

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,

That Kevin McCumber of the State of Illinois be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That William McFarland of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Catherine Szpindor of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. AGUILAR

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. AGUILAR:

That Jamie Harrison of the State of South Carolina be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Becky Cornell of the State of New York be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Brooke Scannell of the State of Massachusetts be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representative.

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 resolution offered by the gentleman from Michigan.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAIN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provision of section 208(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Chair appoints Reverend Doctor Margaret Grun Kibben of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to act as and to exercise the duties of the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, effective today.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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 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.

□ 1545

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

Mr. SCALISE. 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 Mike Johnson, a Representative from the State of Louisiana, has been elected Speaker; and that Kevin McCumber, a citizen of the State of Illinois, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Nineteenth 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. SCALISE. 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.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Without objection, pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the committee on the part of the House to join 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 that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. 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 Mike Johnson, a Representative from the State of Louisiana as Speaker, and Kevin McCumber, a citizen of the State of Illinois as Clerk, of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

RULES OF THE HOUSE

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

The Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in this resolution.

SEC. 2. CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES.

(a) RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER VACANT.—In clause 2(a) of rule IX, add the following new subparagraph:

“(3) A resolution causing a vacancy in the Office of Speaker shall not be privileged except if it is offered by a member of the majority party and has accumulated eight cosponsors from the majority party at the time it is offered.”

(b) PERMITTING ELECTRONIC VOTING IN COMMITTEE.—In rule XI—

(1) in clause 1(d)(2)(E), strike “clauses 2(n), (o), or (p)” and insert “clauses 2(o), (p), or (q)”; and

(2) in clause 2, insert after paragraph (m) the following new paragraph (and redesignate the succeeding paragraphs accordingly):

“(n) A committee may adopt a rule or motion permitting the use of electronic voting in accordance with regulations submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the chair of the Committee on Rules and the chair of the Committee on House Administration.”

(c) CLARIFICATION OF ROLE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN VACANT OFFICES.—In clause 4 of rule II, add at the end the following new paragraph:

“(e) The Chief Administrative Officer shall assist the Clerk in carrying out the responsibilities described in clause 2(i).”

(d) DESIGNATING COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—In the standing rules, strike “Committee on Oversight and Accountability” each place it appears and insert (in each instance) “Committee on Oversight and Government Reform”.

(e) DESIGNATING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.—In rule X—

(1) in clause 1(e), strike “Committee on Education and the Workforce” and insert “Committee on Education and Workforce”; and

(2) in clause 3(d), strike “Committee on Education and the Workforce” and insert “Committee on Education and Workforce”.