

This victory is really a great triumph for our Nation. Ms. PELOSI has broken through a glass ceiling that has long kept women from reaching the upper echelons of power in this House. As she said shortly after being elected, "We made history; now we have to make progress."

NANCY, congratulations on earning this place in history. Congratulations and Godspeed as you accept this place of distinction in the people's House. I know that there are many girls and young women throughout the world who are saying, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Congresswoman PELOSI."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments of my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), and I stand here to congratulate the new minority whip of the House of Representatives, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

This is my second term in the U.S. Congress, and I have to express the fact that the joy I have had serving in the Congress I partly owe to NANCY PELOSI and the guidance she has given me as a colleague throughout these 3, almost 4, years in the House of Representatives.

The wonderful thing is that the world is very small, because I came to know NANCY PELOSI through some friends of mine from Cleveland, the Sklars; and so I stand here celebrating with them as well this great opportunity.

I also have to say that there was no greater joy than being a monitor in the room when those votes were counted and I was able to say, yes, I have been a part of history being made as those votes were counted on behalf of NANCY PELOSI. I am looking forward to her leadership and the opportunity to be there to help her lead this Congress and lead this Democratic Party into this new century and to have an opportunity to say to the world that "a woman's place is in the House, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress."

Congratulations NANCY PELOSI, and I am here to let you know I am here for you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIRK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MINNESOTA MOURNS THE DEATH OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE LUTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota are in mourning because we have had a death in the family. Minnesota State Representative Darlene Luther, wife of our good friend and colleague Bill Luther, passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer.

Today in St. Paul, Minnesota, Darlene's family and hundreds of her friends and constituents attended her funeral mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. From Governor and Mrs. Ventura, to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation, the Minnesota legislature, and supreme court; from Darlene's constituents in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, to Darlene and Bill's legions of friends across Minnesota, we said farewell to a loving and committed wife, a caring and loyal friend, and a compassionate and dedicated public servant.

Just as we mourned a great loss, we also celebrated a life of love and a life of service, a life of passionate advocacy and genuine empathy for people, especially people in need. Mr. Speaker, Darlene Luther was truly a loving daughter and sister to the Dunphy family; a loving wife and mother to Bill, Alicia and Alex; and friend to us all. She will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved her, by all of us whose lives she touched.

Most of all, Darlene loved her husband, Bill, and their children, Alicia and Alex, as deeply and as dearly as any wife and mother ever could. She was so proud of them, as she told me countless times. I will never forget how proud she was of Bill when he was sworn in as a new Member of Congress. Darlene ran over to me and proclaimed, "Not bad for a kid from Fergus Falls, huh, Jim?" I know Darlene also made Bill very proud, and their love for each other will continue to inspire us all.

I will never forget Darlene's pride when Alicia was accepted by Boston College. "I am so proud of Alicia," she told me, "and she did it despite a letter of recommendation from a Republican Member of Congress." Darlene was so proud of the wonderful young woman Alicia has become and so grateful for the loving daughter she has always been.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget how proud Darlene was at Alex's very first Special Olympics, as we were there to cheer him on. And I will never forget Darlene's pride and her tears of joy when Alex moved into his new apartment. Alex Luther showed all of us what the dignity of independent living is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Representative Darlene Luther is a great loss for Minnesota. We have lost our leader for people who need life-saving organ do-

nations. We have lost a tireless advocate for early childhood education and kids with special needs. We have lost a true champion for health care and people with disabilities. We have lost a legislator with a big heart who made a big difference in the lives of so many Minnesotans.

Darlene Luther represented the best in public service because she always put people first. As her friends and constituents know, Darlene never took herself too seriously, but she took her job very seriously. And Darlene loved her job, just as she loved her colleagues and the staff of the Minnesota legislature, just as she loved Bill's colleagues and staff, just as she loved her constituents in Brooklyn Park.

As we celebrate Darlene's life of love and service, let us honor her legacy by keeping her passions alive. And may the tender strength of her love and her kind and gentle spirit live forever in the hearts of each of us.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW MINORITY WHIP, NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is really a privilege and a joy to be on the floor this evening and rise to honor our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (NANCY PELOSI).

I want to make my remarks tonight really in the form of a story. I do not have any notes in front of me, but I would like to hearken back to over 25 years ago. So that is more than a quarter of a century, which certainly says something about my age, but that is how long I have known NANCY PELOSI.

Neither one of us were in elected public service at the time, but she was very well known throughout the State of California for the work that she was doing in her beloved adopted city of San Francisco, having been brought to San Francisco by a great San Franciscan, Paul Pelosi. And out of that marriage, that wonderful, wonderful marriage, have come five magnificent children.

First, let me say something about Paul. We all love him and respect him. He is one of the most gentle individuals, who always has a smile on his face and has done so much for so many of us. It is his singular joy to welcome us to his home to do for each one of us over the years. So this is a great party celebrated around the two of them and not just NANCY.

Five children: Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, Jr., and Alexandra. Two magnificent sons-in-law, Jeff Prowda and Michael Kenneally; and five extraordinary grandchildren, Alexander, Liam, Madeleine, Sean, and Ryan. So you can see that there is both the Gaelic and the garlic that has been blended in this magnificent family.

