

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
ALMA S. ADAMS TO THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, Representative ADAMS has served our area in the North Carolina General Assembly in excess of two decades. In Raleigh, she is known as the "legislative lady with the hat."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to you and to my colleagues the legislative lady with the hat, ALMA ADAMS from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of our delegation, HOWARD COBLE, for yielding, and I want to add to his words of introduction for our new colleague, ALMA ADAMS.

She was elected this past election to fill the unexpired term of our colleague Mel Watt, who has taken the leadership of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. She represents the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina.

ALMA ADAMS was born in High Point, North Carolina. She attended college at North Carolina A&T University. She got her Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and she became a teacher. She had a 40-year career as a professor at Bennett College in North Carolina.

ALMA ADAMS' career in politics began on the Greensboro school board. She served on the city council. She was appointed to the general assembly in 1994 by Governor Jim Hunt and then was elected in her own right for successive terms. She has had a distinguished term of service in our general assembly.

She is known for her unceasing desire to improve the lives of women and children and families. Her issues include domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, affordable health care, and public education. She chaired the Legislative Black Caucus. She also chaired the bipartisan Women's Legislative Caucus.

So ALMA ADAMS, my colleagues, comes to us very, very well-equipped to be a productive and constructive and cooperative Member of this body, and it is my honor and pleasure to introduce you to her tonight, ALMA ADAMS.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman COBLE, Congressman PRICE. As we all know, the journey to Congress is not made alone, and I could not have made it here without my faith, my family, and my friends.

So I want to take a moment to give special thanks to my mother who could not be here today; to my children, Billy, Jeanele; and my son-in-law, Ty; to my four grandchildren, one who is on the floor with me tonight; to my siblings; and to everyone who made the trip to share in this momentous occasion with me.

I stand here on the shoulders of the fearless women who shattered the glass

ceiling by coming to Congress and representing our country with pride, tenacity, and integrity. It is with great honor that I stand before you tonight as the 100th woman in the 113th Congress. The women who have served before me have proven that when women succeed, we all succeed.

As I traveled across the 12th Congressional District, I heard the calls for us to work together, to create jobs, invest in education, and to be a voice for the working men and women struggling to make ends meet.

I am answering their calls by pledging to work with the Members of the North Carolina delegation and each and every Member of this Chamber. To the people of the 12th Congressional District, 10 months of no representation stops now. I am here, and I am rolling up my sleeves, and I am getting to work.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
DAVE BRAT TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the newest Member of the House of Representatives from Virginia, Dr. DAVE BRAT of Glen Allen, Virginia, to this Chamber.

DAVE is joining this body as a new Member representing the Seventh District of Virginia. Over the past year, he has talked with his friends and neighbors about the challenges facing our Nation and what Congress can do to help grow our economy and help the private sector create jobs.

DAVE is uniquely positioned to work on issues related to American jobs and the economy. With an undergraduate degree in business administration and a Ph.D. in economics, his background in economic policy will help this body deal with the most pressing issues of the day.

For the past 18 years, DAVE has been a faculty member at Randolph-Macon College where he served as the chair of the department of economics. DAVE is also a strong family man and, with his wife, Laura, has two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome DAVE to the United States House of Representatives. Joining us today are our fellow Members of the Virginia delegation who welcome you and look forward to working with you.

I now yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his welcoming remarks.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Congressman DAVE BRAT to the people's House and to the Virginia delegation. Our congressional delegation has a long history of working together. Our former longtime dean, Senator John Warner, set the standard for working together in a constructive manner.

While we may not always agree on every issue, we will always try to work

together for what is best for Virginia and our Nation. It is the Virginia way.

DAVE will be replacing Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, and at the end of this Congress, our delegation will also lose two of its more senior Members, FRANK WOLF and JIM MORAN.

With their departure, our delegation's clout may wane a bit, but I know it will be reinvigorated by new Members like Congressman BRAT, committed to working together for our Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, Dave comes to Congress after a career as an economics professor at Randolph-Macon College. He has been appointed to State boards and commissions by several Virginia Governors, including the Joint Advisory Board of Economists. I know he will put these experiences to good use.

I welcome DAVE and his family to Congress, and I look forward to working with him on issues critical to the Richmond region and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, thank you to my new colleagues and thank you to the people of Virginia's Seventh District who have entrusted me with the honor of serving as their Representative, and many of them are with us tonight in the gallery. Thank you for coming.

We are proud that the Seventh District is the home of the father of the Constitution, James Madison, and the voice of the Revolution, Patrick Henry.

It has been a long road, and very few gave me a chance when the journey began. I want to thank my wife, Laura, and my children, Jonathan and Sophia, for believing in me. And I want to thank God, as this would not have been possible without His assistance along the way.

