freedom: our veterans, our men and women in uniform and their families wherever they go. God bless them. God bless America. Thank you all.

Now the House will continue to be led by a proud son of Ohio, a man of conviction and a public servant of resolve. Speaker BOEHNER is a leader who has earned the confidence of his conference and the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

He is a man of faith: faith in God, faith in our country, and faith in his family. And as we congratulate him, we also congratulate and thank his wife, Debbie, and their two daughters, Lindsay and Trisha, and the entire Boehner family.

Speaker BOEHNER, I know all too well that we will not always agree, but I hope with all my heart that we will find common ground that is a higher, better place for our country.

□ 1400

Surely we can be touched by the better angels of our nature. Surely we can be touched by the better angels of our nature. So beautifully expressed by President Lincoln.

This is the people's House; this is the people's gavel. It represents a sacred trust. May we all fulfill that trust and make real the ideals of democratic government.

With respect for our Constitution, with faith in the American people, with hope for the future of our country, I present the people's gavel to the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER.

May God bless you.

May God bless you, Speaker BOEHNER. May God bless this Congress. May God always bless the United States of America.

My colleagues, the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER.

Mr. BOEHNER. Leader PELOSI, thank you for your kind words.

Members of the House, the Senate, my wife Debbie, who is with us today—thankfully the girls are working—and all of you and our fellow countrymen, we meet again at democracy's great port of call.

Every 2 years, at this hour, the Constitution brings a new order to this House, and it's an interlude for reflection, a glimpse of old truths. To our new Members and their families, let me just say ''welcome.''

I know you're feeling a bit awestruck at this moment. History runs through this building. Now you're among a select few to share in this privilege. For those of you who are returning, who've walked these aisles before, maybe it's time we get a little awestruck again.

The way our Founders envisioned it, the Republic would be led by citizens who recognize the blessings that we receive by governing ourselves, and it requires that we give something of ourselves. Everything depended on this. So they made each other and their successors swear an oath of allegiance.

In a few moments, I'll take this oath for the 12th time as the representative from the Eighth District of Ohio. It is word for word the same oath that we all take. Note that it makes no mention of party or faction or title. It contains no reference to agendas or to platforms, only to the Constitution. The one addition we dare make, as George Washington did at the very first inaugural, is to invoke the assistance of our Heavenly Father.

This covenant makes us servants of posterity. It calls us to refuse the pull of passing interest and follow the fixed star of a more perfect union. Put simply, we're sent here not to be something, but to do something. Or as I like to call it, ''doing the right thing.''

It's a big job, and it comes with big challenges. Our government has built up too much debt. Our economy is not producing enough jobs. And these are not separate problems. At $16 trillion and rising, our national debt is draining free enterprise and weakening the ship of state. The American Dream is in peril so long as its namesake is weighed down by this anchor of debt. Break its hold, and we begin to set our economy free, jobs will come home, and confidence will come back. We do this not just to boost GDP or reduce unemployment, but to secure for our children a future of freedom and opportunity, and, frankly, nothing is more important.

As Washington wrote in his farewell address, ''We should not throw upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear.'' Well, that burden is ours, and so is the opportunity.

There's no substitute for the wisdom of the people. We here are their servants. As Speaker, I pledge to listen and to do all I can to help all of you carry out your oath of office that we're all about to take. Because in our hearts we know it's wrong to pass this debt on to our kids and our grandkids. Now, we have to be willing, truly willing to make this problem right.

Public service was never meant to be an easy living. Extraordinary challenges demand extraordinary leadership. So if you've come here to see your name in the lights or to pass off a political victory as some accomplishment, you've come to the wrong place. The door is right behind you. If you come here humbled by the opportunity to serve, if you've come here to be the determined voice of the people, if you've come here to carry the standard of leadership demanded not by our constituents but by the times, then you've come to the right place.

There is a time for every purpose under Heaven. For the 113th Congress, it is a time to rise. When the day is over and the verdict is read, maybe it's said that we well and faithfully did our duty to ensure that freedom will endure and prevail, so help us God.

I am now ready to take the oath of office.

I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the Honorable JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. BOEHNER of Ohio, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm 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.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1410

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to precedent, the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect will rise and raise their right hands.

The Members-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm 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 Members of the 113th Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable ERIC CANTOR.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI.

MAJORITY WHIP

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from California, the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY.

MINORITY WHIP AND ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I

have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable STENY HOYER, and as assistant Democratic leader, the gentleman from South Carolina, the Honorable JAMES CLYBURN.

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland; be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives;

That Daniel J. Strodel of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) for the purpose of offering an amendment.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering the amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BECERRA

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BECERRA:

That Catlin W. O'Neill of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Diane Dewhirst of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Richard Meltzer of the State of Illinois be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Washington.

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the officers of the House.

The officers presented themselves in the well 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.

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED AND OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that John A. Boehner, a Representative from the State of Ohio, has been elected Speaker; and that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGRESS

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 3

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1420

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected John A. Boehner, a Representative from the State of Ohio as Speaker, and Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland as Clerk, of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5

Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in sections 3, 4, and 5.

SEC. 2. CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES.

(a) COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS.—In clause 1(d) of rule XI—

(1) in subparagraph (1), strike ''the 30th day after June 1 and December 1'' and insert ''January 2 of each year'' and strike ''semiannual'';

(2) in subparagraph (2)(B), insert ''in each Congress'' after ''first such report''; and

(3) in subparagraph (3), strike ''second or fourth semiannual''.

(b) VOTING.—

(1) In clause 6 of rule XVIII—

(A) in subparagraph (b)(3), strike ''five minutes'' and insert ''not less than two minutes''; and

(B) amend paragraph (g) to read as follows:

''(g) The Chair may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time. The Chair may reduce to not less than two minutes the minimum time for electronic voting—

''(1) on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes; or

''(2) on any postponed question taken without intervening debate or motion after the Committee of the Whole resumes its sitting if in the discretion of the Chair Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote.''.

(2) In rule XX—

(A) amend clause 8(c) to read as follows:

''(c) The Speaker may reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on a question postponed under this clause, or on a question incidental thereto, that—

''(1) follows another electronic vote without intervening business, so long as the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions is 15 minutes; or

''(2) follows a report from the Committee of the Whole without intervening debate or motion if in the discretion of the Speaker Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote.''; and

(B) amend clause 9 to read as follows:

''9. The Speaker may reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting—