

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of Senate on December 20, 2012 at 7:44 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 122.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

MEDICARE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1509) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table. H.R. 1509.

ELIZABETH L. KINNUNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3378) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SIDNEY "SID" SANDERS McMATH POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3869) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 East Capitol Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the "Sidney 'Sid' Sanders McMath Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CECIL E. BOLT POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 4389) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19 East Merced Street in Fowler, California, as the "Cecil E. Bolt Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIEUTENANT KENNETH M. BALLARD MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 6260) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 211 Hope Street in Mountain View, California, as the "Lieutenant Kenneth M. Ballard Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS B. INABINETT, SR. POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 6379) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6239 Savannah Highway in Ravenel, South Carolina, as the "Representative Curtis B. Inabinett, Sr. Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POSTAL INSPECTOR TERRY ASBURY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 6587) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 Simi Village Drive in Simi Valley, California, as the "Postal Inspector Terry Asbury Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I've been putting off these remarks for a few weeks now. The truth is I've been reluctant to deliver my final speech on the House floor. This has been my home away from home for the past dozen years, and it's tough to say goodbye to friends and colleagues.

When I'm asked what I enjoy most about this place, I respond without hesitation: it's the give and take on the House floor. To be sure, much of what is said here is scripted with Members of both parties playing their designated role. Too often, talking points serve as literary guardrails. But every so often, genuine debate breaks out. Spontaneous points are made, Members are persuaded, and minds are changed. This frequently happens late at night when Members are less concerned about whether folks are watching at home. I wish more people would tune in during such nonscripted discussions. It represents Congress at its best.

My first 6 years here were spent in the majority, followed by 4 years in the minority, then 2 years again in the majority.

□ 2110

Having experienced both, I can tell you that I prefer the majority. But either party holding the reins of power should recognize that their grasp is

tenuous, and that's a good thing. Both parties benefit by taking turns in the wilderness every now and then.

Over the past 12 years I've offered hundreds of amendments, privileged resolutions, and points of order in this Chamber. These offerings, most of which were to curb spending, were not always successful. In fact, the vast majority of these offerings resulted in far more red marks next to Members' names than green marks up on the wall above me. But I like to think that we, over time, made a difference, and that this institution is better for it.

In addition to my own capable staff, both here and in Arizona, I want to thank those who staff this Chamber, from the floor staff who answer to leadership on both sides of the aisle, to the clerks, to the stenographers, to the parliamentarians who keep us operating within the rules, to the cloakroom staff who keep us fed and remind us when to vote. I've found that there resides in all of these individuals an abiding love and a deep respect for this institution.

Most of all, I want to thank my family—my wife Cheryl and my five children, Ryan, Alexis, Austin, Tanner, and Dallin. They have been supportive, patient, and long-suffering in dealing with a schedule that is anything but family friendly. Thank you.

Finally, I want to thank the good people of Arizona, who, perhaps against their better judgment, have sent me here six times to represent them. I will be forever grateful.

So now I head through the rotunda and into the other Chamber, the Senate, better known to this body as enemy territory. I've used that phrase many times myself, for which I will have to now repent. But at least my penance will be practiced during a 6-year term.

A few weeks ago the 12 newly elected Senate freshmen were invited to the National Archives. Before our meal we were taken to the legislative vault, where we viewed the original signed copy of the first bill enacted by Congress, as well as other landmark pieces of legislation and memorabilia. Oaths of allegiance signed by Revolutionary War soldiers, witnessed by General Washington, documents and artifacts related to the Civil War, segregation, and women's suffrage were also on hand.

It was an affirmation of the tumultuous seas through which our ship of state has sailed for more than 200 years. We have had many brilliant and inspired individuals at the helm and trimming the sails along the way. We've also had personalities ranging from mediocre to malevolent, but our system of government has survived them all.