Throughout my campaign, as President Reagan said, I tried to appeal to people's best hopes and not their worst fears. I strived to elevate the dialogue and focus us on solutions, especially on the economic issues facing our country.

That is how I will approach the weighty responsibility with which I have been entrusted.

Thank you all, God bless you all, and may God continue to bless this great Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, the gentleman from New Jersey, and the gentleman from Virginia, the whole number of the House is now 435.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H.R. 5682, APPROVAL OF THE
KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 113-617) on the resolution (H. Res. 748) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NDAA/MEPS ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today Congress returns to session with little time to complete business on a range of important matters, which is why I am calling on the Senate to take swift action on the National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA, which passed the House in May, authorizes policy for the Pentagon, and this year included reforms to ensure our troops are more adequately trained and equipped, both mentally and physically.

A recent Army study found that nearly half the soldiers who reported suicide attempts indicated their first attempt was prior to enlistment. And I am proud to say the House version of the NDAA includes provisions identical to the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, or MEPS Act, that I introduced earlier in the year. That will help address this challenge.

The MEPS Act enables the Pentagon to establish a baseline to properly track changes in the servicemembers' behavioral health by instituting a requirement that all incoming troops undergo a mental health assessment upon enlistment.

It is time for the Senate to act on this bipartisan legislation that has the support of over 40 veterans' and military advocacy groups.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO FOUNDERS DAY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, which today proudly celebrates 92 years of service.

Established in 1922 at Butler University, Sigma Gamma Rho engrained in me and countless women the value of public service. Sisters include former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, the first woman to represent Louisiana; my colleague, the Honorable Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida; Hattie McDaniel, the first African American woman to receive an Academy Award; and our Grand Basileus, Bonitta Her-ring.

Sigma Gamma Rho played an integral role in the civil rights movement, as members fought to overturn Jim Crow laws and advance women's equality.

Today Sigma Gamma Rho continues their service in promoting education and awareness in communities on issues like health equality and financial literacy.

For 92 years, Sigma Gamma Rho has been on the front lines of making our Nation better through scholarship, sisterhood, and service. I am honored to be a part of this legacy and wish many more years of success to my sisters in Sigma Gamma Rho.

STUNNING CONTEMPT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, everyone remembers the promise the President made while promoting his health care law: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it." He broke his promise.

We just learned that one of the law's chief architects, Professor Jon Gruber, has come clean and admitted the deceit used to get the law passed. But Professor Gruber also revealed a stunning contempt for the American people. He called us stupid.

This reminds me of when Lucy was trying to get Charlie Brown to kick the football. Charlie says to Lucy, "I don't mind your dishonesty half as much as I mind your opinion of me."

In this case, Mr. Speaker, the American people mind both the administration's dishonesty and its opinion of them.

The professor now regrets his comments. But does he regret that my constituents, Don and Karen of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and millions of other Americans have lost their health care plan because of ObamaCare? Does he regret that steelworkers in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and countless others are seeing their health insurance premiums skyrocket?

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, does the President regret it?

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and selfless sacrifice of our Nation's veterans.

Each year, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to pay tribute to our veterans, the men and women who served this country with honor and distinction.

To the almost 22 million veterans in the United States and the 43,000 veterans who live in my congressional district, I am here to say thank you for your service and sacrifice. You answered the call of service and never wavered.

Whether at home or abroad, whether at war or at times of peace, you kept our Nation safe and protected our freedoms. In gratitude and humility, it is now our turn to serve you, providing the benefits and the resources you deserve and earned.

RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, NATO's Commander Breedlove said in Bulgaria, "We have seen columns of Russian equipment, primarily Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops entering into Ukraine." In response, Ukraine has redeployed troops to the east to counter the insurgency. But these soldiers are severely under-supplied.

Ukraine had an election just a couple of weeks ago, the most transparent, the most free, and the most pro-Western election in history. But pro-Russian parliamentarians received less than 10 percent of the vote.

Today, once again, Ukraine faces war, as the ceasefire there collapsed as Russia attempts to reassert its influence by sinister and illegal means.

Ukraine's young soldiers don't have proper boots or weapons or defensive equipment. How many times must Ukraine be invaded before we call it an invasion?

I call upon the House to pass H.R. 5190, the bill I introduced with my fellow Ukrainian Caucus cochair, JIM GERLACH of Pennsylvania, to provide meaningful humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine. The Senate has passed S. 2828 that does much the same.

Let us stop the advance of this tyranny in the new century. Liberty is calling. Let us measure up in this lameduck session.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to pay tribute to the dean of the North Carolina delegation and our beloved colleague of many years, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD COBLE has been a dedicated public servant to the people of North Carolina and a champion for honest, effective government. For three decades, he has taken great care to represent the values and concerns of Sixth District residents.

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It is a profound honor to call HOWARD a dear friend, and it saddens me to