

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., OF ILLI- NOIS AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from the State of Illinois, Mr. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., be permitted to take the oath of office today. His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Members of the Illinois delegation please escort the member-elect to the rostrum.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Illinois delegation, it is my honor, my very high honor and high privilege, to present to the Speaker and to the House of Representatives a newly elected Congressman from the State of Illinois. He has taken the seat that was previously held by Mr. Mel Reynolds.

The gentleman is eminently qualified to enter upon this position, Mr. Speaker. He holds a degree as a Baptist minister. He holds a degree as a practicing lawyer. He holds a degree as a Master of Business Administration. He has spoken the length and breadth of the country in public addresses. He has engaged in all kinds of political activities, which is to be expected when one realizes the family which is his.

I know that the people of Chicago, the people of his district, are very proud to have him as their new Member of Congress from the city, and it is with that that I present him to you for swearing in, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Let me say to my friend from Illinois that I know the father well and look forward very much to getting to know the son. We are delighted, I think all of us, to have you here.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois appeared at the bar 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 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 a Member of the Congress of the United States.

I TOO HAVE A DREAM

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker and distinguished Members of the

House, I am honored to be a servant of this body.

I want to thank God, who has called our family to public service and blessed me with the ability and the will to serve. It is faith in God and the strength of my family that made this exalted position of service possible. The Rainbow Coalition gave me the opportunity to serve and grow. We must expand the Rainbow Spirit across the land. We must let a new generation arise. I want to thank and acknowledge my family—my wife Sandi, my parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Jackson, my sister Santita, my brother Jonathan and his wife Marilyn, Yusef, and little Jackie, Grandma and Grandpa Brown, my grandmother Matilda Burns and Helen Jackson, who could not be present.

My ambition and my focus is clear. I want to do God's will, and I believe it to be His will that we lift the lot of suffering humanity. Where there are walls that divide, we must build bridges and bring peace to a war torn world, whether Bosnia or Nigeria.

I want to honor the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Illinois who entrusted me to represent them, to make the best case possible to improve the quality of life for all of them. For those who voted for me, and those who did not, for those who were too young to vote, and for those who've given up on the vote, because they no longer dream or believe, that change will come.

I promised the seniors of my district that I would fight to save their Medicare, and the youth of my district to save their scholarships. I promised to fight for affordable housing, to uplift the conditions of people in Altgeld Gardens, Ginger Ridge, Ford Heights, and the many communities across my district, where living conditions have not changed in two generations. They are not lazy, or welfare kings or queens, they want to work, but they need the opportunity to work.

Last, I want to be a public servant who is mostly known as a freedom fighter of character in the best tradition of Jesus The Christ, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela and my dad, Jesse Jackson, Sr. Our character is measured by how we treat the least of these. I will fight with all of my might for a public policy that will wipe out malnutrition and save the malnourished. A public policy of full employment, healthcare, housing, and an education safety net for all of the American people. I want to defend the defenseless. I want them to dream again and stop recycling nightmares. We must choose schools instead of jails for our future. Let the children dream. Let the seniors dream again. Let them hope. Let them believe. Revive their spirits. Let all of us hope.

I look forward to learning from you and to working with you. Together, we must make the American Dream possible for all of America's people. Thank you.

[The following portion was delivered in both English and Spanish.]

Mr. Speaker, in the time I have left, I would like to say that I share a dream, and I called it "I Too Have a Dream."

That the southside will look like the northside.

That Rainbow Beach will look like North Avenue Beach.

That the Dusable Museum will be funded like the Field Museum.

That southside and suburban children will receive funding like the northside for parks, zoos, restaurants and piers with ferris wheels.

That equal funding for education will be a reality in this generation.

That more county money will be used for preschool and afternoon school programs than incarceration programs.

It is my hope that I can look forward to working with Members of Congress, and working with each and every one of you. Together, we must make the American dream possible for all of Americans, for America's people.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

□ 1345

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS WELCOMES JESSE JACKSON, JR.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of the entire Democratic Caucus to welcome the newest Member of the United States House of Representatives, JESSE JACKSON, Jr., our colleague from the Second Congressional District of Illinois. At 30 years old, Mr. JACKSON will be one of the youngest Members of the 104th Congress. But what he lacks in age, he more than makes up in commitment to justice and opportunity for the people of Illinois, Chicago, and all Americans.

As field director for the National Rainbow Coalition, he has been on the front lines to fight for economic opportunity in America's cities and basic equality and justice everywhere. When he ran for Congress this year, he pledged to dedicate himself to the kind of issues that are at the heart of the Democratic Party and America. Protecting Medicare and Medicaid, raising the minimum wage, creating jobs, and fighting to heal the divisions that too often exist among races and between genders in our country.

I am proud to serve with JESSE JACKSON, Jr., and I know that he will do remarkable things for the people of his district, bringing all of the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to bear on the problems we face.

