for them; and our democracy endures and prevails because in the end, we are humble enough to find a way forward together.

My fellow colleagues of the 114th Congress, let us uphold our deep and different convictions, but let us honor our common obligation to our country. In this Congress, we will do so under the leadership of Speaker John Boehner.

This House will continue to be led by a proud son of Ohio, a happy fan of the Ohio State football team. A man of abiding faith, great heart, and deep dedication, John Boehner is truly a gentleman from Ohio.

Congratulations to you, John, to Mr. Speaker, to Debbie, to your daughters, Lindsay and Tricia, and the entire Boehner family. Thank you for sharing John Boehner with us. God bless you and your family, Mr. Speaker.

May God continue to bless the Members of the House of Representatives. This is the people’s House. This is the people’s gavel. In the people’s name, it is my privilege to hand it to the Speaker of the House for the 114th Congress, the Honorable John Boehner.

God bless you, Mr. Speaker, and God bless America.

Mr. BOEHNER. Thank you.

Friends, colleagues, countrymen, and especially the people of Ohio’s Eighth Congressional District, thank you for sending me here. Let us today welcome all of the new Members and all of their families to what we all know to be a truly historic day.

As we welcome all of the Members back who were reelected, we want to welcome your families as well, and I want to thank my family, I was doing pretty well on the walk over here from my ceremonial office until I ran into DEVIN NUNES’ three little girls—my three biggest fans—and one of them came running over and gave me a kiss, and I was a mess.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. We rejoice that our new Members and families are here. We welcome them. We are glad and humbled to begin anew as servants of the people’s House. Here, it is our duty and our privilege to lend a willing ear to the people, to make laws in tune with their priorities and within the limits of their Constitution.

In recent months, our economy has shown support from the major to difficult years, it may be a temptation to accept what I will call the new normal. But America did not become exceptional by ease. Far too many Americans remain out of work, and too many are working harder only to lose ground to stagnant wages and rising costs. We can do better. We can build an economy that furthers better-paying jobs, more growth, and more opportunity for the Nation’s middle class. This is our vital task.

We will begin this endeavor on common ground, both in letter and in spirit. It was actually my predecessor, Nicholas Longworth of Cincinnati, who changed the order of things so that all Members now take the oath of office at the same time. He called this innovation a timesaving device. He sounds like my kind of guy. But this shared ritual is no passing formality. It is a frontier where words end and where deeds begin.

The pessimists don’t see us crossing this channel. They say nothing is going to be accomplished here, that division is wider than ever and so gridlock will be even greater. Frankly, fair enough. Skepticism of our government is healthful, and, in our time, quite understandable. But one problem with saying it can’t be done is that it already has been done—or at least started.

In the last Congress, this House passed a number of jobs bills with broad support from the majority and the minority, and we will begin our work on this common ground, taking up measures to develop North American energy, restore the hours of middle class workers, and help small businesses hire more of our veterans. We invite the President to support and sign these bipartisan initiatives into law. It will be a good start; and more, it will be a sign that the logjam is breaking, and it will be a foundation on which to address the bigger challenges in the pursuit of freedom and security.

No, this won’t be done in a tidy way. The battle of ideas never ends and, frankly, never should. As Speaker, all I
ask—and, frankly, expect—is that we disagree without being disagreeable. In return, I pledge to help each of you carry out your duties. My door, of course, is always open. Don’t get carried away with it—all right?—but it is always open.

My colleagues, some things we do here will be characterized as shadow-boxing and show business, but let me tell you that the American people, it is real work. It is a grind, as it should be, in striving to preserve the things that we all hold dear.

Every day, you and I come out here, try to plant good seeds, cultivate the ground, and take care of the pests; and then, with patience and some sacrifice and God’s grace, there will be a harvest. Along the way, we may falter, but we Americans do not fall away from the task. We do not quit.

So let’s stand tall and prove the skeptics wrong. Let’s make this a time of harvest, and may the fruits of our labors be the ladders our children can use to climb the stairs to the stars.

Thank you all, and God bless the United States of America.

I am now ready to take the oath of office.

I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the Honorable John Conyers of Michigan, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. Conyers then administered the oath of office to Mr. Boehner of Ohio, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm 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.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. Conyers. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The Speaker. According to precedent, the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect will rise and raise their right hands.

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

Do you solemnly swear or affirm 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 114th Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from California, the Honorable Kevin McCarthy.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. Becerra. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected Nancy Pelosi of California, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi.

MAJORITY WHIP

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Mr. Speaker, as chair 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 Louisiana, the Honorable Steve Scalise.

MINORITY WHIP AND ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. Becerra. 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, and as assistant Democratic leader, the gentleman from South Carolina, the Honorable James Clyburn.

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved. That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives;

That Ed Cassidy of the State of Connecticut be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives;

That Wendell Primus of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Nadeem Elshami of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

The amendment was rejected.

The Speaker. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Washington.

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The Speaker. The Chair will now swear in the officers of the House. The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office 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.

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED AND OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK

Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 2

Resolved. That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that John A. Boehner, a Representative from the State of Ohio, has been