

Feenstra Hinson	IOWA Miller-Meeks Nunn (IA)	Joyce (OH) Kaptur Landsman	Latta Miller (OH) Rulli	Sykes Taylor Turner (OH)
Estes Mann	KANSAS Schmidt Davids (KS)	Bice Brecheen	OKLAHOMA Cole Hern (OK)	Lucas
Barr Comer	KENTUCKY Guthrie Massie	McGarvey Rogers (KY)	OREGON Bynum Dexter	Hoyle (OR) Salinas
Carter (LA) Fields	LOUISIANA Higgins (LA) Johnson (LA)	Letlow Scalise	PENNSYLVANIA Houlahan Joyce (PA) Kelly (PA) Lee (PA) Evens (PA) Fitzpatrick	Perry Reschenthaler Scanlon Smucker Thompson (PA)
Golden (ME)	MAINE Pingree		RHODE ISLAND Magaziner	
Elfreth Harris (MD) Hoyer	MARYLAND Ivey McClain Delaney Mfume	Olszewski Raskin	SOUTH CAROLINA Mace Norman Timmons	Wilson (SC)
Auchincloss	MASSACHUSETTS Clark (MA)		SOUTH DAKOTA Johnson (SD)	
Craig Emmer Finstad	MINNESOTA Fischbach McCollum Morrison	Omar Stauber	TENNESSEE Burchett Cohen DesJarlais	Kustoff Ogles Rose
Ezell Guest	MISSISSIPPI Kelly (MS) Thompson (MS)		TEXAS Arrington Babin Carter (TX) Casar Castro (TX) Cloud Crenshaw Crockett Cuellar De La Cruz Doggett Ellzey Escobar	Fallon Fletcher Garcia (TX) Gill (TX) Goldman (TX) Gonzales, Tony Gonzalez, V. Gooden Green, Al (TX) Hunt Jackson (TX) Johnson (TX) Luttrell
Alford Bell Burlison	MISSOURI Cleaver Graves Onder	Smith (MO) Wagner	UTAH Kennedy (UT) Maloy	McCaul Moran Nehls Pfluger Roy Self Sessions Turner (TX) Van Duyne Veasey Weber (TX) Williams (TX)
Downing	MONTANA Zinke		VERMONT Balint	
Bacon	NEBRASKA Flood	Smith (NE)	VIRGINIA Kiggans (VA) McClellan McGuire Scott (VA)	Subramanyam Vindman Wittman
Amodei (NV) Horsford	NEVADA Lee (NV) Titus		WASHINGTON Newhouse Perez Randall Schrier	Smith (WA) Strickland
Goodlander Keating Lynch	NEW HAMPSHIRE McGovern Moulton Neal	Pressley Trahan	WEST VIRGINIA Moore (WV)	
Barrett Bergman Dingell Huizenga James	MICHIGAN McClain McDonald Rivet Moolenaar Scholten Stevens	Thanedar Tlaib Walberg Pappas	WISCONSIN Pocan Steil Tiffany	Van Orden Wied
Conaway Gottheimer Kean McIver	NEW JERSEY Menendez Norcross Pallone Pou	Sherrill Smith (NJ) Van Drew Watson Coleman	WYOMING Hageman	
Leger Fernandez	NEW MEXICO Stansbury	Vasquez		
Clarke (NY) Espallat Garbarino Gillen Goldman (NY) Jeffries Kennedy (NY) LaLota Langworthy	NEW YORK Latimer Lawler Malliotakis Mannion Meeks Meng Morelle Nadler Ocasio-Cortez	Riley (NY) Ryan Stefanik Souzzi Tenney Tonko Torres (NY) Velázquez		
Adams Davis (NC) Edwards Foushee Foxx	NORTH CAROLINA Harrigan Harris (NC) Hudson Knott McDowell	Moore (NC) Murphy Ross Rouzer		
	NORTH DAKOTA Fedorchak			
Balderson Beatty	OHIO Brown Carey	Davidson Jordan		

sioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2025;

The Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia;

The Honorable JAMES C. MOYLAN as Delegate from Guam;

The Honorable STACEY E. PLASKETT as Delegate from the Virgin Islands;

The Honorable AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN as Delegate from American Samoa; and

The Honorable KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS as Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Clerk is in receipt of a letter from the Honorable Matt Gaetz from the State of Florida indicating that he will not serve in the House in the 119th Congress.