Serious challenges lie ahead, particularly on the fiscal side, but any honest reckoning of our history and our prospects will note that we've confronted and survived more daunting challenges than we now face. It's a durable, resil-

ient system of government that we have here, designed to withstand the foibles of men, including yours truly.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and may He be ever mindful of this great and honorable institution, the House of Representatives, the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, for the last time, I yield back the balance of my time.

PAYING A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise for what will be my last time speaking as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. The people of Indiana have given me a new assignment. But I rise tonight to pay a debt of gratitude to all those who gave me the privilege to serve in this place.

As a boy, I dreamed of someday representing my hometown in our Nation's Capital. And 12 years ago, the people of the Sixth Congressional District made that dream a reality, and so I begin tonight by simply saying thank you to all of them for letting me live that dream in these past 12 years, to come to this place again and again and to be some small part of the story of this institution and America's story.

My only ambition in Congress has been to look after my family and keep my word to the people that sent me here, to let my yes be yes and my no be no. And it is my hope that as people review the totality of my record and my life, they'll see that we've done just that.

But there are those to thank tonight that made that possible, and that's what brings me to this task this evening.

First, permit me to give thanks to God, whose grace and mercy has sustained us every day that we have served the people of Indiana in this place.

Next, and on this earth most of all, I rise to honor and thank my beloved wife, Karen Pence, whose love, whose support, whose sacrifice, patience and kindness, have made all that I have done in the service of the people of Indiana and this place possible. Thanks for believing in me. I love you, and I'll see you home.

To our children, Michael, Charlotte and Audrey, they were 6, 7, and 8 when I first arrived in this place and stood on this floor with my right hand raised 12 years ago. They're now 18, 19, and 21. Thank you for your love. But thank you for the sacrifices that you made so that we could live our dreams. Now go make your dreams come true. I know every one of you can.

To my colleagues, with whom I've stood in this place, shoulder to shoulder, doing freedom's work, standing

each and every day cheerfully on behalf of the founding principles of this Nation, standing for a strong national defense, for limited government, for economic freedom and for the moral foundations of this Nation, you know who you are, and we will take you from this place in our hearts always.

You know, there's a saying back home that when you see a turtle on a fence post, one thing you know for sure is he didn't get there on his own. And so lastly, what I want to do tonight, Mr. Speaker, is really pay a debt of gratitude to the best congressional staff in American history, the men and women who have served our efforts in this city and at home in Indiana for the past 12 years.

I leave this body truly humbled when I look back at the caliber of the staff that we've been able to call to this mission, servant leaders, all. They are men and women who approached each and every day with a servant's heart, made sacrifices over the years in order to serve the people of Indiana with integrity and energy.

Names like Bill Smith and Lani Czarniecki, Jennifer Pavlik and Josh Pitcock, Matt Lloyd and Paul Teller, Marc Short, Brian Neale and Ryan Jarmula, just to name a few.

□ 2120

I don't really have time tonight to name all the men and women who've served us in various capacities over these last 12 years.

Before I yield the floor for the last time, let me close simply by speaking a word of confidence and one more word of gratitude.

Some people look on Washington, D.C., and they're rightly frustrated. Some people come to this Nation's Capital and lose their idealism. I'm not such a person. When I walk out of this Capitol for the last time, I will leave here with my idealism in tact. I will continue to believe, as our Founders did, that we are one Nation under God, rich with a purpose yet to be fulfilled. No matter how dark the day may seem, we can be confident when we stand for freedom and we do freedom's work. Because freedom is not just our story, it's His story. And when we stand for freedom, however imperfectly, we make His work on this Earth our own.

In the words of the poet, I depart this place by saying:

The woods are lovely dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

I say to my colleagues and friends and neighbors in Indiana, my duties take me elsewhere, but wherever providence leads this Nation, let us ever remember that we have promises to keep for future generations of Americans in preserving, protecting, and defending the blessings of liberty for ourselves and for our posterity. And I know we'll keep that promise—because we're Americans.

Thank you for the honor of addressing you tonight. And to the people of