§ 18. Birthday Felicitations

The House has often extended formal greetings to a President or former President on his birthday through the adoption of a congratulatory resolution considered by unanimous consent or under suspension of the rules.

The House has also extended birthday wishes to Speakers of the House, Members, and the Parliamentarian.

Presidential Birthdays

§ 18.1 Form of resolution extending the congratulations of the House to the President on his birthday.

On Jan. 30, 1934, the House adopted a resolution congratulating the President on his birthday. The proceedings were as follows:

1. See § 18.1, infra.
2. See § 18.2, infra.
4. See § 18.4, infra.

1. 78 Cong. Rec. 1636, 73d Cong. 2d Sess.
Mr. [Riley J.] WILSON [of Louisiana]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the resolution which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection? There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

House Resolution 246

Resolved, That the House of Representatives extends its congratulations to the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, upon his fifty-second birthday, with assurance of appreciation for his aggressive action and service to our country, and joins the Nation in best wishes for continued health, happiness, and accomplishments.

[Applause.]

The resolution was agreed to.

Speakers’ Birthdays

§ 18.2 The Minority Leaders joined in extending best wishes to the Speaker on the occasion of his birthday.

On May 10, 1971, the following proceedings occurred:

1. 117 Cong. Rec. 14144, 92d Cong. 1st Sess.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. SPEAKER

(Mr. GERALD R. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GERALD R. FORD [of Michigan]. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of joining with the distinguished majority leader in extending to the distinguished Speaker our very best wishes on his birthday anniversary.

Members’ Birthdays

§ 18.3 Consideration by unanimous consent of a resolution honoring the House’s eldest statesman on his 88th birthday.


2. Carl Albert (OK).
On Sept. 8, 1988, the House paid tribute to Rep. Pepper as follows:

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CLAUDE DENSON PEPPER ON HIS 88TH BIRTHDAY**

Mr. [Richard A.] GEPHARDT [of Missouri]. Mr. Speaker, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 530) to recognize CLAUDE DENSON PEPPER, on the occasion of his 88th birthday, for the contributions that he has made to the quality of life of all Americans [sic], and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

**H. RES. 530**

Whereas Claude Denson Pepper has served in public office for a period spanning almost sixty years, including service in the Florida Legislature, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas Claude Denson Pepper has played an essential role in the formulation and development of policies and programs to protect the health, rights, economic security, and dignity of our Nation’s elderly;

Whereas Claude Denson Pepper has been the principal author of key legislation addressing issues ranging from the Lend-Lease plan, to the establishment of the National Institutes of Health, to the elimination of the mandatory retirement age;

Whereas Claude Denson Pepper celebrates his 88th birthday on September 8, 1988; and

Whereas the dedication, commitment, and energy of Claude Denson Pepper stand as an inspiration to people of all ages; Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That the House of Representatives of the United States, on the occasion of his 88th birthday, commends and acknowledges Claude Denson Pepper for his continuing contributions to the quality of life of all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer this resolution today on behalf of the gentleman from Washington [Mr. FOLEY], the gentleman from California [Mr. COELHO], the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. OAKAR], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MICHEL], and many other Members of the House who wish today to extend their heartiest congratulations to our senior Member of the House and one of

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1. 134 Cong. Rec. 22930, 22931, 100th Cong., 2d Sess.


2. Claude Pepper (FL).

3. Thomas S. Foley (WA).

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our most beloved Members of the House. . . .

Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

Parliamentarian

§ 18.4 The Majority and Minority Leaders took the floor to congratulate the Parliamentarian, Lewis Deschler, on his birthday and his 40 years of service as Parliamentarian.

On Mar. 4, 1968, the following proceedings occurred:

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THE PARLIAMENTARIAN, MR. LEWIS DESCHLER

Mr. [Carl] ALBERT [of Oklahoma]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

Mr. ALBERT. I am delighted to yield to the distinguished minority leader.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD [of Michigan]. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ALBERT. I am delighted to yield to the distinguished minority leader.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the majority leader yielding at this time.

We on this side all subscribe to all of the generous and richly deserved comments and observations made by the distinguished majority leader concerning our good friend, the Parliamentarian, Mr. Lew Deschler. We wish Lew, as does the majority leader, many happy years ahead. I am sure that he will continue helping to assist us in our day-to-day labors here in the House of Representatives.

We all may have some regrets about annual birthday anniversaries coming
§ 19. Military Awards; Receptions for Generals and Astronauts

The House has honored its heroes in a variety of ways. The House has conducted ceremonies for Congressional Medal of Honor recipients(1) and has honored its astronauts with receptions in the Caucus Room(2) and in the House Chamber.(3) Various generals have been received by the House and allowed to address the Chamber.(4) The House has conferred honorary veteran status to an actor who inspired troops(5) and has commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.(6) The House also has conducted several war-related observances,(7) including authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony honoring military heroism(8) and the lowering of the flag for missing POWs and MIAs.(9)

Medal of Honor

§ 19.1 Proceedings had at a joint meeting in the House Chamber when the President decorated Sgt. Jake W. Lindsey, United States Army, with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is presented by the President in the name of Congress and is the highest military honor that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. The joint resolution authorizing the presentation of “medals of honor” for Army personnel was signed by President Lincoln on July 14, 1862.(1)