Without objection, the letters relating to his resignation will be printed in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Enclosed please find the letter I have transmitted to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,

Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Governor RON DESANTIS,

State of Florida,

Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR DESANTIS: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,

Member of Congress.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CLERK. Pursuant to law and precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 119th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN).

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Clerk, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the vote of that Conference to present for election to the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 119th Congress the name

□ 1233

The CLERK. Four hundred thirty-three Representatives-elect have recorded their presence. A quorum is present.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. Credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of:

The Honorable PABLO JOSE HERMANDEZ RIVERA as Resident Commis-

of the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON, a Representative-elect from the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Clerk, I thank you and my fellow colleagues. As the chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the vote of that Conference to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 119th Congress the name of the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON, a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Welcome, everybody. I am optimistic about our future. On November 5, the American people gave us a great opportunity to get America back on the right track. They gave us an opportunity to get back to normal and to get back to the real issues that the country faces right now. People want the opportunity to take care of their families. They simply want to provide for their children and give them a prosperous future.

Mr. Clerk, we have the opportunity today to do just that. We have an opportunity to take our country back. With Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Senate Majority Leader JOHN THUNE, and President Donald J. Trump in charge, we have the opportunity to put America first again.

We have an opportunity to do something about crime; we have an opportunity to do something about the border; and we have an opportunity to take care of our veterans. We—every single Member in this Chamber and those of you watching at home on TV—should be looking forward knowing that America will be respected again.

Our country is the last bastion of hope. If we fail, then who?

This is why we are focused on the issues that the majority of Americans care about: God, family, country, faith, freedom, and traditional American values. We should be making it easier for people to achieve the American Dream.

Over 14 months ago, MIKE JOHNSON took on a daunting task. No Speaker is perfect, and no one will ever be. However, achieving perfection requires incremental gains and hard decisions along the way. None of us will get exactly what we want. The fundamental collective goal of this body is to make progress for the American people in which we represent, and we have done just that under MIKE's leadership.

We should be celebrating and building upon his efforts, our efforts. MIKE has remained the same kind and caring person as he was before he assumed this role. He is an honest broker. He shows you his true beliefs at face value. He is steadfast in his values of faith, family, and love of this country. He knows our brightest days are still ahead of us; and I do, too.

I am hopeful for the next Congress. I am optimistic that we will focus on those issues that people truly care about. I know MIKE will be an integral part of this country's comeback. He will lead us through another successful Republican majority. As chairwoman of the unified House Republican Con-

ference, I can say proudly that we are ready to govern.

It is my honor to present our Conference's nominee for the Speaker of the people's House, the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON from the State of Louisiana.

□ 1245

The CLERK. The Clerk now recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Clerk, I have had a little bit of practice and, clearly, my colleagues took notice.

I rise to place a name in nomination, but, first, I acknowledge my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for her heartfelt and personal nominating speech. As someone who has given a few of these, I can say Representative MCCLAIN served her Conference well.

Mr. Clerk, today I rise on behalf of the governing majority of the House of Representatives. The American people have sent a strong message that they want their elected leaders working together to tackle the affordability crisis. There is only one leader in this Chamber with the track record of compromise, conviction, and compassion.

There is only one leader who understands the needs of the working people, who has lived the American Dream himself, and who is committed to ensuring its promise for future generations. There is only one leader who knows how to negotiate a bipartisan deal and then stick to that deal.

House Democrats are united behind the most powerful legislative leader in this Chamber, HAKEEM JEFFRIES of Brooklyn. House Democrats, under the leadership of HAKEEM JEFFRIES, are committed to bipartisanship and commonsense solutions to America's most pressing challenges.

In the face of chaos and dysfunction over the last 2 years, our Caucus has kept the government funded, kept our allies protected, and the economy secured from the catastrophic default.