NANCY PELOSI is recognized a leader not only in her own community but

throughout the State of California. She has been a leader in the Democratic Party, and that came to her from her magnificent mother and father, whom I think tonight and tomorrow and all days are watching NANCY and guiding her from heaven.

Her father served in this House of Representatives. He served as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, as his daughter does today. And her mother was a champion for housing, for the underemployed, for the unemployed, for those that did not have a voice in our society. Her father went on to become Mayor of Baltimore. Her brother, Tommy, has served as Mayor of Baltimore.

So as we Californians like to say, NANCY PELOSI was born and bred for public service and understanding what the best of it represents. Her devotion, her family's devotion to a party to give birth to ideas and to bring people forward for the best of our Nation is the tradition not only of the D'Alesandro family, but the Pelosi family as well.

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Mr. Speaker, tonight we rise to pay tribute to her. Not only on the occasion of becoming elected whip, but how proud we are as Californians that we have helped to bring forward this woman for this post. She has always, always been respected by everyone here on both sides of the aisle. The gentlewoman always has a friend in her voice. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) does not make enemies. Why? Because she knows what is at stake, and what is at stake is the business, the blessed and very precious business of our Nation and a better world.

We are so proud that this woman has created another first. We saw her do it in California, and we see her do it here all over again. Whether Members supported her in the race for whip, all of that has really gone away. Tomorrow we present our gift as a caucus to the Nation, and how proud we are that she is yet another first. I think that we have helped to create and present as a party not only a gift to the House of Representatives, to the Congress, but to our Nation, because that is why we are here. I think Americans will come to know her and respect her as we do for what she believes in, for the faith that shapes all that she believes in, because she is a deeply spiritual and faith-filled woman.

Mr. Speaker, the commute across the country every week is not the easiest, but I could not wait to get up this morning to make that flight across the country and join my colleagues and so many other Californians who have flown across the country, who have come here to witness the swearing in and the celebration of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) becoming the whip of the Democrats and a gift to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MINORITY WHIP, THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to also pay tribute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). Forty years ago in this city a beautiful young woman graduated from Trinity College. Today she becomes the highest ranking woman in the United States House of Representatives. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), now a San Francisco Congresswoman, is the pride of our great State. Born in Baltimore to a family of public servants, her father has been mentioned, Thomas D'Alesandro, served as mayor of Baltimore for 12 years after representing the city in this House of Representatives for five terms where he, like the gentlewoman, served on the Committee on Appropriations. Her brother, Thomas D'Alesandro, III, served as mayor of Baltimore.

She met her husband Paul here in Washington, D.C., in Georgetown where he was a student at Georgetown University. They moved to California, and I think at that time Paul Pelosi changed the definition of the State slogan which is printed on our State library in Sacramento. That slogan reads, "Bring us men to match our mountains." Paul Pelosi brought us women to match our mountains.

The gentlewoman gave birth to five children, Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra. While raising her five children, she got involved in San Francisco Democratic politics, became northern chair of the State party, and chair of the 1984 Democratic National Convention Host Committee when that convention was held in San Francisco.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) became known as a national committeewoman from California and served in that position for 20 years. She is a champion of the people's issues. She is a respected mother, a San Francisco socialite, a Congresswoman, and now Democratic whip of the House of Representatives.

As a native of California, fifth generation, this is one of the proudest moments I have had in public life, to see one of our own public servants rise to this position, and I now serve along with the gentlewoman as chair of the Democratic delegation from California. That is no small issue. We have 32 members of the 52-member delegation that are Democrats. Of those 32 members, 16 are women, 16 are men. It has the highest number of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and, as I like to say, return Peace Corps volunteers in that delegation. Every one of the Members in that delegation and the history it is making as a delegation of parity and a delegation of broad representation pays tribute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for getting them elected to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we gather on this floor of this great institution to pay tribute to a woman who has already made history, but in the years ahead will make even more.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MINORITY WHIP, THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege and a joy for me to be able to praise and recognize our new whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has been a role model for anyone interested in entering politics and is a shining example of effective leadership. I can think of no better Member to galvanize our efforts here in Congress during these trying yet promising times.

The gentlewoman is true to her convictions, whether that be fighting for human rights in China, defending a woman's right to choose, or looking after the well-being of working families, and she will not back down on these critical issues.

As whip of our party, it will be the gentlewoman's job to corral votes, listen to Members' concern, and help point this Congress in the direction that will take our Nation to a better future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a candidate with aspirations to become a Member of Congress, I was fortunate to have the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) there for me. My colleagues from California know how helpful she can be, and now the entire party will benefit from her advice and counsel.

History will show that to date there have been over 12,000 Members in the United States Congress, of which a little over 200 have been women. And here we are today honoring the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the first woman to the second highest post in our party. It is about time.

While breaking new ground and shattering stereotypes of who the leaders of this Nation are, the gentlewoman will bring about a much-needed change and invigorate the political process in a civil way without creating the acrimony and ill will that has all too often defined the partisan politics we have seen in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and look forward to her leadership as the House Democratic whip.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have three words for the gentlewoman: Grit, guts and grace. I think the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) does a tremendous job of demonstrating what an elected official should represent. I have had nothing but pleasure in seeing her operate and seeing the gentlewoman just move forward an issue, whether it is an issue on