So I say to the gentleman from Illinois, welcome to the people's House, and we all look forward to working with you as we together do the people's business.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING
POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1530,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-407) on the resolution (H. Res. 307) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WELCOME TO JESSE JACKSON, JR.

(Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have known our new colleague for a very long period of time and have worked with his parents for an extremely long period of time. I have watched him grow up in a very disciplined, loving household, one that has been in the forefront of all of the issues. I have particularly watched him grow up in an environment where his very loving family has been one that has been led by a freedom fighter, his father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and who has been under the very loving care of his mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson.

Clearly here is a young man who grew up sort of in the eye of a storm of liberation and a storm of good will that was trying to be brought for our country, and yet here is a young man who is an example of what can happen to young people.

Here is a young man who has never had a problem with drugs, a young man who has never had a problem with the law, a young man who has developed into a fine human being, one who has a great education, one who has been a person who wanted to learn and to grow. He epitomizes what America can do and what those of us who are concerned about the well-being of our young people can hope to expect.

Let me say this. It has already been discussed that he has a number of degrees, a Bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T University. He has a Master's from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He has a law degree from the University of Illinois. Believe me, he got a mandate from the Second Congressional District of Illinois, and has won two elections in 2 weeks, and we salute him.

JACKSON USHERS IN NEW ERA OF
LEADERSHIP

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand and join with my colleagues in

welcoming the newest Member to this House, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I feel as if he, too, is my child. I feel as if he is my son. I feel that way because I guess I have known him, I have watched him grow up. I have worked very closely with his father and his mother. They are my friends.

When he first indicated that he would be running for this seat, I did everything that I could to encourage him, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues in this House who joined with us in a tremendous effort to raise money and to work in the district to ensure that JESSE JACKSON, Jr., could be with us being sworn in today.

I am so proud of him, because he represents everything that we want our children to be. I am so proud of him, because oftentimes there are these negative images of young African-American men portrayed in the media. However, there are many young JESSE JACKSON, Jr.'s out there. A lot of people do not know about them. They do not understand that there are children who have come from nurturing families, with the kind of support that could lead them here to this House and to other things if but given the opportunity and the chance to do that.

And so JESSE JACKSON, Jr., stands here today as a symbol to all of those young people out there who believe that they can do it, that there can be support for them realizing their dreams.

I am proud that he is here. I look forward to the leadership that he is going to provide, not only in this House but throughout this Nation.

Let me just say this to my colleagues. JESSE JACKSON, Jr., will usher in a new generation of leadership in this country to deal with the problems that confront us all. So I want you to look at him today and look at him in a new and different way. I want you to understand what he symbolizes and what he is going to mean, not only to this House but to all of America.

I welcome you, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I look forward to working with you, and let the message go forward to the young people out there, that they have got someone now who is going to reach out to them, bring them into these new possibilities and show America the way in which it should be going.

WELCOME TO JESSE JACKSON, JR.

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to the House our newest Member and my long-time friend JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I first met JESSE during his father's 1984 presidential campaign. During that time JESSE and I had the opportunity to register people to vote together, rally together, encourage young people to stay in school together, and we always had the dream to serve in this House, the

United States House of Representatives, together.

I will never forget the many trips we made to Washington as young college students, and we would pass the House, the Capitol, the United States Capitol, and look at each other and say, one day we will serve in the House of Representatives together and shape national public policy.

I recall the great words of Benjamin Mays when he said, "The calamity of life is not failing to reach your dream. The calamity of life is having no dreams to reach for."

JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is not only a dreamer but one who works night and day to accomplish his dreams. The people of the Second Congressional District of Chicago and young people all across this Nation should be very proud to have such a great public servant like my friend and now my new colleague JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

I welcome you, my friend, and together we will keep hope alive.

A GREAT DAY

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very proud today. Today is indeed a great day for myself, for the people in the city of Chicago, the people of the Second Congressional District. Today is a day that is great for all of America.

□ 1400

We must take pause today, Mr. Speaker, to understand all that has gone on in regards to JESSE JACKSON, Jr., being sworn in as a Member of Congress. I am absolutely so proud, and I am so appreciative of the work of the Jackson family.

You see, Mr. Speaker, about 25-26 years ago I had to call upon Jesse Jackson, Sr. to save my very life. I called him when I was on the run, when police officers were out to kill me. Jesse Jackson did not hesitate to come to my assistance and to come to my aid.

I have seen JESSE JACKSON, Jr., from a toddler up until an adult, and I cannot think of any more qualities that God could have invested in a single individual than what he invested in JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, this young man, as you saw a brief indication of today, has traveled the world, has been in the company of great individuals, individuals at the top of national governments, individuals who are, indeed, movers and shakers and history makers throughout the world. But the quality, the resounding quality that keeps coming forward in terms of JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is not arrogance, is not a higher-than-thou or greater-than-thou or holier-than-thou. The common characteristic that comes through in terms of JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is humility and