In the 119th Congress, we will work with the incoming administration to make life better, safer, and more affordable for working families. The incoming administration must also recognize that while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are divided and while compromise remains a dirty word for so many, Congress won't be able to keep the lights on, let alone pass anything of substance, without the buy-in and blessing of House Democrats and HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Make no mistake, Democrats want to bring down the cost of living, build more housing, and lower the cost of everyday items, like food, medicine, and childcare. Even as the extreme rhetoric rises in this Chamber and in the public square, we will not stop advocating for the policies that do the most good for the most people.

Because of HAKEEM's leadership, we will never abandon our values or sacrifice our bedrock principles of freedom and democracy. When America's enemies abroad threatened our demo-

cratic ally Ukraine, when terrorists attacked our strongest ally, Israel, it was HAKEEM JEFFRIES and House Democrats who delivered the votes and stood tall for America's national security.

When the least, the lost, and the left behind were threatened with devastating cuts, HAKEEM JEFFRIES stood with America's mothers, children, and veterans. When the incoming administration wanted to raise the debt limit by trillions of dollars in order to finance tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected, leaving middle-class families to pay for the bill and leaving them high and dry, HAKEEM JEFFRIES didn't just say no, he said hell no. That is why there is only one true candidate today for Speaker.

Mr. Clerk, I am honored to rise today at the direction of the House Democratic Caucus to place into nomination for election to the position of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the pride of Brooklyn, the gentleman from New York (HAKEEM JEFFRIES).

The CLERK. The names of the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON, a Representative-elect from the State of Louisiana, and the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, a Representative-elect from the State of New York, have been placed in nomination.

Are there further nominations? There being no further nominations, the Clerk appoints the following tellers:

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE);

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL); and

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choosing.

The Reading Clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]  
JOHNSON (LA)—218

Aderholt	Bilirakis	Comer
Alford	Boebert	Crane
Allen	Bost	Crank
Amodei (NV)	Brecheen	Crawford
Arrington	Bresnahan	Crenshaw
Babin	Buchanan	Davidson
Bacon	Burchett	De La Cruz
Baird	Burlison	DesJarlais
Balderson	Calvert	Diaz-Balart
Barr	Cammack	Donalds
Barrett	Carey	Downing
Baumgartner	Carter (GA)	Dunn (FL)
Bean (FL)	Carter (TX)	Edwards
Begich	Ciscomani	Ellzey
Bentz	Cline	Emmer
Bergman	Cloud	Estes
Bice	Clyde	Evans (CO)
Biggs (AZ)	Cole	Ezell
Biggs (SC)	Collins	Fallon

