

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

trade, or an issue of a woman's right to choose, or just her campaign to become historically the next Democratic whip here in the House of Representatives. I think we have someone who handles herself in a way that makes all of us proud.

For a Californian, for someone who is a minority, for someone who believes in progressive politics, we have a great deal of pride seeing that the next whip for the Democratic Caucus here in the House of Representatives will be the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). I wish I could claim she was from Los Angeles where I hail from and represent instead of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in saying not just to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and Paul Pelosi, who deserves a great deal of the credit as well for supporting the gentlewoman, but to all the world, let it be known that we are very proud of the Member that we elected as the next whip in the House, and very proud to be able to display her, because what we will do now under the gentlewoman's leadership will demonstrate that we knew how to choose right. I say congratulations once again.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment, this fine opportunity to celebrate with the country the new Democratic whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). I have come to know the gentlewoman over the last year serving with her in this distinguished House. She is truly a pioneer. She is a new face for California and for the United States. She gives hope and aspirations to many young people, and people who look like many of us here who now occupy seats here in this House.

She has distinguished herself for many, many years. I recall meeting the gentlewoman once at one of our State conventions in California when I was just getting involved in the Democratic Party. The gentlewoman is a true leader for women's rights and issues. I know that the gentlewoman will be shattering the glass ceiling that is here and will help to forge new, triumphant roads for women and other people who need to have their voices heard. She is a champion.

PASS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we have an important vote in this body tomorrow, an important vote that has a major economic impact. Our Nation is in a recession. When President Bush became President, he inherited a weakening economy. In fact, his White House housewarming was essentially a

weakening economy, and it turned into a recession.

Under the President's leadership, we passed a tax cut. We decided to take 20 percent of the budget surplus that resulted from our efforts to balance the budget and take that 20 cents on the dollar, the surplus, and give it back to the American people in tax relief. That tax cut was signed into law in June. By August, economists were noting that the economy was beginning to get better, and then the tragedy of the terrorist attack on September 11 occurred, the terrorist attack that cost thousands of lives, and since September 11 has cost over a million Americans their jobs.

This House has responded, and of course we twice have passed an economic stimulus plan. I would note that on December 21 this House passed and sent to the Senate an economic stimulus plan to revive our economy. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to act. The bad news today is, and it was announced by the Senate majority leader, that the Senate was going to shelve any effort to revitalize this economy. That is bad news.

Tomorrow we have another important vote that is going to have an impact on the economy, and that is regarding a proposed tax increase which Senator KENNEDY, Senator JEFFORDS and others have begun advocating. Some have been advocating that we suspend, repeal, or delay.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois suspend.

Members are reminded to refrain from referring to Members of the other body by name, except as provided in clause 1 of Rule XX.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, some have advocated repealing, delaying, or killing the implementation of these tax cuts. That is bad news for the economy. If Members look at what is in the tax cuts that are before us today, what begins getting phased in in the tax cut, because we were unable to do it all in the same year, are some pretty important provisions.

One is our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. I think Members agree that under our Tax Code, it is unfair that married working couples pay more in taxes than two single people living together. We essentially wipe out the marriage tax penalty in the President's cut.

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We help small business by eliminating the death tax, which takes away up to 55 percent of the family business when the founder passes on. The Bush tax cut also included additional retirement savings benefits which are phased in over the next few years. And, of course, we double the child tax credit, currently \$500, raising that to \$1,000. And for those in the top two tax brackets, the 39 percent and the 28 percent, we lower those tax brackets from 39 to 35 and from 28 to 25. Those are all in

jeopardy if we go along with those who want to raise taxes by suspending those tax cuts. I have yet to find a real-world economist who tells us that it is a good idea to raise taxes during a recession.

Some of those who have advocated suspending, killing, repealing, stopping the Bush tax cuts say it is really not a tax increase because those tax cuts have not gone into effect yet; but they were the same ones who a few years ago said that if you slow down the rate of growth on Medicare, that it is a Medicare cut, so we are using the same definition. The bottom line is suspending, stalling, repealing, delaying the Bush tax cut is a tax increase.

I would note a couple of key things. The Secretary of the Treasury was before the House Committee on Ways and Means today. When asked what is the economic impact of a tax increase, of delaying, stalling, repealing or killing the Bush tax cut, he said it would be devastating to the economy. Over a million Americans have lost their jobs and more would lose their jobs with a tax increase.

I would note on the rate reductions that 17 million small business owners and entrepreneurs pay taxes under the individual income tax rates, the two top brackets that are going to be phased in. Think about it. Who is it that is going to bring about the revival of this economy? It is not the major corporations, the big guys. It is the little guys and gals, the entrepreneurs, the small businesspeople. Eighty percent of those who pay taxes under the top two brackets, the two brackets being phased in, are small businesspeople and entrepreneurs. We know they generate the most jobs. We think as Members of this House about our neighbors, if every small business on Main Street or Liberty Street in my hometown of Morris, Illinois, hired one more worker, what that would mean. And, of course, raising taxes on those small businesspeople will make it much harder to provide those jobs.

From a consumer's standpoint, if you raise taxes, you take money out of their pocket. When consumers have less money to meet the needs of their families, they are not able to spend it in our local stores, in our local businesses, buying products and services. When a consumer buys a pickup truck, there is an autoworker who makes it. When a consumer buys a PC, a personal computer or a laptop, there is a worker somewhere that produces that; and a tax increase will make it much more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity tomorrow to go on the record: Are you for continuing the tax cut, or are you for raising taxes? Tomorrow this House will have the opportunity to vote for keeping the tax cut or for raising taxes. It is a simple choice. Everyone will have the opportunity to go on the record. I urge and ask bipartisan support for preserving the tax cut and ensuring that we get this economy