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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate God, thank You for giving us another day.

In an earlier national crisis, President Gerald Ford bound the Nation with these words: "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works. Our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule. . . . Let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and of hate."

Much earlier, President John Adams felt that Americans were engaged in the best cause that ever employed the human heart, but feared success was doubtful not for want of power or of wisdom, but of virtue. We are now engaged in a similar challenge in a new world emerging.

Inspire the men and women of Congress to bend their energies not to strengthen positions of privilege, but, to the extent possible, reduce privilege in favor of the common weal. For we are a Nation of laws, not men, and the responsibility of government is the benefit of all its citizens.

May each American rise to our shared effort to remind ourselves that we are all responsible for the greatness of our Nation and to make the sacrifices necessary to emerge better in virtue and stronger in national well-being. With Your grace, O Lord, may it be so.

And may everything done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 7(a) of House Resolution 891, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Ms. Linda H. Lamone, Administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held April 28, 2020, the Honorable Kweisi Mfume was elected Representative to Congress for the Seventh Congressional District, State of Maryland.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
Annapolis, MD, April 30, 2020.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, for Representative in Congress from the 7th Congressional District of Maryland, show that Mr. Kweisi Mfume received 83,868 votes as of April 29, 2020 or 72.8% of votes of the number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Mr. Mfume was elected as Representative in Congress from the 7th Con-

gressional District of Maryland. To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the Board of Canvassers, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

LINDA H. LAMONE,
State Administrator.

SWARING IN OF THE HONORABLE KWEISI MFUME, OF MARYLAND, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable Kweisi Mfume, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect Mfume and the members of the Maryland delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will raise his right hand.

Mr. MFUME appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, 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 a Member of the 116th Congress.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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WELCOMING THE HONORABLE KWEISI MFUME TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, all of us, of course, were deeply saddened by the passing of our friend, Elijah Cummings, last year. He was a giant of moral strength and unquestioned integrity.

In his 24 years in office, Elijah built a reputation for legislative skill, excellence in constituent service, an unyielding energy for rooting out corruption in government, and fighting tirelessly for justice, equality, and opportunity. He served his constituents in Maryland's Seventh Congressional District well. And today, Madam Speaker, they are sending someone to take his place whom I believe is an excellent choice.

As the dean of the Maryland Congressional delegation, it is my honor today to welcome the House's newest Member, Representative Kweisi Mfume.

However, he is not new to the House. He is a veteran of this body, a skilled and experienced legislator, who represented Maryland's Seventh District from 1987 to 1996. When he left to become the national president of the NAACP, Elijah Cummings was chosen to succeed him.

Now, as we continue to mourn Elijah's passing, we welcome Representative Mfume back to his old seat to carry on the work that he and Elijah have both been engaged in for many, many years.

The voters of the Seventh District, to their credit, replaced great intellect with great intellect, a passion for justice, equality, and opportunity, with a successor who mirrors and shares that passion and history of commitment.

Their shared work has been to ensure that the promise of America is kept for all Americans equally, regardless of race or faith or gender or sexual orientation or national origin; to break down disparities in justice and access to opportunity; to address the tragic and unacceptable disparities in access to quality, affordable healthcare, which the COVID-19 tragedy has made so starkly evident; to make certain that every child in this country can go to a good, safe public school and receive a quality education that leads to a rewarding career.

That is what Representative Mfume fought for as a member of the Baltimore City Council and as a Member of this House. It is what he worked hard to achieve as a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and as the NAACP national president.

I speak on behalf of our delegation, but all who served with him here in the Congress of the United States, we are pleased that he is back with us. And I know that those who were not Members when he last served will find him to be a wonderful colleague, a man of

wisdom, thoughtfulness, depth, and whose experience can help guide this House and our majority as we navigate challenges both longstanding and new.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating Representative Mfume on his election to represent Maryland's Seventh Congressional District once more and in welcoming him back to the House.

I am now honored, Madam Speaker, to yield to my friend of longstanding, my colleague, and my fellow Marylander, Kweisi Mfume.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I thank the majority leader for his kind and overly gracious remarks.

Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my heartfelt thanks and my deepest appreciation to the people of Maryland's Seventh Congressional District for the high honor and the distinct privilege of again representing them here in the Congress of the United States.

I am happy to have been joined by members of our distinguished delegation from the State of Maryland, and I appreciate their presence here among us.

I thank Almighty God for the victory and for my wonderful family and friends. I am joined here in the gallery by my wife, Dr. Tiffany Beth Mfume, and a longtime family friend, attorney Eric Bryant, and others.

I am honored by those supporters who are Black and White, Latino and Asian, who could not be here at this time but who have worked so very hard to make sure that this moment would be possible. And I believe, as they do and as we continue to do, that racism, sexism, and anti-Semitism are wrong, that Black bigotry can be just as cruel and evil as White bigotry, that gay bashing, immigrant bashing, and union bashing ultimately deplete us as a Nation and rob us of our ability to make true and lasting change.

Today marks my return to this body after 24 years and following the death of the Honorable Elijah Cummings, my friend of 42 years. I do so against the backdrop of COVID-19 and in the midst of our Nation's greatest health crisis of the 21st century.

Simultaneously, we are also locked in the Nation's greatest economic collapse, where there are now families and individuals who haven't had a paycheck in weeks as they struggle to buy food and to pay bills.

Madam Speaker, our challenges as a Nation at this hour, as you and others know better than I, are economic, educational, social, and systemic, and they require both the courage of conviction and the unwavering resolve that the American spirit has always exhibited in order to solve them.

Thus, in yielding back my time, I call forth the words of Dr. James Cheek, when he so eloquently exclaimed: "I have not given up on the American idea or on the American possibility, and I ask my colleagues in this body not to give up also."

"I am convinced that our Nation still stands before the world as perhaps the

last expression of a possibility of mankind devising a social order where justice is the supreme ruler, and law is but its instrument; where freedom is the dominant creed, and order . . . but its principle; where equity is the common practice, and fraternity the true human condition."

It is against that backdrop that I welcome and embrace both this challenge and opportunity before me.

Madam Speaker, I thank you and I thank the distinguished majority leader for his words of introduction.

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 gentleman from Maryland, the whole number of the House is 430.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 7(b) of House Resolution 891, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, May 8, 2020, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 116th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

KWEISI MFUME, Seventh District of Maryland.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:
H.R. 6696. A bill to establish a program providing grants to certain small business concerns to modify or reallocate their productive facilities to begin or increase production