Fedorchak	Kelly (PA)	Perry	Menendez	Ramirez	Swalwell
Feenstra	Kennedy (UT)	Pfluger	Meng	Randall	Sykes
Finstad	Kiggans (VA)	Reschenthaler	Mfume	Raskin	Takano
Fischbach	Kiley (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Min	Riley (NY)	Thanedar
Fitzgerald	Kim	Rogers (KY)	Moore (WI)	Rivas	Thompson (CA)
Fitzpatrick	Knott	Rose	Morelle	Ross	Thompson (MS)
Fleischmann	Kustoff	Rouzer	Morrison	Ruiz	Titus
Flood	LaHood	Roy	Moskowitz	Ryan	Tlaib
Fong	LaLota	Rulli	Moulton	Salinas	Tokuda
Fox	LaMalfa	Rutherford	Mrvan	Sánchez	Tonko
Franklin, Scott	Langworthy	Salazar	Mullin	Scanlon	Torres (CA)
Fry	Latta	Scalise	Nadler	Schakowsky	Torres (NY)
Fulcher	Lawler	Schmidt	Neal	Schneider	Trahan
Garbarino	Lee (FL)	Schweikert	Neguse	Scholten	Tran
Gill (TX)	Letlow	Scott, Austin	Norcross	Schrier	Turner (TX)
Gimenez	Loudermilk	Self	Ocasio-Cortez	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Goldman (TX)	Lucas	Sessions	Scott, David	Scott, David	Vargas
Gonzales, Tony	Luna	Shreve	Omar	Sewell	Vasquez
Gooden	Luttrell	Simpson	Pallone	Sherman	Veasey
Gosar	Mace	Smith (MO)	Panetta	Sherrill	Velázquez
Graves	Mackenzie	Smith (NE)	Pappas	Simon	Vindman
Green (TN)	Malliotakis	Smith (NJ)	Pelosi	Smith (WA)	Wasserman
Greene (GA)	Maloy	Smith (NJ)	Perez	Sorensen	Wasserman
Griffith	Mann	Smucker	Peters	Soto	Schultz
Grothman	Mast	Spartz	Pettersen	Stansbury	Waters
Guest	McCauley	Staubert	Pingree	Stanton	Watson Coleman
Guthrie	McClain	Stefanik	Pocang	Stevens	Whitesides
Hageman	McClintock	Steil	Pou	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Hamadeh (AZ)	McCormick	Steube	Pressley	Subramanyam	Wilson (FL)
Haridopolos	McDowell	Strong	Quigley	Suzuki	
Harrigan	McGuire	Stutzman			
Harris (MD)	Messmer	Taylor			
Harris (NC)	Meuser	Tenney			
Harshbarger	Miller (IL)	Thompson (PA)			
Hern (OK)	Miller (OH)	Tiffany			
Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)	Timmons			
Hill (AR)	Miller-Meeks	Turner (OH)			
Hinson	Mills	Valadao			
Houchin	Moolenaar	Van Drew			
Hudson	Moore (AL)	Van Dуйne			
Huizenga	Moore (NC)	Van Orden			
Hunt	Moore (UT)	Wagner			
Hurd (CO)	Moore (WV)	Walberg			
Issa	Moran	Waltz			
Jack	Murphy	Weber (TX)			
Jackson (TX)	Nehls	Webster (FL)			
James	Newhouse	Westerman			
Johnson (LA)	Norman	Wied			
Johnson (SD)	Nunn (IA)	Williams (TX)			
Jordan	Oberholte	Wilson (SC)			
Joyce (OH)	Ogles	Wittman			
Joyce (PA)	Onder	Womack			
Kean	Owens	Yakym			
Kelly (MS)	Palmer	Zinke			

EMMER—1

Massie

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—0

NOT VOTING—0

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PLASKETT. (During the vote). Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

I note that the names of the Representatives from American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia were not called, representing collectively 4 million Americans who are, collectively, the largest per capita of veterans in this country.

The CLERK. Does the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands have a parliamentary inquiry?

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I ask why they were not called—from the Parliamentary, please.

The CLERK. Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect are not qualified to vote.

Representatives-elect are the only individuals qualified to vote in the election of a Speaker. As provided in section 36 of the House Rules and Manual, the Speaker is elected by a majority of the Members-elect voting by surname.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this body and this Nation have a territory and a Colony problem.

What was supposed to be temporary has now effectively become permanent.

The CLERK. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. PLASKETT. We must do something about this problem so that these—

The CLERK. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. PLASKETT.—4 million—I may not have a vote, but I have a voice—and my vote for the Speaker of the Virgin Islands is for HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

□ 1433

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast is 434, of which the Honor-

able MIKE JOHNSON of the State of Louisiana has received 218 votes, and the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the State of New York has received 215 votes, and the Honorable TOM EMMER of the State of Minnesota has received 1 vote.

Therefore, the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON of the State of Louisiana, having received a majority of the votes cast, is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN);

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE);

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);

The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUSHIN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL);

And the Members of the Louisiana delegation:

Mr. HIGGINS

Ms. LETLOW

Mr. CARTER

Mr. FIELDS

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

□ 1445

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 119th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Speaker JOHNSON, Speaker Emerita PELOSI, it is great to see you back in the Chamber.

Whip CLARK, Chairman AGUILAR, thank you for your kind and generous words of nomination.

To my colleagues in government, new Members of Congress, families, friends, all those assembled, it is a high honor and a distinct privilege to welcome you to the people's House and the 119th Congress.

The Bible teaches us, in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season

JEFFRIES—215

Adams	Cuellar	Houlihan
Aguiar	Dauids (KS)	Hoyer
Amo	Davis (IL)	Hoyle (OR)
Ansari	Davis (NC)	Huffman
Auchincloss	Dean (PA)	Ivey
Balint	DeGette	Jackson (IL)
Barragán	DeLauro	Jacobs
Beatty	DelBene	Jayapal
Bell	Deluzio	Jeffries
Bera	DeSaulnier	Johnson (GA)
Beyer	Dexter	Johnson (TX)
Bishop	Dingell	Kamlager-Dove
Bonamici	Doggett	Kaptur
Boyle (PA)	Elfreth	Keating
Brown	Escobar	Kelly (IL)
Brownley	Españillat	Kennedy (NY)
Budzinski	Evans (PA)	Khan
Bynum	Fields	Krishnamoorthi
Carbajal	Figures	Landsman
Carson	Fletcher	Larsen (WA)
Carter (LA)	Foster	Larson (CT)
Casas	Foushee	Latimer
Case	Frankel, Lois	Lee (NV)
Casten	Friedman	Lee (PA)
Castor (FL)	Frost	Leger Fernandez
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Levin
Cherfilus-	Garcia (CA)	Liccardo
McCormick	Garcia (IL)	Lieu
Chu	Garcia (TX)	Lofgren
Cisneros	Gillen	Lynch
Clark (MA)	Golden (ME)	Magaziner
Clarke (NY)	Goldman (NY)	Mannion
Cleaver	Gomez	Matsui
Clyburn	Gonzalez, V.	McBath
Cohen	Goodlander	McBride
Conaway	Gottheimer	McClain Delaney
Connolly	Gray	McClellan
Correa	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum
Costa	Grijalva	McDonald Rivet
Courtney	Harder (CA)	McGarvey
Craig	Hayes	McGovern
Crockett	Himes	McIver
Crow	Horsford	Meeks

and a time for every matter under Heaven.”

It is fair to say that in a democracy there is a time to campaign and a time to govern. The election is over. This is a new Congress. The American people need us as their elected Representatives in this season to put down our partisan swords and pick up bipartisan plowshares.

It is a time for us to come together, not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans, to get things done for the people.

In that spirit, House Democrats will work hard to find bipartisan common ground with our Republican colleagues and the incoming administration on any issue, whenever and wherever possible, in order to make life better for everyday Americans.

For far too long in this country, the cost of living has gone up, but the size of the middle class has come down. Housing costs are too high. Grocery costs are too high. Childcare costs are too high. Insurance costs are too high. Utility costs are too high. America is too expensive.

There are far too many people in this great country who, for decades, have been struggling to live paycheck to paycheck. That is not acceptable in the wealthiest country in the history of the world.

We need to build an affordable economy for hardworking American taxpayers, and we need to build it now.

It is time for us to come together and finally lower the high cost of living in the United States of America once and for all, and we will work with anyone of any party to get that done.

We will work with anyone to secure our borders, and we will work with anyone to fix our broken immigration system in a comprehensive and bipartisan manner.

At the same period of time, we will push back against far-right extremism whenever necessary.

So, let me be clear: Social Security and Medicare are not entitlement programs. They are earned benefits. Hardworking American taxpayers pay into Social Security and Medicare every day, every week, every month, every year throughout their entire adult life. They have earned those benefits, worked hard for those benefits, and deserve those benefits.

So, as Democrats, our promise to the American people is that we will fight hard to make sure that no one in this town takes away Social Security or Medicare from the American people, not now, not ever. No means never.

□ 1500

Our position is that it is not acceptable to cut Social Security, cut Medicare, cut Medicaid, cut veterans' benefits, or cut nutritional assistance from children and families in order to pay for massive tax breaks for billionaires and wealthy corporations.

House Democrats will fight hard to protect working-class Americans and

the things that matter to them, not the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. Keep your hands off Social Security and Medicare.

Over the last 4 years, it has been a great honor for us to work alongside President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS whose administration rescued the economy from a once-in-a-century pandemic; delivered historic infrastructure investment; created more than 15 million good-paying jobs; enacted commonsense gun safety legislation for the first time in 30 years; provided life-sustaining health insurance to veterans suffering from toxic exposure; championed the largest investment in combating the climate crisis in the history of the world, which we will defend; and brought down the high price of lifesaving prescription drugs for millions of Americans.

Thank you, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, for your powerful, principled, and purposeful public service. Thank you.

Two months ago, the American people elected Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America.

Thank you for that very generous applause. It is okay. There are no election deniers on our side of the aisle. You see, one should love America when you win and when you lose. That is the patriotic thing to do, and that is the America that House Democrats will fight hard to preserve because we love this country.

America is bigger than any one campaign, any one election, or any one individual. America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. Let us never forget that our country is free not simply because we are strong; America is strong because we are free.

That freedom is now under assault. There are some in this country who apparently believe that the freedom of economic opportunity that made them wealthy should not apply to everyone else. Our message to that crowd is simple: Democrats will never abandon the long walk toward freedom.

We will fight hard to defend the freedom of opportunity that makes the American Dream possible. We will fight hard for the freedom to vote and to fight for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. We will fight for the freedom to organize and join a union of your choice. We will fight to defend the free enterprise system. We will work hard to make sure that it actually works for working-class Americans. We will always defend a woman's freedom to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions.

America promises one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. That is the America House Democrats will fight hard to preserve.

God bless you, God bless the House of Representatives, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

It is now my responsibility to present the gavel to the gentleman from the

great State of Louisiana, the son of a firefighter, a God-fearing man, a husband, and a loving father of four, the 56th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you, Leader JEFFRIES and all of our treasured colleagues here in the House.

I am grateful for this nomination. I am grateful for this election, for the confidence this Chamber has placed in me. It is the great honor of my life to serve this body with all of you.

Of course, these are difficult days in our home State of Louisiana where I come from. We all know about the terrorist attack in New Orleans. It has really shaken our State. People are reeling from that attack. It took the lives of 14 innocent people, and it injured dozens more.

I want to begin appropriately today. I would ask you all to join me in a moment of silence for the victims of this horrific act.

Thank you. Thank you for that.

I believe in giving honor where honor is due, and all of us do well to honor our spouses. My wife happens to be here this time. She didn't make it last time. It happened suddenly.

Kelly, would you stand up, up here in the gallery. Thank you.

We have our four children here: Hannah, Abby, Jack, and Will. Stand up quickly.

I wanted to do that. All of us recognize that there are no perks to being a Congressman's kid, right? It is all sacrifice. Our spouses put up with so much, the endless hours of travel and all of the responsibilities upon us. We are good to remind them how important they are to us and how we could not do the job without them. It is appropriate for all of us to do that. Thank you.

This is a momentous time in the history of our Nation; it really is. As Members of the 119th Congress, we are stewards of the great American Revolution that began almost exactly now 250 years ago, 1775 and 1776. It will fall at the time of this Congress, the great anniversary.

In these two-and-a-half centuries, we have been reminded repeatedly that freedom is never free. We have stood tall, as the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. It is without debate: We are the freest, the most powerful, and most benevolent Nation that has ever been in the history of the world.

It is not by happenstance. We are the ones who settled the West. We are the ones who ended slavery, who laid the transcontinental railroad, who gave women the right to vote, who won two world wars, who landed on the Moon, and who won the Cold War.

Throughout our history, we have done what no one thought was possible, and still, at 250 years old, our Nation is actually a young Nation.

This past fall, I had an opportunity to go to the G7 Speakers Meeting that was held in Italy. It is the only international trip I took as Speaker over

the last 14 months because I didn't have time. It was a quick 3-day jaunt. I met with my colleagues, the speakers of the other parliaments, the great governments around the world. We talked about that, how really special America is, how unique we are in our place on the globe, and how important it is for us to maintain that.

As I talked to these colleagues from around the world, I thought about our closest allies who recognize how important we are, how important this body, this House, is. I thought about how is it that such a young country has become so exceptional, so singular in its importance, that today stands as the world's leader in liberty, the economy, and culture.

One hundred years ago, President Calvin Coolidge answered that very question in his inaugural address. It was March of a hundred years ago exactly, almost.

He said this: "We can best serve our own country and most successfully discharge our obligations to humanity by continuing to be openly and candidly, intensely and scrupulously, American."

I love that. That is right. That is an applause line.

Today, my friends, our Nation is the envy of the world. Why?

Because we have been marked by a spirit and a people who are explicitly that. We are explicitly American. We don't try to be like other nations, and we recognize that a strong America is good for the entire world. Everybody around the globe knows that. That is right.

We also recognize that the core principles that made America what we are must still be preserved today. I call them the seven core principles of American conservatism, but it is really the seven core principles of the Nation itself: individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility, free markets, and human dignity. These are the ingredients, the things that made us who we are.

In America, we know that human flourishing is best achieved by adherence to time-tested truths. We can list a number of those simple truths.

Here are a couple: It is better to give a hand up than a handout. Innovation thrives when bureaucracy dies.

The simple truth is that it is parents and families, not administrators, that must be in charge of their children's education.

The path of prosperity has long been paved with policies that put America and Americans first, and that is what we will champion in the 119th Congress.

We have a mandate that was shown in the election cycle. The people want an America First agenda. They do.

Sadly, for the past 4 years of divided government, too many politicians in Washington have done the opposite. Open borders and overregulation have destroyed our cities and stifled innova-

tion. Inflation and weak leadership have left Americans poorer and have placed our country in a perilous position. That is right.

In recent months, we have witnessed something happening, something that is really remarkable: a political moment in our modern history, a groundswell of Americans from every State, race, and religion who now demand that we put the interests of Americans first again, and we will.

□ 1515

This is a powerful new coalition of our country. It is a coalition that insists that we purge the policies of America last and we bury it in the graveyard of history's mistakes because it was a big mistake.

To that end, this Congress will renounce the status quo, and we will listen to the voices of the people. We will act quickly, and we will start by defending our Nation's borders. That is the number one priority.

In coordination with President Trump, this Congress will give our border and immigration enforcement agents the resources that they need to do their job. We will secure the border. We will deport dangerous, criminal illegal aliens and, finally, finish building the border wall.

You said that you would work with us on that, HAKEEM. I am counting on it.

After 4 years of high inflation, we have a big agenda. We have a lot to do, and we can do it in a bipartisan fashion. We can fight high inflation, and we must. We will give relief to Americans, and we will extend the Trump tax cuts.

We are going to protect our industries from one-sided trade deals, and we are going to bring overseas investments back to America's shores.

We will defeat the harmful effects of inflation, and we will make life affordable again for America's hardworking people.

As leaders of a nation with vast natural resources that God has blessed us with, it is our duty to restore America's energy dominance. That is what we will do.

We have to apply common sense. We have to stop the attacks on liquefied natural gas and pass legislation to eliminate the funding of the Green New Deal. We are going to expedite new drilling permits.

We are going to save the jobs of our auto manufacturers, and we are going to do that by ending the ridiculous EV mandates.

As heirs to the American Revolution and the descendants of patriots who defied tyranny, in the coming months we are going to pass legislation to roll back the totalitarian fourth branch of government known as the administrative state.

We are going to drastically cut back the size and scope of government. We are going to return the power back to the people, and in coordination with President Trump and his administra-

tion, we are going to create a leaner, faster, and more efficient Federal workforce. We need to do that.

Our people do not deserve to be ruled by millions of bureaucrats they have never voted for, never met, and can never hold accountable. They deserve a government that is led by those whom they have elected to lead. That is how Article I is supposed to work. That was the idea of the Congress, and we will return to that principle.

The American people have called on us to reject business as usual and throw out the status quo. We must, and we will, heed their call.

This is especially important as it comes to our Nation's military. For too long, the Washington establishment has sought to appease and accommodate our Nation's adversaries. They have tried to replace our military warriors with social justice warriors. It does not work.

While we are still the most powerful fighting force in the history of the world, by God's grace, the same establishment has eroded the capacities of our Army and Navy and diminished the readiness of our Air Force. We have to put an end to this madness.

I say to my friends and my colleagues: I think we should all unite in this idea. It is time now to reinstate fear in our enemies, refocus our mission on lethality, and realign our commitment to peace through strength.

We have to prioritize the things that matter most. We have to make adequate investments in defense. This is the most dangerous moment since World War II, and everyone around the world is looking to America and looking to this body to ensure that we maintain the peace.

What we are proposing now is just simply, as President Trump likes to say, a return to common sense, and he is exactly right. That message resonated across the country.

I am very thankful personally that this body is filled with men and women who are committed to that change, to return to common sense. We can do this together. We should. It is our responsibility to do so.

When I first took this gavel, many of you heard me say that I don't believe in luck or consequence. I believe in the idea of providence. Early this morning, I participated with many of you in the 119th Congress interfaith prayer service. It was held at Saint Peter's Catholic Church. Many of you were there. It was an ecumenical service and a bipartisan service, which was great. My good friend, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, began by reading from the Old Testament. He read out of Deuteronomy 10. Then, I was asked to provide a prayer for the Nation. I offered one that is quite familiar to historians and probably many of us.

It says right here in the program under my name that this is the prayer that was said each day of his 8 years of the Presidency and every day thereafter until his death, President Thomas

Jefferson recited this prayer. I wanted to share it with you here at the end of my remarks not as a prayer per se right now but really as a reminder of what our third President and the primary author of the Declaration of Independence thought was so important that it should be a daily recitation.

Let me just read you Thomas Jefferson's prayer for the Nation:

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the Earth.

In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail, of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

That was Thomas Jefferson's prayer. Suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. We will not fail, and we cannot fail. We are all in this together. Our Nation is counting on us to band together and solve these problems and get this done.

I said before it is my belief that God has elevated each one of you to your positions of leadership, and it is an act of providence that you have all been placed in your specific roles in this specific moment at this historic time, at the 250-year inflection point of the greatest nation in the history of the world. It is no small thing.

We are also witnesses to the providence that spirited our incoming President, President Trump, from the assassin's bullet, as remarkable as that was, and to the new coalition of Americans who has risen from every creed, color, and cul-de-sac who want us to put America first.

Our people are asking for a thriving economy, a rebuilt middle class, strong borders, and a strong military. We can deliver that. These objectives and these aims do not have an "R" or a "D" behind them. They have a "USA." That is what we are about.

In just a few moments, we are all going to take an oath. It is the same one oath for one nation and under the banner of one great American flag. This is an opportunity for us to protect our shared American heritage, to maintain the conditions needed for self-government, and to defend what Hakeem said earlier, the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Working together, we have the potential to be one of the most consequential Congresses in the history of this great Nation so long as we work together, we do the right thing, and we put America first.

As we think about all we have accomplished in the past 250 years, we can only imagine what life will be like 250 years from now.

Whatever the future may look like, if we do our jobs now, then we can help ensure that our civic virtues will endure, that this Nation will still be an example to all the world for its greatness and its example of self-government, and that, in spite of our great challenges and even our disagreements and our healthy debates, this extraordinary institution, the people's House, will still be standing strong.

I thank you all so much, and God bless America.

So, as the sequence of events requires, I am now ready to take the oath of office.

I ask the dean of the House of Representatives, the Honorable HAROLD ROGERS of Kentucky, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, number one, congratulations are in order.

Today, we celebrate our shared American self-rule.

When our Founding Fathers rejected calls for an American king and chose a bold and innovative government of self-rule, it was met by opposition, understandably, by the world's kings. They said that you can't govern yourself. You need a king to direct the country. They said self-rule is only a dream. The Founding Fathers said that you are right. It is the American Dream.

Thus, our Founders said that we should move on our own with our own leadership. The Speaker of the House is the critical protector and promoter of self-rule, the keeper of the dream, if you will.

We have elected this man from Louisiana to carry on our bold experiment in democracy and self-rule.

So, sir, if you are ready to assume this awesome responsibility, please raise your right hand.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky then administered the oath of office to Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, 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. ROGERS of Kentucky. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

#### 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 119th Congress.

□ 1530

#### MAJORITY LEADER

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I have been directed by that Conference to report to the House that the Republican Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable STEVE SCALISE.

#### MINORITY LEADER

Mr. AGUILAR. 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 gentleman from New York, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

#### MAJORITY WHIP

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Minnesota, the Honorable TOM EMMER.

#### MINORITY WHIP

Mr. AGUILAR. 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 Massachusetts, the Honorable KATHERINE CLARK.

#### ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

*Resolved,*